

New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton ♦ Hartsville ♦ Mill River ♦ New Marlborough ♦ Southfield

THE MILL RIVER GENERAL STORE AND POST OFFICE

A New Venue for an Old Tradition

By Robbi Hartt

Duncan Crystal and Libby Heimler met and fell in love in San Francisco in 2018. “During the first summer of the pandemic, we relocated to Boston so Duncan could start a business, and so we could afford more space than our tiny San Francisco apartment offered,” Libby explains.

Many elements of their love story aren’t traditional — including the fact that Libby proposed, in New York in August 2021. Their decision to hold their wedding ceremony in a general store/post office setting was nontraditional as well — not just any general store and post office, but our very own Mill River General Store/Post Office.

Duncan’s parents originally started coming to the Berkshires to spend time with Duncan’s older brother David, who lives at Berkshire Meadows in Housatonic, and Duncan spent many childhood summers at Camp Becket. His parents now split their time between Southfield and Melrose, Massachusetts, so Duncan and Libby were familiar with this little corner of New Marlborough in particular.



Duncan and Libby posed for pictures following the ceremony, with all of their guests watching from below.

Photo courtesy Susan Lynch Photography

The Mill River General Store was the place that first gave Libby the idea to get married in a post office, even before they knew they wanted to get married. “It has such a special Berkshires charm, but also we love that it’s more than just a cute, old store. It serves a real purpose. It’s an easy place to love,” Libby explains.

“When we were ready to wade into planning and start looking for venues, the post office at the general store was still closed,” Libby continues. They drove around with Duncan’s mom to look at other postal locations on one weekend visit, and also read about some older post offices in New Hampshire. “We made a little database with photos and other info and had a plan for how to contact and follow up with the locations,” Duncan adds. “Libby made a few calls, and I’m sure you can imagine the bemused reactions.”

“We really wanted to find a place with wheelchair accessibility and close proximity to Berkshire Meadows for David that would agree to let us have our wedding there,” Libby notes. When they learned that the post office inside the Mill River General Store was reopening, they were elated. “We sent off an email to the store — and I’m sure they thought we were joking or nuts or both — but we got an answer, and the store manager at the time (Joe Hesse) agreed to meet

continued

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with us. We talked to him, he took some notes, and we crossed our fingers,” Duncan notes.

About a week later, Libby got a text that read something like this: “Hello, this is Peter. I own the General Store. We definitely think it could work for you to have your wedding here. Also, I think I went to high school with Duncan.” It was an incredible coincidence and felt like the proverbial cans were lining up on the shelves quite nicely.

You might wonder what sparked their affection for this type of nontraditional wedding venue.

“I would love to say there’s a clear answer to this,” Duncan begins, “but as far as the post office goes, Libby just really loves the mail. She loves sending it, and learning about the history of the USPS, along with visiting post offices in other countries.” And the general store? “What’s not to love about a general store?” he said, smiling. “Someplace that has pierogies and batteries and wine and anything else you might run out of while making dinner — that’s a very important place.”

How did the staff do with the pre-wedding planning and day-of logistics? “The General Store team was incredible,” Duncan raves. “They quickly offered to close the store for part of the day and helped supply products for our gift bags and welcome party. Maddie and Peter met with us many times on the phone and on Zoom to answer all of our questions. They also fielded visits from our excited parents in the days leading up to the wedding.”

The store team found the experience equally rewarding. As Maddie Austin (current store manager) shares, “Taking part in the union of this special couple was truly heartwarming. The love and nostalgia that led to their decision to be wed in our store fortified the love and support of our community which, and I don’t say this lightly, means everything to us.”

Libby adds, “They let us use the store’s Wi-Fi so that

we could stream the wedding to loved ones as far away as Cambodia. Peter picked up the chairs we borrowed from the fire department himself. The store teams was there during our ceremony, and they seemed so genuinely happy for us.” What’s more, many of their



With their friend Sam Michaels presiding, “They got married right there, in front of the tomato paste,” Maddie Austin notes, adding that none of the merchandise was moved “out of the way” during the ceremony.

Photo courtesy Susan Lynch Photography.

had these kind, gracious rockstars helping us make our whacky dream come true.”

While it’s easy to drop a lot of money these days on elaborate wedding decorations, the dry goods, fresh fruits and vegetables, and front counter filled the

bill for this couple. When asked if they brought in any extras, Libby responds, “We didn’t! We love the store just as it is; it didn’t need anything extra.” And their guests loved it! “Our friends know that we do things our own way, and that our wedding would be no exception,” she elaborates. “We were very thoughtful about the feeling we wanted to have, and the general store supported that vision perfectly. Our guests loved the store, and wanted to buy lots of snacks and products after the wedding. One of our guests even wanted to hold some grocery items when we were taking posed photos!”

Tying in the postal theme, at the ceremony the officiant (their friend, Sam Michaels) handed Libby and Duncan their vows in

flat rate mailers, and the couple promised to love each other “in snow and rain and heat and gloom of night,” in addition to the more common “in sickness and in health.” Afterwards they mailed a special postcard to



The bride and groom with Duncan’s family outside the general store/post office — flag waving, flowers overflowing.

Photo courtesy Sue Lynch Photography.

themselves with their wedding date on it.

After the ceremony and photo taking, they all made their way to The Red Lion Inn for the post-wedding celebration. “We had a super positive experience with them, too,” Libby acknowledges, noting how they carried their wedding themes into the reception. “We had several elements at the reception that were USPS themed. Our gift bags were flat rate mailers with air-mail labels (Duncan’s idea). Duncan’s cousin Janina, who owns the Red Poppy Bakery in Vermont, made us a special wedding cake (the bottom tier was a USPS flat rate box, and the top tier was a blue letter-box). For our guest book, we asked guests to each bring a postcard written for us, and we put them all in a book.”

What made the wedding day most memorable in their minds? “Obviously, the setting,” Duncan replies. “The intimacy of having a smaller wedding and passing into the next phase of our lives with this group of loved ones in a place that means so much to us was really special. We had a lot of close friends and family speak during our ceremony and reception, and they made us feel really loved and surrounded by support.”

“Because we went with a non-traditional venue, we had to bring all the elements together ourselves,” Duncan notes. You might think that was hard, but he is quick to qualify: “We had so much support from the community, it felt like the whole town helped us get married. Of course, the biggest help came from Peter and Maddie at the store, but we borrowed chairs from the library and the fire department, and Ormsbee’s helped make sure there were extra places for guests

to park.” He adds, “And everyone who wanted to buy groceries or check their mail that afternoon, but had to wait until we were done, we’re grateful to them, too!”

One of the unexpected dividends of the day was an instant camera that Duncan’s almost-five-year-old niece quickly mastered. “She took some really incredible snapshots,” he says. “It’s great to have that perspective in addition to the professional photos.”



Libby standing outside a Post Office in Lyon, France, one of many they visited on their honeymoon.

Photo courtesy Duncan Crystal.

Another unexpected bonus was when their friend Kevin Hctor, who acted as the day-of details coordinator, brought Libby her phone to unlock it and join the Zoom call, and they got a few moments to talk to Libby’s friend Christin in Cambodia. “They went to college together, but she has lived across the world since they graduated,” Duncan explains. “She woke up in the middle of the night to be a part of our ceremony, and that little chat with her on Zoom made it feel like she wasn’t quite so

far away.”

