



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton ♦ Hartsville ♦ Mill River ♦ New Marlborough ♦ Southfield

LIBRARIAN EXTRAORDINAIRE

For Deb O'Brien, Books Are Just a Starting Point

by Robbi Hartt

Most people in New Marlborough know Debora O'Brien. Some know her through events like the recent Halloween celebration at Goodnow Preserve, some through New Marlborough Central School visits over the years, and some through simple book requests. However you have encountered Deb, it's likely you regard her as a town treasure and trusted friend.

She was born in Derby, Connecticut, but chances are good Deb's roots go back longer than your most overdue library book. Her parents, Victor and Pearl Spigarolo, moved from Huntington, Connecticut, in 1971, when they bought the Southfield Store from Dot Stevens (they sold it to David and Barbara Lowman about a decade later). When asked if she had ever worked at the store, Deb quickly fires back, "Oh, no, that's not my thing."

Upon graduation from Mount Everett High School in 1976, Deb went to Westfield State University, where she earned a B.S. in biology. She returned to the Berkshires to work at the Berkshire National Fish Hatchery in Hartsville, where she was tasked with tracking Atlantic



Deb O'Brien, feted at a recent birthday bash in her honor.

salmon. A year later, she took a job as a junior bacteriologist with Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife in Belchertown, Massachusetts, tracking trout, collecting water samples, and testing for parasites.

Deb remained in Belchertown for four years but returned to New Marlborough upon her marriage to Kevin O'Brien, an established cabinet maker. The Library Trustees hired her as a part-time library director in January 1993, the start of a long and auspicious career.

"When they first hired me, New Marlborough had a one-room library," recalls Deb. On June 16, 1996, due to a teen prank gone wrong, the building burned to the ground. For the next three years, Deb ingeniously carried on library functions in makeshift spaces. Book lending was established in a bookmobile in the Town Hall parking lot, which she operated using a plug-in electrical box and phone jack. She later "upgraded" to a construction trailer, where she held Christmas boxwood and basket-making classes and summer reading programs for kids. "We had a lot of fun in that trailer, I have to say," she recalls.

The new library officially opened on New Year's Day, 1999, and Deb transitioned to a full-time position. "There was so much publicity announcing the long-anticipated re-opening," she notes. "We got busy right away, offering

INSIDE:

Town Hall Renovation.....	3
Select Board	4
Conservation Commission.....	7
Mark Carson	8
David Colucci	9
Mailbox	10
Halloween	11
Southfield Church.....	12
Upcoming	13
Wine Tasting	13
Wildlife Neighbors	15
Land Trust.....	15
The Log.....	16
School News.....	18
Recipe of the Month.....	19
Library News.....	22

lots of children's programs and crafts classes." Over the years, those programs grew to include a variety of community offerings, for example, weekly Tuesday Qi Gong classes, Thursday chair yoga classes, and a Friday knitting group. She also started a book group and cookbook class, both meeting once a month.

Over the years Deb has developed partnerships with other community organizations. New Marlborough Central School has a longstanding tradition of having each of its grades visit on the second Thursday of the month. Coming class by class, they listen to a story, check out a book, and create a story-related craft. "I like it when the kids come," Deb says. "And then I'll see them years later [as happened recently with a Big Y cashier] and they'll say, 'I still remember coming for stories at the library. That was my favorite part.'" On professional development days (when students have a half day), Deb and her assistants, Autumn Snyder and Sheila Koneazny, help teachers and parents by offering an afternoon at the library, which includes lunch, free play, and crafts for twelve lottery-selected students.

On Wednesday mornings, in partnership with the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care and Southern Berkshire Kids, Jessica Maloney, an early learning specialist, holds a playgroup for young children with informal play, stories, finger-plays/music, and a simple craft. In the post-Covid reality of fewer opportunities to socialize, coming together with five or six peers is as important for the children as it is for their parents and caregivers. Jane Burke has resumed her Science Saturday offerings as well.

Pre-pandemic, Deb offered a monthly documentary film series, which, during the pandemic, morphed into two outdoor story walks for children, presented in partnership with the Land Trust. *Possum and the Peeper* by Anne Hunter was featured at Goodnow Preserve and *The Gruffalo* by Julia Donaldson at Thousand Acre Swamp.

The library has collaborated in the past with the Historical Society to offer local history with a Hal-

loween twist. These events typically involved a hayride to a cemetery, followed by locals in costume sharing the story of a New Marlborough family (the last one, pre-Covid, featured the Sheldon family played by John and Rebecca Schreiber). The past two years, the library helped children celebrate Halloween by holding a drive-by trick or treat, complete with skeletons and goblins and bags of candy. This year, kids enjoyed elaborate decorations both inside the library and out. "Oh, we spend a lot of time decorating," says Deb. "The outside decorating takes a full day and the inside several days.

This year, the event featured a Halloween "Spooky Walk" at the Goodnow Preserve, co-hosted by the library and the Land Trust. "Halloween is my most favorite holiday ever," Deb says, "but I could never do it by myself." She credits the Friends of the Library as well as her own friends and co-workers with having helped to create an ambitiously decorated Halloween trail, ending with a bonfire, storyteller, and refreshments.

For its older clientele, the library has hosted periodic book readings and signings. This past year, Leslie Wheeler read from her Berkshires *Hilltown Mysteries* series; Jyoti Thottam talked about her recently published *Sisters of Mokama: the Pioneering Women Who Brought Hope and Healing to India*; and Daniel Medwed shared his thought-provoking nonfiction book *Barred: Why the Innocent Can't Get Out of Prison*. "We had people standing in the kitchen for Daniel's presentation," Deb notes. "He spoke for over an hour and a half, and could have gone on much longer with all the questions people were asking."

"I want people to come to the library because it's a really good place," Deb says. Visitors will discover a welcoming retreat free of "No Eating" signs and shushing librarians. "I want them to feel like they're in their own living room, but with 24,000 items that can be checked out," says Deb. "I also hope it's a place people feel they can come when they just need



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someone to chat with, a safe place to share whatever is on their mind.”

On Deb’s off days, you’ll find Autumn Snyder or Sheila Koneazny there to offer help. “People love both of them!” says Deb. She feels especially fortunate to have Autumn, who is twenty-two and works fifteen and a half hours a week, “a smart young lady with a huge appetite for different types of books.” In addition to financing from the Town treasury, Friends of the Library, which functions like a PTA, funds programs and equipment purchases, such as computers and

security cameras.

So, if you are not already a patron, stop by soon. In addition to an amazing collection of books, DVDs, audiobooks, and magazines, you will learn how to gain access to interlibrary loans, as well as eBooks, eAudios, and magazines. You’ll also find Watson and Sherlock, the zebra finches, and four to eight mollies (darting fish that are reproducing at an unprecedented rate) eager for attention — maybe even some food. The library will quickly become a special place where you’re known and valued. □



TOWN HALL RENOVATION

Your Priorities

In response to the thorny — and expensive — federally mandated requirement that public buildings comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Town Hall Planning Committee sought advice, in the form of a survey, from town residents. The respondents, 283 by mail, 63 online, ranked “Lowest Project Cost” as their number one priority. Second in importance to the respondents was the location of the building; tied for third: a building that is energy-efficient and one that accommodates a “larger meeting space” for boards, committees and other groups. Least important to the survey group was that a town hall provide a shelter for emergencies or an outdoor space for community recreation.

