



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

AN UNWELCOME WILDLIFE NEIGHBOR

By Jon Swan

Giant hogweed is a wildlife neighbor you want to avoid— or report to the proper authorities who will help you get rid of this tough and toxic weed that rises up head and shoulders above all others, often reaching a height of fifteen feet. Giant hogweed is not a new neighbor. It arrived in the Berkshires, possibly introduced by landscapers as a decorative garden plant, nearly a decade ago. Clearly, its toxic nature was not understood by those who used it. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website, more explicit than its Massachusetts counterpart, states: “Giant hogweed is a federally listed noxious weed. Its sap, in combination with moisture and sunlight, can cause severe skin and eye irritation, painful blistering, permanent scarring, and blindness.”

At least two residents of our town have reported stands of the tall weed, Ben Harms of New Marlborough village, and Jill Jakes of Southfield. On July 8, Ben posted a message on Maggie’s List in which he wrote: “There are at least two dozen of these plants a few steps from my house (New Marlborough Branch Road, near the cemetery).” Jill Jakes, who has tried for years to get rid of a row of giant hogweed alongside a stone wall,

contacted Dr. Jennifer Forman-Orth, state plant pest survey coordinator at the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources. Dr. Forman-Orth in turn contacted a department agent who paid Jill a house call. They discussed which of two means Jill would prefer him to use to get rid of the plants and their deep roots, after which he applied a herbicide that kills the deep root system. It will take years, the agent told her, before one can be sure that the weed has been eradicated.

Massachusetts is making a concerted effort to track down and destroy every definitively identified giant hogweed plant in the commonwealth, an ambitious project. Residents can download a Giant Hogweed Report form at massnrc.org/pests/hogweedreport.aspx. The form urges those who file the report to “avoid coming into direct contact with the plant when photographing plants or examining a site.” It also states that, “before submitting a report, one should review a table of giant hogweed look-alikes.” And it provides a link to a list of towns/cities with known populations of giant hogweed.

New Marlborough is on the list, with the note: “control efforts in progress.” □



Stem: Green with purple splotches and coarse white hairs, thick circle of hairs at base of leaf stalk, 2-4 inches in diameter.

GIANT HOGWEED
Huge leaves, incised and deeply lobed up to 5 feet across

COW PARSNIP
Leaves compound, less incised than hogweed, between 2 to 2.5 feet wide

ANJELICA
Flowers: Softball-sized and shaped clusters, greenish white or white.

photo compiled by Marianne Swan

THE THREE R'S

Reading, Writing, and Wrestling (with the School Budget)

Sixteen school committee and subcommittee meetings, one Annual Town Meeting, one Annual Town Election, one Special Town Meeting, one Special Election, and there still is no school budget. The Southern Regional School District and the Town of New Marlborough are thousands of dollars apart, and as this issue of the 5 *Village News* goes to press, no one has figured out how to bring them together.

The most recent chapter of the budget saga dates to early May when New Marlborough voters accepted an operating and transportation assessment of \$2,296,867. But it did so on the condition that the increase of \$193,038 over the Town's share last year be designated as an override to Proposition 2 1/2. A week after the first vote, the Town turned down the override. On June 24, New Marlborough again voted down the budget, this time by just four ballots, but with only about 15 percent of the Town's 975 voters bothering to show up.

In rejecting the new budget, New Marlborough voters were, in essence, questioning the need for the increase. Some of that increase, says the district's business administrator, Bruce Turner, is not optional. The FY11 operating budget got a one-time infusion of about \$300,000 in federal stimulus funds. Of this, \$100,000 went to pay teachers' salary increases, and \$200,000 helped strengthen the district's special education for students with learning disabilities. Starting in FY12, teachers' salaries, including a contractually agreed upon 2 1/2 percent (non-compounded) raise annually until 2014, will be entirely paid by the district. And while more than half of the special ed stimulus money went for instruction aid materials, computers, and other non-recurring expenses, the FY12 budget contains \$85,000 for behavioral and autism specialists, who were introduced in 2010-11 and are being retained.

Further, the \$193,039 figure, says Mr. Turner, overstates the bottom-line impact on New Marlborough's town budget: It does not account for a \$400,000 reduction in the district's capital budget, which works out to a \$64,000 reduction for New Marlborough in FY12. Furthermore, on July 5, the district presented a revised table of assessments, in which it transferred \$100,000 from its excess and deficiency account to the operating budget to reduce assessments. As a result, says Mr. Turner, the actual increase to New Marlborough taxpayers is not \$193,039 but \$108,374.

Tara White, chairman of the Board of Selectmen who is also the Town accountant, takes issue with dipping into reserve funds to alleviate assessments. "We want them to reduce the budget, not just the assessment," she says. She believes that the capital and operating budgets are separate line items and should be accounted for separately. About the loss of stimulus money, Ms. White says, "We

[the Town] have lost funds, too. We always knew that that money could go away."

Ms. White would like to have better communication between the school district and the Town in the formulation of the school budget, one in which the Town lays out its expectations and what it can afford at the front end of the process and then works with the School Committee to achieve a mutually acceptable dollar amount. "None of us want to be doing this again," she says of the series of voter rejections of the proposed budget. "This is gruesome."

School Committee Chairman Herb Abelow points out that the budgetary process is not only exhausting, it's also exhaustive. Formulation of the proposed budget began last October with a request to teachers and administrators to define their needs for the coming fiscal year. This wish list – some 200 line items – was then scrutinized by a finance subcommittee, which, by mid-January, had trimmed it by at least \$400,000, according to Mr. Abelow. On March 16, sixteen committee meetings after the inception of the process, the FY12 school budget was adopted by the School Committee.

Following New Marlborough's initial rejection of the budget (Sheffield also voted it down), the School Committee scoured it for possible additional cuts. The potential savings, according to Mr. Abelow, didn't begin to add up: "If we stopped extra-curricular sports, \$25,000; closed libraries for two hours, \$25,000; got rid of a technology teacher, \$30,000; canceled new text-book purchases, \$17,000." Such cuts are not without risk. "You lose kids to choice-out," says Mr. Abelow, referring to a parent's option to send a child to a school out of the district, "and you damage teacher morale."

Asked what budget would win the support of the Board of Selectmen, Ms. White says, "We'd like to see additional reductions in the operating budget. Right now, we're waiting to see what they come up with." A Special Town Meeting for a third vote on the budget will be held August 15, an election to override Prop 2 1/2, August 16. □

reported by Joe Poindexter

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CULTURAL COUNCIL NOTES

Six new members were welcomed and appointed by the Cultural Council at its meeting on July 14. They are: Cam Adams, Susan Bilodeau, Alan Lombardi, Michele Shalaby, Margie Shapiro, and Tom Weeks. Co-chair Louise Yohalem thanked the four retiring members for their six years of service to the Council: Sheila Fitzpatrick, Brian Mikesell, Owen Hoberman, and Mary Richie Smith. The slate of officers for the 2011-12 year was presented: Co-chairs, Nikki Hayes and Barbara Lowman; Treasurer, Tom Weeks; and Secretary, Michele

Shalaby. The slate was unanimously elected.

