



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton ♦ Hartsville ♦ Mill River ♦ New Marlborough ♦ Southfield

TRIBUTE TO A LEADER: JON C. SWAN

After a long life and a brief illness, Jon Swan died peacefully at home in Yarmouth, Maine, in the company of family, at the age of ninety-three. He is survived by his wife of sixty years, Marianne; three daughters, Claudia, Izette, and Anna; and two grandchildren. He died still at work writing poetry, reading friends' works, and eager to read Herodotus a second time. His love of music, language, the plant world, birds, and the planet has made a deep impression on all who knew him — as have his kindness and his wit.

A celebration of his life and work will take place in the spring. In lieu of flowers, those who are moved to do so may read a poem of his in this issue, or at jonswanpoems.com.

From **Larry Burke**: When a small group of New Marlborough residents got together in 2000 to launch the community newspaper that became the *New Marlborough 5 Village News*, only one amongst us qualified as an experienced writer and editor, and that was Jon Swan. And what qualifications he had — published poet, playwright, senior editor at the *Saturday Review* and the *Columbia Journalism Review*, and his poetry had even appeared in *The New Yorker*. Yikes! Kind of daunting to be writing with this guy looking over your shoulder! But, imposing as his credentials were, Jon also came with a bagful of hilarious attributes;

he could be, by turns, droll, comic, goofy, antic, witty — always witty, and sometimes rapiery witty. (That's right, Jon, I just created an adverb out of rapier for your editorial teeth-gnashing.) So he was demanding on our staff, but, at the same time, barrel-of-monkeys fun! With Marianne in charge of the paper's layout and Jon as editor, nudging us to do our best in reporting the news of the town, the standard was set in those early years, one that we have tried to live up to ever since.

Jon had a deep love of nature, and that was reflected in the column he created for the paper, 'Our Wildlife Neighbors.' Along with curating the prodigious input of his actual, human neighbor, Don Beauchamp, Jon was able to satisfy his own curiosity about the critters around us, at the same time creating one of the *NM5VN's* most popular features. After he and Marianne moved to Maine nine years ago, Jane and I had the pleasure of visiting them several times, and each time we were treated to Jon's

continued



Jon Swan and his cat Koko in Yarmouth, Maine

photo courtesy of Marianne Swan



Jon and Marianne Swan

photo by Larry Burke

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review of the natural wonders, flora and fauna, that he had observed along the shores of nearby Casco Bay, and on their very animal-friendly back porch as well.

Jon was a man of many parts. We in New Marlborough are fortunate in having received a share of his talent, wit, and humanity.

Martha Bryan was a colleague at both the NM5VN and the New Marlborough Land Trust:

Jon was a mastermind – a mind of poetry, of questions, of learning. As my elder, I will remember him for his genuine interest in someone younger than he. With every exchange he took time to ask truly caring questions. Even as he aged, his mind remained open — and if something puzzled him or was unfamiliar, he asked questions rather than keep his distance and authority. “Do you think you could think about it this way instead?” are words I can hear him say to me even now.

There were countless afternoon teas spent in his kitchen with Marianne. We would travel to other countries according to their recent travels — Holland, France, the West Coast — and then to other political persuasions which he would freely swear about. We shared a sweet and hot tea in Clayton, but in his company, we were always transported somewhere well beyond our small town.

Jon was the original team leader laying out the hiking trails in Cookson State Forest. He would cover himself in clothes drenched in tick spray and help post the miles of trails in Cookson. Jon was an adventurer. His wit, love of, and command of language kept us all “on the ball.” He leaves a legacy of laughs and language.

From **Roy Blount**, author, humorist, and close friend: Jon Swan was a wonderful man, who passed away at home, surrounded by loved ones, on the jolliest death watch imaginable. As usual, he laughed at dumb jokes, wept at beautiful music, and invoked his many ...

What shall we call them?

His many nom de plumes?

Imaginary playmates?

Secret Sharers?

He had a million of them. Dad Edgar Heeson, Ned Nedson, Dwight Greebner... They danced ...

No, they weren't dancers, these men he invoked. They were preposterous authority figures, who pursed their lips and dug their chins down into their necks and intoned, “You knowww, Rohhhy, I think you'll find, kaf, kaf, as we at the institute . . .”

He was estimable actor, poet, editor, gardener, bird lover, word lover, speaker of many tongues, and family man. A disrespector — and yet an aficianado — of stuffed shirts. An immortal.

The following poem and article were written by Jon Swan, the article dating from August, 2002, and the poem undated but inspired by the large cornfield that abuts Jon and Marianne's former home in Clayton.

The Corn Lot

A corn lot in August
under the dry-spell-
breaking rain,

The long rows patiently
marching in place,
the bird-footed roots

gripping an earthly silence
to feed the stalk,
to fill the ear

as with the delectable
whole notes
of summer—


looking out at the corn lot
in August I feel
that I, too,

could learn to be patient,
to stand still, letting
it all sink in.

But already the maples
are turning, the geese
growing restless,

flying so low we can hear
the creak of their wings
as we stand

our ground – this field of
old men, shaking our
canes at the wind.

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REMEMBERING COLONEL COLLAR

The New Marlborough Man Who Led the Berkshire Brigade

by Jon Swan

In “The Leffingwell Legacy” (July, 2002 NM5VN) mention was made of one John Collar, a New Marlborough man who “served as Colonel and paymaster” throughout the entire War of Independence.

The name Collar rang a bell with a couple of readers. One was Richard Tinker, whose uncle Joseph Leffingwell transcribed the history of our town that contains the reference to John Collar. Richard told me that the Collar house, which he thought had been built in 1787 or 1789, was close by and still standing, on what is officially known as the Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road. His uncle had bought it – “a very nice old saltbox, not terribly run down for its age” – in 1966.

What follows is a rough sketch of a life assembled from bits and pieces of information diligently unearthed by Jim Miller of the Sheffield Historical Society and John D. Sisson of our own Historical Society.

John Collar was born on April 24, 1731, in Killingly, Connecticut, to Nathaniel and Abigail Collar. When he moved from the northeast corner of Connecticut to the southwest corner of Massachusetts is not known. What is known is that he “owned and occupied” a house in New Marlborough in 1753, and that at around that time he married a woman named Martha, by whom he had six sons and three daughters. The first child – a boy named Isaac – arrived in 1754; Silas – the last for whom there is a birth date – joined the family fifteen years later. Among John Collar’s neighbors in the 1750s were “Eben Smith, afterwards Captain, of Revolutionary War fame, Gershom How, Timothy Rober, and William Keyes,” according to a nineteenth-century chronicler.

On the eve of war, by which time he was in his early forties, John Collar clearly carried weight in the community. In January, 1775, three months before the outbreak of hostilities, he was appointed to the seven-man Committee of Inspection, “charged with making sure that the advice of the Continental Congress was strictly adhered to.” On April 21, he was engaged as a Minute Man and saw service for twenty-three days. He was subsequently appointed commanding officer of the “South Company of New Marlborough.” On October 14, 1777, he received his commission as captain, and on July 1, 1781, was promoted to lieutenant colonel. This commission bore the signature of Governor John Hancock, a man renowned for his florid, no-glasses-needed handwriting. Two of John Collar’s sons – Isaac and John – also served, both of them in Colonel John Ashley’s Berkshire regiment.



photo by Larry Burke

The Collar home on Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road

John Collar served two terms as selectman – in 1781 and 1782 – and as assessor in 1784. The following year, his wife died at the age of fifty-six. John lived to the ripe old age of ninety-six, dying on December 12, 1826. He was buried in the small cemetery at the corner of Carlson and Canaan Valley Roads, in Connecticut. The monument that bears John’s name also bears those of his wife and of his grandson Jarvis and Jarvis’ wife, Emmeline.

David Lowman recalls that, around 1990, when he was a selectman, the Board of Selectmen received a letter from “one of the Leffingwell brothers” – it was Joseph – suggesting that the name of the road on which Colonel Collar’s house stood be changed from Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road to Colonel Collar Road. Not only would it be easier to say and short enough to fit on official forms, but it would also help to keep alive the memory of a historically significant citizen-soldier.

Other Board members agreed that the idea was worth taking up with the Planning Board, which oversees such matters. So, in due course, a public hearing on the proposed name change was advertised and held, and, as David recalled, “everyone who showed up opposed changing the name” – some because they thought it would interfere with the delivery of their mail, others because they had recently printed up business cards bearing the assigned name. And so the name of the road remains a mouthful, and does no honor to a man who deserves to be honored. □

Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



September 26: Chairman Mark Carson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. With the absence of Police Chief Graham Frank, the Board postponed consideration of appointing him as animal control officer and adjusting his compensation to reflect the added duties. At the request of Nancy Barbe, chair of the Cultural Council, the Board agreed to appoint Eugene Cleary to a second term, July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2024, and Lauri Aibel to a term beginning immediately and ending December 31, 2024.