A request for comments elicited a broad range of suggestions. Here is a sampling:

- Town Hall needs to be in a village. An effort needs to be made to revision current Town Hall. The offices in the basement are cluttered and an effort can be made to organize. Electronic documents would alleviate the need for all the file cabinets.
- Use your heads! If the building is an antique tinder box, move on.

- We have to keep the taxes the same, or say bye bye to the natives.
- How is Town Hall going to be relevant in the future, say 40 years from now, when most of the baby boomers have passed? Why can’t we have a virtual town hall, invest in tech for remote meetings, and then use existing resources (library, school, meeting house) for public meetings.
- Stop studying this to death. Get going and start the process for a new Town Hall that’s roomy, warm in winter, cool in summer, with actual offices and real work space.
- The small town atmosphere of New Marlborough is absolutely essential. Whether renovation or new construction, we do not need a Taj Mahal!
- No new Town Hall.

As this issue of the *5 Village News* was going to press, the Town Hall Planning Committee forwarded its recommendations to the Select Board, along with its choice among those property owners who responded to a Request for Proposal, should the Board decide to move the Town Hall to a new location. □

Joe Poindexter



HOLIDAY FAIR

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Town Business Is Your Business SELECT BOARD



October 24: With all three Board members and Town Administrator Mari Enoch present, Chairman Mark Carson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

First up, School Committee Chair Jane Burke, together with Lindy Marcel, Early College Initiative coordinator, presented the new “wall-to-wall” early college program at Mount Everett Regional School and urged residents to attend community visioning sessions and provide feedback on the Early College Designation Mount Everett has received from the state education boards. According to a commonwealth web site, “Early college programs combine traditional high school classes with college courses through a local college or university to give students knowledge and exposure to an area of study.”

Funded with a \$1-million grant and through collaboration with Bard College at Simon’s Rock, Mount Everett High School students will benefit from up to thirty credits of college and technical courses as well as internships. Middle school students and families will be provided with “family orientation” about college as well as pre-college prep courses. The first visioning session was scheduled for October 26 with additional sessions anticipated in February and May. Details and future dates will be posted on the School District’s web site.

Following up on a letter from Sandor and Jamie Nagy of 870 Old North Road, requesting the status of Old North Road, the Board referred to documentation from the county engineer’s map which designates their section of the road as “abandoned for use.” With Mr. and Mrs. Nagy present at the meeting, Chairman Mark Carson offered to have the Town repair the surface and culverts on the section of road

between the Monterey town line and the Nagy’s driveway. The Nagys would then be responsible for plowing the road, since it is not easily accessible to the Town’s plow trucks. Mrs. Nagy requested that, since the road leading to their home from New Marlborough is abandoned, it be blocked to vehicle access from that direction. Mr. Carson declined, saying that the Town maintains a right-of-way. In response, Mrs. Nagy requested documentation that specifies which portion of the road is a right-of-way.

After review of three candidates for the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Select Board appointed John Miller to the open seat, with Peter DiPierro as an alternate. Both terms are effective immediately and end on June 30, 2023. Selectman Bill West noted that Douglas Moyer, who also expressed interest in joining the ZBA, should be considered.

Next the Board decided that the compactor from the Transfer Station, a Western roller of the Highway Department, as well as various pieces of equipment, including hoses, turnout gear, and gallons of foam from the Fire Department be declared as surplus so that they can be sold via auction. Unsold equipment will be disposed of.

To comply with waste disposal bans that are part of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, the Board agreed to a memorandum of understanding with CMRK, Inc., for textile collection and recycling, rather than being sent to a landfill. As of November 1, textiles, mattresses and organic matter will be collected by CMRK, which will pay the Town .07 cents per pound. Collection containers will be provided at the Transfer Station and Town Hall parking lot.

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CMRK will also pick up small household items from residences on days arranged by the Town, and they will take surplus items from the Transfer Station “Gift Shop.” An agreement with another service for mattress collection is being pursued by the Transfer Station Working Group, which has been tasked with informing residents of the new disposal regimen.

In updates, Ms. Enoch reported that she attended a legislative breakfast informational session, sponsored by the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), at which legislative representatives reported a state revenue surplus of approximately \$1 billion last year. A portion of this surplus will be returned to taxpayers. Additionally, unrestricted government aid, known as “cherry sheet funds,” is being increased by 5.4 percent, the budget for payments in lieu of taxes is increasing by 29 percent and Chapter 90 funds for local transportation will remain constant. State Representative William “Smitty” Pignatelli reported that he has put forth a bill to revise the Chapter 90 formula to be more favorable to rural communities, which typically have more road miles, smaller population, and fewer businesses.

Early voting in Massachusetts is now a permanent option, according to Ms. Enoch, who noted that this is a hardship on small towns and gave the example that New Marlborough’s town clerk was present at Town Hall during the weekend, on Saturday and Sunday, with only two residents voting during that time.

“What is not permanent,” Ms. Enoch noted, “is remote meetings.” As of March 31, 2023, remote meetings will not be allowed unless further legislative action is taken. The MMA is advocating for legislation to allow towns to choose to have hybrid meetings and select which meetings are worth conducting in a hybrid format.

In public comment, Marc Trachtenberg questioned

the definition of residency in Massachusetts and inquired if New Marlborough has a bylaw that defines residency. It was noted that New Marlborough has no such bylaw. Ms. White inquired the reason for Mr. Trachtenberg’s questions. He hesitated but then stated he wonders if the Town should consider requiring a minimum time to be spent in town to declare residency and be able to vote. **(NB: Research of state law by the 5 Village News indicates that to be considered a resident for voting purposes, a person must have a domicile in Massachusetts and spend at least 183 days a year in the state.)**

Next Mr. Trachtenberg recommended that Transfer Station fees for disposal of electronics be reduced. He has, he said, seen electronics deposited in an incorrect container to avoid paying any fee at all. He also suggested that an e-waste contractor might facilitate electronics disposal. Finally, to the question of whether deliberations of the Cable Advisory Committee, of which Mr. Trachtenberg is a member, be broadcast, Ms. Enoch said she is working with an IT consultant on the issue.

The meeting was adjourned 7:44 p.m.

November 7: With all three selectmen and Town Administrator Mari Enoch present, Chairman Mark Carson called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Board unanimously agreed to a Massachusetts Net Metering Customer Agreement to purchase net metering credits from Hampshire Power of Easthampton, a producer of solar power. **The agreement will provide the Town with an estimated annual savings of \$2,500 in electricity costs, beginning in the next fiscal year.** Ms. Enoch noted it has been approximately three years since the Town has received such a proposal, which is available to municipalities and not-for-profit organizations only.

Postponing a commitment to borrow \$500,000 for

*As of March 31, 2023,
remote meetings
will not be allowed unless
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action is taken.*



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road projects, the Board noted that the requested rate was 4.25 percent, rather than the 3 percent rate anticipated by the Capital Planning Committee. Ms. White recommended that the Board seek input from those members of the Capital Planning Committee who are financial professionals. Borrowing \$500,000 for various, unspecified, road projects was approved at Annual Town Meeting and exemption of loan payments from the limits of Proposition 2 ½ was approved at the Annual Town Election.