The Garden Tour was successful. Despite the gloomy weather forecast, seventy-six tickets were sold. The day began with rain, striking despair in the hearts of Council members, but the sky gradually cleared as the day progressed, ending with a lovely summer afternoon.

Plans have been finalized for Elihu Burrirt Day on August 20, in hopes of similarly favorable weather. □

reported by Barbara Lowman

HAVE A HEART! 4-H PROJECT AT BURRITT DAY

My name is Charlotte Smith, and I am a fourth grader at New Marlborough Central School. I want to tell you about a project I am doing with my 4-H group, the Trailblazers. The Trailblazers are a group of seven kids (including me) from New Marlborough and Sheffield.

As a community service project, we are making small heart-shaped pillows. We are using recycled clothing as fabric. They are filled with lavender and flax seed. We are making these to raise money for a rare childhood illness called Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy, Type 2C. We are going to have a table at Elihu Burrirt Day on August 20. The Kurt and Peter Foundation, named for two boys I know who have LGMD, supports research to help those

who have this illness. If you make a donation to the Kurt and Peter Foundation, you get a heart.

We are doing this because we want to raise awareness and money to help support children who are suffering. Kurt and Peter are just two boys, but many children suffer. The children who have this illness have a shortened lifespan, some not living past their teens.

Come see us at Elihu Burrirt Day and check out the Kurt and Peter foundation online at kurtpeterfoundation.org. You can also call us at 229-0291, or email us at taramundi131@yahoo.com, with any questions.

So, "have a heart" and please support us! □

reported by Charlotte Smith

LADDER SIGN RESTORATION

Your Ladder Sign Committee has evaluated the Town's signs to determine which can be restored and which require replacement. This was the necessary first step so we could estimate the project's cost, which we think will be in the neighborhood of \$12,000. Following our first posting on Maggie's List, many of you indicated a willingness to assist with labor and/or financing. At this juncture, it's the latter that must be addressed. Because of the Town's financial constraints no help can be expected from that quarter. Some income will be generated by fees charged to local businesses that advertise on the signs, but the main source of funds must be from our community.

It is hoped that all of you who read this posting will support this project since attractive, legible, up-to-date signs are not only necessary and informative, but also add charm to our roadways.

Your donations can be made payable to New Marlborough Ladder Signs and mailed to Teena Parton, Box 51, Mill River, MA 01244.

Thank you - from committee members Neil Blackwell, Scott Farrell, Owen Hoberman, Bridget Hughes, Peter Marks, Teena Parton, and Joyce Sachs. □

reported by Charlie Parton

The New Marlborough
Fire Company's
18th Annual

Pig Roast

Saturday, August 20

at the

Emergency Services Center
Norfolk Road, Southfield

Dinner Served 5 to 7 p.m.
Followed by Live Music,
Dancing & Grand Raffle

Tickets \$15 for Adults, \$7.50 for Children
Available at the Mill River General Store
or from any Fire Company Member

Town Business Is Your Business

Board of Selectmen

June 20: Selectman White and Davis were present. Chairman Tara White announced that the **Hatchery Road grant had received an extension** to allow final permitting. Ms White also reported that the School Committee had answered the letter from the Selectmen by writing **that there were no changes to be made in the operating budget**. Ms White said the selectmen will be meeting with the Sheffield selectmen to discuss this continuing issue.

Police Chief Scott Farrell asked for a working meeting with the Board of Selectmen to discuss further his plans for the department in regard to the hiring of a thirty-two-hour "full-time" officer. Chief Farrell wanted to review with the Board his thoughts on the definition of the role of the new officer and the schedule, vacation, and sick time policies. Tara White suggested that the position must be advertised, but that locally, within the town, would be satisfactory. They agreed to meet on June 27.

Regarding last week's approval of paying Maureen Guidi for her extra work in response to State and insurance requirements, it develops that **she cannot be paid from the Com-Star account, but will need a budget salary line**. Funds can be transferred to cover this year's fiscal payments as recommended by the Finance Committee. A vote of the Town at a town meeting will be needed to approve the salary line.

reported by Charlie Parton

June 27: At 5:30 p.m., the Board of Selectmen met in a **working meeting with Police Chief Scott Farrell, who discussed his thoughts and plans** regarding salary, personnel policies, hiring of an additional officer, an allowance for equipment, as well as compensatory time in lieu of overtime. It was pointed out that many of his suggestions were addressed in the newly revised Town Personnel Policy, and those which were not addressed should be brought up at the next Town Meeting. Chief Farrell also pointed out the need for a new cruiser, as the present eight-year-old vehicle is near the end of its useful life.

At 6:32 p.m. the Board of Selectmen's meeting was called to order by Chairman Tara White. It was announced that on June 29, a meeting of the **chairs of the boards of selectmen of the five towns** comprising the school district will be held at Mount Everett High School to **discuss school financing issues**.

Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput presented the **Expenditure Report**, which showed that almost all departments adhered to their budget, making it the best report in several years.



The Finance Committee met in joint session with the Board, and beyond a few routine matters, it was agreed that **Maureen Guidi would be reimbursed \$3,720 for clerical services** she has rendered since last November to the First Responders, and that the funds can come from the First Responders Comstar Account, not from any Town funds.

Finally, all three assessors appeared to address the critical reports which appeared in the June issue of this publication regarding **Paul Kapinos, the Town's property appraisal consultant**. After a thorough discussion, it was apparent that the assessors, as stated by Marsha Pshenishny, chairman of the Board of Assessors, "**were fully satisfied with [Mr. Kapinos'] performance.**"

At 7:56 p.m. the meeting was adjourned.

reported by Owen Hoberman

July 11: The meeting opened with all members present. The Board was pleased to hear from Tim Newman that **WiredWest had received a grant of \$50,000 to cover the initial costs of establishing its corporate structure**. Teena Parton reported that Neil Blackwell, Scott Farrell, Owen Hoberman, Bridget Hughes, Peter Marks, Teena Parton, and Joyce Sachs have progressed in their **planning to repair, repaint, and reset the eight existing ladder signs** that provide direction to lost drivers throughout each of the villages except New Marlborough (at which site they hope to place a new sign). The effort is expected to be done with volunteer help and contributions from citizens who wish to maintain the beauty and character of the Town.