The Board then voted to sign a Standard Contract Form for a **\$20,000 Police Municipal Road Safety Grant**, awarded by the state's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security. Of this, \$16,000 will be used to pay for approximately 300 hours of police officer overtime for traffic enforcement and \$4,000 to purchase a solar-powered radar sign. In attendance was John Halbreich, a member of the Fire Department and Capital Planning Committee who assisted Chief Frank in writing the grant. Mr. Carson said he wanted to confer with Chief Frank on the placement of the sign and the speed limit it would convey. Mr. Halbreich noted that the grant required purchase of the sign by April 30 and expenditure of traffic enforcement funds by September 2023.

The selectmen agreed to a Memorandum of Understanding between the Highway Department and the United Public Service Employees Union, to be attached to the collective bargaining agreement, **specifying longevity and insurance payments made upon retirement.** The Town's personnel policy has been rewritten to allow prorated payments to be made to employees at the time of retirement, rather than at the end of the fiscal year. The Board then approved the retention of Dupere Law Offices, P.C. to provide labor

relations counsel at a rate of \$250 a month.

At the request of its chairman, Richard Long, a discussion of the work of the Town Hall Planning Committee was postponed until the Committee could review new information that had recently come to light.

Next, Town Administrator Enoch, asked for review of a draft letter to David Jacquier, owner of Elm Knoll Farm in East Canaan, Connecticut, regarding his use of the mile-long cornfield in Clayton. The letter requests that the farm enter and exit the field at designated points only and refrain from farming, tilling, or planting within eight feet of the road. Board members asked that the letter be amended to include all fields in New Marlborough and then approved a previous decision to send the letter to Mr. Jacquier.

They also agreed to sign a **strongly worded letter to "urge the immediate reopening of the Post Office in Mill River."** The letter, addressed to Postmaster Karen L. Robarge in Sheffield and Janice C. Korodaj, leasing management specialist, with copies to state and federal legislators, notes that the "temporary" closure has been endured for thirty months and is delayed simply due to a lack of a computer and scale.

In updates, Ms. Enoch noted that a Covid and flu vaccine clinic would be held by Southern Berkshire Public Health Collaborative on the following day, September 27, at the Firehouse, 10:00 a.m. to noon. **Ms. White commended highway employee Paul Krom** for his life-saving actions. While mowing on Route 183, he encountered a worker who was bleeding profusely from an accidental cut to his arm and needed immediate medical assistance. After calling 911, Mr. Krom hauled the man into his truck and sped off to meet up with an ambulance. Highway Superintendent

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Loring was later informed that, due to the actions of Mr. Krom, the worker had survived. Chairman Mark Carson and Selectman Bill West joined Ms. White in commending Mr. Krom.

Selectman West noted that he had toured Les Trois Emme Winery, a potential site for Town Hall. In reply to a question from Mr. Carson about candidates for the vacant position of Town Hall secretary, Ms. Enoch reported that she and the human resources manager are arranging a meeting with a candidate. Hartsville resident Lucinda Shmulsky reported that, following her report of a malfunction on the Town website, Ms. Enoch had successfully corrected the problem. Finally, in a request from this reporter for information about the Board's Executive Session on September 12, Chairman Carson explained that the session regarded a fine levied against the owner of a kennel. At issue was the care of dogs and the lack of a kennel license. On appeal, the original fine of \$1,000 was reduced to \$100.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

October 3: With all three members and Town Administrator Mari Enoch present, the Board voted to grant a one-day liquor license to the New Marlborough First Responders for a wine tasting event at the firehouse, 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. on November 5 — and, as is customary with non-profit institutions, to waive the fee.

On the recommendation of Coordinator Freddy Friedman, Messrs. Carson and West appointed Tara White, who had been performing secretarial duties for it, to full membership on the Transfer Station Working Group. Mr. Friedman argued that, at three members, the group had been too small.

The Board unanimously voted to accept and release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a town hall building,

as written and delivered by Richard Long, chairman of the Town Hall Planning Committee. Ms. Enoch, a member of the Committee, explained that the RFP had been written by Mr. Long, reviewed by Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard and the Committee, and then further revised by Chairman Long. Revisions by Mr. Long included changing the meeting space size from "up to 50 people" to "at least 50 people." In a section on accessibility, the phrase "to the extent known to the proposer" was removed so that proposals will not be scored on an owner's limited knowledge of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

In her updates, Ms. Enoch noted she is gathering information on the needs of software upgrades and purchases and will be finalizing the application for an information technology grant. It covers software purchases for Town Hall employees use but not support agreements. **Software under consideration is for dog licensing, transfer station permits, building permits, upgrade to tax collector and assessor's software, tracking of Board appointments, and home alarm system permits.** As an example of her analysis, Ms. Enoch noted that the small number of home alarm system permits, approximately 100, does not seem to warrant a software permit. Alarm system permits could be managed without software by a Police Department clerk, once that position is filled.

While on the topic of a clerical person for the Police Department, Chairman Carson inquired about the status of the search. Ms. Enoch reported that some candidates for the town secretary position have expressed wishes for more working hours. She and the human resources manager are therefore seeking candidates who might fill both roles in a forty-hour-a-week job.

Ms. Enoch's request to repost a notice seeking members for the Zoning Board of Appeals was

A letter was approved requesting that farms refrain from farming, tilling, or planting within eight feet of the roads for all fields in New Marlborough.

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granted. In response to a question from Ms. White, Ms. Enoch reported that the sale of Cassilis Farm to Construct had been completed and that Construct had paid the real estate taxes owed, through June 30.

In selectman updates, Chairman Carson reported he may need to seek an alternate surveyor for property in Hartsville that is being donated to the Town. The original surveyor is not responding to Mr. Carson's correspondence. The property being surveyed is adjacent to the bridge over the Konkapot River on Hartsville Mill River Road. The river is encroaching on the road due to approximately 100 feet of bank loss from erosion. Trout Unlimited, in its mission to "care for and recover rivers and streams," has contributed a bank stabilization design. Owners of the eroding property, Shauna Burke and Erik Mandel, are willing to donate a portion of the property to New Marlborough so that the Town can complete a stabilization project to protect the road. Acceptance of the donation was approved at Annual Town Meeting last May. **A survey is necessary to specify the portion of land being donated.**

In other business, Ms. Enoch was granted her request to carry forward for six months fifty-six hours of time off she has been unable to use.

Barbara Marchione, a member of the Town Hall Planning Committee, asked the Board to review the Committee's recently created survey of town residents. She then informed the Board that Fire Chief Chuck Loring and she, in her role as emergency management director, **are considering replacing the Town's emergency notification system, saying that the current system, Blackboard Connect, had become more of an educational tool than a municipal service.** Under consideration is Code Red, a system used by Fairview Hospital and the towns of Great Barrington and Sheffield. She noted that New Marlborough and Sandisfield are

the only South County towns not using Code Red. A feature of this system is that it can send alerts to everyone in a given area and not only those registered with it. Ms. White asked if Code Red can be used for non-emergency messages such as Transfer Station closures. Ms. Marchione, who is obtaining prices, meeting with other users of the system, and seeking grants to finance it, indicated this will be part of her research.

Next up, resident Daniel Alden questioned the Board about the Town Hall planning process and how the RFP could have been crafted without input from residents. Ms. White responded that the RFP is designed to seek possibilities and does not need to include the desires of residents. Mr. Alden expressed his opinion that the RFP and the process are being "railroaded" toward buying the winery. He suggested that the Committee has not considered building reuse, public feedback, and 21st century technology. As one possible alternative, he suggested that the town library might make a good town hall. Another possibility, he said, was the New Marlborough Central School, were it to be vacated because of school district consolidation. Mr. Carson, saying that the RFP is "very open" to all such possibilities, was seconded by Ms. White, who suggested that the Town or New Marlborough Central School could respond to the RFP if they so desired. Ms. Marchione expressed her view that Mr. Alden's ideas of re-using the current Town Hall building have been considered over many years and are not feasible. Another of Mr. Alden's concerns was the Town taking a valuable commercial property off the tax rolls. The Board members stood firm in their view that the purpose of the RFP is to determine what possibilities exist.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

October 12: Meeting at 12:30 p.m. on a Wednesday

The Select Board sent a strongly-worded plea that the closure of the Mill River Post Office be ended, and the seemingly simple reasons for the delay be resolved.



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to tend to time-sensitive business, the Board completed its Request for Proposals for a possible purchase of a town hall property by approving the addition of a sample Purchase and Sale Agreement — making the RFP ready for its scheduled release that day. Modifications made to the Purchase and Sale draft presented by Ms. Enoch included the right for the Town to hire an independent, third-party appraiser and the right to complete an inspection for such substances as radon, lead, asbestos, and water.

The Board then approved a Fire Department request to submit a grant application for the purchase of firefighter safety equipment — specifically a Task Force Blitzfire OSC Portable Monitor, costing \$6,765, which enables fire fighters to reach fires on structures where access is limited, for example the backs and sides of houses. The monitor is to be mounted on Engine 4, one of the Department’s smaller vehicles, which is usually the first to be deployed because of its ability to reach locations on rural roads with poor conditions and driveways with steep inclines. All fire personnel will be trained to use the monitor.