Following a memorable event, the couple headed to France for a two-week honeymoon. “Even a smaller wedding takes a lot of energy, so it’s been so nice to have some time together before jumping back into our lives,” Duncan admits. “We planned this trip around the Rugby World Cup, and in addition to the rugby games, we have been relaxing, exploring, and eating — and (of course) visiting post offices in various cities and buying postcards!” □

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SELECT BOARD



September 25: With all three selectmen present, a request from National Grid for a pole permit on Hayes Hill Road, near its intersection with Brewer Hill Road, was granted. In a site visit, Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring determined that the pole would not impede plowing. Next, the Board took up the Town's relationship with Dynegy Energy Services, its power supplier under the Community Choice Power Supply Program. A new guideline shifts control of the relationship from the member towns to the state Department of Public Utilities. The Board authorized Chair Tara White to sign a letter stating its hope that control could be returned to the members of the program.

The Board then turned its attention to a request from the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board that it call a special town meeting to vote on the question of merging the Southern Berkshire and the Berkshire Hill Regional School Districts on October 23. Following a discussion on the capacity of the Fire House and the possibility of a lengthy meeting, the selectmen agreed to schedule a meeting at 6:00 p.m. on the 23rd, providing it received a copy of the final agreement by September 27 (it did).

Next, the Board agreed to raise the term life insurance benefit for full-time employees (those working at least twenty hours a week) from \$4,000 to \$10,000 — and to have the Town absorb the additional \$2 per month cost of the premium. It then authorized the hiring of Shamus Gaherty as the newest member of the Highway Department.

In her updates, Town Administrator Mari Enoch said that the PILOT agreement with Construct, Inc., over its ownership of Cassilis Farm has been signed. At

Ms. Enoch's urging, the Board scheduled a site visit on Adsit Crosby Road for a resident who is seeking a special permit for an accessory building. And she informed the selectmen that Bob Hartt, chairman of the Planning Board, was applying for a Community Compact grant for research to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan. The current plan dates to 2016.

Following approval of payroll and vendor warrants and previous meeting minutes, the meeting was adjourned.

October 2: The Board met briefly to grant a permit to Jeremy Stanton and Emily Newman to build an "accessory dwelling unit" on their property on County Road.

October 6: In an even briefer meeting, the Board signed a warrant to hold a Special Town Meeting at 6:00 p.m. October 23, at which residents will vote on whether to merge the Southern Berkshire and Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts.

October 16: The meeting commenced with the granting of a one-day alcoholic beverage license to the New Marlborough First Responders for a wine tasting at the Fire House on November 11. The selectmen then approved the sale of the Highway Department's 2009 ten-wheel dump truck (it has been replaced by a newer, more versatile vehicle) for \$45,100. The bid price, 50 percent higher than what was offered on a trade-in, is testimony to the care devoted to the truck's maintenance. The selectmen also approved the sale of a 1984 tractor and spare parts for \$5,805.

Updating the Board on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a new town hall, Town Hall Planning Committee Chair Barbara Marchione said she was

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concerned that two major demands on the budget — the town hall and a possible school district merger — might be coming up for consideration at more or less the same time. Recognizing the need, nevertheless, to move ahead with the planning for a new town hall, Ms. Marchione and the selectmen settled on the following schedule: **The RFP would be finalized by October 30 and issued on November 15 with a deadline for submissions of January 15; the winning proposal would be awarded February 15, followed up with a purchase and sales agreement by March 15. A vote on the proposal would be held approximately thirty days later at a special town meeting.**

Next on the agenda was the appointment of a representative to the Berkshire Regional Transport Association — a requirement for joining BRTA, which, in turn, is a requirement for using BRTA vehicles employed by the Great Barrington organization that provides elderly transport for surrounding towns. Following her offer to serve, Tara White was approved by the other two selectmen as the Town’s BRTA representative, to serve until June 30, 2024, when an elected representative will assume this role.

The Board then agreed to sign contracts for grants from the state’s Department of Environmental Protection to assist in the Town’s Sustainable Materials Recovery Program — a total of \$15,000 for a container and storage facility that would protect such items as mattresses and batteries from the weather until they are recycled. A DEP program to award points for such recycling efforts will net the Town \$980 this year.

Addressing the final item on the agenda, the Board approved the hiring of Jennifer Greenberg as administrative secretary, a position that has been vacant since the resignation of Michelle Castellano some two months ago. Allowing for a two-weeks’ notice to her

present employer, Ms. Greenberg was expected to begin work before the end of the month.

In her updates, Town Administrator Mari Enoch noted that the alcohol permit awarded the library for its outdoors Halloween celebration needed to be expanded to contain an indoors location in case of rain. The Board agreed to the amendment. Ms. Enoch then asked the selectmen to approve the receipt of a Municipal Road Safety Program grant of \$19,950.

Finally, Ms. White recognized Tamara and Todd Wilber, who attended the meeting as representatives of their neighborhood association on Aberdeen Lane. Ms. Wilber, reporting that the neighbor of a pig farm on Aberdeen Lane found the odor emanating from the piggery objectionable, cited a section of the Town bylaws that stated as permissible “any agricultural use except commercial piggeries, fur farming, slaughterhouse, or greenhouses.”

Ms. White noted that this prohibition conflicted with a “Right To Farm” section of the bylaws stating that “The Town of New Marlborough finds that farming is an essential and valued activity” and further specifies that “farming” includes “keeping and raising of poultry, sheep, goats, swine, cattle, ratites (such as emus, ostriches and rheas) and camelids (such as llamas and camels), and other domesticated animals for food and other agricultural purposes, including bees and fur-bearing animals.” The contradiction stymied a definitive response from the selectmen, who said they would take up the matter with Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard to determine which directive prevailed. □

Joe Poindexter

A Request for proposals for a new town hall, finalized by October 30, would request submissions by January 15.




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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

September 21: Commission members Doug Hyde, John Schreiber, and Freddy Friedman convened the month's meeting.

Terry Weinstock, representative for his family and owner of property at 24 Downs Road, addressed the Commission with a Request for Determination (RDA) to remove three dead trees that are uprooted and adjacent to a stream. The Commission referenced its recent site visit and approved the removal of two additional trees that are diseased and dangerous. The permit was given a negative determination, meaning no further permitting is required, and included two conditions: that the stumps of all five trees remain and that the removal be filled with native bushes or trees.

The hearing for an RDA by Nicole Krauz of 1057 Hartsville New Marlborough Road was re-opened. At issue is the installation of a foundation for a greenhouse. It was determined that the proposed location for the greenhouse is not jurisdictional.

Next Beth Brown of 72 Downs Road explained that her house, located in the buffer zone to Lake Buel, needs repair due to a chronic drainage problem resulting in serious rot and a hole in the side of her house. Recognizing the severity of the house repair, the Commission concluded that the RDA involves "minor activity in the buffer zone" and does not need further permitting, while emphasizing that the repair work should not adversely impact the resource area and that a silt fence be installed during construction.

Mr. and Mrs. Krasner of 24 Lakeside Road presented an RDA to install a paved path down to Lake Buel. They gave evidence of a chronic erosion problem and that several landscape efforts to improve the situation had failed. The Commission agreed that a proper solution would need to be engineered and that a Notice of Intent (NOI) would be required.