The Board appointed Ms. Enoch to sit on an advisory committee to determine which nonprofit will be the recipient of a \$17,000 contribution from CVE North America. Its recommendation: Greenagers. As part of its Green Initiative program, CVE, the owner of a commercial solar field off Knight Road, is contributing \$1 per panel to nonprofit organizations working on environmentally related initiatives.

Next, the Board discussed a request from Robert Olsen that it consider earmarking \$10,000 of ARPA funds (of which \$217,000 remains uncommitted) to pay for a study of the renovation of the Southfield Church and hall. He had suggested that the church hall could be used for community gatherings and meetings, thereby reducing the amount of space needed in Town Hall. Mr. Olsen, present at the meeting, pressed on, saying that ARPA funds would be “hugely meaningful” in the effort to renovate the hall.

While the Board confirmed it has not made any decisions on how the remaining funds will be spent, Mr. Carson mentioned the increasing costs of road projects as well as making the Town Hall ADA-compliant. Ms. White, expressing concern that consideration of an application from the church would open applications to all nonprofit organizations, encouraged Mr. Olsen to seek assistance from the Historical Commission, which he agreed to do. The Board then granted

the Southfield Church permission to erect signs advertising its December 3 holiday market.

Next up, the Board voted to appoint Chuck Loring to the Transfer Station Working Group at the request of the Group.

In Town Administrator updates, Ms. Enoch announced that Doug Hyde has received a certificate of completion for his training as a member of the Conservation Commission. The Board expressed its appreciation. It then granted a business license to David Lane to conduct a psychotherapy private practice at 752 Mill River Southfield Road. Finally, Ms. Enoch read

a letter from Michael, Lauren, and Katie Smith, noting the “exceptional service and professionalism” of officers John Mullen and Graham Frank in assisting their family when their dog was lost.

Before adjourning, the Board dutifully waded through approval of the minutes of eight previous meetings.

November 14: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Tara White, vice chair, with Bill West and Town Administrator Mari Enoch, present and Mark Carson participating via Zoom.

First up, the Board accepted a revision of the Police Chief’s contract that includes duties and compensation for his role as Animal Control Officer. The contract, which includes the ACO’s annual compensation of \$5,748.70, also lists ACO duties in accordance with Massachusetts General Law and Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Ms. Enoch noted that Chief Frank, who has been filling the role since July on an interim basis, has received positive feedback from the public.

To Chief Frank’s request for a discussion of officer pay rates, Ms. White requested an update to the pay study, and Ms. Enoch suggested the human resources

The fee for disposal of electronic items should be reduced. They are being deposited in an incorrect container to avoid paying any fee at all.



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manager as the appropriate person to do this. Chief Frank reminded the Board that all officers need to transition to full time because Massachusetts is phasing out all part-time officer positions.

Once again, the Board decided to hold off on borrowing for road projects until after a meeting with Brianne Susel of UniBank, in the hope she could indicate where rates were headed. **The current UniBank proposal, 4.5 percent for the first ten years, then more than 6 percent after ten years with no allowance to pay early, elicited Mr. Carson's concern "about how much taxpayers can bear."**

Next the Board voted unanimously to hire Michelle Castellano as administrative secretary, the position previously held by Sharon Fleck. Ms. Castellano will work thirty hours a week at \$23 an hour (after a ninety-day probationary period at \$22 an hour). According to Ms. Enoch, a person offered the job of administrative assistant in the Police Department has declined the offer.

The use of ARPA funds would be "hugely meaningful" in the effort to renovate the Southfield Church hall.

Ms. Enoch noted that the Town Hall Planning Committee would review responses to its survey and to the Committee's request for proposals from property owners offering a new location for the Town Hall. Ms. Enoch noted that the survey received 270 paper responses and more than 60 online. Two proposals for a town hall location have been submitted and await a recommendation from the Committee.

In selectmen updates, Ms. White clarified the new textile collection efforts. All textiles, both usable and unusable, will be accepted in boxes at Town Hall and the Transfer Station, but they must be dry and unsoiled. A list of acceptable and unacceptable items will be posted on the Town web site, Maggie's List, and on the collection boxes.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m. □

Michele McAuley



CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 11: With members John Schreiber, Freddy Friedman, Doug Hyde, and Nanci Worthington present, the Commission approved the previous month's meeting minutes, then moved to two Request For Determination (RDA) hearings submitted by Nelli Wilson of Butternut Tree and Land Care, Inc.

First, Ms. Wilson addressed the Commission on behalf of client Steve Butler of 33 Mill River Great Barrington Road. At issue is a poplar tree growing on the bank of the Konkapot River and threatening a building. Referring to a recent site visit, the Commission agreed that the tree was endangering the building and should be removed. The permit was given a negative determination (meaning no further permitting was necessary) with two conditions: that the stump remain in place and that a replacement tree be planted in the same area.

Next Ms. Nelson described an RDA for Roy Aibel of 104 Hillside Ave on Lake Buel. She explained that a large hemlock tree on the bank of the lake is dying and needs to be removed. Because there is no reasonable access to the tree, the work would be done after the lake freezes, when equipment can be more easily staged. The permit was given a negative determination with a condition that the stump remain in place. Since there is ample young tree growth in the vicinity of the

dying hemlock, planting of a replacement tree was deemed unnecessary.

The commission then reviewed several completed permits. A recent site visit verified that Charles Peterson of Mill River Great Barrington Road planted twenty-seven new trees along the Konkapot River as resolution to an RDA permit violation. Dr. Schreiber then explained that he had followed up with Shannon Boomsma of White Engineering to inquire about any progress by Jane and Eliot Rennert, new owners of the Rooney Farmhouse on New Marlborough Southfield Road, in response to a wetlands violation. Ms. Boomsma stated that her firm would be presenting a complete site plan addressing all issues at the January commission meeting.

In new business Ms. Worthington reported that she had had further discussions with the New Marlborough Planning Board regarding the Ridgeline Protection Act. Mr. Schreiber asked that she give a report of that communication at the January meeting. Finally the commission congratulated Doug Hyde for completing the fundamentals course offered by the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions. □

Martha Bryan

Town Governance

With this issue, the 5 Village News begins a series of articles on the men and women who serve on our Town boards and committees. First up:

MARK CARSON, CHAIR, SELECT BOARD

By Joe Poindexter

If you ever find yourself piloting a plane that is high aloft and running short of fuel, you might wish you had Mark Carson sitting in the co-pilot's seat. No one in South County knows more about mid-air re-fueling. During his four years (1979-83) in the United State Air Force, Mark worked as an in-flight refueling specialist and was ranked by his commanding officers as number one among the members of his crew. At the end of a tour of service that took him all over the globe, however, he realized that if he wanted to settle down to a community and a family, he needed to get back to civilian life.

So Mark returned to New Marlborough, where he was born and where he has remained ever since. Until he was five, he lived at Brewer Hill Farm, where his father worked. The family moved to Southfield village, then to Hartsville. Mark went to New Marlborough Central, followed by Mount Everett, where a workshop class taught by Welles Sellew provided a foundational skill. "I learned how to fix things," he says. This led to work with a builder and, in 1990, the construction of his own house just north of Hartsville village on Hartsville New Marlborough Road. He and his wife, Karen, a nurse with the Berkshire Wound Center, raised two sons in this house and still live there.