Selectman Tara White reported that the Town received **two bids for repair and maintenance work for the Town Hall** under the NRCS (National Resources Conservation Services of the federal Department of Agriculture). At the last Annual Town Meeting the Town was authorized to

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borrow \$85,000; however, the bids were for only an initial portion of the estimated costs. The low bid of \$49,100 was awarded to North Eastern Services to perform the work approved by NRSC. There is a two-month deadline for the work to be completed. Selectman Yohalem asked if the work was bonded. It is included in the bid. He asked further what provision is being made for supervision of the project and was told by Michael Skorput that Building Inspector Tom Carmody and a representative of EDM, an architectural services company in Pittsfield, have agreed to provide supervision of any certified design plans that they have already approved. Finally, Mr. Yohalem asked that the selectmen agree to review the progress of the project at each of their meetings until satisfactorily completed. Selectmen White and Davis both agreed to do so.

John E. Ormsbee, representing the Ormsbee Gas Corporation, was present for a Special Permit Hearing for the construction of an **open faced building on a concrete slab**, 40 by 100 feet, on Sisson Hill Road, on the bluff above the existing buildings. It will be of metal construction, faced and painted, with a cupola on top, to look like the existing buildings. It will have **openings for seven trucks**. The selectmen voted unanimous approval.

Selectman White reported that the School Committee had reduced its capital bond issue from \$3.1 million to \$1.4 million by eliminating any new construction and

focusing on repairs and maintenance of the existing buildings. **A meeting of the School Committee and the leaders of each of the district towns will be held on July 21 to discuss the operating budget issues.** Currently the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education of the Department of Education) is billing each of the district towns one-twelfth of last years operating budget each month. This will continue until December 1, by which time it is hoped that a solution to the impasse will be approved. Currently, a request by the Town for cuts in the planned operating budget has been met with a transfer of \$100,000 from the District's "excess and deficiency" account into the operating account without cutting the requested budget. As of July 25 there are forty-five days allowed in which to have another election for approval or disapproval of the operating budget.

Selectman White reported that Nick Trierweiler has **applied for the full-time job in the Highway Department.** He is recommended by Supervisor Peter Marks and was approved by vote of the selectmen.

Graham Frank was the only officer to apply for the full-time police position. He has completed his academy training and is recommended by Chief Farrell. Mr. Frank's hire was approved unanimously by the selectmen. □

reported by Charlie Parton

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CONSERVATION COMMISSION

June 28: Commissioners Ned Wilson and John Weinstein convened at 7:10 to address the evening's business.

Southfield resident Joe Poindexter of East Hill Road, started the meeting requesting a Certificate of Compliance for work completed on a porch addition which involved a Notice of Intent (NOI) originally permitted in 2006 and later extended in 2009. Upon review, the Commission noted that there was a technicality in the permit that needed to be addressed. The Commission asked that the owner submit a letter from the architect for the record stating that the porch was built according to plan. The public hearing would be continued until additional information was submitted. The owner was asked to give written permission to resolve the permit without the owner being present so that the certificate could be issued without further meetings.

Mr. Poindexter then opened an additional discussion on a separate issue. He described the history of a problem where silt runs off East Hill Road into a pond on his property. He explained that Town crews have addressed the situation but that the problem persists. At this time he

is considering having the pond dredged and is wondering whether a NOI or a Request For Determination (RDA) is necessary. The Commission agreed that an NOI would be needed.

Tom Coote, the third member of the Commission, arrived at 7:45 so that John Weinstein's permit could be discussed by an official quorum. Commissioner Weinstein of Clayton Mill River Road then recused himself and addressed the Commission as an applicant for an RDA. Mr. Weinstein explained that the scope of work involved adding more gravel to an existing driveway which is within the 200 feet of the Konkapot River. The work essentially will amend an existing driveway footprint. The Commission agreed that the work would result in a net improvement and that the work, although subject to review by the Wetlands Act, would not alter the resource.

Finally, it was agreed that Conservation Commission meetings would resume a regular schedule on the last Saturday of every month at 10 a.m., starting Saturday, July 30. □

reported by Martha Bryan

HADSELL STREET BRIDGE NOTICE

As a result of a recent inspection by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Bridge Inspection Division, the Board of Selectmen, in emergency session on July 22, has closed the Hadsell Street bridge, effective immediately, until necessary structural repairs can be made. □

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

May 5: With Edgar Zukauskas, Nat Yohalem, Bert Imberman, David Herrick, and Prue Spaulding present (Selectman Tara White and Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput also attended), the following under-funded accounts were considered:

A Reserve Fund payment of \$5,000 was recommended for the Town Hall account, down to its last \$267, to see it through to the end of the fiscal year (June 30).

An account to pay the \$2,200 legal bill for review of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District revised agreement, erroneously closed, was refunded.

The Election Account, straining under the burden of extra Town Meetings and elections to break the school budget impasse, was enriched by \$1,175. (The Committee ruefully noted that the Town spends an additional \$240 per election for state-mandated ballots that meet the needs of people with disabilities – even though the Town has, at present, no voters needing such ballots.)

June 9: With Mr. Zukauskas, Mr. Imberman, Mrs. Spaulding, and Bill Dowling present and Tara White and Nat Yohalem in attendance, Mr. Yohalem's letter of resignation from the Finance Committee – so as to devote full attention to his duties as a newly elected selectman – was accepted "with deep regret." Mr. Imberman, presumably even more deeply regretful, was the sole dissenting vote.

Mr. Yohalem, who had headed a committee to review the personnel policy for Town employees, informed the Committee that a revised policy was now in effect. A principal change affects the compensation of the highway superintendent, whose overtime pay has been an issue. Under the new policy, overtime ambiguities will be eliminated in a contractual agreement. Mr. Yohalem said that Highway Superintendent Peter Marks was reviewing the contract for FY12 and that it would be made public if and when Mr. Marks signed it.

After cautioning Mr. Skorput that no fund transfers could be considered unless requests were made and signed by the department heads themselves – rather than Mr. Skorput – the Committee approved the following transfers:

Machinery expense: \$100.

Town Hall Account: an additional \$3,200 to the \$5,000 approved at the last meeting. The Committee noted the current budget already exceeded the amount designated for FY12 and that its attempt to establish more realistic funding had not been supported by the Board of Selectmen.

Town Garage maintenance: \$891 to repair weather-related roof damage.

Town accountant: \$650 to attend a training session in Worcester.

A Highway Department application for \$4,200 to pay for 1,500 gallons of diesel fuel was rejected for lack of supporting bills and a signed request from the superintendent.

Following these fund-transfer reviews, Mr. Yohalem reported on a series of initiatives he had taken as a newly elected selectman. He had met with all the department heads and requested that they present the Board of Selectmen with a five-year budget plan by Labor Day. The Committee concurred with Mr. Yohalem that its presence at such planning meetings would be well-advised – especially to help space out big-ticket purchases such as vehicles and to promote year-to-year financing of these purchases. He invited the Committee to join him in the regular meetings with department heads he plans to start in September.

To better control current costs, Mr. Yohalem requested that departmental income and expenses be reported to the selectmen on a regular basis.