Bryan Siter of Foresight Land Services presented an NOI on behalf of his client Lauren Smith of 35 Strat-

ford Road who had been issued a violation for removing a tree without proper permitting. The NOI included restoring the bank at Lake Windemere and re-establishing vegetation with native shrubs. The Commission also requested that mowing the area around the perennial stream cease. It was agreed that the restoration plantings be completed this fall or early next spring.

Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering then addressed the Commission for Richard Stebbins of 83 North Road who had been issued an enforcement order for the construction of a tennis court which resulted in filling in wetlands and for planting trees in a jurisdictional area. Ms. Boomsma proposed a resolution to replicate the wetlands by extending an existing wet meadow and seeding a native wetlands mix and six blueberry bushes. The replication was accepted with the condition that the Commission has permission to inspect the work after it is planted and then a season later to measure its success.

The Commission then moved to old business and the various violation letters sent to property owners at Windemere Lake, at 171, 187, and 201 Stratford Road. The specifics of each violation were reviewed and the Commission emphasized that any fill at a lakefront at any time requires permitting with the Conservation Commission. The violation letters cite various instances of filling in the resource area without proper permits. The Commission suggested that the violations be resolved by submitting retroactive NOIs.

An additional violation letter was sent to the owner at 0 Canaan Southfield Road in the Clayton area because a wetland had been filled in without proper permitting. No one joined the meeting to respond to that letter. The Commission agreed to reach out again and if there is still no reply, to issue an enforcement order.



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October 19: With Commission members Freddy Friedman, Doug Hyde, John Schreiber, and Nanci Worthington present, the meeting opened with David Cameron introducing himself as a potential on-call consultant to the Commission. All members agreed to pursue Mr. Cameron's assistance.

Jim Balduc then addressed the Commission on behalf of his client Stuart Warmflash of 576 Hartsville New Marlborough Road regarding the installation of three new utility poles and the relocation of one pole. The Commission agreed that no further permitting was needed and gave the Request for Determination (RDA) a negative determination with two conditions: that National Grid manually remove the powerlines which cross the wetlands and that the relocation of the one pole be moved farther from the wetlands.

Jared Kelly, a new resident at 422 Clayton Mill River Road, along with Mike Parsons of Kelly Granger and Parsons, presented an RDA involving the installation of a new septic system as well as the installation of a new well. The permit was also given a negative determination with two conditions: that a silt fence be added to the proposed wattle fencing during the septic system construction and that there be an earth retention pit near where the new well is drilled.

Next Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering updated the Commission on the work completed for Michael Meyers at 14 Norfolk Road. Ms. Boomsma shared pictures of the impressive work completed to stabilize the significant erosion of the bank of the Umpachene River. Ms. Boomsma submitted the requested planting plan developed by Nature Works and the Commission approved the planting plan.

Ms. Boomsma then shared pictures of the work completed for Richard Stebbins of North Road showing the newly-established meadow including eight blueberry bushes. The Commission confirmed that the enforcement order, issued for removing wetlands without proper permitting when installing a new tennis court, was taken care of.

Commission member Nanci Worthington gave a brief update on her continuing work with Mark Carson to propose a riverbank bylaw for the town.

In response to a complaint from a town resident that roadside mowing by the highway department was negatively impacting wetlands, Dr. Schreiber stated that

he has not observed any areas where highway mowing adversely impacted wetlands. He said that he would report back to the resident.

The Commission then addressed a special permit from the Select Board for Ben Webster at 173 Adsit Crosby Road. The members agreed to inform the Board that an RDA which included certain conditions had already been cleared with the Commission.

Finally, the Commission reviewed the various violation letters issued to town residents. Paul Batacchi was on hand on behalf of property owner Roland Betts of Clayton to discuss work done without a permit, which resulted in the removal of wetlands and the covering of an intermittent stream. The Commission suggested that Mr. Betts hire an engineer to submit a retroactive Notice of Intent explaining the site activities and how the work would comply with wetlands regulations. Mr. Batacchi agreed to follow that course and to submit the proper permitting at the December meeting.

Bryan Siter of Foresight Land Services then asked to continue the hearings for the violations cited at 171, 187 and 201 Stratford Road. The Commission granted the continuance.

Finally in new business, Damian VanDenburgh and Mary Firmani of 166 Norfolk Road explained that a clay pipe which drains water from a neighbor's property and traverses their property is broken. The Commission suggested that, after consulting with the neighbor to organize a plan to resolve the drainage, they return to the Commission with the proper permit.

The next meeting was scheduled for November 16. □

Martha Bryan



Thank You to Our Contributors:

Lynn Chase; Pat Nourse; Leonard & Hannah Golub; Sue & Arnold Cohen;
Malcolm & Barbara Crystal; Janet Brown; Laura Chang & Arnold Chavkin

Correction: In the October issue, contributor Joan Elmer was erroneously listed as Joan Elder

THE PLANNING BOARD

October 11: With all members present, the Board mulled over its position on an upcoming special permit hearing concerning a residential building application at 173 Adsit Crosby Road. The issue at hand is that there is an existing structure on the property that was intended to be an accessory dwelling unit, but then the building of the main house was delayed for a number of years. So now the homeowners wish to build the actual residence. The Planning Board was satisfied that the project should be given approval, and Chairman Bob Hartt said he would notify the Select Board to that effect.

The remainder of the meeting was spent on discussion of steps needed to renew the Town's Open Space Plan, the present one being due to expire in April, 2024. Mr. Hartt said that Town Administrator Mari Enoch had applied for a state-funded Community Impact Grant, for the sum of \$25,000 to cover the costs of the renewal effort. She felt that this grant is more or less guaranteed. Much of the funding would be given over to the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, which will be lending its expertise to the process.

Mr. Hartt proceeded to go through the existing Open Space Plan (which dates back to 2016 and can be viewed on the Town's website under Forms & Documents), listing the many components that make up the plan. After this review, the Board discussed some "actionable points," such as updating the map that deals with zoning to reflect the changes to the Protective Bylaw that have resulted in village districts and rural districts within the town. The members also want to re-examine the language on farming in New Marlborough, as well as to investigate whether there is an appropriate place in a new Open Space Plan to endorse the objective of greater affordable housing. In terms of the plan's attention to recreational resources, Board member Jordan Archey recommended including the New Marlborough Land Trust in the process, with a view to creating pathways linking all five villages.

As part of the overall reconsideration of the plan, and once the Berkshire Natural Resources Commission is assisting, questionnaires to the citizenry will be distributed, and public input meetings will be held. □

Larry Burke

HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIGITALIZATION PROJECT

The New Marlborough Historical Society, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the area's history and dissemination of historical information, has begun a project to catalog and digitize its large collection of gathered and donated artifacts, photographs, and documents. Under the expert guidance of professional archivists and Society volunteers Rachel Perera Weingeist and Jeff Wallman, objects and documents will be inventoried and then digitized so that their images and descriptions will be available online on the Historical Society's website (<https://nmhistori->



[calsociety.org/projects/digital-preservation/](https://nmhistoricalsociety.org/projects/digital-preservation/)) for everyone to see.

