



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

NEW MARLBOROUGH SAYS 'NO!' *A Proposal to Re-zone the Villages is Soundly Defeated*

By Joe Poindexter

It was the largest crowd in memory, as New Marlborough residents congregated at the Town Hall November 18 to decide how to guide their town's future growth. At 7:00 p.m., when the meeting was scheduled to begin, there was still a line of people four or five abreast stretching onto the Southfield Mill River Road waiting to register. Forty-five minutes later with voters filling every available seat, lining the walls, even occupying the stage, and the selectmen huddling over what to do about breaching the hall's occupancy limit, Moderator Scott Farrell gavelled the meeting to order.



Photos by Jane Burke

Town Hall was packed to the rafters for the November 18 Special Town Meeting.

With Article 7, the rezoning proposal, moved to the head of the queue, Mr. Farrell called for questions. There were none. This teeming roomful of people had not gathered to debate the merits of the Planning Board's proposed by-law revision. They had gathered to bury it: of 252 ballots, 176, more than 70 percent, were cast against it. (It would have taken a two-thirds affirmative vote to have adopted the revision.)

The rest of the meeting was an anti-climax. With fewer than seventy of the 254 voters who had registered for the meeting remaining in the room, the six other articles on the warrant were dispatched with hardly a murmur of dissent. A request for \$1,562 to augment workmen's compensation insurance sailed through without comment. A request to rectify the tax collector's salary in the amount of \$1,022 "for the purpose of correcting an error" elicited only one question: what was the error? (Bookkeeping was the answer.)

An article requesting \$1,000 per year in compensation to the town clerk for achieving certification also was approved, as was a \$750 increase in salary – without anyone asking a member of the Finance Committee why it had recommended against these payments. A request for \$30,000 from free cash to install a culvert on Brewer Hill Road generated tepid resistance but passed handily, as

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did the request to transfer \$40,000 from free cash to reduce the tax rate. The big-ticket item on the warrant, a request to borrow \$180,000 to replace the failed culvert on the Clayton Mill River Road, was tabled to the Annual Town Meeting next May.

As the hall emptied, Planning Board Chairman Jamie Mullen stood off to the side with a look of resignation. "We've been working on this for six years," he said. "It's going to take another generation before anyone is going to be willing to go through this again."



photo by Joe Pondexter

The Holiday Fair

By Kristen Sanzone

The most magical time of year is upon us. We've had our first dusting of snow, and the children, teachers, and parents of New Marlborough Central and Monterey Schools have been gearing up for the annual Holiday Fair scheduled for Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Central School in Mill River. The Holiday Fair is the PTA's biggest fundraising event of the year.

For the past several weeks, the New Marlborough-Monterey PTA has been hosting Friday "crafternoons" during which children, their parents, and teachers have been busy creating a menagerie of handmade ornaments, crafts, and gifts. Included in the projects are all-natural candles and lip balms made in cooperation with New Marlborough's very own Project Bee. All of these projects will be available for purchase at the Holiday Fair. Additionally, parents have been working hard in their own respective workshops fashioning holiday cards, gifts in jars, fleece hats, and many other goodies that should not be missed!

The Holiday Fair is a one-stop-shopping family event. The PTA and school communities take great pride in providing a wonderful family experience throughout the day. Families can pick out a beautiful Christmas tree and browse the book sale; children can create a craft to take home, as well as shop for their loved ones in the "Children Only" room. Shoppers can satisfy their appetites with delicious Farm Country Soups, Marketplace chili, Berkshire Mountain Bakery bread, Indian Line Farm salad, and of course the ever-popular local "Papa Dogs." While families, friends, and community members shop, the Holiday Fair also presents the live sounds of local musicians Zack Cross, Rob Sanzone, The Easy Ridin' Papas, and the Mount Everett Madrigals Choir between 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Most important, the main attraction of the Holiday Fair is our amazing Silent Auction. The Silent Auction



Trisha and Evelyn Vollmer with crafts for the fair.

photo by Cynthia Wade

features dozens of items, services, and gift certificates from many very generous and supportive local businesses, professionals, and organizations. Some auction highlights this year include a Spa Package from Canyon Ranch, yoga from Kripalu, gift cards from Castle Street Cafe, The Southfield Store, The Prairie Whale, and many other restaurants. Other services and products can be viewed on our website: nmmpta.weebly.com.

We invite and encourage friends, family, and neighbors, one and all, to join us in the spirit of the season and help support the precious children in our community. Through your generous support, last year the PTA was able to provide over five different after-school opportunities at no cost to the student body, yoga classes for the Pre-K and kindergarten, and multiple field trips for all students. This names just a few of the excellent opportunities and enrichments that these funds support. The PTA also spearheaded the renovation of the school's library and needs your support to add to the book collection. We look forward to seeing you, wish you "Happy Bidding," and many thanks for all of your support! □

SLOW-COOKED COMFORT

Gedney Farm Opens New Marlborough's Newest Restaurant

By Joe Poindexter

When Brad Wagstaff and Leslie Miller bought Gedney Farm in 1982, it was the beginning of a long-running romance with a unique expanse of New Marlborough countryside: first as pastureland for a herd of forty-eight Holstein milk cows; then as a backdrop for some of New England's most bucolic wedding parties. This month, the romance comes full circle as the couple puts the finishing touches on a restaurant that brings local farm produce to a cozy nook inside Gedney's main barn, its tables arrayed within the glow of a wood-burning fireplace. Fireside Dining at Gedney Farm, as they call it, will serve dinners Friday to Sunday, starting December 6.

With the sale this summer of Mepal Manor to the Center for Motivation and Change, Brad and Leslie appear to be almost visibly unburdened, as they concentrate their energies on a single location. In addition to wedding parties, which it will continue to serve, Gedney Farm will make its sixteen rooms available to other visitors to the Berkshires. And with Fireside Dining, it becomes for the first time an establishment open to the public.

Brad envisions the restaurant as a relaxed place offering servings large and small, side-stepping, if diners prefer, the trappings of a formal dinner: "simple food, locally produced, reasonably priced." Chef Rob Burnell, who has been with Gedney for four years, describes his approach as "American slow cooking." The restaurant



"We want it to be a neighborhood-y restaurant," says Chef Rob Burnell.



Brad Wagstaff and Leslie Miller, getting ready to serve

photos by Joe Poindexter

plans to have a braised or roasted dish of the week – and a big kettle of hearty soup at the ready. Chef Burnell will rely heavily on the vegetables of Jan Johnson's Mill River Farm, which has raised and covered beds that continue to produce throughout the winter.

Leslie, who four decades ago came to the Berkshires for a brief internship in baking bread and then never left, will create the new restaurant's desserts. And for shaking off the chill of a winter evening, there's one other locally inspired offering: made with the bounty from Jan Johnson's beehives, the Mill River Honey Toddy. □



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Town Business Is Your Business

BOARD OF SELECTMEN



August 26: All three selectmen were present for the first order of business, which was the **awarding of contracts for winter road materials.** These include crushed stone, washed sand, and crushed processed gravel. Most of the contracts were awarded to Century Aggregates of Falls Village, with others going to J. Donovan & Son, Joe Wilkinson Excavating, and Segalla Sand & Gravel. The Wilkinson firm was also awarded the contract for heavy equipment rental.

The Board received an estimate of \$180,000 from Stantec Consulting for the **repair of the Clayton Mill River Road culvert.** As Chairman Nat Yohalem noted, that number is significantly lower than the original estimate of \$450,000 from Foresight Land Services to replace the culvert rather than simply repairing it. The work is expected to begin in the spring. The Board also discussed a new project involving the **Brewer Hill Road culvert,** about half a mile north of the Hayes Hill Road intersection. Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring estimated the repairs will cost around \$30,000, which the selectmen agreed would need to be included on the warrant for voter approval at the upcoming Special Town Meeting. If approved, the money would come out of the Town's free cash account.