Lastly, the Board set hours for trick-or-treat to be 5:00 -7:00 p.m. on Monday, October 31.

October 17: The Board opened the meeting with a vote to accept a bid of \$26,600 for the Highway Department’s surplus 2011 Ford F550 dump truck. The highest bid was submitted by Steven Faucher of Fitchburg, Massachusetts.

Next, the Board agreed to recommend that Town Clerk Kathy Chretien use the state’s online learning management system (LMS) for conflict-of-interest law training. This training is required of all employees and elected officials. Towns can opt to use their own LMS, but, as noted by Ms. Enoch, this would require the town to track compliance with the required training.

This cumbersome task is eliminated by use of the state LMS, which tracks compliance within the system.

In town administrator updates, Ms. Enoch reported that the town clerk and the treasurer have been working to secure borrowing of \$500,000 for road projects, as approved at Annual Town Meeting and by a Proposition 2½ override vote at the Town Election. Bond counsel has approved the Town’s request, and it is ready to go out to bid.

Among updates from selectmen, Mr. West acknowledged a letter from Chris Gregor requesting an **explanation of the Board’s decision to give American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to Construct, Inc.**

Mr. Carson reiterated that the decision was based on the Massachusetts requirement that all towns in the state have at least 10 percent of their housing priced as affordable. Associated with the ARPA award to Construct, Ms. Enoch, who said she would answer Mr. Gregor’s letter, reminded the Board that, per the grant agreement, the Town has ninety days to finalize a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) agreement with Construct. Mr. Carson added that open positions on the Board of Appeals, which will review the Construct project, needed to be filled.

A letter from Jamie Nagy of 870 Old North Road, seeks clarification of the road’s status; specifically, **whether the culverts on the road will be repaired by the Town and whether the Town is responsible for plowing and maintenance. Noting that the official designation of this road is “discontinued for maintenance,”** the Board postponed discussion of the issue to a future meeting.

Marjorie Robbins and Chuck Boscarino of 96 Knight Road were present to follow up on a letter Ms. Robbins wrote to the Board eighteen months ago, in which she called attention to the serious deterioration of a neighbor’s property at 189 Knight Road. In her estimation, the property and its buildings had

Highway employee Paul Krom was commended for his quick response to a medical emergency, which saved a life.



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deteriorated to the point of being a hazard. Ms. Enoch recalled that the Board of Health had taken the case because of the possible hazard the property presented. Its owner, Charlie Knight, had said he intended to renovate it, but, according to Ms. Robbins and Mr. Boscarino, little to no progress has been made and it continues to deteriorate.

The selectmen said they will follow up with the Board of Health and invited Ms. Robbins to stay in touch with Ms. Enoch for updates. Ms. Robbins, adding that she does not want to “let this drop,” said that in recent years the residents on Knight Road feel as though they “have taken it on the chin.” In addition

to the Knight property deterioration, other challenges to the neighborhood included the commercial solar project, deteriorating conditions of Knight Road, and possible sale of the winery. The repair of Knight Road has been delayed by the sharply increased price of construction materials. With prices now on the decline, said the Board, the road is scheduled for repair next spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m. □

Michele McAuley

MOVING FORWARD

The Quest for Guidance on an ADA-Compliant Town Hall

It has taken awhile, but two decades after passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), New Marlborough is finally taking steps toward compliance. In October, the Town Hall Planning Committee mailed a questionnaire that seeks guidance on what town residents consider to be priorities in creating a town hall that meets ADA requirements. It asks residents to rank the importance of such measures as locating the building in a village center, providing sufficient space for large gatherings, such as a town meeting, or accommodating community activities.

On October 12, the Select Board posted a Request for Proposal (RFP) soliciting offers for properties the Town could use if renovation of the current Town Hall in Mill River is deemed too expensive or otherwise impractical. The RFP lists as non-negotiable that the proposed property be located either within a New Marlborough village or on a paved road that connects villages, that it not be environmentally contaminated, and that it has working water and septic systems.

Listed as “highly advantageous” characteristics:

buildings fifteen or fewer years old; properties on five (rather than fewer) acres of land; buildings of 4,500 square feet or more, all at ground level with a meeting room space for at least fifty people. Described as “not acceptable” would be buildings twenty-five years or older, uninsulated structures, and facilities in which the usable space is divided among three floors. (These characteristics, notes the RFP, would not automatically disqualify a building but would result in a lower rating.)

Proposals, to be submitted by November 10, will be reviewed by the Town Hall Planning Committee, which will forward its recommendation to the Select Board on November 22. If the Board elects to pursue the property, an Award of Purchase, contingent on voter approval of debt financing, will be worked out with the owner.

As we’ve written before, nothing about bringing the New Marlborough Town into the 21st century is simple. But the project is finally in gear and beginning to move. □

Joe Poindexter



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PLANNING BOARD

October 11: Chair Bob Hartt convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. with members Jordan Archey, Christian Stovall, and Jonathan James. Secretary Sharon Fleck, and Select Board member Tara White were also in attendance. After determining that there were no new plans submitted for review, the Board turned to the first main topic of the evening – and the primary reason for Ms. White’s attendance – a request by the Select Board that the Planning Board look into the possibility of creating a new bylaw dealing with homes and businesses that provide lodging in New Marlborough. Mr. Hartt began the discussion by letting Ms. White know that, in the previous Planning Board meeting, the subject had been brought up in an informal way and that the consensus was in opposition to the Board becoming involved in instituting a bylaw that involved taxation of rental accommodations, such as Airbnb or Vrbo rentals.

Ms. White assured the Board that the taxation aspect would not be addressed in any new bylaw, but would be handled by the Select Board. What she is hoping for from the Planning Board is a bylaw that defines just what an Airbnb is – what would be the threshold of the number of rentals to different clients per year, whether Board of Health or Fire Department inspections should be required, and whether the standards for Airbnb rentals should be imposed on the hotel/restaurant businesses in town.

Having established the rationale for such a bylaw, Ms. White proceeded to explain that an attempt to pass a 6 percent hospitality tax had been defeated at the 2019 Annual Town Meeting by a determined minority of citizens who were opposed to the tax, and who were persuasive enough to turn the tide against the warrant article. (Go to nm5vn.org to read the account of this meeting in the June, 2019 issue.) Ms. White views the hospitality tax as an increasingly significant

potential revenue stream for the Town, and one that is borne by the renter, or client, and not the owner – it is an added tax to the guest’s bill that goes to the state and then is returned to the Town. She said that the Select Board would like to aim for another attempt at passing the “lodging tax,” applicable to all hospitality venues in town – Airbnb, Vrbo, and the inns and restaurants – at the next Annual Town Meeting, with the Planning Board’s proposed hospitality industry bylaw in tandem.

Mr. Hartt then restated the Board’s concerns about going in a “Big Brother” direction with restrictive bylaws, but did concede that there might be a legitimate concern about a burgeoning, unrestricted new industry in town – the short-term rental business. “Is there a regulatory responsibility from a land-use perspective?” he posed. Ms. White noted, with relation to the unrestricted nature of the rentals, that New Marlborough’s police have been called more and more frequently to attend to problematic situations at these sites. Mr. Hartt brought the discussion to a close by saying that the Board would research the issue, talk to Chief Frank, check in with what other towns are doing, and get back to the Select Board with its findings.

Turning to the other agenda item for the evening, ridgeline protection, Jordan Archey and Christian Stovall, who had been tasked with researching the topic with a view to evolving a protective bylaw, laid down a number of questions that still need answers: What are the major ridgelines in New Marlborough? Who currently owns this land? How much of our ridgelines are already conserved land? At what elevation would it be appropriate to assign restrictions on development? More broadly, is this a proper step in maintaining the Planning Board’s vision for New Marlborough, and is this a matter that might be more appropriate for the Conservation Commission



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email: ssmithlaw@barringtonlawoffice.com

(which handed off the issue to the Planning Board some months back)?

Mr. Hartt thanked Ms. Archey and Mr. Stovall for their thoughtful ruminations and suggested that, as a first step, the Board might ascertain who owns the high ground in town, and what parcels are in conservation restrictions. He also asked Jon James, as Planning Board delegate to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, to seek assistance from them in helping to map our ridgeline areas, and to advise on what other hill towns have done to protect views.

As the meeting wound up, Bob Hartt said that he

would be posting a notice of the Planning Board's need to fill out its full complement of five members. Longtime member Paul Marcel is seeking to step down, since he spends a good part of the year away from New Marlborough. Mr. Hartt hopes that any citizen who wishes to help out with Town affairs, and the Planning Board in particular, will visit the Town website to learn a bit about what the Planning Board does, and then to contact him. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m. □

Larry Burke

GET ON BOARD WITH THE PLANNING BOARD

The Town of New Marlborough seeks a qualified and interested individual to fill an upcoming vacancy on the Planning Board. The Select Board will consider applicants to serve until the next Town Election in May, 2023, at which time the member may run for election to fill the remainder of the term. The purpose and intent of the Planning Board is to review land use, suggest modifications to regulatory and advisory documents, and provide support to advance goals that protect the Town's rural and small town environment while encouraging smart growth. The Board meets on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m. Questions may be directed to Robert Hartt, Planning Board Chair, at planning@newmarlboroughma.gov. New Marlborough registered voters who have an interest in serving on the Planning Board are encouraged to send a letter of interest summarizing any relevant background and experience to the Select Board in care of Mari Enoch, Town Administrator at nmbos@newmarlboroughma.gov by 3:00 p.m., on Friday, November 4, 2022.