Each month the team will share one of these fascinating historical artifacts as well as invite the public to submit their own local historical materials that they may have in their collections or extended families. □

*John Schreiber, President
New Marlborough Historical Society*

*New Marlborough Historical Society
Board President, John Schreiber,
examining old record books in the attic
of Town Hall*

FINAL 2023 STEAM WORKSHOP, NOVEMBER 18

Sparks at Flying Cloud Farm will hold the final 2023 STEAM workshop for children ages 7-11 on November 18 from 9:30 to noon. Ceramicist and science educator Jane Burke will lead activities that connect Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math in her studios at the Burkes' farm in New Marlborough. The

workshop will be free thanks to the generous support of the Monterey, New Marlborough, and Sandisfield Cultural Councils. Pre-registration is required. Contact Jane at janesburke@gmail.com or text 413-429-6103 for time and details. □

WANTED: A WAR VETERAN MEMORIAL SITE

By Ann Riou

The Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350 has a commitment to identifying, remembering, and honoring New Marlborough’s war veterans. The site in front of the New Marlborough Public Library contains memorials for veterans on the Revolutionary War and World Wars I and II, but as we research veterans of intervening wars, we are faced with the fact that there is no space at the Library site for further memorials. We are now in search of a suitable memorial ground to honor veterans of wars long forgotten and of recent wars that cannot be allowed to slip by unknown.

There are five wars recognized as “America’s Wars” fought between the American Revolutionary War and the Great War: War of 1812, Mexican-American War, American Civil War, Spanish-American War, and throughout that entire time, the Indian Wars. We began by identifying the forgotten war veterans of the American Civil War and are now designing a monument for an estimated 200 veterans of that war. In addition to inclusion of the other 19th century conflicts,

we will also plan to recognize veterans of the Gulf War and the War on Terrorism. This collective memorial site could even include the town’s Revolutionary War memorial.

There may be war veterans of “small wars,” conflicts, or grey zone operations that may forever remain unknown.

Requirement for land: about one-tenth of an acre on mostly level, fertile ground, in or close to a village, conveniently associated with town land, or even near the Town Hall, wherever it is eventually located. Suggestions from the community for the site, transfer of land, or land donation will be happily entertained.

Folks whose New Marlborough ancestors may have participated in our forgotten wars, please check your family trees and let us know. Contact: Harold D. Rood American Legion Post 350, PO Box 231, Southfield, MA 01259. □

Ann Riou is commander of Post 350

A TREE TAG

This wafer-thin tin object from the Historical Society’s collection was recovered in the 1940s in the Lake Buel area of New Marlborough. The 4” x 4” square is an early 1900s tree tag resulting from the 1899 Massachusetts Shade Tree General Law, Chapter 87. The posted symbol designated trees within a public way as shade trees, identifying them as not to be cut down or altered without permit. This metal tag would have been tacked on a tree by the local tree warden.

Select Board Chair Tara White noted that New Marlborough’s current tree warden is Matt Wright. Chapter 87 still exists and has been expanded upon. □

Rachel Perera Weingeist and Jeff Wallman



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IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT

New Marlborough Says 'No' to School District Consolidation

By Joe Poindexter

On October 23, in a packed Fire House, there was one thing on which the residents of New Marlborough were focused. For more than an hour, those opposed to a merger of the Southern Berkshire and the Berkshire Hills Regional School Districts — led by Selectman Beth Dean and life-long educator Jane Burke — cited fond memories of their time at New Marlborough Central and Mount Everett High School and championed the innovative new programs now under way. Southern Berkshire, they said, is being heralded for its excellence — it doesn't need fixing.

Those for consolidation — with Selectman Tara White and lawyer Susan Smith taking the lead — warned against a nostalgia for the past blurring a vision for the future and extolled the potential of a robust and richly varied learning environment in a new, state-of-the-art high school. Its curriculum would include career and technical education programs currently unavailable at Mount Everett High School.

Following the pro and con presentations, a number of citizens were given two-minute allotments to state their opinions on the subject, a mix of for and against, at the end of which Moderator Barry Shapiro asked if it was time to put the question to a vote. A sea of voter cards sprang into the air. Asked if the debate should continue, the room remained unanimously silent.

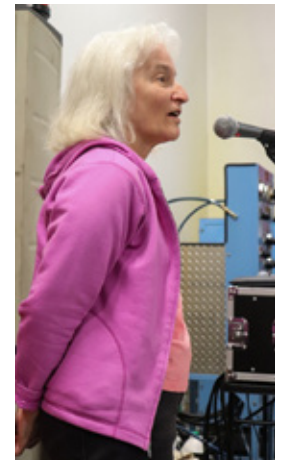
Following instructions from Mr. Shapiro, voters lined up, X-ed in a "Yes" or a "No" on a pink voter slip, and dropped it into a voter box. The tally: a rejection of consolidation 165 to 112. In doing so New Marlborough joined Monterey, 87 to 73, and Sheffield, a resounding 503 to 99, in opposition. Two days earlier, Egremont had voted against the merger 143 to 78. Of the five towns in the Southern Berkshire Regional



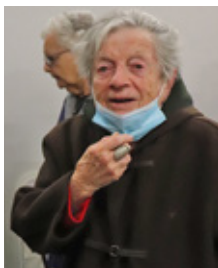
School District, only Alford, 106 to 23, approved of consolidation — joining Great Barrington, 374 to 88, Stockbridge, 107 to 14, and West Stockbridge, 86 to 14, in favoring a merger. Had the vote of all eight towns been tallied together, the measure would still have been defeated — albeit by just by two votes: 1,037 to 1,035.

For the time being, merger is off the books. The option of tweaking the agreement and bringing it back for reconsideration has been squelched by its defeat in half of the proposed eight-town district.

Lucy Prashker, chair, said she would call a meeting of the 8 Town Regional School District Planning Board within a month or so to wrap up business and disband. "The split brings the work of our 8-town planning board to an end," said Ms. Prashker. "But the challenges remain unsolved... We call on those town and district leaders who opposed the merger to step forward with a plan that addresses those problems. We need more than just 'no'; we need positive action that looks to our children's and community's future." □



Photos by Larry Burke



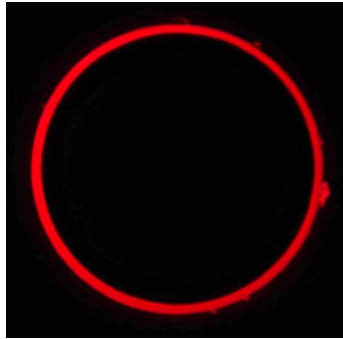
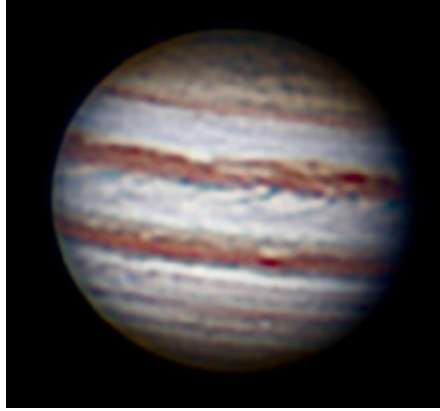
Photos by Larry Burke

NIGHT SKY

November's events are described below. The Geminid meteor shower in December and the 97 percent eclipse in April will be in my columns for December and March.

Planets: Jupiter reaches opposition November 3, which is its closest to Earth for the year, rising at sunset and setting at sunrise, visible all night long. Through full-size binoculars mounted on a tripod, you can see four of Jupiter's moons, and through a small telescope you can see Jupiter's north and south cloud bands. I took the accompanying photo through a small telescope from New Marlborough on September 22.