In another indication that **the long-awaited repair of the Hadsell Street bridge may finally be moving forward,** Highway Superintendent Loring reported that Stantec Consulting's Jeff Collingwood said his firm has been approached by the state about doing the design and engineering work for the bridge, and that the work might begin as early as next year. That's substantially earlier than the last date the Town was given by the state, which was 2017. The bridge has been closed to traffic since 2011.

Selectman Michele Shalaby reported on a walk-through she attended of the New Marlborough Central School arranged by the School Committee's Building, Grounds, and Technology subcommittee. The walk through is part of the **effort by the subcommittee to analyze the long-term capital needs of the school district.** Initially, there were expectations that an engineer would be present to assess the structural deficiencies of the building, but that turned out not to be the case. Instead, the participants, who included Director of Buildings and Grounds Fred Finkle, District Business Administrator Bruce Turner, and Vito Valentini, the subcommittee's chairman, mainly focused on "the quick hits, the small things that could be done to make the building more appealing and improve safety," according to Ms. Shalaby.

Finally, the Board discussed the agenda for the upcoming Special Town Meeting set for November 18 at 7:00 p.m.

Items on the warrant include \$180,000 for the Clayton Mill River Road culvert, \$30,000 for the Brewer Hill culvert, and some financial housekeeping moves such as transferring \$40,000 from the town's free cash account to the general fund to reduce the tax rate. Voters will also have an opportunity to approve a major change to the Town's protective bylaws. (See "A Blueprint for Growth" in the November issue of the NM5VN.)

October 28: The Board held a working session with Emergency Management Director Ed Harvey prior to the start of the meeting. Items discussed included the **recent awarding to the town of a \$2,030 Emergency Management Planning Grant by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), and how best to use the money.** The Board suggested Mr. Harvey discuss it with Fire Chief Chuck Loring and Police Chief Scott Farrell. **Mr. Harvey also told the Board the \$1,600 annual subscription fee for the Blackboard Connect emergency notification system is likely to increase next year since it is based on the number of townspeople receiving the alerts, and that number has more than doubled to 900.** Mr. Harvey also informed the Board that he has been working with Prudence Spaulding from the Council on Aging to develop lists of elderly residents and handicapped people who live alone and might need assistance in the event of a town emergency such as a major power outage. Finally, Mr. Harvey said he would like to provide Blackboard Connect training to members of the Town Hall staff and to the Police Department so they too can send out alerts and announcements in the event that he is not available.

The Board appointed **John Schreiber to fill a vacancy on the Conservation Commission** for the term ending June 30, 2014.

Chairman Yohalem reported that **Town Treasurer Pat Mielke is arranging an auction in January to sell three Town-owned parcels of land** acquired through tax foreclosure. He said the Town is owed approximately \$48,000 in back taxes and fees on the three plots and that the Board will need to determine what the minimum bid for each parcel will be. The proceeds will go into the Town's general fund and, at the end of the fiscal year, next June, will become available as part of the free cash account.

The Board voted unanimously to accept Crocker Communications' proposal for a **10MB Internet access service to be shared by the Town Hall, the library, and the fire station.** It also approved by a 2-to-1 margin, with Selectman Shalaby dissenting, Crocker's proposal for an Internet-based phone service to replace the existing

Verizon service. As previously reported, Crocker is one of the service providers on the Massachusetts Broadband Institute's Middle Mile Network (See the Board of Selectmen report in the November issue of the NM5VN).

November 4: The meeting was convened at 6:00 p.m., with Chairman Yohalem announcing that all future meetings will also start at 6:00 instead of 6:30 p.m. All three selectmen were present.

The Board received a letter from the attorney for the New Marlborough Land Trust indicating that the 1.5-acre parcel the Trust intends to purchase from the Town for incorporation into the Robert Joffe Natural Sanctuary, is actually 2.02 acres, according to a recent survey of the land. In other mail, Mr. Yohalem said the American Legion has finally provided the Board with a letter releasing the Town from responsibility should any of the memorabilia the Legion is storing in the Town Hall be damaged or stolen. The Board had requested such a letter after the Legion said it needed a place to store the items after it vacated the American Legion Hall.

Animal Inspector Prudence Spaulding reported that John Springstube, the Town's dog officer, has worked out an agreement with Bonnie Bassis, who runs the animal shelter, A Place for Us, in South Egremont, to take in stray dogs picked up in New Marlborough. She'll also provide quarantine services when needed.

The Board received an estimate from Joe Wilkinson of between \$13,000 and \$15,000 for the repair work slated for the Transfer Station. As previously reported, the repairs are part of a larger plan to upgrade the Transfer Station to include the purchase of a second compactor for single stream recycling. The Wilkinson estimate covers the cost of rebuilding the concrete block and cement wall supporting the existing compactor and also pouring a new slab for the compactor and the operator shed that is next to it.

Lee Audio and Security submitted separate proposals totaling \$4,500 for alarm systems for both the Town Hall and the Highway Department garage. The systems would include the installation of motion detectors, keypads and alarms for the two buildings. There would also be a \$600-a-year fee for monitoring the systems. Selectman Shalaby had originally suggested getting an inclusive bid that also covered the Fire Station, but Fire Chief Loring apparently feels an alarm system for the firehouse would be impractical, given the number of people who need unrestricted access to the building.

The Board held a utility pole hearing with National Grid, which was seeking approval to install a utility pole on New Marlborough Hill Road about 1,500 feet from the intersection with the Hartsville New Marlborough Road. According to National Grid's Tony Corsi, the pole will provide underground service to a new residence at 48 New Marlborough Hill Road belonging to John Miller. In a unanimous vote, the Board approved the request.

There will be no meeting next week because of the Veterans Day holiday.

November 18: All three selectmen were present to discuss the selection of an auctioneering firm to sell three Town-owned parcels of land acquired through tax foreclosure. The Board has received two competing auction proposals, one from Sullivan & Sullivan of Sandwich, Massachusetts, and the other from Aaron Posnik & Company of Springfield. The Board also decided to hold the auction in March rather than January, as previously reported, to make it easier for potential bidders to walk the properties in question. The properties are located on Lumbert Cross Road, East Hill Road, and near Cagney Hill Road.

The Board voted to authorize Joe Wilkinson to begin work at the transfer station to replace the concrete block and cement wall adjacent to the existing compactor and to pour a new pad for the compactor and the operator shed next to it. As previously reported, the work is estimated to cost between \$13,000 and \$15,000.

Based on a construction timeline submitted by engineering consultant BSC Group of Boston, the Canaan Southfield Road bridge near Foley Hill is expected to be closed from March or April of 2014 until sometime in August, depending on how long it takes contractor J.H. Maxymillian to finish replacing the bridge. During that time, traffic traveling up the Canaan Southfield Road toward Southfield will have the option of detouring over nearby Keyes Hill Road or taking the long way around via Lumbert Cross and Mill River Southfield Roads.

Because of the upcoming holidays, the Board agreed there would be no selectmen's meeting on December 23 or December 30. In addition, the Town Hall will only be open for half days on November 29, December 24, and December 31.

The Board voted to sign contracts from Lee Audio and Security to install alarm systems in the Town Hall and the Highway Department garage. As previously reported, the total outlay for both contracts is around \$4,500 plus \$600 a year to monitor the two systems. □

New Start Time for Board of Selectmen Meetings

Starting in November all Monday night meetings of the Board of Selectmen will begin at 6:00 p.m. instead of 6:30.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

October 26: Co-Chairmen Ned Wilson and John Weinstein were present to address the month's agenda and were joined by newly appointed member Freddie Friedman.

The meeting began by resuming the public hearing for the Notice of Intent (NOI) submitted by Keith Salzmann of Hartsville New Marlborough Road for the construction of a new garage. The Commission reviewed the site conditions and the proposed location of the garage. They confirmed that, although the work was within 200 feet of the river, it was outside of 100 feet of the river. Since the work would not degrade more than ten percent of the riverfront area, it was approved as permitted. The Commission requested that erosion control measures be installed during construction.

