



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

Fishing the Konkapot at Hayes Hill Bridge

By John Manikowski

I stand equidistant between the wild roar of waterfalls in front of me, and, behind and below my shadow in harmonious contrast, the refreshing chuckle of a sweetwater stream. A short distance away, moss-gloved rocks edge a shoreline hopefully suitable for evening trout activity.

I maneuver around slate bedrock – possibly bulldozed into place some 15,000 years ago through glacial movement – and head upstream, because I have heard new rumors concerning the appetite of a notable brown trout that may be lurking under cover of a recently submerged, and relocated, one-ton sized millstone.

Chiseled viaducts and foundations stand curtained under shrubby bush and brush; idle stone footprints – reminders of a river-life long ago. I carefully step over a slick log. This corner of Berkshire County once spawned over a dozen mills, spotted up and down 1.3 miles of the river, equipped with granite grist wheels and spur-cogs, spinning round since 1752, helping to slice trees into lumber, grind wheat for flour, and turn pulp into paper, all from the tiny village of Mill River. Now, idle since the early 1930s, the chiseled sluiceways stand partially hidden under bramble and bush, massive stone imprints left as reminders of a once-bustling river-life.

Quietly, I walk over to check a section that once flowed over sculpted stone monoliths, known as the

continued on page 2

Irene and the Konkapot

By John Sisson

The Konkapot River was born during the glacial retreat from the North American continent. In our valley it carved out the river basin where its waters flowed, for the most part peacefully, but on occasion showing a touch of wildness. Its picturesque beauty beckoned fishermen, farmers, and photographers.

It also provided work for its inhabitants at the many mills that sprang up along the banks, where natural rock borders invited our forebears to build their factories. Thus in 1836, a substantial dam over twenty feet high was built across the Konkapot, just above the Hayes Hill Road crossing. One can only stand in awe of those pioneers who hoisted giant blocks of stone from places like Dry Hill, strategically interlocking them across the stream bed. No doubt block and tackle and the strength of many oxen were required to create these dams. Once built, mill ponds provided the “head of water” needed to run the wheels of industry. The Industrial Revolution overtook these primitive but effective work places, and within the next hundred years they all fell into disuse. All of them finally disappeared, leaving only the dams and foundations to mark the passage of a long-gone industrial era. These stone foundations withstood the rise and fall of the river for over 175 years...until Irene.

Water flowing into the Konkapot Basin comes from Lake Garfield in Monterey, joins the outflow of Lake Buel, and flows on down the valley to its juncture with the Housatonic in Ashley Falls. Though

continued on page 2



*The Hays Hill Dam before Irene...
photo courtesy New Marlborough Historical Society*

...and after.

photo by Larry Burke



Fishing the Konkapot, continued from page 1

Crosby-Robbins paper mill, just above the Hayes Hill Bridge. Sadly, unbelievably, this dam was recently bashed downstream by ravaging currents caused by Hurricane Irene; most of its boulders seemingly disappeared. But to where? They are not visible here. Roy Blount, Jr., who lives about 200 yards downstream, believes some of them may have settled into the bottom of a deep pool just outside his backyard. Could thousand-pound boulders just tumble downstream like so much pea stone? If so, this is power far, far beyond my meager imagination.

The sun dips without fanfare behind Brush Hill, casting no shadow on the water. Turned around, moving downstream now, I watch the current rip through riffle and eddy and am silenced by the beauty and force of a river bisecting a town alive with working memories. I am truly in awe of this high-powered energy that can sculpt sluiceways through bedrock, thrashing against quartzite oxbows like an unleashed fluid monster. Flowing over

pitted red bricks rounded from centuries of being jostled, bumped, and bounced downriver, the river has been re-designed by Mother Nature, the newly submerged stones to become eventually burnished with their own tumble-down patina.

The river itself has survived centuries of wind, rain, snow, and ice, and now...a hurricane. The Crosby-Robbins dam will be sorely missed not just by fly fishermen, but especially by all the children I've watched dangle muddy toes over the side of the dam, waiting for a brown trout to take their worm and disappear downstream, toward the bridge, dodging the mega stones that create shade, shelter, and habitat for this century's generations of fish, flora and fauna. □

Ed. note: This is an updated version of Water Power: Still in Flux, originally published in 2004 by the Sheffield Art League in Art of the River.