Meteor Shower: On the evening of November 17 and the morning of November 18, the Leonid meteor shower will show up to fifteen meteor

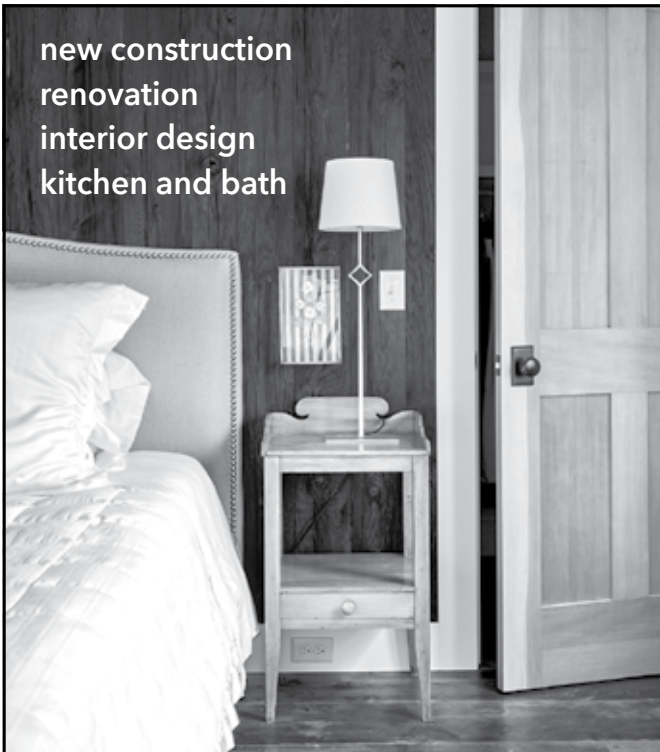


showers. This meteor shower occurs when the Earth passes through the debris left by Comet Tempel-Tuttle. Unless you are a passionate meteor observer, you may want to wait for the more impressive Geminid meteor shower December 14-15, which will be discussed in detail in the December column.

Sun: Did you have a chance to see the October 14 solar eclipse, which was a partial eclipse in New Marlborough? If you missed it, you can watch my timelapse video of it that I took traveling in Utah, at:
youtube.com/watch?v=Vh2g5R7cmEQ. □

Ruben Kier

Left, From Ruben Kier's time lapse video taken in Utah on October 14



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NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

Under the guidance of Tes Reed (<https://tesreed.com>), we successfully started the task of tackling some of the nasty vines along the trails at Goodnow Preserve. Tes and I, along with Board member Katherine Slingluff and seven community volunteers, ventured out on

Monday, October 9, with loppers, pruners, and a chainsaw. We will need to make a few more trips this fall before the weather turns on us. We were rewarded for our efforts with muffins, cookies, and fresh local apples provided by Land Trust Board members.

Giving Tuesday is November 28 and this year we will be reaching out to ask for your contribution toward a new Stewardship Fund that will support efforts such as the roadside clean-up, trail maintenance, hedgerow clean-up and invasive management, and the ongoing program of preserving land in our community. All of these efforts and many more require funding. There are often projects too large for our volunteers to handle, and we need to call on outside experts.

It's that time of year again! Hunting season is upon us. The dates this year are October 16 - December 9. The New Marlborough Land Trust gives limited permission to hunt at the New Marlboro Preserve and Goodnow Preserve; there is no hunting permitted on Sundays in Massachusetts. Please plan ahead and dress yourself and your four-legged friends in bright orange or red colors and keep your dog on a leash.

Please contact us at nmlandtrust@gmail.com and visit our website at <https://www.nmlandtrust.org>

New Marlborough Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, and your contributions are tax deductible. Our tax ID number is 22-2753704.

Silvia Eggenberger, Executive Director

Martha Bryan (left) and Tes Reed at the Joffe Nature Sanctuary invasive clean-up.



Volunteers: Anne Riney, Marion Rosenfeld, Robert Dvorchik, Jon James, Peter Dumphy, Gardiner Morse, Board members Tes Reed and Katherine Slingluff cleaning the hedgerow at Goodnow Preserve.



Paul Hess has been cleaning the hedgerow at Goodnow Preserve

Photos by Silvia Eggenberger



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REIMAGINING RURAL EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

Southern Berkshire Regional School District is on track with its work to reimagine rural education in its schools, through a ten-month grant that provides financial and logistical support from Transcend Education to use community-based design, where all stakeholders participate in deciding what changes will benefit the schools and the community. Superintendent Beth Regulbuto is committed to this process, saying, “We have to figure out a way to deepen our commitment to reinvest our resources in our communities so that people and our students are encouraged and able to stay here and that there’s a viable place for kids to come back to.”

Transcend facilitates successful innovation by encouraging incremental changes each year that evolve out of the work with the community. The Core Leadership Team of five administrators and teachers has oversight of the work, but takes advice from all stakeholders. They determined that Mount Everett High School would be the focus of the project for this year. During September, the team received guidance from its coach about how to structure the work. It attended virtual meetings with the other nine teams from across the country chosen to participate. Sharing ideas and experiences with them has already proved to be very valuable.

On October 3 the fifteen-member Design Team, which includes students, teachers, and community members, met with the Core Team to learn about their role. Their charge is to collect information about the current issues at the school from all stakeholders in order to make an informed decision about what change is needed. The Core Team reported their positive impact of having a coach and sharing ideas with the other teams. Members described the successful process they implemented to gather input from students. They gave the responsibility of developing the interview questions, interviewing their peers, analyzing responses, and identifying trends to the students themselves. Nathan Tenbrok, student representative to the Design Team, said students were pleased to see that their voice is very important to this process. “We have talked about this for a while and we now need to figure out how to make changes in the way the school operates.” The remainder of the meeting was devoted

to developing the interview questions to be used in gathering information from the community in focus groups and interviews that would be piloted in the upcoming Community Team meeting.

The first in a series of Community Team meetings was held on October 17. This team is largely made up of community members. After a short introduction, attendees were divided into groups of five. The Design Team members asked participants for their thoughts on key issues in their communities and what they expect



The meeting of Transcend’s Community Team on October 17

from the schools. The room was buzzing. People clearly enjoyed the opportunity to exchange ideas. In one group Justin Makuc, a graduate of Mount Everett, and currently a member of the Monterey Select Board, expressed his concern about affordable housing. Elementary school principal and parent Charles Miller commented about the value

of the second home owners and retirees as resources for the schools. In another group the conversation centered around educational goals. It identified learning resilience and participation in internships as being more important for success than vocational schools. The ideas were reported out and recorded for use in the decision-making process. More of these sessions are planned for November, both at the school and at venues in the community, to ensure that the Design Team has ideas from as many community members as possible. To join the Community Team or a focus group, please use this form to express your interest: <https://forms.gle/TrwPwYuSw7K7BFzP9>

“I’m thrilled that our school district is involved in such a forward-looking process that will help prepare students at Mount Everett for a changing workforce,” said School Committee Chair and Design Team member Bonnie Silvers. “This opportunity with Transcend will allow us to work and share resources with other selected districts in our Rural Schools Cohort to bring about change in under a year that might, without Transcend, take five or more years to accomplish.”