SENIOR LUNCHEON

The New Marlborough Council on Aging celebrated being together after three years of the covid pandemic. A wonderful luncheon was held at Gedney Farm where members and seniors were treated to a sit-down meal with sandwiches, chili, cookies, cakes, and coffee or cider!

The program presented material related to possible hospitalizations with gifts (from Fairview Hospital) of the "file of Life", and a safety package. Joan Hotaling reported the various activities being offered by the Sheffield Senior Center to which the New Marlborough Council on Aging is always invited.

Closing the luncheon, Barbara Marchione and Tara White talked about the Town Hall, which besides not being handicapped accessible, has some serious structural issues that need to be addressed, and that a committee is now exploring the future options.

Everyone who attended remarked on how wonderful the whole experience was at Gedney Farm, and it is hoped that more seniors will join for future luncheon meetings. □



photos by Samantha Schaeffer

Prue Spaulding (center) joins Bob and Aleta Twing at the Senior Luncheon at Gedney Farm

NO GET-OUT-OF-JAIL-FREE CARD

Author Daniel Medwed Explains Why They are So Scarce

In 1999, Steven Schultz was convicted of robbing a diner in Brentwood, New York, an out-of-the-way town on the east end of Long Island, of \$32 and sentenced to eleven years in prison. He was innocent. Getting the conviction overturned, however, turned into an epic challenge involving years of failed appeals to an intransigent justice system. He was finally released in 2007 — on a technicality: An appellate judge ruled that in failing to pursue testimony from the victim of the robbery, his lawyer had provided an inadequate defense.

Mr. Schultz would have served out his sentence had it not been for the dogged campaign of Daniel Medwed, who as an instructor at Brooklyn Law School had helped start Second Look, a program established to overturn wrongful convictions — including that of Mr. Schultz — and get innocent people sprung from prison. His story, along with those of many others, is woven into *Barred*, Mr. Medwed’s searing investigation, published in August, into the incarceration of innocent people and the infuriatingly dismal record in returning them to freedom.

The case of Steven Schultz was also exhibit A in a riveting program, hosted on October 8 by Deb O’Brien at the New Marlborough Town Library, in which Mr. Medwed revealed the extent of wrongful convictions and the woeful rate of reversing them. There have been 376 exonerations via DNA analysis since 1989, the year the National Registry of Exonerations was created, and some 2,800 non-DNA reversals of sentencing. But Mr. Medwed called this “the tip of the iceberg” and estimated that there are “tens of thousands of people behind bars who are innocent.”

Mr. Medwed, now a professor of law at Northeastern University in Boston and a part-time resident of the Berkshires (the New Marlborough-Sheffield town line cuts through his property on County Road), cited



photo by Larry Burke

Daniel Medwed discussed his book, *Barred*, at the New Marlborough Town Library on October 8.

four major contributors to the incidence of false imprisonment:

- Poverty — poor defendants are frequently unable to hire competent legal representation;
- Prosecutorial misconduct;
- Misidentification — witnesses are less able to see distinguishing differences in appearance in ethnic groups to which they do not belong;
- Plea-bargaining — the lure of a lighter sentence against the risk of going to trial.

In response to questions from a thoroughly engaged audience, Mr. Medwed made clear, there is no easy corrective to these miscarriages. There are some fifty so-called innocence projects throughout the nation, he said, but each case they take on is a test of patience and endurance. Those attending the program — the room was packed — left with a sense of gratitude that a small but remarkable cadre of lawyers had devoted itself to protecting the nation’s system of justice from injustice. □

Joe Poindexter

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PTA CELEBRATES A NEW SCHOOL YEAR FILLED WITH NEW OPPORTUNITIES

By Robbi Hartt

The New Marlborough Monterey Parent Teacher Association (NMMPTA) is the longest continuously running PTA in the state — an important claim to fame few locals know. Arla Downing “fell into” the role of NMMPTA president — responding when things “got really quiet” as those who attended the PTA meeting last spring worked to fill vacant positions. Kevin Fish serves as treasurer and Elizabeth Evans as secretary. Before them lies a new year full of possibility, after several dormant ones.

New Marlborough Central School, (located in Mill River) is one of Southern Berkshire’s two treasured small schools, serving students in pre-kindergarten through third grade. Each year seventy-five to eighty-five students come from the five towns within the school district (Alford, Egremont, Monterey, Sheffield, and New Marlborough), as well as from other communities in the region through school choice.

The 1932 “little red brick schoolhouse” is like a portal to the past, with staff, faculty, students and families forming a tight, caring community. The school also offers innovative project-based learning and frequent all-school exhibitions and gatherings like The Holiday Fair and Family Literacy Day, which help build parent involvement and community connections.

While there are ongoing talks about merging districts, New Marlborough Central is not on the chopping block. In fact, the school had to open a second pre-K this year, and the first grade has a record twenty-one students. “It seems like a lot of new students have moved to the area since 2019,” Arla explains. “There’s something intimate about the small scale, small building that really works,” she adds, noting that her daughter enjoys knowing older and younger students. “Seeing what the bigger kids are doing is especially inspiring.”

Arla is also extremely grateful to the school leaders for the positive way they navigated pandemic learning. “Lynn Webster and Dan Weston delivered packs of schoolwork to our house during Covid, when I was home with a new baby,” she explains. “It was amazing!” Although they were a “screen-free” household before the pandemic, she is thrilled with the way teachers helped her daughter learn to read over Zoom.



NMMPTA President Arla Downing photo courtesy of Arla Downing

During Covid the PTA purchased additional picnic tables for the school to support outdoor learning. This year, however, it is focusing its efforts on the primary goal of reuniting the school community and reconnecting with the broader community following the years of forced isolation. It is also hoping to raise funds for class field trips, school supplies and books, cultural events at the school (such as live musical performances, birds of prey, and a student gallery show), and events that

bring the community together.

Arla hopes the PTA can enrich the school more this year than the past few years. “I’ve been trying to catch up, looking through binders to learn the school’s history and figure out funding, along with sifting through the school’s huge basement inventory,” she says. The Fall Pumpkin Social was a huge success (thanks to Samantha Parson and Elizabeth Evans), which helped to raise awareness about what the PTA can do. The PTA hopes to hold the Butternut tubing event this winter as well, to help families get to know each other even better. “Across-grade friendships are the heart of our school, so it’s important to bring families into that,” Arla states.

Thanks to efforts from PTA member/Pre-K teacher Jaimi-lyn Schieb, the PTA has restored monthly visits to the New Marlborough Town Library and hopes to soon resume the Lego Club after school on early dismissal days. “Jane Burke [who is finishing her term on the School Committee] has been a big support,” Arla acknowledges. “She’s willing to answer any question and always has valuable insights,” she says.

The long-anticipated return of The Holiday Fair Market, scheduled for Saturday, December 10, is expected to bring in the majority of the needed funds. “We’re doing our best to make it happen. The school community needs this chance to come together and celebrate all that we love about our little school,” Arla reiterates.

“It’s a great event!” she beams. “Everyone makes crafts and contributes in some way.” Those who wish to contribute items are asked to contact nmmpta01244@gmail.com in the next few weeks. She adds, “We welcome donations [which are tax deductible] from the community and local businesses for our silent auction, too!” □

Upcoming: Events Calendar for November and December

October 31 – November 4: Early voting continues at Town Hall, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

November 5: Wine and Beer Tasting, sponsored by New Marlborough Volunteer First Responders; food pairings from neighboring restaurants; at the firehouse in Southfield, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

November 8: State Midterm Election: Vote at Town Hall, 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

THE CAMPBELL FALLS BRIDGE CAMPAIGN

A fund-raising campaign to save the historic Campbell Falls Stone Arch Bridge, launched recently with meetings with nearby residents, is now reaching out to residents throughout New Marlborough. As explained in a recent mailing, the bridge has held up remarkably well in the 200 years since it was first erected over the Whiting River. But in the past decade or so, it has begun to lose mortar, and stones have dislodged from the underside of the arch and both breastwalls.

Two years ago, under the initiative of Vice President John Schreiber, the New Marlborough Historical Society hired structural engineer Atkinson-Noland Associates to evaluate the deterioration. The ANA report shows precisely where stones and mortar need to be replaced and recommended that drainage be installed to prevent pooling of water at a low point in the bridge crossing. Erosion indicated the need for catch basins at the west end of the bridge. Repair, said the engineer, needs to proceed with all due speed.