Next, new business was addressed. The Commission received a request for a Certificate of Compliance for a

septic upgrade permitted with an NOI on the Rossier property at 222 Lake Road. Two forest cutting plans were received: one for Angelene Pell on Route 57 and the other for Prudence Spaulding on Sisson Hill Road. Notification from the Board of Selectmen for a special permit issued to Michael White was received. The Commission confirmed that there were no wetland issues for Michael White's project. Lastly, the Commission received notice of a special permit pending for Laurence Casey to relocate Jay's Lawn Care from Clayton Road to Canaan Southfield Road. The Commission agreed to do a site visit and determine if there were any jurisdictional issues for the project.

Finally, last month's minutes were read and approved with minor changes. □

Martha Bryan

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

By David Lowman

Early Friday morning, September 20, the New Marlborough Highway Garage was broken into, and during the following forty minutes, approximately \$8,000 worth of tools, equipment, and miscellaneous items were stolen.

Entry to the building was through Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring's office window, where the thieves kicked in a window-mounted air conditioning unit.

Shortly after 7:00 a.m., Mr. Keith Wilkinson notified the New Marlborough Police Department that equipment of Joe Wilkinson Excavating had been disturbed and mishandled by intruders and that property had been stolen from the Wilkinson gravel bed on the Clayton Mill River Road. Soon after, about 7:30 a.m., the break-in and theft at the Town Garage was discovered.

The Massachusetts State Police were notified, and along with Police Officer Graham Frank of the New Marlborough Police Department, quickly arrived at the scene. Unbeknownst to the thieves, apparently, the Highway Department has in place and operation a closed circuit television system; the thieves' activities had been captured on tape. Smile! You're on Candid Camera!!

In viewing the tape, the two thieves were clearly visible to the police. Not only were they visible, but they were helpful enough to be wearing T-shirts adorned with the name of their Falls Village, Connecticut, employer also clearly visible.

The State Police took still photos of the taped men and went to the Canaan barracks of the Connecticut State Police. Identification was swiftly made, and the

apprehension and arrests of the two young men quickly followed. One of the young men was on probation for a previous offense, so his probation officer and the police went to his home, and there was the booty.

The stolen property was confiscated by the police and is currently being held as evidence at the Lee barracks of the Massachusetts State Police pending judicial action. The alleged thieves were arraigned on November 7, and a pre-trial hearing is scheduled for December 12 at the Southern Berkshire District Court in Great Barrington.

With the Highway Department missing many of its tools, this reporter wondered how the crew would be able to do the work ahead for an undetermined period. Mr. Loring said that the Town's insurance company had approved the purchase of necessary replacement tools and material. Mr. Loring also stated his intent to have an alarm system installed in the garage.

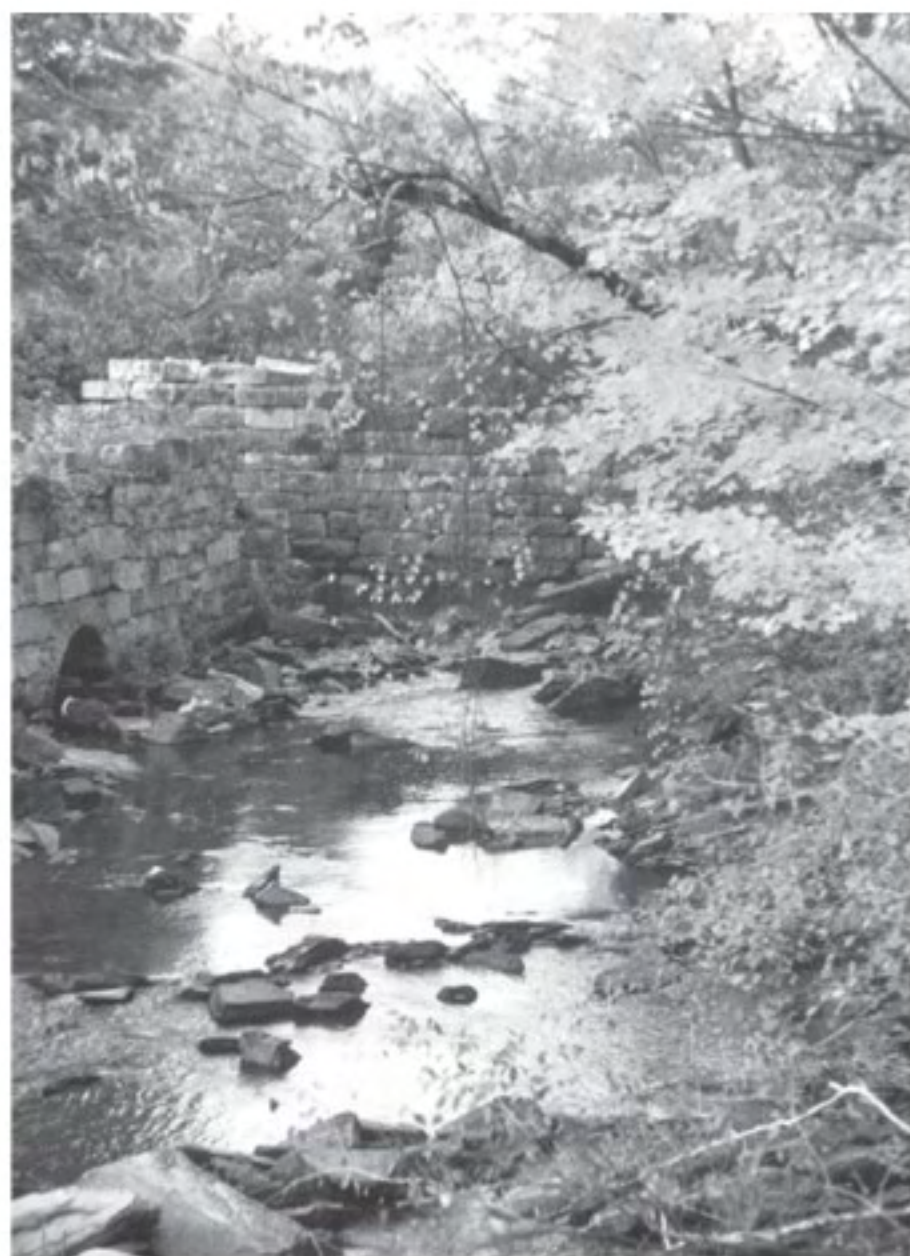
Finally, it should be noted that the New Marlborough Police Department, particularly Officer Frank, did a thorough and professional job. It must be said, though, that the perpetrators sure did a lot to help. □

A REQUEST FROM THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Highway Superintendent Chuck Loring asks that homeowners, landscapers, and snowplow workers refrain from plowing snow into public roadways. Snow pushed onto roads can create hazardous driving conditions. The Highway Department and your fellow drivers thank you.

ICE HOUSE STUDIO FAVORITES

Back in the 1980s, Al Lenardson and Edgar Zukauskas, of Ice House Studio in Mill River, published a large poster of their favorite Berkshire photographs. Here are reprints of some of their favorite New Marlborough scenes: a snowscape in New Marlborough, and the dam, as viewed from the Hayes Hill bridge, before the dam was washed out in 2012. □



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New Marlborough



Central School

Holiday Fair

in Mill River, Saturday 10am-3pm
December 7th

The Famous Silent Auction!

Live music - Christmas tree sale

Beautiful hand-made gifts

Book sale - Bake sale - Local maple syrup

Kids craft room - Face painting

The highly popular children's
only shopping room

Home made soups and Grill

Horsedrawn carriage rides

All the fun you can have in one cozy place!

Silent Auction listings and info. www.nmmpta.weebly.com
Our NMM PTA Facebook page! www.facebook.com/nmmpta

THE WAY WE WERE

An Occasional Look Back
at New Marlborough's Past – this month:

Dawn Stanton Massini

By Joe Poindexter

photos courtesy of the Massini family



Dawn Stanton at age two

Talk about New Marlborough roots! There are few that go deeper than those of Dawn Massini, who was born in the Stanton house in the center of Mill River – in the same bed in which her father, Homer Stanton, was born. Homer's mother, Minnie Brewer Stanton, was born in Mill River, where her father, Chauncey Brewer, a member of the family that gave its name to Brewer Hill Road, had a lumber yard.