Mark discovered that the construction business,



Mark Carson

photo by Joe Poindexter

which has to adapt to seasonal restrictions and weather conditions, did not suit him. He shifted his focus — and his instinct for "fixing things" — to the repair and restoration of cars, and in 2003 started up Carson Auto. If you needed body work on an aging car, Mark gained a reputation as the go-to guy. Mark's civic career began with his winning election — by a slim eight votes — to the Board of Health in 1996. Since then he has served on the Finance Committee and the Planning Board. He was elected to the Select Board in May 2019.

It will come as no surprise that the time commitment of serving on the Select Board well exceeds the one to two hours of weekly meetings. According to Mark, as much or more time is devoted to responding to individual requests, dealing with state agencies, researching equipment costs, and myriad other off-the-agenda duties that come with the position.

One example: The Board recently received a request for road maintenance from a couple who had bought a property on a section of Old North Road that is in New Marlborough but reachable only from Monterey. Putting the brief stretch on the snowplowing schedule, which would require equipment making a long detour to plow only a few hundred yards of roadway was clearly impractical. Mark called the couple and offered a deal: The Highway

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Department would repair culverts and otherwise maintain the isolated piece of North Road; the couple would treat it as an extended driveway and plow it. The couple accepted.

Another: The Highway Department, needing to replace its roller, opted for a used piece of equipment at a third of the price of a new one. Mark researched the acquisition and concluded that the investment in a new roller, with a ten-year warranty versus one for the used, paid substantial dividends over the life of

the equipment and was a better deal.

As he weighs running for a second three-year term on the Select Board, Mark is ambivalent. "My wife is looking at me and saying, 'It's a lot of work.'" He tacitly agrees. "There are a lot of moving parts" to governing the town, he says. But then there is the welfare of the place in which he has spent almost his entire life. "This town means a lot to me," he says. □



Highway Department News A ROADS SCHOLAR RETIRES

After twelve years of dedicated service, David Colucci is retiring from the Highway Department. David has earned and maintained his Class A CDL and 2B Massachusetts Hoisting License and reached the level of Roads Scholar with the Bay State Roads training program. An excellent equipment operator, David knows every aspect of town highway work. He is a self-motivated employee who takes pride in everything he does, an approach toward work that might be considered "old school" by today's standards.

David is always busy. When he finishes a task, he jumps right into the next project. Quite often, I will find him cleaning and sweeping the shop or washing and greasing, not only his truck, but the entire fleet. He has been my most reliable employee, and I never have to worry about what he is doing. David shows up at least fifteen minutes early to work every day, ready to do whatever needs to be done. In fact, when I call his house to ask him to report to work during a middle-of-the-night winter storm, his wife informs me that he has already left. I would find him at the garage waiting patiently in his car.

David is not only a valuable member of our crew, but a good friend to all of his co-workers. We can always count on him to make us laugh. His unbelievably hysterical lunchtime stories will never be forgotten. They don't make them like David anymore. Having him as an employee and friend has been my pleasure. If, before his retirement on December 15, you see David Colucci hard at work on the side of the road or driving his truck, be sure to stop and thank him for his service. And he's always happy to return a wave. □

Highway Superintendent Charles M. Loring, III



David Colucci

photo courtesy of the Highway Department

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MAILBOX

To the editor:

It is long past the time I should have written this letter expressing my thanks and gratitude to our First Responders. They have been to my home many times in response to help my husband, George, has needed. Recently, I called 911 at 3:00 a.m. asking if a police officer was on duty because I needed a lift assist. I was told that officers go off duty at 12:00 a.m. I told 911 not to send anyone – it was, after all, 3:00 a.m. Nevertheless, fifteen minutes later the First Responders were at my door, with their usual words of assurance and help.

I am ever so grateful not only to the First Responders but to the members of the Highway Department and the Police Department, who have been here when the First Responders were short-staffed. These are dedicated people who make you feel like you are their best friend and whose first priority is to the patient and family. I feel the First Responders have not been credited or thanked for all they do for New Marlborough residents. I would like to publicly thank them for the service and support they give to the community. I don't know what I would do without them. I am also grateful to be living in a community where neighbors care about neighbors – how lucky we are to live here. THANK YOU!

Sharon Fleck, Mill River

To the Editor,

I want to give a shout-out to Greg Poole, who once again has paid for the spectacular array of lights that brighten the New Marlborough Village Green this holiday season. Many thanks.

Bill West, Hartsville

To the Editor,

Hello Neighbors, I am currently a Maine Maritime Academy (MMA) Midshipman. I previously wrote for the *5 Village News* on a boat trip from Castine, Maine, to Naples, Florida. I am writing this from the academy library, surrounded by thick books on naval architecture, steam turbine theory, and risk management. My major is Marine Transportation Operations with a minor in Marine Engineering Operations with the ability to sit for a 3rd Mates Unlimited Tonnage US Coast Guard License.

Marine Maritime, located in Castine, is a small but unique school well-known for producing reliable and qualified mariners for the global transportation industry. My experience here is so exceptional that I thought it would be fun to share. It would probably take several volumes of the *NM5VN* to explain all of the options here at the academy, but MMA's website has a lot to explore. This year I am taking all the courses, amounting to about eighteen credits, necessary to go on a freshmen cruise aboard the Training Ship State of Maine (TSSOM). My classes range from Fire Fighting 101 to Ocean Survival to Fundamentals of Engineering, all of which provide introductory knowledge that will be expanded on in the following years.

I am having a lot of fun learning about all the systems vital to keeping ships of all sizes safe and working. The cruise this summer lasts seventy-four days at sea; the destinations have not been released yet, but we will most likely be stopping briefly in Delaware and then in Florida for some firefighting training before crossing the Atlantic to Ireland, Germany, and Portugal. The TSSOM cruises at 13 knots (14 mph) in calm conditions, so it takes about a week and a half, which gives me and my fellow first-year classmates lots of time to scrub and paint the ship. Maine Maritime has a required regiment for unlimited majors, so there are uniforms for the different roles, which is very different from the college experience I envisioned in high school. Still, it is so worth all of the slight inconveniences. As much fun as I am having here, I can't wait to be back in the Berkshires for the holidays.

Odegaard Fields, Mill River



SKELETONS, SCARES, AND SPOOKS

In New Marlborough, it wouldn't be Halloween without the world's most elegant witch (aka Deb O'Brien) in charge. On October 29, young and old assembled at Goodnow Preserve and proceeded along skeleton-impaled pathways to a bonfire, hot cider and refreshments, and ghost stories — from storyteller/musician John Porcini. The town once again survived the scariest day of the year in the best of spirits.



Photos by Robbi Hartt



CHRISTMAS AT THE SOUTHFIELD CHURCH

By Robert Olsen

Inspired and encouraged by the highly successful return of Music at the Southfield Church this summer, the glorious events of Christmas at the Southfield Church are set to make their return after a two-year absence.

Our Holiday Market in the Southfield Church Hall will open its doors on Saturday, December 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The hall will be bustling with makers and bakers, bringing their hand-mades and home-mades for your gift-giving pleasure. After much consideration, we have settled on a masks-are-encouraged-but-not-required policy for the Holiday Market.