The Campbell Falls Bridge is, of course, Town property and falls under the aegis of the Highway Department to maintain. To await state condemnation, however, would be to invite a months-



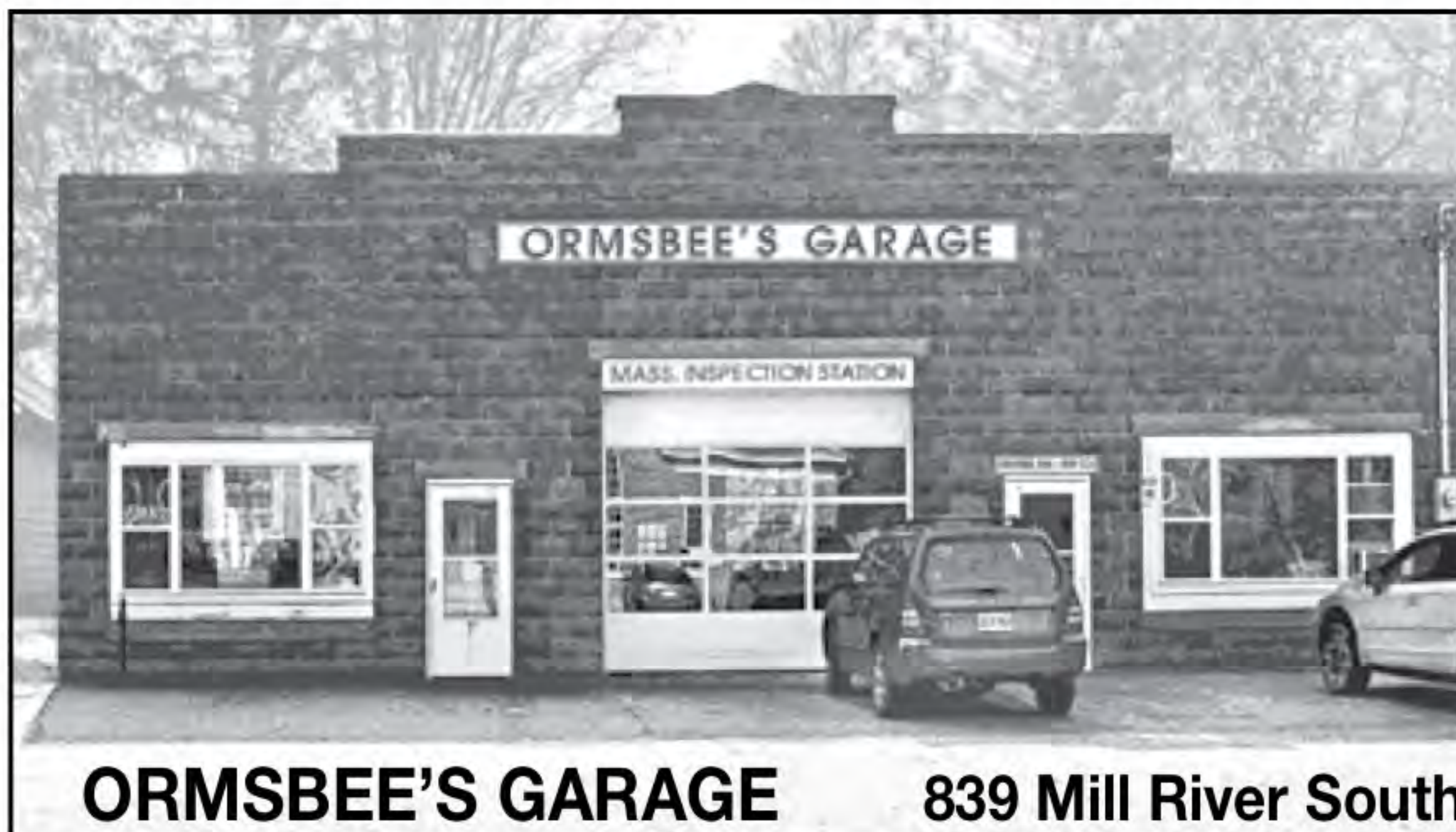
photos by Terry Lush

Cambell Falls bridge

long closing of the bridge and then replacement by a modern steel and concrete span at a seven-figure cost. Preservation of this priceless artifact of New Marlborough history is estimated at \$150,000 to \$200,000.

Funds contributed to the campaign are being placed in a designated account that will be turned over to the Town treasury when the repairs are made. □

Joe Poindexter



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BRIAN DILLON'S BURNING PASSION FOR FIREFIGHTING

By Robbi Hartt

"Growing up, I sometimes felt limited by what I could do in the Berkshires. Firefighting was something I could do."

—Brian Dillon

Brian Dillon knew he wanted to be a firefighter when he was seven, the year his dad died, and he's never doubted his decision since.

When Tom Dillon was diagnosed with mesothelioma in 2006, the fire department was there for his family from the beginning of his illness till his death in April 2008, at the age of forty-two. "The way they stepped up to be there for our family really impacted me," Brian says. "From that point on, I was counting down the years till I could join them."

Growing up, Brian was into anything involving trucks. His dad served in the New Marlborough Fire Department for eleven years. Although Brian was very young at the time, he can still remember his father bringing him to the station to eat lunch with him. "He'd bring me up on the truck and teach me all about fire prevention," he recalls.

A fire department photo taken before his father's death remains an important connection for Brian. That is one of the reasons he joined the New Marlborough Fire Department when he turned sixteen, the youngest age he was allowed to start training. "Dave Herick would pick me up for training since I joined before I had my driver's license," he explains. "I had grown up with these guys all my life. It was very rewarding feeling a part of the group and giving back to my community."

According to the U.S. Fire Department Profile of 2020, only 3 percent of all firefighters are sixteen to nineteen years of age. Firefighter Insider website states that most professional firefighters are hired between the ages of twenty-five and thirty-five but notes that, typically, "the younger a recruit is, the better — from the department's point of view."



Brian as a young boy, with his dad, Tom Dillon

photo courtesy of Brian Dillon



Brian driving in the Memorial Day Parade in May 2022

photo courtesy of NMFR



Brian, right, beside graduating senior Brian Paradis in front of a Rindge, New Hampshire fire engine

Once he started going to Canaan for his first live burn exercises, Brian was hooked. "There's a real sense of trust in each other. Once you're older it's your job to pass that down to the younger people. My senior year in high school I went to every call I could."

Following graduation, Brian headed to Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, New Hampshire—originally to study sports journalism. When he realized he wasn't really enjoying those courses, but he was really enjoying the Franklin Pierce Fire Company (FPFC) where he was very involved, he made a decision to pursue a different path. He changed to an EMS (emergency medical services) major his sophomore year and has been in charge of the FPFC the past two years, planning all trainings and serving as the liaison between Rindge Fire and FPFC. He was sponsored this year by the FPFC to at-

tend the Fire Academy.

Enrolling in the five-month Firefighter1 course (which meets three days a week) on top of a full

course load of college courses was a huge sacrifice and challenge, he admits, but worth it. An added incentive for pushing himself was the chance to work part-time for the town of Rindge as an interior firefighter, responding to off-campus calls and providing mutual aid to the surrounding towns.

“Going to the Fire Academy opened up a lot of doors for me up here,” Brian explains, adding that he’s been fortunate to have a good group of people to help him along. While some people his age struggle to find their passion, he is always reading articles and learning new things. “I’m lucky that I’m able to take back my training to the NMFR, too,” he says.

Going to the firehouse was a big part of Brian’s upbringing. “I had a lot of fathers there,” he notes. “They taught me how to use power tools, mow the lawn — all the things I didn’t have a chance to learn from my dad.”

Ed Harvey, who recently retired, served on NMFD with Brian’s dad and later with Brian. “As one of the numerous people who have watched Brian become a brilliant and talented young man, I am extremely proud!” he shares. “Brian has made a positive impact on my life and I am sure he will continue to do so in the lives of anyone who meets him in the future.”

This past summer, Brian earned his EMT (emergency medical technician) certification through FireMed, LLC in Nashua, New Hampshire. Following a knee injury this summer, he began his FF2 training at the Fire Academy this fall (as a senior at Franklin Pierce). “We’ll see how this year plays out, what opportunities present themselves,” he says. In addition to his training in New Hampshire, Brian also covers night shifts for the Monterey FD, where he is getting experience working on a ladder truck under Chief Shawn Tryon.

“It was the thing to do in older generations,” Brian acknowledges, referring to being a firefighter in your own community, “but it’s not really my generation’s thing.” When asked how his mom feels about his career choice, he responds, “I never heard my mom



Brian, left, in a photo take at a live burn in Rindge.

photo by David Bryce

push me away from this, but there wasn’t any pressure to be a firefighter either.”

“Firefighting is truly a calling,” he believes. While every firehouse is different, they all share similar goals and face similar dangers — and there’s always bound to be someone sitting on the bumper of the firetruck willing to talk.