Looking forward to the June 24 Town Meeting on the school budget, the Committee expressed its disappointment that the School Committee, in view of the Town's tight overall budget, had declined to make cuts in its proposed FY12 expenses. □

This report was written by Joe Poindexter from minutes provided by Finance Committee Secretary Prue Spaulding.

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NEIGHBORS



Concert pianist and composer **David Johnson**, who moved from New York City to Mill River in 1987, has started a whole new life abroad. As of mid-June, he has been living, teaching, and concertizing in Athens, Greece. The move came after a difficult period following the death of David's long-time partner, **Jerry Ovitt**, of Mill River. David was no stranger to Greece, having spent many vacations there. This past April he decided to see if he could make a living as a musician in Greece. Shortly after arriving in Athens, David was invited by Hellenic American University to give master classes in music to music students and others with an interest in music. The university also sponsored a recital, which was warmly received by critics. David was subsequently appointed adjunct professor at the university. Recently, he was invited to give a recital at a summer music festival. His new life has gotten off to a fast start. The photo above, which was taken by **David Walker Price**, of Mill River, appears on the cover of a CD featuring David Johnson playing works by Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, and Scarlatti. □

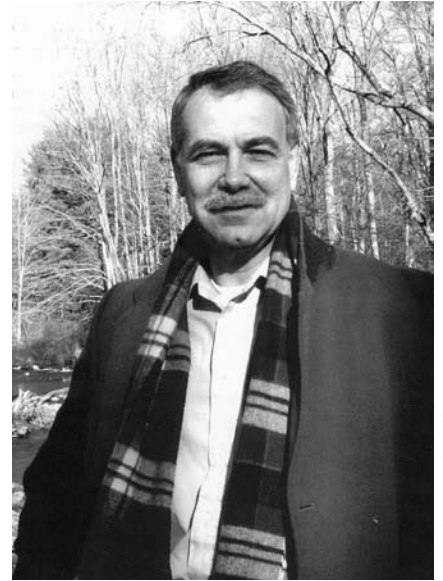


photo by David Walker Price



photo by Martha Bryan

For several weeks, **Steve Cunningham** (center) has been bringing his truck filled with organic produce, grown at his home/farm in Berkshire Woods, Southfield, to the parking lot of the Southfield Church on Wednesdays from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. The Mobile Bounty, as it's called, was enjoyed by **Maureen Hosford** and **Ken DeLoreto** on a recent Wednesday. Steve provides Southfield's own Farmer Market! Mobile Bounty is not to be missed. □

*Neighbors is compiled by Barbara Lowman.
Submit articles of interest to: deeuell@yahoo.com*

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OUR WILD LIFE NEIGHBORS

On June 28, at 8:45 p.m., **Don Beauchamp** of Clayton was standing on the back porch of Celia June's house talking with a Canaan friend when they saw "a big mama bear and something small and dark next to it, and then we saw that it was a cub. Then another cub, and then a third. They were on the big lawn just north of the Clayton church, and the cubs were playing. I ran in to get a camera, but by the time I came out again, they were all gone."

Don also reports that on July 8 "three belted kingfishers flew down the Konkapot in close formation as I was taking photos of cedar waxwings, and in the north field, east of the river, I saw six killdeer."

On July 11, he spotted "a common yellow-throated warbler and wife on the riverbank," and the next day a weasel.

Ann Getsinger, who lives on Route 57 in New Marlborough village, writes that, at about midday on Sunday, June 29, she and her partner, Philip Sheltry, "saw a large black bear cross Route 57, followed a few seconds later by a tiny cub. They were heading toward the Manor.... maybe for brunch? Big year for garter snakes at my house."

Tom Coote, of East Hill Road, writes: "I drove right next to a beautiful black bear yesterday [June 8] right in front of the Coyne property [on East Hill Road] in the middle of the day. I was close enough to read the last two digits of its yellow ear tag, I believe 06."

Janice Boults of Canaan Valley Road writes that she had nothing dramatic to report but that, on the evening of July 6, "I had two red foxes fighting/playing, yipping, barking, rolling around in my yard last evening."

Mary Richie Smith, who lives on Clayton Mill River Road, writes:

"By the back door to the garden I have a small hummingbird feeder hanging from a crook, where one of the birds often perches, flashing toward my window his red badge of encouragement.

"I've been having some plastering work done inside the house and the other day, to help with the drying, I left the screen door ajar. All too soon, at the other end of the house I heard a rapid rattling noise from within the dining room. A hummingbird was beating against the ceiling, as if hoping it would turn out to be the sky.

I took up a broom to push air currents toward the bird, urging it toward the open outside door. And then, as if it got the point, as if, oh, it understood, the hummingbird

rested itself calmly on top of the bristles, unfluttered, unfluttering, while I conveyed broom and bird outside. Where the little red-throat zoom-zoomed, up and away."

John Manikowski writes:

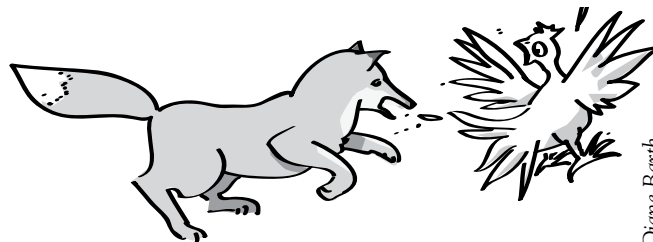
"A quiet, sunny Sunday afternoon, a perfect excuse for the Southfield Store's delicious brunch of grilled chicken salad accompanied by a tall glass of store-made iced tea. But, did I say quiet? Well...let me rephrase that.

I was showing off to an old friend the many reasons why New Marlborough, in the "middle of nowhere," is so appreciated by its residents, when our perfect brunch was loudly interrupted by a clutch of cackling chickens. I said, "Look, quick," to Kate, my guest.

"Look!" I yelled again to a sudden addition of characters. An obviously discombobulated chicken came skidding around the corner of the driveway, her feathers askew every which way, followed by a brilliantly sienna-colored red fox, looking not unlike cartoon character, Wile E. Coyote. He appeared determined, hot on her trail but at the same time slipping and sliding across loose stones in a frantic attempt to get his footing. Both prey and predator did eventually manage the ninety-degree turn, both at warp speed. My friend Kate had barely enough time to put down her fork when suddenly everything quieted down to an eerie silence; not a whimper could be heard. We didn't know if Chicken Little had succeeded in, finally, bringing down her sky, burying her determined predator, or if Wile E. Coyote had, indeed, frightened his intended Sunday brunch to death. But, to our stunned relief, the wary fox reappeared from the alleyway, sprinted across the road (without looking), but did stop on the grassy triangle for a backward glance, possibly considering a new plan of attack for next Sunday's encore?

I did not have the nerve to ask if the evening's chalkboard special might include a grilled free-range chicken breast. But before next Sunday's brunch, call ahead to see if there are any specials planned." □

Compiled by Jon Swan. Submit items of interest to joncswan@gmail.com



Thank You to our Contributors!