For more information contact Superintendent Dr. Beth Regulbuto, bregulbuto@sbrsd.org. □

Jane Burke



Over the weekend of October 20-22, packed houses in the theater at Southern Berkshire Regional Schools were delighted by performances of the musical Willy Wonka. The fifty-four actors from grades three through six put their all into bringing their favorite Roald Dahl characters to life. They sang and danced at a level beyond their years thanks to co-direction of third grade teacher Tom Masters and Courtney English, music department leader. A six-year-old audience member said, "They did a great job. It was just like the book. They were even selling chocolate bars with golden tickets in them!"

The Pumpkin Social at New Marlborough Central School on October 13 was sponsored by the New Marlborough Monterey PTA



Photos by Jane Burke

WHAT ARE YOU READING?

This column is inspired by NM5VN co-founder Jon Swan, who started every long distance phone conversation to family members with the above question.... In his honor, here is this month's choice of a book by one of our townspeople.

Steven Nester, age 65, of Mill River Southfield Road offers this suggestion: *In By Camel and Car to the Peacock Throne* by E. Alexander Powell, ad-

venturers in 1922 travel from Palestine to Tehran and back, mostly by hitching a ride with a camel caravan. I haven't finished reading this entertaining book, and will be disappointed when I do." □

Kenzie Fields



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A VISIT FROM THE AVANT GARDE

In the Late 1970s, New Marlborough's Ultra-Modern Moment

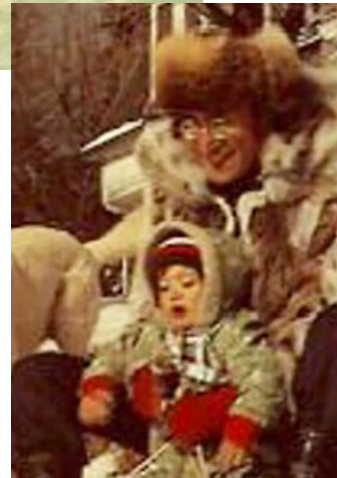
Fluxus returned to New Marlborough. For an evening, on October 6, the wildly avant-garde art and performance movement of the 1960s and '70s was back in the limelight at the Meeting House Gallery. The occasion was a New Marlborough Historical Society First Friday program presented by Ann Getsinger on the brief residency of the Fluxus movement at Cassilis Farm in New Marlborough village, 1976 to 1978.

Fluxus, in Latin, "flowing," was the creation of George Maciunas, a Lithuanian immigrant to New York City, and in the final three years of his life, New Marlborough. With a loan from an acquaintance, he bought Cassilis Farm in 1976, where he continued to promote an art movement he had originated in the Soho neighborhood of Manhattan. Situated, roughly, between abstract expressionism and Pop Art, Fluxus, according to Mr. Maciunas, purported to eliminate the boundary between art and life.

Sometimes it would involve the viewer, such as in a mid-1960s performance piece in which Yoko Ono sat expressionless on a stage and invited audience members to cut away the apparel in which she was clothed. Or a matchbox



A poster for a film on Fluxus with a portrait of George Maciunas



John Lennon and his son, Sean, go sledding in front of Cassilis Farm.

by Ben Vautier, on which the cover instructed the viewer to "use these matches to destroy all art...." Sometimes it would eliminate generally recognized artistic content entirely. John Cage composed 4'33", in which the performer sits with an instrument for four minutes and thirty-three seconds without playing a note; Nam June Paik created Film for Zen, an eight-minute movie without a single image.

In New Marlborough, where he sought refuge after having been severely beaten for a failure to pay an electrical repair bill, Mr. Maciunas could be seen in a dark cloak and wearing a patch over an eye that had been blinded in the attack.

According to Ann, he was visited from time to time by Fluxus artists, notably John Lennon and Yoko Ono, who staged a Fluxus performance at the New Marlborough Town Dump (it hadn't yet been designated as a Transfer Station).

During his time at Cassilis, Mr. Maciunas was joined by one Billie Hutching. They were married three months before his death from cancer in May 1978. There were two ceremonies, said Ann: one at the Town Hall in Lee and

one in Soho, in which the two stripped down to their underwear and then exchanged clothing with each other. "All life," Ann quoted George Maciunas as having said, "is imbued with artistic meaning." □

Joe Poindexter



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LMAR Is...

...the Long Meadow Art Residency, which, for those of us who travel Route 57 between New Marlborough Village and Hartsville, comprises those two dark gray buildings that sprang up during the height of Covid, just down the way from Cassilis Farm. LMAR is the brainchild of David Feldman and Jennifer Herman-Feldman, who own the property on which these buildings sit and who, according to the LMAR website, are deeply involved in the arts, collecting modern and contemporary art, and supporting under-recognized artists. The organization's mission statement is "To enrich and advance the creative trajectory of an artist by providing them an inspiring and supportive environment free from distractions."

Lila Podgainsky, who serves as the organization's communications director, expanded on Long Meadow's purpose, writing, "LMAR's mission is to provide a space for artists to stop, assess, and objectively re-engage in their craft. Purposefully, there are no requirements or expectations for the artists during their residency. The goal is for artists to have uninterrupted time to reassess, experiment, and explore their creativity, try new things while in the most beautiful, serene setting. LMAR's desire is to provide artists the freedom to explore, to breathe, space and time."



A view of the Long Meadow Art Residency buildings



Current resident artist Jenny Brillhart in the LMAR studio


To that end, one artist is chosen by the Board of Directors from the applicants (over 100 applied for the most recent cycle), and that artist is given the studio and on-site housing for a three-month period, along with a monthly stipend of \$3,000, reimbursement for art supplies, and the use of a car, if needed. The membership of the Board is a diverse collection of entrepreneurs and artists, and includes two New Marlborough residents, Jonathan Prince and Stephanie Manasseh.

LMAR is now in its second year of operation. The first two artists were Jamel Robinson and Anna Beghuis. Their work can be viewed, respectively, at jamelrobinson.com and annaberghuisart.com. The current artist is Jenny Brillhart, whose work can be seen on the LMAR's website, longmeadowartresidency.com or at her own website, jbrillhart.com.

Ms. Brillhart's work starts, and sometimes ends, with assemblages of random or found objects; some of these creations she then memorializes as beautifully executed oil paintings.

Visits to the Long Meadow Art Residency can be arranged by contacting Lila Podgainsky at lila@longmeadow.art. □

Larry Burke



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View from the LMAR studio to the field and woods beyond

Photos by Larry Burke

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS



photo by Terry Lush

Momma bear, trailed by her triplets



photo by Terry Lush

A backyard bobcat

To start us off, we have a flashback to earlier in the year, two wonderful backyard sightings from **Terry Lush**. The first, from back in May, is a beautiful, wary, and seemingly camera-aware **bobcat**. Then later, toward the end of July, Terry was witness to a large black bear emerging from the brush at the edge of the yard, followed by her three cubs.

More recently, in mid-September, **Liz Goodman** experienced a rollercoaster of emotions around one of the more singular of New Marlborough's wildlife neighbors – an **iguana**. Liz shared the story as follows: “Ten years ago, I was in a little pet store in Millerton, New York, buying feeder crickets for the various frogs living in my greenhouse when I spotted three very small baby iguanas for sale. At various times in

my life I had owned reptiles and amphibians, so the impulsive purchase wasn't too much of a stretch. I considered this to be a mercy mission because it seemed very unlikely that two of the young iguanas had much of a chance of survival. Iguanas and all reptiles and amphibians need a special ray of light generated by the sun, called UV B, which does not penetrate glass. Without UVB, they cannot absorb calcium, and they will die from metabolic bone disease. Poor diet can also lead to the disease as well. Iguanas are vegetarians and need dark leafy greens and fruits with lots of vitamins, so no lettuce and grapes please!