“If my dad never joined, I don’t know how my life would have turned out,” Brian concludes. “It’s my community, my way of life. I just enjoy it so much.” □



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NEIGHBORS



Hilda Banks Shapiro, a true force of nature, died in August at the age of 95. Hilda was beloved by the children and parents of Southern Berkshire schools for the many years of her accompanying musicals on piano. Michele McAuley reflected on Hilda’s impact: “She played countless theater rehearsals and performances at all school levels and was a beloved part of our school community. Hilda’s talent, dedication, and individual style have made impressions which are certain to last in the hearts of all who have known her. In his painting entitled “A Rehearsal,” Shawn Fields



‘A Rehearsal,’ Oil painting by Shawn Fields

captured Hilda in her signature red Chuckies and top knot.” Of his painting (which, besides capturing Hilda’s irrepressible style also features a number of New Marlborough’s young thespians), Shawn had this to say: “This painting is so much about the kids learning to be confident, understanding how to express an idea bigger than themselves, how to be articulate, and how to be part of a group effort. Those concepts will serve them their whole life and Hilda and Courtney English, along with all the adults in the community working with them tirelessly, have been key figures in implanting these valuable traits.”

The 5 Village News has recently learned that former long-time Mill River resident, **Al Lenardson**, passed away in Marshfield, Massachusetts, on May 10, 2022, at the age of eighty-eight. Following high school he attended seminary school, but chose to become headmaster of Marlboro Academy in New Marlborough, now the Center for Motivation and Change. By the early 1980s, Al was an occasional writer for *The Berkshire Eagle* and *The Berkshire Courier* while living in Mill River, and established the Ice House Photography Studio with his close friend, the late Edgar Zukauskis. A few years ago, after retirement, he left Mill River to live with his sister in Marshfield.



Al Lenardson

Al was a constant presence in Mill River, whether walking to the store and post office, or photographing the family celebrations of graduations, weddings, births, anniversaries, or retirements throughout New Marlborough. He was also the preferred friend of many dogs in New Marlborough, who could sense his approach even though he wasn’t yet in their view. We, and they, have missed him. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com



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WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

While stacking some firewood in late September, **Larry Burke** picked up a log that had been in contact with the damp ground and discovered a small **spotted salamander**. The many earthworms that inhabited the same soil explained the presence of this very well-fed amphibian. A little research on spotted salamanders revealed that they are “very personable” and make nice pets. This little guy, however was gently placed back under a log with his next lunch.

In a follow-up to last month’s posting about the tussle between his family’s resident **woodchuck** and a very good-looking **bobcat**, **Terry Lush** reports, as of October 10, “The groundhog seems to be doing great. Somebody said the bobcat could have been “playing” with the groundhog. The bobcat ran through the yard this weekend while four **deer** were around, trying not to be noticed.” Terry had another visitor – a very blond **coyote**. “The coyote is marking territory with all the traffic at the moment, a pretty specimen, with some german shepherd/wolf vibes!”

Coyotes are very active all over town at this time of year, shrieking like Halloween goblins in the night. **Ed Harvey** caught one licking its chops down near the Sheffield border in Clayton, and also from that part of town, **Liz Goodman** reports the following: “**Coyotes, coyotes, coyotes!** We have had a pair of coyotes on our property who have now raised pups two years in row, and each time it seems like they have two pups. We have an old gravel pit where we dump stumps and brush, and I’m pretty sure that’s where their den is. We hear them at night frequently and see them periodically. Over the weekend our fields were hayed and while the haying was going on I felt safe walking there with Bitsy, our eight-pound dog, but mostly I have been walking very cautiously and avoiding the area where the den is. Today I have been seeing them, along with crows and buzzards, enjoying the spoils of the tractor and mower. Keeping the little dog close to me!”

Joe Poindexter, on October 10, sent in a shot of a **great blue heron** in his backyard, writing, “For those of you with ponds, large birds are no big deal. But for us, this visitor was exotic.” □

compiled by Larry Burke; Send your wildlife sightings to Larry at larryjburke@gmail.com

photo by Larry Burke



A spotted salamander

photo by Terry Lush



An extremely light-toned coyote

photo by Ed Harvey



Another, darker coyote, smacking its lips?

photo by Joe Poindexter



A great blue heron exploring some dry ground



NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

I want to thank the New Marlborough Land Trust Board, Martha Bryan, and the community for my very successful first year as the executive director. We were able to raise money for a special agricultural preservation restriction project, offer many interesting events, and end our programming season with the amazing event, Good Times @ Goodnow.

On Saturday, October 15, about twenty-five folks appeared in the Town Hall parking lot to help with the annual fall roadside clean-up. A new sprinkling of leaves dotted the roadside after Thursday's rain, but we still managed to collect over thirty bags of trash scattered along the roads around the town. Bud Lite is still clearly the beer of choice in our community, and Marlboro cigarettes have taken a back seat to American Spirit. With the leaf cover we did not accumulate the normal quantity of nips, but we did find discarded plumbing and outtake valves from a bathroom remodel. Participants were welcomed at the Goodnow Preserve, where it was concluded that Taft Farm has the best apple cider doughnuts around. Thank you to everyone for their help.

I will be spending the next few months identifying areas on our trails that are in need of maintenance, and working with board member Tes Reed and trail steward Stefan Zdziarski to organize volunteers to help with specific areas. I will also be planning programming for the 2023 season, so if you would like to volunteer or have ideas of what you as our community would like to see brought back or added to our events, please email nmlandtrust@gmail.com.

As a reminder our annual appeal was mailed out in September. If you have already contributed, thank you; we appreciate your support. If you have not contributed, every little bit helps. You can also donate online at <https://www.nmlandtrust.org/support-our-mission>.

New Marlborough Land Trust Mission:

The New Marlborough Land Trust encourages and promotes the preservation of natural resources in the Town of New Marlborough to protect the Town's unique rural character. The Land Trust works in concert with the citizens and governing bodies of New Marlborough for the benefit of the environment, our local economy, community education, and future generations.

Remember to get your orange out!

Remember that hunting season is just around the corner, November 28 to December 10. Hunting is not permitted on Sunday. Be sure to wear bright red or orange and keep your dog on a leash when you are out walking and enjoying the late fall weather.

Sylvia Eggenberger, Executive Director

Thank You to Our Contributors:

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GOOD TIMES @ GOODNOW

Spectacular weather, a big tent, brick oven pizza, Sburgers and dogs, hayrides, and most of all, a large crowd of very happy people made for the perfect combination of ingredients for the New Marlborough Land Trust's first-ever fresh-air fundraising extravaganza on September 24. The Goodnow Preserve has proven to be an outstanding addition to the quality of life in town, and it was the perfect spot for friends and neighbors, young and old, to come together for a great time. For an excellent taste of what the afternoon and evening felt like, see Terry Lush's video at the Land Trust website, www.nmlandtrust.org/events. □

photos by Terry Lush



THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Sept. 1 6:17 a.m. A driver reports hitting a deer on New Marlborough Hill Road.
- 9:20 p.m. An officer, responding to a Lake Buel area caller's complaint that his neighbor's renters had a large, uncontained fire burning in their front yard, determines that it is a small, well managed campfire.
- Sept. 2 11:22 a.m. An officer advises visitors to an estate sale to re-park cars causing a traffic hazard in Southfield village.
- Sept. 4 5:52 p.m. A caller reports a dog loose on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 8:47 p.m. Officers reunite a teen with her parents, who had become separated during a hike in woods outside New Marlborough village.
- Sept. 5 1:32 p.m. An officer dispatches a porcupine critically injured on Canaan Southfield Road.
- 7:33 p.m. Following up on a call from a resident, an officer alerts the Highway Department to a fallen tree blocking Cagney Hill Road.
- 8:34 p.m. A Hartsville caller asks for assistance with an inebriated and out-of-control resident.
- Sept. 6 9:17 a.m. A Verizon employee reports a utility pole fire on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- 12:16 p.m. An unregistered shotgun is taken from a home in Hartsville.
- 12:26 p.m. National Grid is notified after a caller reports that a tree has taken down wires to his Foley Hill Road residence
- 7:07 p.m. Tree down on Norfolk Road.
- Sept. 8 9:15 a.m. An officer, in his role as animal control officer, advises a caller as to where to get stray cats spayed.
- 9:06 p.m. A tow is ordered for a car the registration of which has been suspended for non-payment of the property tax on it.
- Sept. 13 6:30 p.m. A tow is ordered for an unregistered vehicle stopped in Clayton whose driver has a suspended license.
- Sept. 14 10:03 p.m. A New Marlborough resident requests assistance for an elderly male wandering, apparently lost, in her yard.
- Sept. 15 10:50 a.m. The Highway Department is notified after a caller reports a downed tree blocking Rhoades and Bailey Road.
- 4:50 p.m. A motorcyclist speeding in excess of 60 mph through New Marlborough village evades pursuit by crossing into Connecticut.
- 11:40 p.m. A motorcyclist reports hitting a deer on Lumbert Cross Road.
- Sept. 17 9:08 p.m. A Southfield resident asks for assistance in ridding her basement of a possum.
- Sept. 18 1:28 a.m. An employee of a Southfield business asks that an officer check out a vehicle in its parking lot spotted by a surveillance camera.
- Sept. 22 3:18 p.m. The Department is alerted to a possibly rabid raccoon on the loose in Mill River.
- Sept. 27 3:00 p.m. National Grid is contacted after an officer reports a tree on wires on Foley Hill Road.
- 4:10 p.m. A caller worried about her sick cat is advised to contact a veterinarian.
- Sept. 29 10:29 a.m. A driver stopped for weaving back and forth on Hartsville New Marlborough Road explained she had just received a Covid vaccination and was on her way home to rest.
- Sept. 30 10:34 a.m. A New Marlborough village resident reported that her pet dog strayed off the property after she had neglected to turn on the electric fence.
- 10:38 a.m. A Lake Buel area resident reports that her neighbor's dog has gotten loose and is missing.
- 4:16 p.m. A Southfield resident complains of a pickup truck, unrecognized by him, parked on his property.
- 5:10 p.m. A Mill River resident notifies the Department that a pet dog has wandered off the property and and is headed toward the village.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police