Margaret E. Phillips; Charles & Stephanie Rothschild; Charlotte & Ronald Schneider; Anita Fleury; Burt & Linda Imberman; Holly & Joe Poindexter; Ron & Mary Saunders; Crozer W. Martin; Alan & Elizabeth Lombardi; and Sy & Edi Mayerson

Upcoming: Events Calendar for August and September

August 5 – Old Bridges in South County, Historian Bernie Drew presents the third in the **First Fridays** series of programs sponsored by the New Marlborough Historical Society, 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting House Gallery. Free and open to the public.

August 6 – Berkshire Writers Free-for-All. Hear what your neighbors have cooked up as menu-related murder mysteries (and consider declining their next dinner invitation). Readings of short works by local writers, hosted by Peter Bergman, 4:30 p.m. at the Meeting House, free and open to the public.

August 13 – *The Mark of Zorro*, the classic silent movie, with piano accompaniment by Ben Model. Meeting House Gallery at 8:00 p.m.; \$10 at the door, \$7 for members of the Village Association.

August 15 – Special Town Meeting. Attempt No. Three to get the Town's approval of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District's FY12 budget. Town Hall at 7:00 p.m. (Last day to register to vote at this meeting: August 1.)

August 16 – Special Town Election, to determine whether whatever amount of the Town budget exceeding Prop. 2-1/2 limits should be designated as an override or accommodated by cutting Town services. Noon to 7:00 p.m. at the Town Hall. (Last day to register to vote in this election: August 4.)

August 20 – Elihu Burritt Day. Our Town's annual recognition of the Learned Blacksmith with arts, crafts, and a great collection of white elephants on sale, starting at 10:00 a.m. on the Village Green. Plus the Fire Department's **Annual Pig Roast** and another opportunity to see the new firehouse in Southfield. Starts at 5:00 p.m.

August 26 – New Works by New Marlborough Artists, at the Meeting House Gallery. Opening, with refreshments, 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., and on view Friday to Sunday until September 19.

August 27 – The Daedalus String Quartet, with music by Haydn, Schumann, and Dvorak. Meeting House at 4:30 p.m., \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association.

September 2 – The New Marlborough Village Cemetery, a **First Fridays** talk by conservators Jim Fannin and Monique Lehner, on one of the nation's finest pre-Revolutionary burying grounds. Meeting House gallery at 6:00 p.m. Free and open to the public.

September 3 – The Goldberg Trio plays Mozart, Beethoven, Harbison, and the splendidly intricate Goldberg Variations of J. S. Bach, 4:30 at the Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association.

September 10 – Vocalist Hilary Gardner, backed by West 73rd, performs Kurt Weill et al., Meeting House at 4:30 p.m., \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association.

September 17 – The Apollo Trio, a return engagement with music by Beethoven, Shostakovich, and Dvorak, 4:30 at the Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association.

September 24 – Bob Dylan – a multi-media appreciation by Seth Rogovoy. Hard to believe, but the folksinger turned seventy in May, and Rogovoy, author of *Bob Dylan, Prophet, Mystic Poet*, celebrates the troubador with his Rolling Rogovoy Revue, 4:30 at the Meeting House; \$25, \$20 to members of the Village Association. In the Gallery, an exhibit by **veteran Dylan (and Life Magazine) photographer Ken Regan** on view weekends until October 2.

14TH ANNUAL NEW MARLBOROUGH ARTISTS' SHOW

The calm and beauty of the Berkshires has been known to stimulate creativity in artists for many years. If you can visit the New Marlborough Meeting House Gallery from August 27 through September 24, you will have an occasion to see how seven current residents of New Marlborough have created works of art which reflect both traditional and contemporary influences.

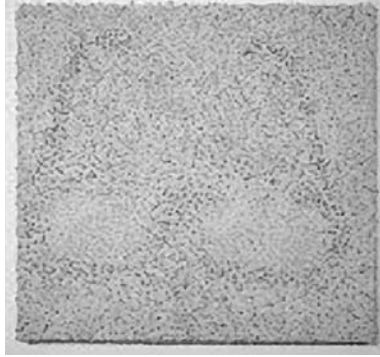
One local artist, Krista Kennedy, has selected paintings from her latest series *A to Z Mysterious* for this show. During a visit to her studio in Mill River, this reporter had the delightful experience of seeing and hearing about the evolution of her painting style over the past sixteen years.

Although Krista works with paint and canvas, she has developed a unique technique whose results push the current boundaries of conceptual art while using traditional materials. She explained to me how the process and material determine the paintings which become themselves, rather than a representation of something or someone else.

Her current work involves unweaving or poking parts of stretched canvas to create gaps in the surface. Paint is pushed from the back of the canvas forming bubbling bits of color on the front of the canvas. She wants these marks of color to appear to extend beyond the picture's edge, opening up space and carrying the eye outwards.

Although Krista originally majored in science, she studied at the Chicago Art Institute before moving to Scotland to pursue an MFA at the Glasgow School of Art. While there, she began a series of tree bark paintings which included tree woodcuts which reflected her interest in finding "fingerprints" and patterns in nature. Krista often finds the concept for a painting or series of paintings in an image from her everyday life.

She likes to paint in series developing a theme as new images and concepts come into her life. She can also view any of the series as individual paintings. An example of



Photos courtesy Krista Kennedy's website: www.kristaedlund.com

her series paintings is *Cakewalk*, which is autobiographical and very personal. It records important events in her life such as remembrances of her childhood, her marriage, the birth of her children, and the death of a friend. There is a whimsical quality to some of these paintings which she attributes to the hours of reading children's books to her daughters and her experiences in teaching art to young people.

Over the past several years, Krista has been investigating how contemporary art has developed. She has also been evaluating her own work within the context of both North American and European abstraction. She may be moving into another phase of painting, but I am pretty sure wherever direction she takes, it will begin with a concept which she will translate, using paint and canvas.

Other New Marlborough artists included in this show are Lee Backer, Eugene Cleary, Cookie Coyne, Ann Getsinger, Elizabeth Lombardi, Lucinda Shmulsky, and Walter Simons.

An opening reception with the artists will take place on Friday, August 26, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. at the Meeting House Gallery. The show will remain open 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays until September 19. The Meeting House Gallery is sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association. □

reported by Pam Stebbins

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**At the New Marlborough Meeting House
Route 57, New Marlborough Village Green**

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New Marlborough Village Association

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BURRITT DAY AWARD

On August 20, New Marlborough will give its Burritt Day Award to Debora M. O'Brien, our librarian. It's appropriate to say "our" librarian because she seems to know what our minds need, perhaps even better than we do. The library may seem small, but under her guidance, its capacity to enlarge our mental world is just about boundless.