“The third iguana from the pet store did survive and I named him Sahib after having gone through a few other names before realizing he was male. He needed a strong name! He lived in a large enclosure in my greenhouse where I could control his light and heat and where he wouldn't eat every plant growing in the greenhouse. Over ten years he grew and grew and became very strong and healthy; in fact he grew to fifty-six inches long and weighed fifteen pounds, which is big for any iguana, much less one living in captivity. He was not tame and only would tolerate me. In his own reptilian way though, he was quite social, and enjoyed being

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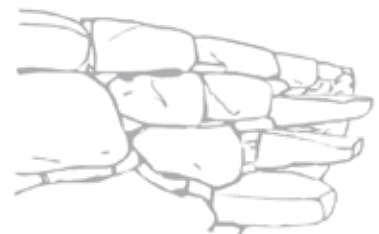
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talked to and scratched hard all over his tough bumpy skin. He liked me being around and would often come to the front of his enclosure to say 'hello.' Dandelion flowers and figs were his favorite treats.

"Two years ago, Billy Kennedy made Sahib a deluxe outdoor enclosure made of mahogany and good vinyl-coated screening to live in during the warm and hot months. There is nothing like natural sunlight for an iguana's good health. He thrived in that enclosure, but always had his eye on that door. Iguanas are very smart and, in fact, are thought to be the most intelligent of all reptiles. On September 16, he escaped when his door was open while I was filling his little pond in the enclosure. (Iguanas also need a good water source to keep their kidneys healthy.) It was stupid of me, of course, but he was so high up on his shelf sunning himself that I thought it was safe to step into the greenhouse for a few minutes while the pond was filling. He had his eye on that door, biding his time all summer for the opportunity. The urge for freedom was too great, and he walked right out that door. I was frantic and ran next door to my neighbor Michele [McAuley], and we looked for him for about an hour before giving up. He was moving fast and was just gone. Michele called Police Chief Graham Frank and reported him missing. We figured a five-foot iguana would be hard to miss, but he just vanished.



photo by Liz Goodman

Sahib the iguana

"Nineteen days later, after many cold nights, some dipping into the high 30s, along with heavy rains, Rick Segalla of Canaan spotted Sahib while haying the Kroms' field across the river on Konkapot Road. Sahib had swum across the Konkapot! Rick, who also hays our fields, recognized him and knew he belonged to me. David Krom tried calling me, (I wasn't home) and then called the police. Graham called Michele and she found me in Guido's, running up to me excited and waving her arms. It was all very dramatic! I rushed to the Kroms' and when I arrived, David had put Sahib in a large dog crate and was clearly quite taken with him. The next day when I returned the crate he said he had grown very fond of Sahib during their brief relationship. Few people were able to recognize Sahib's winning personality, so I thought that was very sweet! He was cold when they found him so fairly easy to handle. But in the crate he was warming up and became quite angry, as anyone would after being captured! Immediately I could tell he was sick, based on his purple swollen tongue, indicating an infection. I brought him home and my husband Don helped me get Sahib into the greenhouse and into his familiar enclosure. He was weak and needed help getting up to his shelf where he could be safe and warm. I suspected he would not survive the night, and this turned out to be correct. So, not such a happy ending, but I was incredibly grateful that I was able to get him back and nurture him at the end, and then to bury him. It meant a lot to me. R.I.P Sahib and I hope you are back in the forest, somewhere exotic and warm." □

Compiled by Larry Burke;

send your wildlife sightings to him at larryjburke@gmail.com

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THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Sept. 1 9:58 a.m. A Mill River resident reports that someone had removed a check from her mailbox.
- 3:39 p.m. Three men are cited for having illegally pitched a camp near the shore of Thousand Acre Pond
- 8:41 p.m. An officer assists in obtaining a tow for a vehicle disabled on Mill River Southfield Road.
- Sept. 2 6:49 p.m. Following an extended pursuit, a driver of a stolen vehicle is pulled over and arrested on South Sandisfield Road.
- Sept. 3 8:58 p.m. A tow is ordered for a vehicle, stopped for a marked lane violation, which is uninspected, unregistered, and uninsured, and whose driver is unlicensed.
- Sept. 5 3:50 p.m. A real estate agent reports receiving a scam email requesting the listing of a property in Southfield that the emailer did not own.
- Sept. 7 5:13 p.m. An officer assists in obtaining a tow for a vehicle that has lost its brakes on Cagney Hill Road.
- 9:37 p.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree down on Canaan Southfield Road.
- Sept. 8 3:26 p.m. Following a report of gunshots in Southfield, an officer determines that they originate from target shooting in the backyard of a nearby property.
- Sept. 9 3:10 p.m. An officer reports a dead bear cub and car parts on South Sandisfield Road.
- 4:58 p.m. A Southfield resident, reporting a scam investment, is told to inform the Federal Trade Commission.
- Sept. 12 8:51 a.m. A Hartsville resident reports a prior evening confrontation with his neighbor that had upset his child.
- Sept. 14 4:21 p.m. Stopped in Mill River village, a driver is arrested for operating with a suspended license.
- Sept. 16 8:06 p.m. A Southfield resident complains of fireworks at a neighbor's property.
- Sept. 17 2:25 p.m. A caller complains of a neighbor racing a car up and down Brewer Hill Road.
- Sept. 18 7:57 p.m. A Mill River resident reports a theft perpetrated by identity fraud.
- 9:30 p.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a tree down on Hartsville New Marlborough Road.
- Sept. 21 12:27 p.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on New Marlborough Southfield Road.
- Sept. 22 4:38 p.m. An officer assists in obtaining medical attention for a distraught Clayton resident.
- Sept. 25 3:03 p.m. National Grid is notified of a tree on wires on Foley Hill Road.
- 7:40 p.m. The Highway Department is alerted to a downed tree blocking Umpachene Falls Road.
- Sept. 28 4:13 p.m. Following a stop for speeding, an officer requests a tow of an unregistered motorcycle, whose operator is unlicensed.
- Sept. 30 9:31 p.m. A caller complains of fireworks near her Southfield residence.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

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FIRE AND RESCUE

Sept. 2	12:45 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call	Sept. 12	4:05 p.m.	East Hill Road Fire Alarm
Sept. 3	5:45 p.m.	Umpachene Falls Road Medical Call	Sept. 15	10:18 a.m.	Norfolk Road Fire Alarm
Sept. 3	7:32 p.m.	Southfield Branch Road Fire Alarm	Sept. 18	7:52 a.m.	Lake Road CO Alarm
Sept. 4	7:05 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Sept. 18	5:35 p.m.	South Sandisfield Road Medical Call
Sept. 7	8:36 p.m.	Rood Lane Electrical Fire	Sept. 18	9:00 p.m.	Aberdeen Lane CO Alarm
Sept. 8	10:05 a.m.	Konkapot Road CO Alarm	Sept. 26	5:43 p.m.	Standby for Otis Fire Structure Fire
Sept. 9	5:45 p.m.	Rhoades and Bailey Road Medical Call	Sept. 27	10:19 a.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
Sept. 10	4:35 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Norfolk Structure Fire	Sept. 29	12:19 p.m.	Norfolk Road Fire Alarm

Fire Company President David Smith

IT'S HUNTING SEASON!