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FIRE AND RESCUE

Sept. 1	9:23 p.m.	Downs Road Outside Burn	Sept. 15	4:14 a.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call
Sept. 3	4:41 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call		6:35 a.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call
	7:02 p.m.	Adsit Crosby Road Fire Alarm	Sept. 16	9:37 a.m.	Berkshire Woods Fire Alarm
	11:06 p.m.	Red Fox Drive Medical Call	Sept. 18	7:00 a.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call
Sept. 4	12:05 p.m.	Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road Medical Call	Sept. 23	3:22 a.m.	North Road Medical Call
Sept. 5	8:53 p.m.	Sisson Hill Road Medical Call	Sept. 26	1:10 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Sept. 6	9:20 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Wires Down		6:50 p.m.	Underwood Road Medical Call
Sept. 7	11:54 p.m.	East Hill Road CO Alarm	Sept. 27	4:32 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
Sept. 10	2:03 p.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call	Sept. 30	2:57 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Medical Call
Sept. 12	6:47 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call			

Fire Company President David Smith

Important Reminders — 911 Signs

Before wrapping up fall projects, and before winter sets in, please be sure that you have your 911 sign posted at the end of your driveway and that the sign be visible from the road.

You may order 911 signs by calling New Marlborough Fire & Rescue 413-229-8100 – please leave a message if no one answers. You may also visit the Fire & Rescue page on the Town of New Marlborough website and send an email to request a sign. The 911 signs are two-sided, highly visible, and cost \$20. If you need help installing your sign, call us. We will help.

Massachusetts General Laws require that every building in the state have clearly visible address numbers posted. We prefer the Fire & Rescue issued signs, but you may install your own if it meets the following standards:

- Numbers must be at least four inches tall with a contrasting background and visible from both approaches to your driveway.
- They should be high enough so as not to be obscured by snow banks or shrubs. Be sure to keep numbers visible by trimming trees and bushes.

And Home Safety

Chimney fires are a common occurrence and can cause serious damage to your home. Please keep in mind:

- Most chimney fires occur because of a build-up of creosote, a tarry by-product of burning wood. Have your chimney flue cleaned before each heating season. Burn only dry, well-seasoned, hardwood to reduce creosote accumulation.
- Do not use flammable liquids to start a fire.
- Never leave children unattended near a wood stove
- Check that the damper is open before lighting the fire. A closed damper will result in an accumulation of smoke and carbon monoxide in the home. Do not close the damper until the fire is out and the embers are cold.
- Use a fireplace screen to prevent flying sparks and embers from falling onto the floor.
- Be sure your smoke detectors and carbon monoxide alarms are working properly. Problems with heating systems are the number one source of carbon monoxide in homes. Both fire and carbon monoxide alarms are required by law in Massachusetts. Please contact us if you have questions about proper alarms for your home.
- Ashes that are cleaned out from a wood stove or fireplace should be shoveled into a metal bucket with a metal lid and placed outside on the ground away from the building — not on your porch, in your basement, or in your garage. Embers can continue to smolder unnoticed for quite some time, creating carbon monoxide and potentially causing a fire.

Fire Company President David Smith

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

There are more than two hundred catch basins and probably over a thousand culverts in New Marlborough. As you can imagine, it's a daunting task to keep them clean and clear of debris. The highway crew has seen residents blowing lawn clippings and leaves into and across the roads, debris that clogs drainage and causes flooding. Please refrain from blowing leaves and grass clippings into and across the road and ask your lawn mowing or cleanup person to do the same. It will not only help the highway crew, but if we keep the water flowing, it will benefit you and your neighbors as well.

The Highway Department is prepared for whatever nature throws at us this winter and will provide reasonable snow and ice control to public roads and properties. Our highest concern will continue to be personal safety, environmental protection, and cost. We are asking motorists to use common sense and recognize that they are traveling at their own risk in inclement weather.

The highway crew is responsible for close to ninety miles of road. With five highway workers, one working foreman, and the highway superintendent, we ask for your patience and cooperation. On school days, bus routes take priority. After the paved roads are plowed, the unpaved roads are taken care of. Please be aware that it is almost impossible to keep unpaved roads passable at all times. During a rain storm, when road temperatures drop below 32°F, unpaved roads ice over almost instantly, and the sand that is applied quickly freezes. Sand for residential use only (no contractors, please) is always available at the Highway Garage under the shed on the left upon entering the yard. We ask that you take no more than two buckets at a time.

Highway workers do their best to avoid damaging private property; however, anything installed in the Town's right-of-way (mailboxes, fences, signs, etc.) is placed there at the owner's risk. The Postal Service

recommends that mailboxes be placed six to eight inches away from the edge of the road. Creating an apron where the mail carrier can pull off the road to make deliveries is ideal. Because roads vary in condition, please use your best judgment and understand that the Town does not reimburse for property damaged by snowplows. Privately owned installations should be inspected regularly to ensure that they are secured properly and that the posts have not rotted.

- Reduce speeds, use common sense and refrain, when possible, from driving during a snowstorm.
 - The hands-free law in Massachusetts prohibits operators of motor vehicles from using electronic devices while driving, unless the device is used in hands-free mode.
 - Contrary to what your tire dealer or local garage may tell you, all-season tires work well in Florida but are not the best choice during winter months in New England. There is no substitute for good quality snow tires. Using studded snow tires is recommended if you travel on unpaved roads. We are responsible for the roads, not for your poor tires or bad driving.
 - Do not park your vehicle on any road or property that is maintained by the Town.
 - Vehicles parked in driveways should be far enough off the road to allow plow trucks to pass safely.
 - Plowing or blowing snow into Town roads is illegal and dangerous. Please find proper means to dispose of snow on your property; violators can be ticketed by the police.
 - Tune-in to the local weather forecasts and pay attention to changing conditions.
- Please drive carefully. □

Charles Loring, New Marlborough Highway Superintendent

DOWNING LANE, PC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

623 MAIN STREET, SUITE 1
GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Victoria Sponge cake is named for Queen Victoria, who regularly ate a slice of this delicious cake at afternoon tea. It was also a favorite of Queen Elizabeth who served it at many a tea party. My granddaughter Clara and I made it in honor of Queen Elizabeth when she passed away. It's elegant, easy to bake and delicious. For sure, our first Victorian Sponge won't be the last. As they say in the Great British Baking Show-- --BAKE!!! Enjoy (with a nice cuppa tea)!

Marjorie Shapiro



VICTORIA SPONGE CAKE

Total time: one hour

Ingredients for the Cake

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour | 3 large eggs |
| 1 tsp baking powder | 1 tsp. vanilla |
| 1/4 tsp salt | 1 cup raspberry jam |
| 12 tbsp. butter, at room temperature | whipped cream, made fresh from a pint of heavy cream, if possible |
| 1 cup granulated sugar | powdered sugar, for dusting |

Directions for the cake

- Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.
- Grease two 8-inch round cake pans.
- Line the bottoms with parchment paper.
- Whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl and set aside.
- Using an electric mixer, beat the butter and sugar in a large bowl until light and fluffy, scraping down the sides of the bowl as needed. This should take about 5 minutes.
- Add the eggs one at a time; beat them until well incorporated.
- Add the flour mixture on low speed until combined. Then, fold the batter together with a rubber spatula, scooping in the excess around the bowl. Add the vanilla and mix to incorporate.
- Divide the batter between the two pans, smoothing the tops.
- Bake for 20 to 25 minutes until the cakes are golden brown around the edges. Don't worry if the tops remain pale. The layers should feel soft but set when touched lightly in the center. A toothpick inserted in the center should come out clean.
- Let the cakes cool in the pans for 10 minutes, then invert onto a wired rack until they are completely cool.
- To assemble the cake, place one cake on a cake plate with the round topside facing down.
- Generously spread that layer with lots of raspberry jam all the way to the edges. Feel free to use more than the one cup indicated.
- Next add a very generous layer of whipped cream on top of the raspberry jam.
- Top that layer with the second cake, topside facing up, and dust generously with powdered sugar.
- Serve with additional whipped cream on the side.



Happy Thanksgiving!