Yes, the library has its own well thought-out collection of books-fiction and non-fiction, literary and less so, children's and young adult. A fine range of magazines, shelves of books to listen to, carousels of films to watch. The library itself owns 17,000 items. But what is actually available is just about the whole wide world, via inter-library loan or down-loading. Debbie has all these resources in her mind, and her technically informed fingers, and this is what you feel when you walk through the door of the New Marlborough Library: the great wide world is now within your reach.

Debora O'Brien's knowledge starts with that of our local world. She was brought to Southfield as a young girl in 1971, when her parents, Victor and Pearl Spigarolo, bought the Southfield General Store. She graduated from Mount Everett High School, then from Westfield State where she took a Bachelor's Degree in biology. For several years she worked as a junior bacteriologist for the State Fish Hatcheries, but on marrying in 1984, she and her husband Kevin came back here to live and raise their two children.

Had it been her intention, all along, to one day become a librarian? "That was the furthest thing from my mind," she says, laughing. But fate, and her father, had another vision. It was her father who insisted she apply for the library job here. "Dad made me do it!" And so it was that she was hired in 1993.

It was June 16, 1996, actually Father's Day, that the library burned to the ground. From the top of Collins Hill "the whole sky was orange". The building was lost, but not the resolve of many to see it rebuilt, even better than before. It took a little time, and a lot of doing, but now the library is fully automated, connected, computerized, and is open



photo by Barbara Louman

thirty-eight hours a week instead of the former seventeen.

We are all the better off for Debbie's mastery of library services. But it is surely the children of the town whose lives, and minds, are most enlarged. The children's program is indeed Debbie's passion. One wing of the building is given over to the children's collection and amidst the stacks is plenty of table and floor space for all sorts of meetings and activities. Movie nights and game nights. Reading groups and study groups and crafts and special celebrations. The New Marlborough Central School comes for a half-day field trip each month. Walking in, one might see a story teller, in native dress, reciting a tale first in its original language, then in English. Or Debbie herself, dressing up in disguise at the Hallowe'en party, showing the children that adults also can play at transformation.

Elihu Burritt, called The Learned Blacksmith, was said to have kept an open book propped against his forge. It is also said that he had to go away from New Marlborough to fulfill his vision of one world. Debora O'Brien has found her purpose, her fulfillment, here. She is making us all, especially our children, know that the free world of the mind can be ours, and that she can help us. She would say it is the library, not herself, that counts. But we know who makes the library count.

Elihu Burritt would surely approve of our choice. □

reported by Mary Richie Smith



Two more items to be offered in the Silent Auction portion of the White Elephant Sale at Burritt Day: The lovely set of fireplace tools was hand-wrought several decades ago in Vermont. The espresso machines are offered as a "two-fer": one works, and one doesn't, but can be used for spare parts. They will be on display at the White Elephant table.
photos by Ned MacDowell

New Marlborough's 37th Annual **Elihu Burritt Day**



The Fire Company Pig Roast and Block Dance

Saturday, August 20

On the Village green (Rt. 57)

10AM to 3PM

- 10:00 5K Fun Run/Walk in the Sun
- 11:00 Roger the Jester
- 12:00 Honor Ceremony
Elihu Burritt Award to
Debora O'Brien
- 12:00 to 2:00 Kids' Craft Workshop
- 1:30 Henry the Juggler

ALL DAY

- Antique Car Show
- White Elephant Sale
- Library Book & Bake Sale
- Exhibitors and Crafters
- Fire Trucks and First Responders
- Petting Zoo
- Face Painting by Jim Kelly

New this year: professional appraiser Charles Flint. \$5 for one item, \$10 for 3 items. Proceeds go to support the Cultural Council.

For furniture bring a photograph.

Mr. Flint does not appraise jewelry or coins.

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7:00PM

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WIREDWEST REACHES KEY MILESTONE, WINS MBI GRANT

With the incorporation of WiredWest on August 13, New Marlborough will be a major step closer to twenty-first century broadband connectivity. On that day, representatives from our town and twenty other WiredWest towns will come together at the Meeting House in Cummington to sign articles of incorporation as founders of the WiredWest Cooperative (officially, the "WiredWest Municipal Lighting Plant Public Cooperative"). New Marlborough and the other founding towns successfully completed the necessary votes at two separate town meetings to create Municipal Lighting Plants (MLPs) and thus have taken the steps required to form the Cooperative. Fifteen additional towns have completed their first vote and are positioned to take their second vote this fall. By year's end, well over thirty towns will belong to the Cooperative.

Nearly two years of planning, countless hours of volunteer work, numerous information sessions, and town meeting votes in towns throughout the four counties of western Massachusetts made this a reality. Incorporation is the essential foundation that makes WiredWest a legal entity able to conduct business, engage in contracts, and raise funds with tax exempt municipal bonds and by other means. WiredWest is currently completing its business model and will begin engineering studies in the fall. The Cooperative should be positioned to go to the financial markets for funding to build the network in the next six months. If all goes according to plan, construction could begin in 2012.

As an acknowledgement of WiredWest's accomplishments and prospects, the Massachusetts Broadband

Institute (MBI) recently announced that WiredWest will be a recipient of their award program to advance last-mile broadband solutions. This award will be leveraged with in-kind services and additional funding to complete the planning process for the WiredWest fiber-to-the-premise network in its member towns in 2011 and 2012. According to the MBI, "grant recipients were selected through an open, rigorous and highly-competitive process."

Under the MBI program, WiredWest was awarded a \$50,000 grant, the maximum award amount. The primary tasks WiredWest will fund from the grant include completion of an engineering survey and cost estimates, procurement of vendors and professional services, a market survey, and purchase of mapping information for engineering purposes.

From its inception, WiredWest has been self-funded, aided by several key grants. The recent MBI award is most welcome and will offset specific expenditures related to completing planning activities and documents required to obtain financing. However, this award will not cover operating costs for the upcoming pre-financing phase of operations. WiredWest is just now embarking on a major fund-raising outreach to local businesses and individuals to defray these costs. Through an arrangement with the Hilltown Community Development Corporation, donations to WiredWest are tax deductible. Interested parties are encouraged to visit the WiredWest website, www.wiredwest.net, and click the Donate button on the home page, or visit the How You Can Help page for more information. □

reported by Tim Newman

LETTERS

To the Editor:

Re: The July story on the Century Acquisitions hot-mix asphalt plant in Ashley Falls.

I'm sure many readers of NM5VN remember my father, Richard Barth, of Cross to Canaan Valley Road. He was head of the Planning Board of New Marlborough for many years. He passed away in 1990 after developing aplastic anemia, a condition similar to leukemia in which the bone marrow stops making new blood cells.

When he was ill, his family made a search of possible environmental contaminants that may have caused his illness. He worked at home, and rarely traveled, so we were able to narrow the possibilities. We concluded that there was one environmental exposure that most likely triggered his condition. A few months earlier he had been exposed to benzene fumes while burning an open wheelbarrow full of asphalt for a patching job. Benzene is a known cause of aplastic anemia and leukemia.