Building and nurturing community is a major part of the Southfield Church's mission, and the seasonal gathering of holiday vendors and shoppers has for a number of years happily served this purpose. There have been other holiday events hosted by the church over the last ten years, but there's one event that has always been a top priority: Christmas Eve at the Southfield Church.

Singing and making music has been a lifelong passion and pleasure for me. Combining the stories, music, and magic of Christmas and sharing them with all who attend is one of my greatest pleasures. To be able to return to these preparations with friends from the community has brought great joy to all involved. We invite you to our traditional Festival of Lessons & Carols on Christmas Eve (December 24) at 7:00 p.m. for an hour or so of hope, faith, joy, and love, conveyed through beautiful songs of the season. Accompanied by Southfield's very own pianist extraordinaire, Manon Hutton-DeWys, the Southfield Church



The Southfield Church

Community Choir's volunteer ensemble of twelve incredible voices looks forward to bringing a bit of light into this growing season of darkness.

After much consideration, and in an effort to keep everyone as safe as possible, masks will be required of all attendees on Christmas Eve to protect both the audience and unmasked singers and presenters. If you are unable to join us on Christmas Eve, I leave you with two quotes I often read to close our Christmas Eve services:

For though my faith is not yours and your faith is not mine, if we each are free to light our own flame, together we can banish some of the darkness of the world. — Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks

The lamps are different, but the Light is the same.
One matter, one energy, one Light, one Light-mind,
Endlessly emanating all things.
One turning and burning diamond,
One, one, one. — Rumi


□



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Upcoming: Events Calendar for December

December 3: Holiday Market at the Southfield Church, home-made goods for your Christmas list; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., masks encouraged but not required

December 10: New Marlborough Central's Holiday Fair, a festive offering of home-made crafts and Christmas trees; 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the school in Mill River

December 24: Festival of Lessons and Carols, a service with choral music at the Southfield Church, beginning at 7:00 p.m.; masks required

BOUQUET, BODY, BALANCE

A Wine Time Was Had by All at the Fire House Tasting

On November 5, after a three-year, pandemic-driven hiatus, New Marlborough Fire and Rescue renewed its evening of wine tasting, accompanied by a splendid spread of hors d'oeuvres. Some 125 townspeople sampled vintages from four local vintners (Les Trois Emme, Balderdash Cellars, Furnace Brook, and Sunset Meadows), plus a selection from wine merchant par excellence, Ed Domaney. Then too there were ales and lagers from Big Elm Brewery, apple cider from Hilltop Orchards, and stronger stuff from Berkshire Mountain Distillers. All this and sweet melodies from the folk/pop duo of Bobby Sweet and Lara Tupper made for a memorable opening to the holiday season. □

Joe Poindexter



photos by Joe Poindexter

Above, The New Marlborough Fire House in Southfield was abuzz with early holiday cheer. Right, The folk/pop duo, Lara Tupper and Bobby Sweet.



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UP AND RUNNING

The Mill River Post Office, after a time-out that seemed to last for decades, is back in business. Former box holders can reclaim their old box number (if they can find their key), extra boxes are available for newcomers, stamps are on sale, the scale is working; so too is a credit-card reader. Postmaster Chris Meglia (his actual title is somewhat less grand, but postmaster works for us), says he is not permitted to be the source of information about the re-opening — the Postal Service seems to



Postmaster Chris Meglia

be confusing itself with the NSA — but he is clearly delighted to be serving his long-suffering Mill River clientele. He's open for business 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays and 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays. Boxes are accessible whenever the Mill River General Store is open — which will be happy to sell you a cup of coffee or a loaf of bread on your way out. □

Joe Poindexter

WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

John Schreiber wrote on November 10, "Monday in warm temps I took this photo of a red dragonfly on an old weathered board. I don't remember seeing many dragonflies in November but here it is! This is a male autumn meadowhawk, (the males have a red body, and the females are amber-colored) and in fact can be frequently seen in October and early November in the eastern states."



photo by John Schreiber

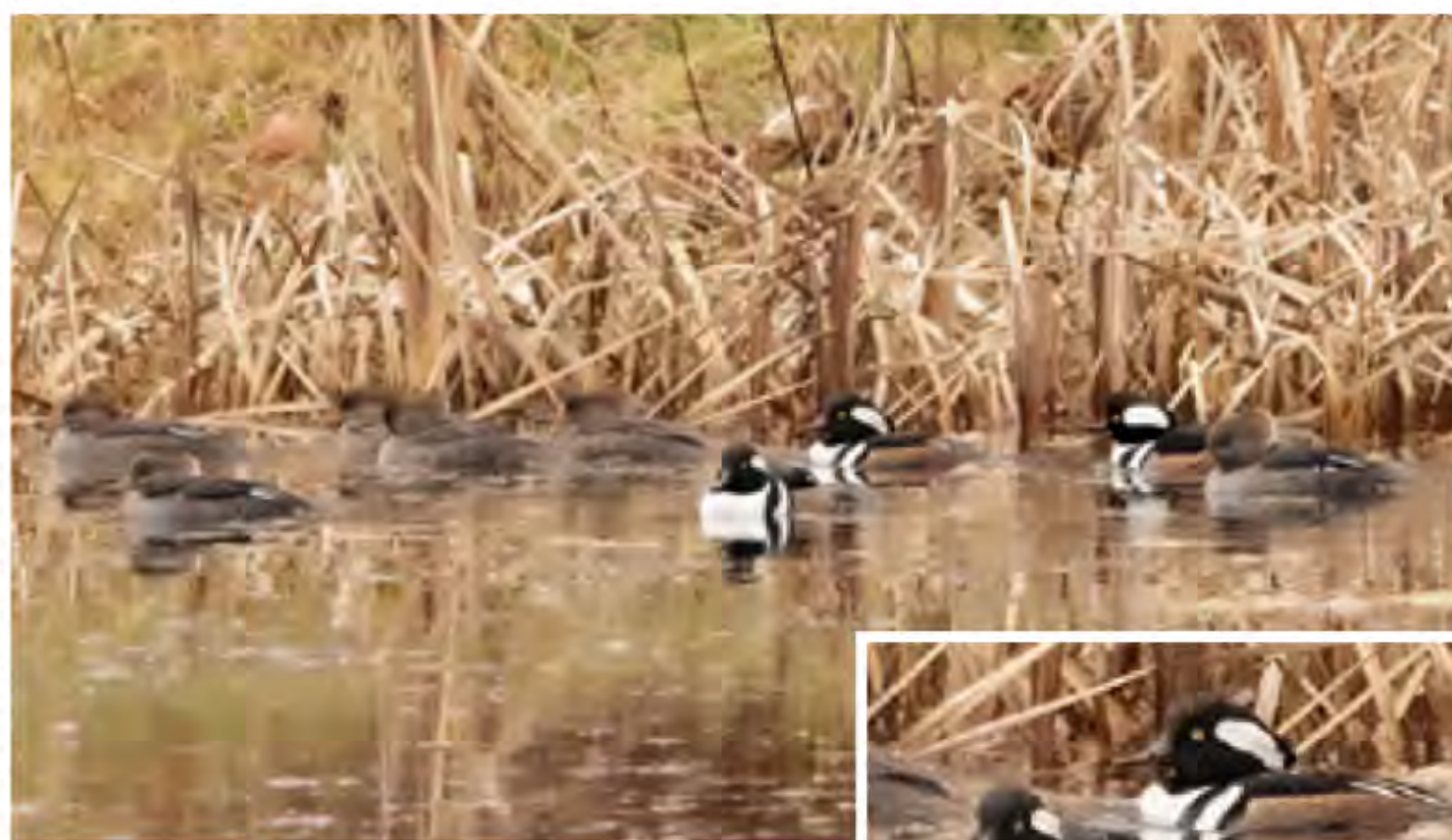
An autumn meadowhawk dragonfly

On November 12, a brace of hooded mergansers appeared on Jane and Larry Burke's farm pond, six females and three males. They spent the day cruising around and diving amid the pond weed. The next morning, the Burkes were treated to the sight of two of the males engaging in a prolonged courtship dance, or perhaps better termed a contest, involving bobbing and flashing