And more than mere residence, it was service to the town that marks the Brewer/Stanton presence in New Marlborough. Chauncey Brewer was a selectman for eight years. His wife, Alcesta Stone Brewer, taught in all but one of the town's schools, including for fifteen years the South Berkshire Institute. According to Dawn, her beginning salary there was \$1.25 a week, though that was augmented by regular dinners at the homes of her pupils.

The Brewers and Stantons were joined in the next generation with the marriage of Minnie Brewer to Edwin Stanton, Dawn's grandparents. Edwin, by Dawn's account, was a tax collector for seven years, selectman for twenty, fire chief for thirty-five, and deputy sheriff for thirty-eight. Not to be outdone, Edwin's son Homer was deputy sheriff for fifty years – as well as police chief, director of welfare, and a member of the planning board.

It's hardly surprising that Dawn felt the need to excel – and she did. When she was two, the family moved from the Stanton house to the so-called "Seven Gables Farm," just north of the schoolhouse and close enough to walk home for lunch prepared by her mother, Thelma. Among the last students to attend New Marlborough High School before it was moved to the Sheffield campus, Dawn was the salutatorian of her class and captain of the girls' basketball team.

On a farm that had around fifty milk cows, there were

chores, of course. Along with her sisters Violet and Cynthia, Dawn had to keep the wood box filled. At age nine, she learned to drive a Ford tractor, which she maneuvered around the fields picking up bales of hay. The

Stanton home, served by a single party-line telephone, was a warren of activity. There were townspeople in need of welfare assistance, young boys answering to the deputy sheriff for the various scrapes they got into, and visitors with no better excuse than the need to dip into a large jar of Thelma's molasses cookies.

But except for the visitors – and the thirteen-inch television set the Stantons acquired in the late 1940s – there weren't a lot of distractions. "There was not a lot to do," says Dawn, "but we didn't know it." In the winter, there was tobogganing on the hill behind the school and basketball, played upstairs in the Town Hall, with spectators cheering on the team from the balcony (now a boarded-over storage space) at the western end of the hall. "Basketball was the big highlight of winter," she says. In the summer there was biking and riding her pony, Silver. On rare occasions, she would go to the movies in Canaan.

Dawn's studiousness paid off. Although she was accepted at Boston University, she had by then met Henry Massini – during a basketball game in the Town Hall – and decided she wanted to stay closer to home. ("There was no turnpike then," she says.) Instead, she went to Bay Path College, in Longmeadow, Massachusetts, just south of Springfield, came home for weekends, and married her high-school sweetheart a year after graduating with a business degree.

She and Henry moved to Redstone Arsenal, in Huntsville, Alabama, where Henry served a hitch in the U.S. Army. But Dawn's degree wasn't wasted. As executive secretary to a colonel stationed there,



Dawn Massini at home in Ashley Falls

photo by Joe Poindexter



Henry Massini married Dawn a year after she graduated college.

she was given top-secret clearance and assigned to take minutes in meetings between Army brass and German scientist Wernher von Braun, whose enlistment in the development of American rocketry helped launch the U. S. space program.

A year after Henry's discharge, the Massinis moved back to South County and started a school-bus company in Ashley Falls that Dawn, a widow since 2005, still runs with her three children. In 1984, they added a bus tour operation. "Between family trips and the tours," says Dawn, "I've been to all fifty states. But when people ask me what is my favorite place, the answer is always the Berkshires." □



Dawn, second from left, front row, was captain of the New Marlborough High School basketball team.

TOWN CHRISTMAS PARTY SANTA'S ANNUAL VISIT

All are invited to the Town's holiday party on Sunday, December 22, at 5:00 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery on the New Marlborough Village Green. Santa will be arriving on a New Marlborough fire truck, and will hold private consultations with all who wish to speak with him. There will be multi-ethnic caroling suitable for Christmas, Chanukah, and Kwanzaa. Refreshments will be served. □



photos by Larry Burke



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THE ABC'S OF NMFC, NMVFR, NMTVESF, AND NMF&R

By Larry Burke

Every so often *The New Marlborough 5 Village News* likes to do a little refresher course – or intro course – to those who have moved here in recent years – on the alphabet soup of our town's critically important emergency services organizations.

So, in order of seniority:

1) The New Marlborough Fire Company (NMFC) was formed in 1931 as a volunteer fire company, largely funded by the Turner and Cook Company, which occupied the present-day Whip Shop. For years most of the firefighters were also company employees. In 1956 the Town of New Marlborough built a firehouse for the Fire Company in Southfield, and that building, somewhat the worse for wear, still stands alongside the new Firehouse, which became operational in 2011. Both buildings are currently owned by the Fire Company, not by the Town. In the mid-1980s, the NMFC attained 501(c)(3) not-for-profit status so it could receive tax-deductible donations.

2) The New Marlborough Volunteer First Responders (NMVFR) was formed in 1981 as a separate emergency organization, with a focus on treating the victims of medical emergencies in advance of the arrival of an ambulance from Great Barrington. (The First Responders did not begin transporting patients in its own ambulance until the early 1990s.) Within that first year, the group incorporated as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, a status that exists to this day, so it too may receive tax-deductible donations. Despite the separate corporate structures of the First Responders and the Fire Company, the two groups have shared the use of both the old and the new firehouses in Southfield. The ambulance, New Marlborough Rescue 1, is housed in the older building.

3) The New Marlborough Township Volunteer Emergency Services Fund (NMTVESF, or ESF for short) came into being in 1986 in response to a perceived need to fund both the NMFC and the NMVFR in amounts far beyond what the Town was allocating and what was coming in via private donations. The ESF's mission was, and still is, to raise money and to distribute its funds to the two groups, based on defined needs, present and future. The initial impact of the ESF was enormous for the Town's emergency services – making it possible to purchase critically needed turnout gear for all firefighters and first responders, to acquire an ambulance, and to build a major addition to the firehouse. Over the years the ESF has continued to play a key role in raising and distributing funding to the fire and medical organizations. Its Board of Directors is composed of several members from the NMFC and NMVFR, as well as a member of the Board of Selectmen and several at-large members from among our citizens.



Photo by Ed Harvey

Each year members of New Marlborough Fire & Rescue teach the children at New Marlborough Central School about the importance of fire safety. Here Deputy Chief David Smith, in full turnout gear, high-fives school children at this year's Fire Prevention Week session.

4) Finally, New Marlborough Fire & Rescue, created in 1995, is an umbrella emergency service agency comprised of the membership of both the Fire Company and the First Responders. It is a municipal entity that was set up initially to enable members to receive insurance coverage at a lower rate through the Town than they would have been able to secure as separate organizations. Over time New Marlborough Fire and Rescue has become the de facto interface between the Town and all of the emergency services groups, in large part due to the Town's opting in the mid-90s for a "strong chief."

Now, to bring us up to date with these organizations, this reporter (who, in the interest of full-disclosure, is a former member of all four agencies) sat down recently with a number of representatives of our emergency services: David Smith, president of the Fire Company, Joe Krejci, president of the First Responders, Maureen Guidi, EMT and treasurer of the NMVFR, David Herrick, treasurer of the ESF, and Chuck Loring, fire chief. Much of the conversation centered on the problem of maintaining adequate numbers of trained members who are capable of responding to fire and medical calls. Currently, New Marlborough Fire & Rescue has eighteen active firefighters and nine Emergency Medical Technicians, along with a smaller number of supporting members. The numbers that might respond to a call can be quite a bit lower, particularly in the daytime, when many members are working at some distance from New Marlborough, or are unable to be excused from work to respond to an emergency. Another mounting problem that both Mr. Smith and Mr. Loring have noticed is a greater reluctance on the part of the younger segment of our populace to "make the serious commitment" that comes with membership in the emergency services. The obligation to

train for several hours once a week, plus the hours given over to answering emergency calls, seems to be more of a responsibility than most people want to shoulder. While Chief Loring emphasizes that all training costs and personal protective gear are covered by NMF&R, he nevertheless sees the decline in volunteerism as a threat to the future of the organization.