Benzene is one of the emissions from hot-mix asphalt plants. Though some studies have found that "properly controlled facilities" of an asphalt plant do not produce enough toxins to endanger public health, you have to wonder: If Century Acquisitions has not adhered to regulations to this point, why should anyone believe they would have "properly controlled facilities"? And at the very least, why on earth should a community be exposed to 80,000 pounds of toxic emissions a year, so that one company may profit?

Diane Barth Swartz



MUSIC & MORE SERIES CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Each summer for the past two decades, the Music & More series has brought distinguished groups of authors, musicians, actors, films and filmmakers to the Meeting House in New Marlborough, along the way becoming one of the premiere Berkshire destinations for a broad range of cultural events.

Music & More continues this tradition of excellence in 2011, its 20th Anniversary, with eight unique evenings of entertainment, ranging from a performance of Kurt Weill's music by Hillary Gardner, a brilliant young vocalist coming off her Broadway debut, to the acclaimed Daedalus String Quartet, to a multimedia presentation and tribute concert in celebration of Bob Dylan.

The 2011 season begins on Saturday, August 6, when the six winners of a mystery writers contest will read their original works. Local writers have been challenged to write a ten-minute murder mystery in which the protagonist kills off his or her enemies with food. Hosted by Peter Bergman, the program is free, and a reception

follows in the Meeting House Art Gallery.

The rest of the August schedule is below; details of the events can be found in the *Upcoming* column on page 10.

8/13 – Silent Film Night returns with a screening of *Mark of Zorro* (1920), a swashbuckling action-comedy regarded as an iconic motion picture of the silent era, starring Douglas Fairbanks in the title role. The showing will be paired with live piano accompaniment by Ben Model, silent film pianist for New York City's Museum of Modern Art, whose performance will recreate the atmosphere of silent films as they were experienced in their heyday.

8/27 – The Daedalus String Quartet – praised by *The New Yorker* as “an exceptionally refined young ensemble with a translucent sound” – performs music by Haydn, Schumann, and Dvorák. □

THE FIRST HOUSES

A Talk by Archeologist James Parrish

A settler claiming a tract of land in Township No. 2 (not to be established as New Marlborough for another two decades) was required to build a house on it. And not just any old shack would do. According to James Parrish, who presented the second of the New Marlborough Historical Society's First Fridays programs, the earliest building code, as it were, specified that houses be seventeen by eighteen feet on a side with a chimney at one end. Homes were expanded by adding a second rectangle to the chimney end.

Mr. Parrish, who is now an archivist with the National Park Service and who has inventoried 139 of the oldest houses in New Marlborough, described in both pictures and words, fascinating details of houses as the Town grew and prospered. With the emergence of wealthy farmers

and mill owners, “Every large house wanted a ballroom,” said Mr. Parrish. A few of these have been preserved to this day. There are also remnants of what Mr. Parrish called “courting peeps,” eye-level, heart-shaped cut-outs in the doors to sitting rooms and bedrooms designed to limit the privacy of unmarried couples.


Mr. Parrish also disclosed his findings of an investigation of a long-abandoned village near East Indies Pond. Remnants of foundations indicate there were eighteen structures, including a manufacturing facility, a school, and a store. He told of the hermit of East Indies, the twice-jilted Timothy Leonard, who memorably declared, “They say they will, but they won't.” □

reported by Joe Poindexter

First Fridays
 JUNE 3
 JULY 1
 AUGUST 5
 SEPTEMBER 2
 At the New Marlborough Meeting House
 6 TO 7 PM
 A series of talks on historical subjects

August 5: Bernard Drew on the Bridges of Berkshire County

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POWER UP

Flying Cloud Institute's First Rock Opera

For the 2011 season the Flying Cloud faculty of SMArt (Science Meets Art) decided to offer children the opportunity to participate in making a rock opera that in some way dealt with the concept of energy. A group of fourteen children, ages seven to fourteen, jumped at the chance to work with musician Jon Sutera and theater director Kristen Sparhawk to start work on June 27.

At the first workshop they discussed what different ideas came to mind when the concept of energy was brought up. This led to movement explorations that helped illustrate these concepts: modeling a coal burning power plant with fire, steam, and the turning magnet shaft; an ecosystem where energy from the sun passes along the food chain; and electricity being created by alternative sources to power our homes.

With Kristen, the group built the story by starting with one person who threw out an idea; everyone else added on to their ideas and fleshed them out. They were able to sculpt them into one cohesive story so that all could play a part that interested them.

The children were an endless fount of ideas and could keep a scene running forever, with everyone piping up lines to feed into the scene. Very few lines ever had to be officially written. The group found its way to what made narrative sense and they eagerly developed their characters with the help of the energy concepts that inspired them.

Song-writing took a week and a half. Using the students' suggestions, four songs to relay the story and a *Power Up* theme song were written with Jon Sutera. One student offered many of the chord progressions which Jon helped weave into bits of melody. A group of the older students sat around and brainstormed lyrics that would fit. One song dealt with energy as a broad science concept; one introduced the energy fairies, one the Lonesome Light Bulbs, and the fourth, our superheroes, Energy Boy and Solar Girl. A key lyric was,

"Energy can help us as it transforms and changes, we've learned how to cage it all through the ages, It can't be forged, it can't be broken, out of the darkness light has awoken."

A guest rapper, Regi Wingo, came in to help the kids add a rap to the show which became the superhero song. The last week, special guest performer Lauren Ambrose rehearsed with the group for the preview performance.

During the course of the daily rehearsals of songs and dances, small groups of children worked with Krista Kennedy to design and paint the backdrops. They also assembled their own costumes, fairy wings and light bulbs.

There was a lot of excitement about performing on the stage at the New Marlborough Meeting House. The preview on the evening of Thursday, July 14, was a great success. Lauren Ambrose inspired the cast to belt out



Rock opera cast in the finale of the Preview Performance with guest artist Lauren Ambrose.



New Marlborough residents perform in the Power Up rock opera at the Meeting House. Sophia Joffe, far left, plays the teacher and Olivia Marchione, far right, is Solar Girl.

their songs, which brought thunderous applause from the audience of over 100. Everyone was amazed by what the children had been able to create in only eleven days. Many were moved to tears by their talent, energy, and understanding of the importance of energy in our world.

For those who missed the show, the performance was recorded and will be shown at the Annual Meeting of the New Marlborough Village Association on August 6. □

*reported by Kristen Sparhawk
photos by Diego Gutierrez*



Summer Program participant parent viewing advanced student art work produced under the guidance of Krista Kennedy of Mill River.

COUNCIL ON AGING NEWS

The New Marlborough Council on Aging wants to assure seniors living in New Marlborough that the Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation will continue its service to the town. Transportation allowing the seniors to go grocery shopping, banking, to doctors, dentists, and hospitals may be secured by a simple phone call a few days ahead (528-4773, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).