their brilliant white crests, rising up in the water to show off their chests to each other, sometimes swimming side-by-side in synchronicity, and other times one racing away and the other pursuing. Meanwhile the females either watched idly by or went about the business of finding food. It turns out that this late fall dance challenge is not uncommon among male mergansers and might be their way of getting their moves together for the actual mating time in early spring. Here's hoping these ducks find their way back in April to resume the dance. □

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

photo by Larry Burke



Mergansers on the pond



NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST

I sit here today at my kitchen table thinking about the first snow of the season predicted to arrive this evening. I also am thinking about how the lands preserved by the Land Trust have brought so much joy to this community and beyond. Most days you can drive by the Goodnow Preserve and see cars with license plates from Vermont, New York, and Connecticut. Winter is a great time to take a walk in the woods. Remember to watch for ice! Perhaps snowshoes or walking poles would make the perfect holiday gift. I am reaching out and planning for next year and hopefully two of our favorite participants (pictured here) will return for our 2023 season.

I wish you all a safe and happy holiday. □

Sylvia Eggenberger,
Executive Director



Tes Reed animal tracking in the Joffe Preserve



Chip Blake bird watching at 1000 Acre Swamp

THE LOG

Police Department (selected entries)

- Oct. 4 3:46 p.m. Following an auto accident on County Road, an officer assists in obtaining a tow for the vehicle.
- Oct. 5 9:10 a.m. An officer helps resolve a verbal dispute at a Hartsville residence.
- 1:16 p.m. A caller, suspicious of trespassers, requests the Department check the area around her Mill River residence.
- 1:25 p.m. A caller reports that a utility wire on Canaan Valley Road is on fire.
- Oct. 6 11:32 a.m. A caller reports that a tree is down and blocking a driveway on South Sandisfield Road.
- Oct. 9 2:28 p.m. A tow is ordered for a vehicle whose driver is determined to be operating under the influence of drugs.
- 3:35 p.m. National Grid is notified after a caller alerts the Department to a tree on wires on North Road.
- Oct. 10 9:29 p.m. A caller complains of two utility vehicles driving along the riverbed of the Whiting River where it runs through her Southfield property.
- Oct. 11 1:51 p.m. A tow is ordered for a pickup truck blocking a lane on New Marlborough Southfield Road after the driver backed into a ditch while attempting a U-turn.
- Oct. 13 3:01 p.m. A caller reports that a skunk has made its way into their Mill River residence.
- Oct. 19 6:45 a.m. A caller asks for assistance in corralling a horse loose at her Hartsville residence.
- Oct. 25 9:10 a.m. Four roosters are reported abandoned to the side of Cross Road to Canaan Valley Road.
- 4:37 p.m. The Highway Department is notified of a downed tree partially blocking Corashire Road.
- Oct. 26 5:46 p.m. Alerted to what was thought to be an alarm at a Southfield residence, an officer discovers that the sound emanates from a leaf blower.
- Oct. 28 9:27 p.m. A driver reports hitting a deer in Clayton.

Graham Frank, Chief of Police

FIRE AND RESCUE

- Oct. 1 1:45 p.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
- Oct. 5 1:25 p.m. Canaan Valley Road Wires Down
- Oct. 5 5:25 a.m. Hadsell Street Medical Call
- Oct. 6 1:39 a.m. Clayton Mill River Road Medical Call
- Oct. 7 2:44 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
- Oct 7 2:40 p.m. County Road Medical Call
- Oct. 7 10:05 p.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
- Oct. 9 7:20 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- Oct. 11 1:08 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
- Oct 11 1:23 p.m. Mutual Aid to Monterey Medical Call
- Oct. 11 1:55 p.m. New Marlborough Southfield Road MVA
- Oct. 11 3:30 p.m. Alum Hill Road Medical Call
- Oct. 12 2:11 p.m. Stratford Road CO Alarm
- Oct. 13 11:26 a.m. North Road Medical Call

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Oct. 13 12:26 p.m. Stratford Road CO Alarm
 Oct. 13 5:14 p.m. Stratford Road CO Alarm
 Oct. 13 6:11 p.m. New Marlborough Southfield Road Fire Alarm
 Oct. 13 6:11 p.m. South Sandisfield Road Fire Alarm
 Oct. 13 10:33 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
 Oct. 14 11:21 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
 Oct. 15 6:57 a.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
 Oct. 15 6:10 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
 Oct. 16 1:21 p.m. Brewer Hill Road Medical Call
 Oct. 16 8:42 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call
 Oct. 17 6:35 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
 Oct. 17 9:59 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call

Oct. 20 12:51 a.m. Mill River Great Barrington Road Medical Call
 Oct. 20 12:53 p.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
 Oct. 21 1:06 p.m. Norfolk Road Medical Call
 Oct. 21 5:00 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Salvage Yard Fire
 Oct. 24 12:42 a.m. East Hill Road Medical Call
 Oct. 25 5:54 a.m. Mutual Aid to Sheffield MVA/ Medical Call
 Oct. 26 10:15 p.m. Mutual Aid to Great Barrington Medical Call
 Oct. 27 10:44 p.m. Campbell Falls Road Fire Alarm
 Oct. 28 9:46 a.m. Mutual Aid to Sandisfield Medical Call
 Oct. 29 7:34 p.m. Hartsville New Marlborough Road Medical Call

The Fire Department Goes to School: Members of New Marlborough Fire and Rescue visited New Marlborough Central School October 13 for Fire Prevention Day. Firefighters Jon James and Rob Scott, Firefighter/EMT Zach Reynolds, and Deputy Chief David Smith met with students in pre-kindergarten through third grade, sharing information on fire safety, use of the emergency 911 phone number, the importance of working smoke detectors, and having an escape plan and meeting space in the event of an emergency. Students practiced the stop-drop-and-roll maneuver in the event their clothing catches fire, examined firefighter gear, and got to meet some friendly and fully outfitted firefighters. They finished their sessions with a tour of Engine 1 and Rescue 1 — and asked tons of great questions.