One option that New Marlborough may need to consider in the near future to overcome the dwindling ranks of firefighters and EMTs would be to follow the lead of many towns, including our neighbors, Monterey, Otis, and Sandisfield, where hourly compensation is now being given to the members who show up for training and calls. According to Chief Loring, Sandisfield Fire Chief Ralph Morrison reports a "complete turn-around" there, in terms of firefighters responding to calls ever since that town instituted monetary compensation. While this subject may not come before the New Marlborough voters as early as the next Annual Town Meeting, it is sure to become an important topic in the near future.

On the subject of Annual Town Meeting, David Smith and Chuck Loring report that the request for a new fire truck to replace the twenty-three-year-old Engine One will once again be on the warrant, having failed to win voter support for the last two years. Chief Loring wants to emphasize that townspeople should feel very good about the resources that New Marlborough Fire & Rescue can offer the town – and NMF&R is, in turn, thankful to the Town for having in large part funded those resources. He fully understands that the replacement of Engine One will bring another layer of financial burden to the Town, but he nevertheless hopes that people will recognize the inevitable problems of maintaining the functionality and safety of an aged vehicle.

Turning to emergency medical developments, Joe Krejci and Maureen Guidi echoed the same thoughts about the problems facing the organization over static or declining membership. One very good piece of news they had to report is that, because of our mutual aid agreement with Great Barrington's Southern Berkshire Ambulance Squad, paramedic service is now available to seriously injured or ill residents of New Marlborough. Depending on the nature of the call, the on-duty paramedic will be dispatched to New Marlborough to rendezvous with our ambulance and take part in the treatment of the patient en route to the hospital.

As for the NMTVESF, which has recently mailed out its annual appeal for contributions, both David Smith

and David Herrick state that the number one goal is to pay down the debt on the loan for the construction of the new firehouse. The yearly payment runs to around \$20,000, and, since the terms of the loan are quite favorable, the ESF will be content to pay it off over the maximum number of years, and to use whatever extra is donated to provide funds for the purchase of needed equipment for the firefighters and EMTs.

Looking a bit more long-term, everyone associated with emergency services in New Marlborough hopes to determine the best course of action – and to find the funding – for the next step in the completion of the emergency services facilities in Southfield. According to David Herrick, one possibility would be the razing of the old building, at an estimated cost of \$100,000, followed by a major addition to the new building, somewhere in the \$300,000 range. A second option that is being considered would be a serious renovation of the old building, shoring up the foundations, making it energy efficient, and building in new capacity for police and ambulance – all for a likely smaller figure. But that is down the road.

The biggest issue, the greatest hope, for the leadership of our emergency services organizations was expressed by David Smith: "Our mission is to build membership, to bring in new people, people who want to stay. That's what we're pushing for." Maureen Guidi expanded on David's thoughts, saying that she wished people could get excited about giving back to the community, to being of service, and, in particular, being of service to the people we live with. She recalled a recent conversation with a resident who had fallen ill and required an ambulance, and how this woman had felt so comforted by the simple fact that, "the EMT who was caring for me in the ambulance was a familiar face, and that was just so wonderful."

If there are members of our community who would like to explore the possibility of joining any or all of the "alphabet soup" group, the Fire Company business meeting is on the first Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m., and the First Responders meeting is on the first Wednesday, same time. You would be more than welcome.

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LESLIE WHEELER: WOMAN OF MYSTERY IN NEW MARLBOROUGH

By Jodi Rothe

One of the most important choices a mystery writer ever makes is the choice of setting, which often performs as important a role as the lead detective. For Agatha Christie in her Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot novels, it was English country estates. For Elmore Leonard, it was the murky bayous of South Florida. For author Michael Connelly in his Harry Bosch books, it is the bright and beckoning Hollywood lights as viewed from Harry's hilltop house making a great contrast for the despair Harry feels as he gets involved in each dark and grisly murder case.

For California-born mystery writer Leslie Wheeler, inspiration is found in the Berkshires and New England. Leslie has had a home in Southfield for more than thirty years but is now a part-time resident due to writing commitments in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her lovely gray-shingled house on Cagney Hill Road was designed by a local architect, the late Bob Fleury. A graceful pond, near where she likes to sit on a swing with her writing pad and pen, was dug by Mill River's Norm Hankey, who also did the foundation excavation for her house. While construction was going on, she and her then-husband lived in a trailer on the property and moved into the house right before the first serious snow, thanks to the good work of New Marlborough carpenters, the late Henry Bynack, and his son and grandson.

One of the ideas for an early short story, "Skystalker" came to Leslie while she was sitting on her patio watching a private plane fly overhead. She found herself musing, "I wonder if that's so-and so (a friend with his own plane)." Right away, in that dreamy state, she envisioned two of her main characters, the man in the plane and the woman on the ground. For this story, Leslie visited the Great Barrington airport and interviewed various pilots, including one who turned out to be Dave Herrick's brother.

Leslie's latest mystery novel, ready for publication but without a title as yet, also has a Berkshires setting. "I use my house, the pond, and woods, as well as other locales in town. Ideas for the plot came from stories I read in a history of the town, published in the 1970s, and from stories I heard while a full-time resident. I like to think the book reflects my deep love for New Marlborough and for the Berkshires as a whole."

Leslie has also published a series of mystery novels involving other historical places on the East coast – involving a particular investigator, Miranda, to whom Leslie gave some of her own biographical details. "Like me, Miranda went to Stanford and she has an older, sometimes bossy sister. Like me, her main character tends to be surrounded by clutter of her own making and she is also divorced" – although Leslie is now a widow after a



Photos by Jodi Rothe

Leslie Wheeler at home

second marriage to Robert Stein. But her lead character in this series is also Leslie's more idealized version of herself. "She's a lot braver. I couldn't do some of the things she does in the dangerous situations I put her in – and she's taller, and thinner and her hair is really dark auburn, rather than faded red."

Leslie set her first "living history" mystery novel at Plimoth Plantation, a living museum in Plymouth, Massachusetts. She states, "I decided it would make the perfect place for a mystery because everyone there has two personas – that of the pilgrim they're portraying and that of who they are in real life." It also helps that Leslie is a Mayflower descendant with deep roots in New England. Her second and third books in the series take place at Gettysburg and a fictionalized version of Mystic Seaport in Connecticut.

At the time of this interview, Leslie was about to take off for the annual "Crimebake," an annual New England mystery writer's conference that takes place in Dedham, outside of Boston. Leslie is one of the founders of the conference, which has grown to three hundred participants – the maximum their chosen venue can hold. Each year they have a guest of honor such as Sue Grafton, Lee Child, and other name writers. The guests of honor are not limited to New England crime writers, but only New England crime writers are invited to participate on the panels. Attendees can also pay extra and have their own manuscript critiqued by a professional.

In the last few years, Leslie has co-edited anthologies of crime stories by New England writers, published by Level Best Books, a small press in the Boston area. Local writers take note: She would especially welcome submissions from New Marlborough residents: "We publish stories in a range of sub-genres, including mystery, suspense, thriller, horror, paranormal, and

capers, and we're always on the look-out for new talent." For guidelines and information on how to submit, visit: www.levelbestbooks.com. Leslie also mentioned that interested writers can submit the same story or stories to the Al Blanchard Short Crime Fiction Contest, an annual contest of which Leslie is the coordinator; the link there is www.crimebake.org/Al.html.

When asked her favorite thing about writing a mystery novel or short story, she says, "I enjoy living in the worlds of the mystery novels I write, which means I must choose settings and characters that resonate with me, because I know I'm in for the long haul. With a short story, on the other hand, I can move in and out quickly. As a result, my short stories tend to be darker than my novels."

Leslie didn't set out to become a mystery writer. She published non-fiction – biographies and books about American history for both the trade and the school markets. She describes her first attempt at a novel as a "big, rambling historical tome that was long on incident but short on plot." After she failed to find a publisher, she took a mystery-writing course and found her niche. In addition to being tightly plotted with clues and red herrings planted along the way, the mystery form with its distinct beginning, middle, and end gave Leslie

discipline, but also a certain creative freedom within the genre, which allowed her to combine her love of history and mystery.