The Southern Berkshire Elderly Transportation Corporation (SBETC) has just received a generous

donation of \$15,000 from the Berkshire Healthcare Systems. In these times of financial stress the SBETC is particularly grateful to Mr. William Jones, Executive Vice President, and Mr. David Phelps, CEO, for facilitating this donation. While small donations are solicited from the users of the van, donations such as this are greatly appreciated. New Marlborough seniors are encouraged to use this service. □

reported by Prudence Spaulding



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New Acquisitions at the Library

Adult Fiction

Summer Rental, by Mary Kay Andrews

Eve, by Iris Johansen

The Snowman, by Jo Nesbo

To Be Sung Underwater, by Tom McNeal

State of Wonder, by Ann Patchett

A Drop of the Hard Stuff, by Lawrence Block

Children & Fire: A Novel, by Ursula Hegi

Adult Nonfiction

The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris, by David McCullough

Children's Fiction

Take Me to the River, by Will Hobbs

The Emerald Atlas, by John Stephens

Inside Out and Back Again, by Thanhha Lai

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate, by Jacqueline Kelly

Return to Sender, by Julia Alvarez

The Year the Swallows Came Early, by Kathryn Fitzmaurice

Children's Nonfiction

Thunder Birds: Nature's Flying Predators, by Jim Arnosky

Dinosaur Discovery: Everything You Need To Be A Paleontologist, by Chris McGowan

LIBRARY SUMMER HOURS:

Mondays from 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Tues & Fri 1:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Wed & Sat 10 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Thurs 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

The library will be offering a six-week yoga class led by Connie Wilson from Yoga Within.

This six week session begins September 15 and will run each Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. through October 27. The cost is \$45. Space is limited to ten participants, so pre-registration is required by August 27. For more information, or to register, contact the library at 229-6668.

The New Marlborough Library has family passes for free or reduced admission for the following area attractions:

Ashley House and Bartholomew's Cobble,
Berkshire Museum, Chesterwood,
Clark Art Institute, The Folly at Field
Farm, MASS MOCA, Ventfort Hall,
Mission House & Indian Museum,
The Mount, Naumkeag House &
Gardens, Norman Rockwell Museum,
Sandisfield Arts Center,
Smith College Museum of Art

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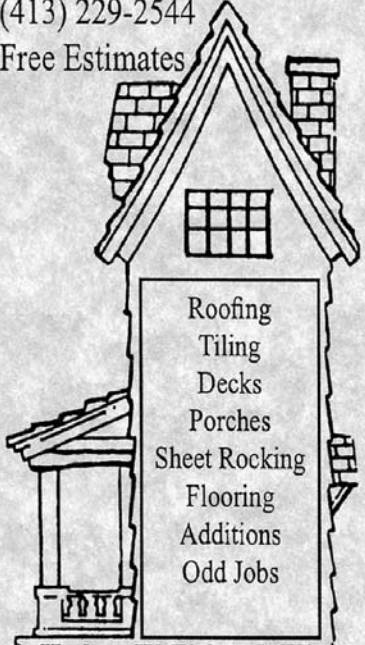


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Please fill in the form and send with your contribution to:

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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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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

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David Lowman, Martha Bryan, Joe Poindexter,
Barbara Lowman, Larry Burke, Marianne Swan, Jon Swan
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Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White.

New Marlborough 5 Village News
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For advertising, contact: Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
5villagenews@gmail.com

Town Times:

- * **Board of Selectmen:** Every Monday at 6:30 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 at 10 a.m.
 - * **Board of Assessors:** June 1 - Aug.31 Monday through Thursday 7a.m. - noon
 - * **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
 - * **Town Treasurer:** Monday- 9 -12 a.m.
 - * **Tax Collector:** Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 - * **Selectmen's Administrative Secretary:** Monday - Friday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
 - * **Dog and Animal Control Officer:** John Springstube 232-7038
 - * **Town Clerk:** 229-8278 8 a.m. to 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 DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River
FEE IS \$80

CAN BE PAID BY MAIL,
PLEASE ENCLOSE A SELF ADDRESSED STAMPED
ENVELOPE

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

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 - ◆ **Alexandra's House:** Help for second homeowners with renovations, organizing, decorating, moving and staging to sell. Call 413-528-6169. Info@AlexandrasHouseServices.com
 - ◆ **Benchmark Real Estate:** Nancy Kalodner, Broker/Owner. Offering New Marlborough the finest professional real estate services for over 25 years. Call 528-9595
 - ◆ **Berkshire Environmental Research Center (BERC):** Thomas Coote. Lake & pond management, wetland delineation, ecological research, rare/invasive species assessment. 413-644-4509. tcoote@simons-rock.edu
 - ◆ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed contracting and building services. Custom cabinetry and built-ins. Design and planning help on small- to medium-size projects. Call Tony at 413-229-6097.
 - ◆ **Cale's Pet Care:** Pet sitting, dog walking, small farm care. Experienced, caring, and reliable. Call Cale James at 229-2271
 - ◆ **Corashire Realty:** Serving New Marlborough for 40 years. Let experience, knowledge, and personal attention work for you. 528-0014
 - ◆ **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.
 - ◆ **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 cljedelman@aol.com
 - ◆ **Goewey Painting Services:** Interior & exterior painting, window washing, pressure washing, vinyl siding washing, deck and floor refinishing; fully insured; impeccable references. 413-229-2787
 - ◆ **Land of Nod Winery:** 99 Lower Rd., East Canaan CT 860-824-5225 Come try our new chocolate raspberry dessert wine! www.landofnodwinery.com
 - ◆ **Lawn Care Plus:** Small bucket & back hoe work, snow plowing, spring clean-up, house watching and odd jobs. Call Jim @ 229-3057
 - ◆ **Pat Nourse:** Monterey. Youth patchwork quilts and American Girl doll dresses. 644-9530
 - ◆ **Mill River Knifewright:** Custom designed, One-Of-A-Kind kitchen, hunting and fishing knives. Repairs, sharpening. Drop off and pick up: Mill River Store or call John Manikowski: 229-2905
 - ◆ **Picture Framing:** Over 30 years experience, archival materials, large selection of mouldings and mats, free local delivery. Call for appointment, Ann Getsinger 229-2119
 - ◆ **Quality Painting Services:** Beautifying Homes in the Berkshires. Offering interior/exterior painting, staining, sheetrock repair. Pressure washing decks. Contractor registration #147903. Len Mandile 413.269.8948
 - ◆ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
 - ◆ **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
 - ◆ **Wild Birds Country Store:** Absolutely everything to enjoy nature and backyard birds. www.wild-birdstore.com 783 Main St., Great Barrington 644-9007
- To list your business or organization here, contact Barbara Lowman at 229-2369. A listing of up to 25 words, free to advertisers in the current issue, is \$5 per issue or \$50 per year*