Time to put on a dash of orange if you are heading out for a walk. Here are the dates for the various animals that are being stalked in Zone 3, which comprises the towns in south Berkshire County:

DEER:

- Archery – Started October 16 and runs through November 25
- Shotgun – November 27 through December 9
- Primitive Firearms – December 11 through December 30

WILD TURKEY:

Started October 16 and runs through November 25

BLACK BEAR:

November 6 through November 25,
and November 27 through December 9

Hunting is not permitted on Sundays



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NEW MARLBOROUGH MEETING HOUSE SEASON ROCKED!



It was a record-breaking season at the New Marlborough Meeting House.

The sound of great music, the premiere of a musical now selling out in London, as well as the presence of notable celebrities and writers made tickets sometimes hard to obtain. Attendance increased over last year by about 80 percent, two events were completely sold out, two others had almost full houses, and the remaining two had strong attendance as well. Activity at the Gallery downstairs was also robust, with crowds of people attending the show openings and visiting the gallery often to check out the remarkable art and sculpture of accomplished local artists.

The Board of the Meeting House and the Meeting House volunteers, who spent many hours putting the season together and publicizing it, are extremely grateful to the residents of New Marlborough and surrounding communities for their support of the season, for attending events (even in the heat, cold, and a driving rain), and for their contributions of time and money to the Meeting House. This support will facilitate planning for a strong season in 2024 and help keep the historic building well maintained.

Plans are already afoot for next season. Very preliminary plans look toward an interview with a famous celebrity (such as Karen Allen this year), a jazz or folk concert featuring local performers, a Klezmer band, a troupe of Broadway performers, a concert of great classical music, a nationally known columnist to discuss the upcoming national election, and perhaps a panel discussion on a topic of vital importance. Visits to local artist studios and a surprise literary event are also being contemplated.

In the interim, plans are being made for two house concerts during the winter, details of which will be announced shortly.

Is there something you'd like to see at the Meeting House next year? If so, please send your suggestions to President Barry R. Shapiro at barryrshapiro@gmail.com. All suggestions will be seriously considered and greatly appreciated. □

Barry R. Shapiro

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drawing by Sharon Fields

FIELDS



The New Marlborough Friends of the Library Annual Book and Bake Sale was a huge success in spite of the not-so-perfect weather! Highlights were hay rides by Tom Brazie, face painting by Shira Sawyer, delicious food by Ginny Dawson of Two Sisters, and wonderful baked goods made by our community. Thank You to Chuck Loring of the New Marlborough Highway Department for posting signs closing off part of Mill River Southfield Road and the New Marlborough Fire Department for the loan of the tables.

A huge THANK YOU to all who came out and supported our library.



photos by Debbie O'Brien

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This hearty, easy, versatile sheet pan chicken seasoned with warm spices, pears, and arugula is a recipe that's sure to garner raves at the dinner table. Use firm, almost-ripe pears so they don't turn to mush. If you like, you can use apples instead of pears. Pumpkin seeds, sunflower seeds, or pine nuts work well. Any leftovers can be served with a spinach and arugula salad topped with a lemon vinaigrette.

Enjoy!

Marjorie Shapiro



photo by Barry Shapiro

Sheet Pan Chicken, Arugula, and Pears

Ingredients

- 6 bone-in chicken thighs (about 3 pounds)
- Salt and black pepper
- ¼ to ½ tsp. red pepper flakes
- 2 tsps. cumin
- 2 tsps. coriander
- 2 tsps. fresh ginger, grated
- 7 tsps. olive oil

- 2 firm, almost-ripe Bartlett or Bosc pears, cored and quartered lengthwise
- 2 tsps. pumpkin seeds (pepitas)
- 2 cups packed baby arugula
- 1 lemon
- ¼ cup fresh chopped cilantro leaves and stems

Preparation

- With rack in the center, preheat the oven to 450 degrees.
- Pat the chicken dry and sprinkle all over with 2 teaspoons salt. Then, season with pepper.
- In a small bowl, mix the red pepper flakes, cumin, coriander, ginger, and oil.
- Line a sheet pan with parchment paper. Arrange chicken skin-side up and pears skin-side down on the pan. Rub the spice mixture all over the chicken and pears.
- Cook until the chicken is cooked through, and the pears have softened, about 35-40 minutes.
- When the chicken is almost done, sprinkle the pumpkin seeds over the chicken and pears. Then cook for another 5 minutes.
- Remove the sheet pan from the oven. Then, scatter the arugula on top, squeeze the juice of ½ lemon over the chicken and pears, season with salt and pepper, and top with cilantro.
- Place a quarter of a lemon on each plate and serve.

nm5vn.org



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THE NEW MARLBOROUGH PUBLIC LIBRARY

NEW AQUISITIONS

Adult Fiction

- North Woods, by Daniel Mason
- The Traitor, by Ava Glass
- The Librarianist, by Patrick Dewitt
- The Pole, by J.M. Coetzee
- Yellowface, by R.F. Kuang

Children's Fiction

- The Dreamatics, by Michelle Cuevas
- Families, Families, Families, by Suzanne Lang
- A to Z Animal Mysteries: Bats in the Castle, by Kayla Whaley
- Rory Branagan Detective: The Dog Squad, by Andrew Clover
- All We Need Is Love and a Really Soft Pillow, by Peter Reynolds

DVDs

- Barbie
- Daliland
- Elemental
- Golda
- Haunted Mansion



LIBRARY HOURS
 Mon. Wed. Sat. 10:00 am – 5:30 pm
 Tues. / Fri. 1:30 pm – 7:30 pm
 Thurs. 1:30 pm – 5:30 pm
 229-6668

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Pie Sale

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NEW MARLBOROUGH FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

PRE-THANKSGIVING
PIE SALE

NOVEMBER 18

FROM 10:00 A.M. TO 2:00 P.M.

**ALL PIES ARE \$18.00 AND
THERE ARE NO PRE-ORDERS**



**COME BY
FOR PIE.**

Artist Jody King Camarra Opening Reception



New Marlborough Library's
November Art Exhibit

*Please join us
for an opening reception*

November 5

from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.



Come browse and chat with the artist as you enjoy light refreshments



Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:

New Marlborough 5 Village News
P.O. Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

YES, I WANT THE *New Marlborough 5 Village News* TO CONTINUE!

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

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

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: May - August, 2nd Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

September - April, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays

Board of Health: First Tuesday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

Conservation Commission: Third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m. or Zoom

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) 229-6003

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 and Tuesday, 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Tax Collector: Monday 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Tues. and Thurs. 8:30 a.m. - 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

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 \$225

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. Call Barbara Lowman: 229-2369

NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Barth, designer;
Maria Black, Martha Bryan, Jane Burke, Larry Burke,
Kenzie Fields, Shawn Fields, Robbi Hartt, Ruben Kier,
Zoë Kogan, Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten,
Barry Shapiro, Marjorie Shapiro, Rachel Perera Weingest

NM5VN Board of Directors

Roy Blount, Jr., Larry Burke, Barbara Lowman,
Joe Poindexter, Peter Schuyten, Barry Shapiro,
Nan O'Shaughnessy Smith, Tara White

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at

www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated December 2023.

All copy must be submitted no later than November 17.

For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman,
tel: 229-2369 PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

New Marlborough 5 Village News
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