Practicing stop-drop-and-roll, a maneuver used when clothing catches fire

Remember, if you have questions about 911 numbers or smoke/CO detectors, reach out to NMF&R at 229-8100. In case of emergency, dial 911. If you would like to learn about next year's Fire Prevention Day (or even participate in the presentation), join us at one of our weekly meetings — Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Firehouse in Southfield. □

Fire Company President David Smith

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School News

THE NEWLY ELECTED SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The Southern Berkshire Regional School District School Committee received an infusion of new blood as a result of the November 8 election. Four members had retired and four were up for re-election. Two weeks prior to the election the ballot lacked candidates from New Marlborough and Egremont and listed a candidate from Monterey who had dropped out. Meeting on November 17 for the first time since the start of the pandemic, the newly constituted Committee included only four members from the previous committee: Bonnie Silvers, Dennis Sears, Nanci Worthington, and James Dipisa. Of the new members, three were listed on the ballot: Carl Stewart, Kim Alcantara, and David Rogers Thieriot. Two, Sarah Mather Pollock from New Marlborough and Kyle Bartlett from Egremont were write-ins.

The new Committee was immediately confronted with an issue left over from its predecessor: school district consolidation. In September, the Southern District School Committee made public its discontent with the lack of appropriate deliberation regarding consolidation. A letter to the Regional School District Planning Board stated: "It is our firm belief that this process is being rushed and, that until we address the difficult dynamic between the two districts and the ongoing feeling of imbalance, there simply is no path forward. ... Many of our questions related to the assumptions regarding the financial savings ... the use of district's main campus in Sheffield, and the transportation studies have not been adequately answered."

In a recent letter to *The Berkshire Edge*, Planning Board Chair Lucy Prashker took issue with the Southern District School Committee's complaint: "All voices were heard at our November meeting," she wrote, "as they have been at all of our meetings."

... All views expressed have not only been heard, but considered, debated, and probed, as is our charge. It is only through that process we can hope to achieve our goal: finding the model of operation that holds the most promise for our kids and for all residents of South County."

At any rate, the Planning Board is pushing ahead. As it stated in a recent press release, it "is targeting January/February for a recommendation to the select boards of the eight Towns [three in the Berkshire Hills District, five in Southern Berkshire], and, if they recommend merger, having the question put to the voters at the May/June annual town meetings in each of the eight towns."

Whether the schism can be repaired is likely to receive a lot of School Committee attention as it enters the new year. □

Jane Burke



SUSAN M. SMITH
Attorney At Law

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH

This light tasting dessert is a great way to top off any holiday meal. It feeds a crowd (at least twelve) and has a real wow factor. Best of all, it's easy to make. You'll need a 14-cup trifle dish but it's a worthwhile investment.

Happy Holidays! Enjoy!

Marjorie Shapiro



WHITE CHOCOLATE, RASPBERRY HOLIDAY TRIFLE

Ingredients

- | | |
|--|--|
| 3 ½ cups of chilled heavy cream | 1 cup raspberry jam, slightly warmed
(you can do this in the microwave or a saucepan) |
| 12 ounces white chocolate, chopped into small pieces | 18 ounces of frozen unsweetened raspberries, partially thawed |
| 1 ¼ tsps. almond extract | 12 ounces of fresh raspberries |
| ½ cup sugar | ¾ cup sliced almonds, lightly toasted |
| ½ cup water | |
| 7 ounces of crisp ladyfinger cookies
(available at Guido's) | |

Preparation

- In a medium saucepan, gently bring one cup of cream to a simmer.
- Remove from the heat.
- Whisk in the white chocolate pieces until smooth.
- Let the mixture cool so that it is lukewarm which should take about 10 minutes.
- Beat the remaining 2 ½ cups of cream and ½ teaspoon of the almond extract in a large bowl until soft peaks form. You can do this with a hand or a stand mixer.
- Fold in the white chocolate mixture.
- In a small saucepan, stir the sugar and ½ cup of water over medium heat until the sugar dissolves, creating a syrup.
- Mix ¾ teaspoon of the almond extract into the sugar mixture and remove from the heat.
- Using a tongs, submerge one cookie into the syrup, quickly remove and shake off the excess back into the saucepan.
- Place the cookie into the bottom of a 14-cup trifle dish and repeat the dipping process with the remaining cookies until the bottom of the trifle dish is covered.
- Spread 1/3 cup of the warmed jam over the cookies.
- Spread about 1/3 of the partially thawed berries with their juices over the jam.
- Spread 1/3 of the whipped cream mixture over the thawed berries.
- Once again, layer the dipped cookies, warmed jam, thawed berries, and whipped cream on top of the existing layer. Then, do it again so there are three layers in total.
- Decoratively place fresh berries on the top layer of whipped cream and sprinkle almonds around the edge.
- Cover and chill for at least 6 hours but not more than 24 hours.
- Scoop into individual bowls at the table — once the “oohs and aahs” have subsided.

Thank You to Our Contributors:

Howard Sheldon; Neil W. Lidstone; Graeme Whitelaw; Nancy Bonvillain; Sue & Arnie Cohen; Mike & Kathy Giulian; Marion Rosenfeld & Tom Jones; Linda & Ken Fass; Paula Hatch; Peter Platt & Meredith Kennard; Tara White; Karla & Peter Alfano; Brian & Rose Dugan; Mary Jo & Freddy Friedman; Beth Teitelman & Jay Kwawer; Anita E. Matthews; Pat Nourse; Ed & Dorothy Ostrander; Joseph & Joan Pierro; Mary Ann & Bruno Quinson; James M. Rippe; Houry & Mark Schmeizl; Peter Schuyten; Bette Ann Stalker; Daniel G. Tear; Judith & Harvey Thompson; Andrew Weinberger & Sue Willis; Deborah E. Wright; Louise & Nat Yohalem; Bob & Debra Beham; Robert DeStefano; Ann Getsinger; Marc Gourevitch & Sabrina Cherry; Robert & Irene Dvorchik; Sharron & Frank Kellogg; Jayne M. Kurzman; James & Debra Lavalette; Philip & Patricia Lique; John & Eva O'Brien; Bruce Pretty; Gerald Rosenberg; Stephen & Maria Schumacher; David L. & Erika Sheldon; Julia Skrak; Abby Tedesco; Roger Tilles; Debra Bricker Balken; Jill Jakes; Ellen Dripps; Susan Rosenthal; Richard Breyer; Maria & Eugene Cleary; Mary Jane & Wayne Eline; Robert & Dawn Oates; Jay & Betty Reba; Becky & John Schreiber; Richard & Pamela Stebbins; Barry Shapiro; Bruce & Lisa Youmans; Ron & Marilyn Bisiewicz; Anita Fleury; Neil Goldstein; Paul & Marsha Harvey; Michael Lipson & Holly Morse; Joe & Debi Wilkinson; Judith Friedlander; Dennis Sears & Rene Wood; Linda Buxbaum, in memory of John Graben; Mike & Janett Miller; Karen Stiles Brusie, in memory of Bud and Martha Stiles and Cindy Allyn; Elna Rodda; John & Marcia Doelman; Tom & Ellen Frazier; David & Natalie Hosford; George & Anita Cook; Robert Anelli; Claudette Callahan; Ian & Kerri Devine; Carol Ann Genovese; Kathleen George; Alexander & Julia Ginzburg; Antonia & George Grumbach; Janet Johnson; Nancy Kalodner; John & Judy Ladd; Leisure Pools, Inc.; Gloria Levitas; Patrick & Jean Pollock; Joyce & Tom Sachs; Wayne & Joan McDermott Smith; Jeffrey & Brenda Zampaglione; Barbara & Daniel Bock; Patricia & Michael Brady; Laura Chang & Arnold Chavkin; Sheila Fitzpatrick; Robert Forte; Bertrand Garbassi; Leonard & Hannah Golub; Sherri R. Gorelick; John & Joan Hotaling; Brian & Trisha Killeen; Dede Loring; Angelene Pell; Steve & Donna Peltier; Gerald & Yvonne Stephens; Scott & Sandra Walker; Mark & Tania Walker; Gayle & Joe Santucci; Debra Goewey; Dr. & Mrs. Martin Glassman; Mrs. Mary Barton; Diana Stiles Paruta; Peggy Richard; Caroline Corbin; Robin Tost; Jean Travis; Roy Blount Jr.; Thomas M. Callahan; Elizabeth Lombardi; Stanton Meadow (Massini Family); and Jane C. Tant.