When asked what a perfect writing day is like, Leslie says, "It's one where the words just keep flowing, and I'm totally absorbed in the process. But that doesn't happen as often as I'd like, so I have to settle for days when I come up with an idea or insight that's important to what I'm trying to write, or maybe only an image or phrase that pleases me. I'm thankful for every moment of inspiration I have."

For Leslie, one of the important characteristics for her lead detective in any story is to trust his or her "own lights." When asked if there is a personal theme in her work, Leslie mentions that many times her lead characters need to break away from controlling situations and people in their lives the way she did by moving away from her West Coast family to the opposite coast where she married twice and adopted a son, Nicholas, who is just about to graduate from college.

Leslie has truly trusted her own "lights" in terms of her life and her career and her original decision to make New Marlborough her true home. And she hasn't looked back. □


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HALLOWEEN

Halloween parties at the library and in Southfield.



photos by Cassie Kealey, Melissa Zdzarski, and Al Lemardson

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LAND TRUST HIRES EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Ian Devine

At its annual meeting on October 26, the New Marlborough Land Trust voted to hire Martha Bryan of Mill River as its executive director, a newly created position for the previously all-volunteer organization. Ms. Bryan brings to this role a passion for the Land Trust's mission of working for the benefit of the environment, local economy, community education, and future generations. She had been co-president of the New Marlborough Land Trust (NMLT) and a member of its Board of Directors since 2003. "The Land Trust is fortunate to have an executive director with Martha Bryan's experience and vision for our town. She will provide valuable leadership as we help residents and schoolchildren enjoy and learn from the natural beauty of our five villages," said Ian Devine, newly-elected president of the NMLT.

Ms. Bryan has been an active member of the New Marlborough community for twenty-five years and has worked professionally for twenty years as a landscape designer and a grower. She holds a Master's degree in

architecture from the University of Massachusetts and was the owner of Shady Gate Gardens, a specialty retail plant nursery.

Also at this meeting, the NMLT dedicated the unique suspension footbridge at Thousand Acre Swamp in Southfield in honor of outgoing co-president Richard R. Stebbins. "All of New Marlborough is grateful to Dick Stebbins for providing easier access to our area's history and environment," Mr. Devine added.

In other business, the Land Trust elected the following officers: President, Ian Devine; Vice President, David Hosford; Treasurer, Owen Hoberman; and Secretary, Sheila Baird.

Established in 1986, the NMLT manages miles of walking trails, conducts bi-annual roadside clean-ups, and monitors land conservation easements and private land donations. In addition, the Land Trust manages several sites of educational and historical importance, including the Robert Joffe Nature Sanctuary and the Lower Carroll Mill, which are accessible to the public for all to enjoy. □



The Land Trust's Fall Road Cleanup was helped by a hearty group from the community. The youngest helpers who were closest to the ground collected what the adults missed!

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Anne O'Connor and Glen Chamberlin and their two draft horses picked up garbage along Route 57 at the Fall Road Cleanup – fuel free, and with lots of muscle.

Neighbors



Juliette Carr, daughter of Linda and Bob Carr of Southfield, was married to Henry Bunn IV on September 7 at Umpachene Falls Park, with thirty family members present. Juliette graduated from the University of Wisconsin in May with a degree in nursing. The couple has moved from Wisconsin to Middlebury, Vermont, where Juliette is a birthing nurse at Porter Hospital and Henry, an arborist, is starting his own business.

Nan Smith of New Marlborough village gave an exhibit and demonstration of Barefoot Books at the New Marlborough Library on November 2. This British company produces a wide range of children's books for infants through approximately age twelve, with beautiful, engaging art work and a multi-ethnic approach. Nan will be selling the books at the Norfolk Farmers'



Market next spring and summer, but is very happy to do home visits. She can be reached at 229-0291. For the rest of 2013 she will be donating 10 percent of her profits to the New Marlborough Library; in succeeding years, other New Marlborough organizations will be the beneficiaries.



photo by David Lowman

Nan Smith

Josh Lowman, son of David Lowman and formerly of Southfield, and his wife, Moeka, became parents of their second daughter, **Eve**, on November 2. They have recently moved into their new house in San Francisco. Eve is pictured here at the ripe old age of two days.

It's been a busy season for **Ben and Cornelia Webster** of Adsit Crosby Road. Daughter **Julie and Matt Downing** gave birth to a son, **Wallace Benjamin Downing**, on September 2 – appropriately enough, Labor Day. They are living in Great Barrington where Julie is engaged in marketing and web design; Matt is a carpenter with Greenagers and is a musician with several area bands.



Wenonah and Asa

On November 2, Daughter **Wenonah** was married to **Asa Palmer** in a ceremony at the New Marlborough Meeting House with family in attendance. Wenonah is engaged in landscape design at Wenonah Webster Designs, and Asa is an arborist. They recently bought a house in Sheffield.

Twenty-three members of the **Tinker family**, ages six to eighty-five, came to the Tinker farm in Clayton on



The extended Tinker family

October 12 for the first annual Tinker Family Reunion. Joseph Tinker came to run the clay pits in Clayton in 1905, and 108 years later, family members still gather there.

Robert MacKenzie, of Hartsville, passed away on November 13 at the age of eighty-three. After graduating from the University of Massachusetts in 1951, he worked at several local farms before purchasing Spruce Hill Farm on Adsit Crosby Road in 1956, where he lived for the rest of his life. He had a thirty-year career at the Animal Medical Center in New York City, from which he retired in 1995; at the time it was considered the largest animal hospital in the world, giving rise to many interesting stories of treating exotic animals. In retirement he enthusiastically pursued his model train hobby, and, despite being legally blind, could often be seen riding his lawnmower. His wife of sixty-two years, Nell, died on August 19 of this year. □

compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

photo by Josh Lowman



Eve Lowman

photo by Larry Burke



Wallace and Matt Downing

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

On October 21, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, writes: Yesterday I went up to Leffingwell's pond; all that was there were geese and not many. Then, using binoculars, I saw a movement in the air. It was a **kingfisher**, flying over the pond, then hovering in mid-air for fifteen seconds or more, then folding its wings and diving straight into the water for a treat. Then he would fly to a limb and eat it, then do the same thing again. Could have watched him all day, but wind came up and blurred my vision. Then I went to a little pond on Cross Road to Canaan Valley and there was another kingfisher doing the same thing, and a bunch of **ducks**.

Last Friday I got a photo of a **snow goose** in Sodom Road pond. Weather is still great for bike riding and always something to see.

On October 27, **Tom Coote**, who lives on East Hill Road, writes: On October 26, an **owl** slammed into the house when everything was pitch dark and very quiet. Scared the heck out of me as the house was utterly silent at the time. After hesitating to go outside for a few minutes, I found it lying on the deck, but it flew away, apparently uninjured. My guess is it was hunting moths, or possibly bats, as there is a nest in the eaves just above where I found it. It appeared to be a **barred owl**.

The next night a **bear** came by. This is how I found the hot tub in the morning. After tearing up the lid it managed to lift it properly but ripped the frame off the back of the tub in the process. The white stuff all over the deck was the insulation in the lid. The only evidence it actually used the tub is that the water level was down a few inches and the muddy paw prints just above the water line. I suppose it had earned a good soak after trashing the garbage. Metaphysical interpretations of these events welcome.



photo by Tom Coote

On November 9, **Don Beauchamp** writes: Last Monday, November 4, I sat down with a cup of tea and saw a bird on my perch out in the lawn. It was a **bluebird** and there were at least three pairs flying around. Here's a photo of one checking out the birdhouse.



photo by Don Beauchamp

On November 10, **Ed Harvey**, of Mill River, writes: Between work keeping me busy and critters hunkering down, not much has been moving within view of my lens. I have spotted a **bobcat** in the wee hours of the morning on my way to work near what I call the Twin Ponds on Mill River Great Barrington Road. Also noted a **skunk** hiding under the porch of a neighbor's seasonal house. There are a lot of acorns in the woods. I would bet that this spring we are going to be overrun by deer, squirrels, and other nut lovers!