...how about a nice pork crown roast?

THE SCHOOL REPORT

By Jane Burke

PreKindergarten on the Move

The New Marlborough Central School PreKindergarten program added a second classroom this year as part of the plan to identify the school as specializing in Early Childhood education. Teachers Jaime-Lyn Schieb and Carrere Tirrell are using an innovative curriculum developed by the Boston Public Schools Program, called K2, which is a play-based program that promotes children's creativity and encourages critical thinking skills and collaboration among peers. The children's experiences are broadened with field trips and special visitors. October was a busy month for meeting new people and doing new things.

The monthly visits began on October 13 with a trip down the road to the New Marlborough Town Library. Mrs. Schieb said, "All of the children were very excited to hop on the bus and take a field trip to the public library where they were welcomed by the town librarian, Deb O'Brien. Deb read each class a story and the students had time to browse around the library. They each checked out a book to take home to enjoy."

Also on October 13, New Marlborough Firefighters Jon James, David Smith, Zach Reynolds, and Rob Scott drove a fire truck and the ambulance to the school. They talked with the children about ways to be safe around fire, what to do if your clothing caught on fire, and whom to call in an emergency. Most exciting for the children was the opportunity to see the tools and equipment on the fire truck and ambulance.



Rob Scott explaining the equipment on the fire truck

The trip to Tom Brazie's The Farm New Marlborough on October 14 was described by Mrs. Schieb as "awesome." She said, "Farmer Tom was an amazing tractor driving tour guide, who explained to the children how they use rotational grazing to keep the

animals healthy and the ground fertile. The students got to see the pigs and the cows being fed. The children thought it was so funny that the cows were eating their seats, since everyone was sitting on hay bales on the tractor. The children got to visit the chicken coop where they collected eggs and met the two brave guard dogs who keep the chickens safe. Everyone had such a great time, including the classroom paraprofessionals Norma Drumm and Susan Krom!" It should be noted that Tom Brazie is a graduate of the school and

the parent of two current NMC students. He is also dedicated to educating the community about farming and is encouraging more interaction with students at all grade levels.

Recognition of Indigenous Peoples Day

Indigenous Peoples Day was celebrated on October 7 by students from Southern Berkshire Regional District. Shawn Stevens, a member of the Stockbridge Munsee band of Mohicans gave a presentation to students at Undermountain Elementary School. Adorned in traditional dress, Shawn talked about his people and shared his culture through music: songs, flute, and drum. He shared with the students that his tribe had a rich history that dated back long before the arrival of the colonists, and that culture continues



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today among the descendants.

A group of Mount Everett students, alongside students from all over Berkshire County, participated in The Berkshire Hexagon Project, led by Mount Everett art teacher Stephanie Graham. Participating teachers involved their students in indigenous learning opportunities through the concepts of place, storytelling, intergenerational interaction, experience, and interconnectedness. Students then responded by illustrating a hexagon, using their under-



Shawn Stevens, of the Stockbridge Munsee tribe, in traditional dress at Undermountain Elementary School for a celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day
Photo by Kari Giordano

standing of history and culture, as well as their connection to the land and to each other. On October 7, students from Southern Berkshire, Berkshire Hills, Lenox, Lee, Pittsfield, North Adams, the Waldorf School, Berkshire School, and Montessori exhibited their hexagons in a mural installation in Great Barrington at the starting point of the Indigenous Peoples' Day Ceremonial Walk. □

Jane Burke

NOVEMBER 8 ELECTION OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Voters will choose nine members for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee on election day November 8. According to our regional agreement, voters from all five towns in the district vote for all of the vacant seats. Normally there are five vacancies every two years. This unusual circumstance arose because four members elected in 2020 had to leave the committee for various reasons. They were replaced through appointments by the Select Boards until the next election cycle.

Below are the names of the candidates on the ballot. Note that both Egremont and New Marlborough will have one blank space because no one came forward in time to gather the required signatures to be certified. There is still time to consider running as a write-in even if there is already a candidate running. Using Maggie's list and the other town list-serves voters can be alerted to new candidates.

Alford:

Carl Stewart – Returning after a 4-year absence: 4-year term

Egremont:

James DiPisa – incumbent, appointed in 2021: 4-year term

Write-in: 2-Year Term

Monterey:

Kimberly Alcantara: 2-year term

Laura Rodriguez is on the ballot but withdrew her name after it was submitted to the state

New Marlborough:

Nanci Worthington – has served two years and now running for 4-year term

Write-in: 2-Year Term

Sheffield:

H. Dennis Sears – incumbent with 12 years on the committee: 4-year term

E. Bonnie Silvers –incumbent 8 years: 4-year term

David Rogers-Thieriot: 2-year term □

School Committee Elections

Write-in candidates may still come forward for election on November 8 to fill the vacant positions in Egremont and New Marlborough, or to challenge an existing candidate.

No formal certification is needed – just spread the word to encourage write-in votes on November 8.

THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Aquisitions

Adult Fiction

- Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus
- Fairy Tale*, by Stephen King
- Next in Line*, by Jeffrey Archer
- Treasure State*, by C.J. Box
- Righteous Prey*, by John Sandford
- Suspect*, by Scott Turow
- The Bullet That Missed*, by Richard Osman

Adult NonFiction

- Barred: Why the Innocent Can't Get Out of Prison*, by Daniel Medwed
- Killing the Legends: the Lethal Danger of Celebrity*, by Bill O'Reilly

Children's Fiction

- Odder*, by Katherine Applegate
- Two Degrees*, by Alan Grantz
- Explorer Academy: The Forbidden Island*, by Trudi Trueit
- Sisterhood of Sleuths*, by Jennifer Chambliss Bertman
- Dragonwatch Series*, by Brandon Mull
- Keeper of the Lost Cities Series*, by Shannon Messenger



Winter Library Hours

Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Tues. / Thurs. 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.
 229-6668

The Library will be closed
 on November 24th & 25th



Storytime

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for this free storytime.

This program includes stories, songs, crafts, and free play. Great for families with children ages birth to 5.

All are welcome and no registration is required.

Sponsored by South Berkshire Kids and Mass Department of Early Education and Care.

THANKFUL.



Because, Pie.

New Marlborough Friends of the Library

Annual Pre-Thanksgiving

PIE SALE

The library will be taking pie orders for
 Apple/Apple Crumb, Cherry,
 Pumpkin, Berry, and Pecan Pies

All pies are \$18.00

Pick-up will be November 19th from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

We will be taking orders until we reach 30 pies. Order early!!!

(413) 229-2544
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Herbert W. Eichstedt III
 Jason W. Eichstedt

Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:
New Marlborough 5 Village News, P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

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 HERE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE CONTRIBUTION OF \$_____ (payable to NM5VN)

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CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____



Town Times

- Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- Town Administrator:** Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
- Planning Board:** Second and fourth Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.
- Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.
- Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m.
- Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
- Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station
- Building Inspector:** By appointment only; call 413-229-0277
- First Responders:** Meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. at the fire station
- Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library
- Post Office: Mill River** (413) 229-8582 — if and when it re-opens:
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 11:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Southfield (413) 229-8476
 Window hours: Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:00 - 12:00 p.m.
- Town Treasurer:** Monday & Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Tax Collector:** Monday 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Tues. and Thurs. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- Animal Control Officer:** Graham Frank, (413) 229-8161
- Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- Town Hall:** 229-8116
- Police:** Business office: 229-8161
- Library:** 229-6668

Transfer Station Hours:

- Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1

and can be purchased for \$185
 by mail or online at

www.newmarlborough.gov.
 Please enclose a self-addressed,
 stamped envelope. No admittance
 without a permit after August 15

Emergency calls:

Police, Fire, Medical
911

New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.

Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 PO Box 99, Mill River, MA 01244
 (413) 229-8165

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

Other businesses can be listed in the Service Sector (see back page). Questions, rates? Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369

NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer; Martha Bryan,
 Jane Burke, Larry Burke, Robbi Hartt, Isabella Kemp,
 Michele McAuley, Steven Nester, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten,
 Barry Shapiro, Marjorie Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingeist.

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 Nan O'Shaughnessy Smith, and Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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also online at

www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated December 2022.

All copy must be submitted no later than November 17.

For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369

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- **Dellea.biz Computer Services:** has provided local residents with on-site Windows computer repairs and technical support since 1996. Book appointments online at <https://dellea.biz> or call (413) 528-1141.
- **Design+Planning:** Christopher Blair; Since 1986, creative, budget-aware design. Achieve your goals for additions, alterations to an existing home or new construction. (413)528-4960. chris@design-planning.com.
- **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield (413) 229-0050
- **One call does it all!:** Vinyl siding cleaning; pressure washing; deck refinishing; floors refinished; window washing; odd landscape jobs; all odd jobs. David Goewey, (413) 229-2787
- **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@barrington-lawoffice.com or (413) 528-4300
- **Reiner White & Sons, Inc:** A family-run general contractor business serving the MA and CT area since 1988 - new construction, additions, remodeling, and more. Licensed and insured. Call (413) 229-8450 for free consultation.

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