THANK YOU!



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November 9, 2022

Town of New Marlborough – Case No. 10547 | Annual Town Meeting of May 2, 2022 Article # 46**Attorney General's Limited Authority to Waive Procedural Defects in the Notice of the Planning Board Hearing**

Pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32, if the Attorney General finds there to be any defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment of any zoning by-law relating to the form or content of the notice of the Planning Board hearing prescribed by G.L. c. 40A, § 5, or to the manner or dates on which said notice is mailed, posted or published as required by that section, then instead of disapproving the by-law or amendment by reason of any such defect, the Attorney General may elect to proceed under the defect waiver provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32. Under those provisions, the Attorney General is conditionally authorized to waive any such defect.

Defect Determined in Notice of Planning Board Hearing

The Attorney General has determined that the planning board hearing notice relating to the above Article failed to comply with the notice requirements for such hearing established by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. Section 5 provides in part (with emphasis added):

No zoning...by-law or amendment thereto shall be adopted until after the planning board in a...town has...held a public hearing thereon...at which interested persons shall be given an opportunity to be heard.... Notice of the time and place of such hearing, of the subject matter, sufficient for identification, and of the place where texts and maps thereof may be inspected shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the...town once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing, and by posting such notice in a conspicuous place in the...town hall for a period of not less than fourteen days before the day of said hearing. Notice of said hearing shall also be sent by mail, postage prepaid to the department of housing and community development, the regional planning agency, if any, and to the planning board of each abutting city and town...

Based on the materials submitted to this Office, we have identified the following defect: the Planning Board hearing notice was first published on March 1, 2022 for a Planning Board hearing to be held on March 10, 2022. Therefore, the Planning Board hearing notice was published only nine days before the hearing, not fourteen days as required by G.L. c. 40A, § 5. For this reason, the 90-day period prescribed for the Attorney General's review of Article 46 is suspended in accordance with G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Attorney General's Election to Proceed Under the Waiver Provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32

The Attorney General has elected to proceed under the limited defect waiver authority conferred by G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Suspension of Review of Zoning By-Law Amendments

The 90-day period prescribed by law for the Attorney General's review of local by-laws is therefore suspended in accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 40, § 32.

Posting and Publication of This Notice

The Town Clerk shall post a true copy of this Notice in a conspicuous place in the New Marlborough Town Hall for a period of not less than 14 days and shall publish a copy once in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of New Marlborough.

Filing of Claim That Defect in Notice Was Misleading or Otherwise Prejudicial

Within 21 days of the date on which this Notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Town of New Marlborough, any resident of the Town of New Marlborough, or the owner of any real property in the Town of New Marlborough or any other party entitled to notice of the planning board hearing may file with the Town Clerk a written statement that the notice defect was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. The statement must include the reasons supporting the claim that the defect in the Planning Board Notice was misleading or otherwise prejudicial. This statement must be actually on file with the Town Clerk not later than 21 days from the date on which this Notice is published in the newspaper.

Town Clerk's Certification of Compliance with This Notice

After the expiration of the 21-day period, the Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General a true copy of this Notice with a certification of compliance with the publishing and posting requirements of the preceding paragraph, and a certification that either (a) no claim was filed within the 21-day period, or (b) one or more claims were filed within the 21-day period. The Town Clerk shall submit to the Attorney General true copies of any such claim(s).

Resumption of Attorney General's Review

Upon receipt of one original copy of this Notice with the Clerk's certification, the 90-day period provided for the Attorney General's review under G.L. c. 40, § 32, shall resume. If no claim is made, the Attorney General has the discretion to waive any such defect; if any claim is made, however, the Attorney General may not waive any such defect.

Note: By not filing a claim under this provision, a person shall not be deprived of the right to assert a claim of invalidity arising out of any possible defect in the procedure of adoption or amendment, as provided in G.L. c. 40, § 32, and in G.L. c. 40A, § 5.

Very truly yours,

Maura Healy
Attorney General

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Adult Fiction

Ballet of Lepers: a Novel and Stories, by Leonard Cohen
The Boys from Biloxi, by John Grisham
Complicities, by Stacey D'Erasmus
Demon Copperhead, by Barbara Kingsolver
Favor, by Nicci French
Ink Black Heart, by Robert Galbraith
Signal Fires, by Dani Shapiro

Adult NonFiction

Mosquito Bowl: a Game of Life and Death, by Buzz Bissinger
Race Against Time: a Reporter Reopens
the Unsolved Murder Cases of the Civil Rights Era, by Jerry Mitchell

Children's/Young Adult Fiction

Kaleidoscope, by Brian Selznick
The Door of No Return, by Kwame Alexander
Call Down the Hawk, by Maggie Stiefvater
Geronimo Stilton Reporter: It's My Scoop, by Geronimo Stilton
How to Eat a Book, by Mrs. & Mr. MacLeod
Cozy in Love, by Jan Brett

DVDs

Hallelujah: Leonard Cohen, a Journey, a Song
Top Gun: Maverick
The U.S and the Holocaust

Winter Library Hours

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

Closed December 24 & 25 and Jan. 1.
 Closing at 1:00 p.m. on December 31.



Storytime is Ongoing!

Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Join us for this free storytime.

This program includes stories, songs, crafts, and free play. Great for families with children ages birth to 5. All are welcome and no registration is required.

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

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



(413) 229-2544
 Free Estimates

- Roofing
- Tiling
- Decks
- Porches
- Sheet Rocking
- Flooring
- Additions
- Odd Jobs

Herbert W. Eichstedt III
 Jason W. Eichstedt



**PLEASE FILL IN THE FORM AND SEND WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO:
NEW MARLBOROUGH 5 VILLAGE NEWS
P.O. BOX 243, SOUTHFIELD, MA 01259**

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

Transfer Station Hours:

- Wednesday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday: 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m.
- Sunday: 9:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.
- PERMITS ARE DUE JULY 1**
and can be purchased for \$185
by mail or online at
www.newmarlborough.gov.
Please enclose a self-addressed,
stamped envelope. No admittance
without a permit after August 15

Emergency calls:

**Police, Fire, Medical
911**

New Marlborough Highway Department

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

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

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

NM5VN Board of Directors

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

New Marlborough 5 Village News

appears monthly,

also online at

www.nm5vn.org

The next issue will be dated January 2023.

All copy must be submitted no later than December 17.
For advertising, contact Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259

5villagenews@gmail.com

New Marlborough 5 Village News
P.O.Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
e-mail 5villagenews@gmail.com

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CHANGE SERVICE
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SERVICE SECTOR 12/22

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

To list your business here, contact Barbara Lowman (413)229-2369