On November 10, **Steve Cunningham**, who lives on Berkshire Woods Road, off Campbell Falls Road, writes: I have been meaning to write and send you these photos for quite some time. On October 24 I was driving south on Norfolk Road from Southfield when I saw this **moose**. She (?) was beautiful and HUGE and appeared to be enjoying apples from a nearby tree.

On November 11, **Charlie Parton**, of New Marlborough village, writes: We have had some interesting moments: For about ten days we have had a flock of maybe a dozen **wood ducks** on the pond at the foot of our road. I didn't know about their spring and fall get-togethers as a group. In the fall they are selecting partners for the mating which will occur in the spring. The fall meeting is accompanied by a series of acts, such as swimming along with head turned back, which we could not see as they are very shy and would fly off into the woods or hide behind a fallen tree. Presumably now they will fly further south and be replaced by some northerners.

One evening there was a very beautiful red sunset. I was in the back yard looking to the east as the low clouds were just picking up the color. A flock of **geese** in a large V was flying in the southeastern sky, of course all talking at once, and their white breasts caught the reflected red of the sunset. Suddenly they turned into pink flamingoes as they went off into the eastern sky! And then finally (if there is such a thing) a **harrier** — migrating, I suppose — flew over the backyard, flashing his white rump patch.

On November 11, **Jodi Rothe**, who lives on Cagney Hill Road, writes: We've had a **moose** walking around Cagney Hill. (Leslie Wheeler took a photo of it that appeared in last issue of the *Five Village News*.) I saw it once and Peter [Schuyten] saw it on our front lawn — mid-size or juvenile moose — not afraid. I have no idea if moose are dangerous, but this one certainly wasn't. He/she was all by herself and liked to hang out near Leslie's pond. □

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photo by Leslie Wheeler

Compiled by Jon Swan, joncswan@gmail.com

CHRISTMASTIME IS HERE!

(La la laaah, la laaah!)

By Robert Olsen

The Christmastime of year is one that I have always loved – the music of horns and reeds and soaring voices, the trees and wreaths, holly and mistletoe, the heart-tugging stories, the shopping and getting and giving of gifts, the glorious foods, the early nights, and long shadows over the smoke colored snow. When most people run screaming in the other direction, I jump into the holiday season heart and soul. Fortunately for me, the Southfield Church embraces my Christmas-loving mania. This Christmas season has offerings for the entire community. By the time you read this article, we will have concluded our second Holiday Market on November 30, featuring unique gifts for giving, hand-crafted by local artisans, crafters and food makers.

New to this year's offering is a concert that we're all very excited about. Drum roll, please! On Sunday, December 15 at 3:00 p.m., the Mt. Everett High School Concert Band will give a concert in our sanctuary as a gift to the town! There will no admission charge and everyone is encouraged to turn out and support our talented young people. I have no doubt this forty-piece band will raise the roof of our old Southfield Church!

On Saturday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m., I will once again don my actor's cap and bring to life two favorite

Christmas stories. In Chamber Theater style, under the title "Christmas Memories", I will solo perform "A Child's Christmas in Wales" by Dylan Thomas, followed by "A Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote. For admission to this evening of theater, we are asking for a suggested donation of \$10, with a \$30 maximum per family. Children twelve and under are free.

Our crowning celebration takes place on Christmas Eve when the gorgeous voices of the United Church of New Marlborough Community Choir present a beautiful service of Lessons & Carols at 7:00 p.m. Once again, our lessons will be read by the incomparable Christina Gillespie. The King James scriptures have never sounded so clear and beautiful! Our congregational singing will be accompanied on organ and marimba (you read that right!) by Andrew Thomson, a young man coming to us from the Norfolk Congregational Church. It is certain to be a night to remember! An offering will be collected during the Christmas Eve service. Those gifts, along with the proceeds from my evening of theater will fully benefit our Deacon's Missions Fund. Our events are presented for you and we welcome everyone. Hope to see you there! □

PRIMARY CARE COMING TO MILL RIVER

The Community Health Program's family nurse practitioner, Kathleen Floyd, will offer routine physicals, wellness visits, chronic disease management, and sick visits from its mobile health unit on December 12 and January 16 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Ormsbee's Garage, across from the New Marlborough Library in Mill River. Others will be there to help with

access to health insurance and the (Women, Infants and Children) WIC program. To schedule an appointment, call 413-528-8580. Walk-ins also welcome. CHP accepts almost all insurances. For more information, you can also visit: <http://www.communityhealthprograms.org/medical/chp-on-wheels/> □

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NEW MARLBOROUGH POLICE LOG

January 1 – October 31, 2013

Civil citations: 110
 Warnings: 149
 Criminal citations: 14
 Total fines: \$17,755 Total calls: 472

THE LOG: FIRE AND RESCUE

Oct. 5	10:26 a.m.	Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call	Oct. 23	6:49 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
Oct. 5		Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call	Oct. 24	3:09 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Chimney Fire
Oct. 5	10:28 p.m.	East Hill Road Medical Call	Oct. 28		Canaan Southfield Road Medical Call
Oct. 6	9:33 p.m.	Rhoades and Bailey Road Medical Call	Oct. 28	3:19 p.m.	Mutual Aid to Sheffield Brush Fire
Oct. 7	3:45 p.m.	Hartsville New Marlborough Road Power Lines Down	Oct. 31	9:00 a.m.	Adsit Crosby Road Fire Alarm
Oct. 8	12:16 a.m.	Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call			
Oct. 13	10:40 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call			
Oct. 16	11:50 p.m.	Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call			

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Fred & Betsy Geller; Julian & Judith Jadow; Janice & Charlie McSpiritt; Marsha & Paul Harvey; Peter & Barbara Goodman; Natalie Garnell; Cora L. Roraback; Philip R. Gelzer; John & Marcia Cook; Margaret Phillips; Ronald & Ida Leonard; Miladeen Wyman; Carol Majkowski; Carol & Lance Liebman; Mary & Walter Simons; Aline M. Bove; Ellen Sweet & Ari Korpivaara; Philip Lique; Lisa Maloney; Scottie Mills; Jim & Kathy Palmer; Tara White; Kate Wenner & Gil Eisner; Don & Roberta Ferris; Dr. & Mrs. Martin Glassman; Joan & Dick Hulett; Holly & Joe Poindexter; Ken & Pat Rudolph; Richard & Diana Richter; Sally & Eugene Stamper; Brian Mikesell & John Weinstein; Arthur & Susan Peisner; Sarah Albamonte; Virginia & Laurence Chipurnoi; Sue Connell; Susan Finkelstein; Neil Goldstein & Janice Burke; Sara Kiesel; Leslie Armstrong; Jerome Berko; Tim & Katie Clifford; Debbie DeCotis; Roseina Emprimo; Harry & Marilyn Fracasso; John T. Gillespie; Aviva Gordon; Antonia & George Grumbach; Maureen & David Hosford; Jan Johnson; Cindi Labshere; John Levin; Raymond Levin & Eileen Shapiro; Kathie & Chuck Loring; Dan Miller; Angeline Pell; James R. Platt; Jay & Betty Reba; Eugene & Elizabeth Rosenberg; Charles & Stephanie Rothschild; Mr. & Mrs. Richard Ryan; Joe & Gayle Santucci; and Michael Skrak



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UPCOMING: *Event Calendar for December and January*

December 7: New Marlborough/Monterey Holiday Fair, New Marlborough Central School, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

December 12: Community Health Program nurse practitioner at Ormsbee's Garage, Mill River, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

December 15: Mount Everett High School Concert Band concert, Southfield Church, 3:00 p.m., free admission.

December 21: Christmas Memories, Southfield Church; stories by Dylan Thomas and Truman Capote, read by Robert Olsen; 7:00 p.m.; suggested donation \$10.

December 22: Santa and Christmas Carols: Add your voice to the Christmas cheer in front of the Meeting House at 5:00 p.m., then meet Santa in the Meeting House Gallery.

December 24: "Lessons and Carols" service, Southfield Church, 7:00 p.m.

January 16: Community Health Program nurse practitioner at Ormsbee's Garage, Mill River, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

January 19: Winter House Concert with the flute and harp duo of Sue Ann Kahn and Susan Jolles, 4:00 p.m. Call 413 229-2785 for reservations.

WINTER HOUSE CONCERTS RETURN

The New Marlborough Village Association will present the first of two Winter House Concerts on Sunday, January 19, 2014, at 4:00 p.m. This concert will feature the flute and harp duo, Sue Ann Kahn and Susan Jolles. Susan has played for us several times both as soloist and with her violinist daughter, Renee. Sue Ann and Susan have collaborated frequently in the past as members of the Naumburg Award-winning Jubal Trio (with soprano, Lucy Shelton).

We will welcome back the violinist, Yuki Numata for

our second concert on Saturday, February 28. She will perform this time as a soloist, playing works of Bach, Bartok and others.

The Winter House Concerts begin at 4:00 p.m. and last an hour, with wine and hors d'oeuvres afterward. Both concerts will take place in private homes in New Marlborough. Seating is limited so please make reservations by calling 413-229-2785 or going to www.newmarlborough.org. □



photo by Larry Burke

Mount Everett High School's contribution to Shakespeare & Company's Fall Festival this year was the fearsome tragedy Macbeth, with two performances in mid-November at the Thomas Consolati Performing Arts Center in Sheffield and one at Shakespeare & Company's campus in Lenox. The Mount Everett staging of the play featured a dual performance in the lead role of Macbeth by Kyle Carson and Kristen Wolfe. Both actors appeared simultaneously on stage, sharing the dialogue in an alternating fashion. In the photograph above, Macbeth as played by Kyle Carson is center stage, being challenged by Jake Smerechniak in the role of Macduff. Other bold, modernist, Brechtian touches to the performance included open staging, with musicians in plain view on stage, and a highly stylized manner of presenting the many deaths that occur during the course of "The Scottish Play."

MAILBOX



This letter to Claudette Callahan came to the NM5VN's mailbox; we reprint it because it's about an article by Ms. Callahan that was published in October, 2012.

October 30, 2013

Hi, Claudette,

I've been meaning to write you for a year since the NM5VN October 2012 article on The Quest for the New Marlborough Schoolhouses came out.

My mom, Lucy Kasson, taught school at, I believe, Huxley School for a number of years. She lived in Southfield at the southern end of town on a corner and drove south on the Norfolk Road to her school. She graduated from high school in 1915 and married my dad, Arnold Brewer, in June 1920. Of course, she wouldn't have been allowed to work outside the home after that.

Do you have any records of teacher names from that period?

You also mentioned Brewer or Smith School on the first page and later you mentioned Brewer Hill School. Are they one and the same? I remember a schoolroom complete with desks when I lived on the farm.

Thanks so much for your help! Isn't history fascinating?

Sincerely,
Martha Jane (MJ) Brewer Root
Greenwich, New York

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On the last Thursday of every month, seniors have been meeting at the Clayton Church to share delicious potluck lunches and senior news. The last luncheon for this year was held on October 31. These lunches will commence again next April.

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NEW ACQUISITIONS AT THE LIBRARY

Adult Fiction

Just One Evil Act, by Elizabeth George
The Two Hotel Francforts, by David Leavitt
Sycamore Row, by John Grisham
Police, by Jo Nesbo
The Valley of Amazement, by Amy Tan
No Man's Nightingale, by Ruth Rendell
Stella Bain, by Anita Shreve
Dust, by Patricia Cornwell

Children's Fiction

I'm a Frog!, by Mo Willems
"When Did You See Her Last?", by Lemony Snickett
Never Play Music Right Next to the Zoo, by John Lithgow
Lost in Babylon, by Peter Lerangis
Diary of a Wimpy Kid: Hard Luck, by Jeff Kinney

Children's Nonfiction

Assassination and Its Aftermath: How a Photograph Reassured a Shocked Nation, by Don Nardo
Civil War Witness: Mathew Brady's Photos Reveal the Horrors of War, by Don Nardo
Who Is Bill Gates?, by Patricia Brennan Demuth

Winter Hours:

Mon., Wed., & Sat.
10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Tues. & Thurs.
1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**The library will be closed
 December 24, December 25,
 and January 1.
 Happy Holidays!**

DON'T MISS SANTA'S VISIT

See page 9 for the details!



► Book Discussion Group

Please join us December 7 at 10:00 a.m. for coffee, bagels and a lively discussion of the book, *Back When We Were Grownups*, by Anne Tyler.

► Ikebana Workshops

Join us at the library in Mill River for a series of hands-on workshops led by Mill River resident Brian Mikesell to study this centuries-old art form 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Fridays: December 13, and January 3. You can attend any session or more than one! Each is a stand-alone lesson that doesn't presume prior experience.

You must sign up in advance at the library so that an appropriate quantity of materials can be purchased.

The cost for each workshop is \$25 per person, which includes flowers.

For more information, contact Brian at mikeselb@gmail.com.

About the instructor: Brian Mikesell has achieved the rank of Kakan (Assistant Professor, 2nd Degree) in the Ikenobo School of Ikebana under the instruction of Toshiko Shindo Alden (Sokatoku rank) and Michiko Baribeau (Junkatoku rank). He has taught Ikebana workshops for adults at the New York Tachibana chapter of Ikenobo, as well as lessons for high school students.

Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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)

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Town Times

- * **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:00 p.m.
- * **Planning Board:** First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m.
- * **Board of Health:** First Tuesday of the month at 7 p.m.
- * **Conservation Commission:** Last Saturday of the month at 10 a.m.
- * **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- * **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m. Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- * **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the fire station
- * **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m. at the library
- * **Town Treasurer:** Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- * **Tax Collector:** Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
- * **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- * **Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 413-232-7038
- * **Town Clerk:** 229-8278; 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- * **Town Hall:** 229-8116
- * **Police:** Business office: 229-8161

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

Transfer Station hours:

Wednesday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.
Sunday: 10 a.m.- 2 p.m.

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River

FEE IS \$100

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New Marlborough Highway Department

Located on Mill River-Southfield Rd.
Hours: Monday - Friday 7 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;
Pam Stebbins, Kenzie Fields, Jane Burke,
Charlie Parton, David Lowman, Larry Burke,
Martha Bryan, Jon Swan, Peter Schuyten,
Joe Poindexter, Marianne Swan, Debra Herman
Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott,
Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White

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For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
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- ♦ **Berkshire Geo-Technologies:** Civil engineering – perc testing, septic designs, wetland permitting, residential & commercial site design, structural evaluation & design. Located in Monterey. Please call 413-429-4888
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed and insured contracting at campbellfallscarpentry@gmail.com (413)229-6097 and (413)429-7677. Mass Contractors # 7614140, HIC# 170377
- ♦ **Cale's Pet Care:** Pet sitting, dog walking, small farm care. Experienced, caring, and reliable. Call Cale James at 229-2271
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- ♦ **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. christopher.f.blair@verizon.net.
- ♦ **DesignFirstBerkshires:** Architectural design, space planning and renovation management. 413-528-6169 or info@designfirstberkshires.com.
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
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- ♦ **James Edelman:** General Contractor, Real Estate Sales. Best Results. Construction License #090773. Home Improvement Registration #152035. Real Estate Sales License #9086247. 413-528-0006 or cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Quality Painting Services:** Beautifying homes in the Berkshires. Offering interior/exterior painting, staining, sheetrock repair. Pressure washing decks. Contractor registration #173566. Josh Taber, 413.269.8948
- ♦ **Susan M. Smith:** Attorney At Law; Concentrating in the areas of Estate Planning, Estate Administration, Elder Law, Real Estate and Zoning Matters. ssmithlaw@hughes.net or 229-7080
- ♦ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450

To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman 229-2369.