Irene and the Konkapot, continued from page 1

not a big river by any means, the watershed in which it lies contains a portion of Beartown Mountain to the north, and the hills separating Tyringham from Monterey, all of which provide a natural basin into which run-off flows, and finds its exit down the Konkapot.

Irene dumped her swollen clouds into this receptacle with devastating results, as the water had no place to go but down the Konkapot Valley. Adding to its strength, it picked up everything between its banks and carried this load at increasing speeds as it rammed its way south. Huge rocks, weighing hundreds of pounds, if not tons, were tumbled in a mad array, knocking aside anything in their path. Small islands of greenery that dotted the middle of the stream were ruthlessly swept up in the maelstrom and disappeared for many years. The rocky bed of the river, containing not-recently-seen bedrock sheets, the same rock that must have attracted the early builders of the dams, was once again exposed as the accumulated debris in the basin of the river was washed downstream.

Years ago, it was common practice to throw trash of all types into the river. Out of sight under water, the riverbed became the Transfer Station of the nineteenth century. Our early inhabitants were not concerned until 1890, when the Commonwealth of Massachusetts (and

other states having similar concerns) passed the Sawdust Law. *Commonwealth vs. Sisson*, 1890, Chapter 129, was an enacted to prevent injury by sawdust to fish in brooks and streams. Prior to that, mill owners dumped their sawdust in the river because they had no use for it and no place to store it. It accumulated behind dams, like that of the Hayes Hill dam, to a considerable depth, and the water level rose to within a few feet of the top.

Irene blasted her way through the dam, using both the force of water and the debris carried on the tide as a battering ram that finally broke through the stone barrier. Everything, including its ten to twelve feet of packed sawdust, was sent on its way to Long Island Sound, scattering the blocks of stone along the streambed. In the process of this power-washing of the Konkapot, the entire character of the stream has changed, and Mother Nature now may rebuild what was in an instant swept away. □

CORRECTIONS

Three corrections are needed for photo credits in the October issue. The marooned picnic table on page 1 is by John Manikowski. Campbell Falls (page 8) is by Steve Cunningham. The nighthawks (page 11) are by Anne O'Connor.

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WHAT'S GOING ON AT THE BUGGY WHIP?

Driven by the Buggy Whip factory lately? If you have, you might have noticed the sound of carpenters hammering away and seen that big dumpster out in front, under the sign that says Spaces for Rent.

What's going on here? The last time NM5VN visited the Buggy Whip, it was to mark the end of an era there. Longtime owner Neuma Agins and her husband, Hank Reeve, were winding down their retail antiques operation and exploring new opportunities for the building, including the possibility of a sale. That was a little over a year ago. By May there was a new owner on board, Ned Odegaard, a retired investment banker who happens to live next door.

As Ned says of the purchase, "I'm not sure it was a totally rational decision. But you can hear people talking in the soup kitchen next door [Buggy Whip tenant Farm Country Soup] when you're standing in our driveway. We realized what happens there matters a lot to us." And in fact, as he notes, his driveway is actually on Buggy Whip property.

Although he won't say what he paid for it, the sale price was \$300,000, according to the Multiple Listing Service of Berkshire County.

Three years ago, he and his wife, Rebecca, both Christian Science practitioners, bought what was known as the Dot Stevens house next door, which he believes was originally a Turner and Cook house, Turner and Cook being the formal name of the company that manufactured rawhide whip cores in the factory building.

So what's his game plan for the building? "We're figuring that out as we go," Ned says. "I'm getting to know the building, listening to it, and finding out what it wants to be."

One thing he's definitely doing with it is to continue renting out studio and office space to artists, crafts people, and small businesses, an endeavor that was begun by Neuma and Hank some years ago, and to expand the number of spaces available.

Currently, he has ten tenants: an oil painter and several other artists, as well as a photographer, a weaver, a graphic designer, a maker of stained glass, a software company, the Southfield Post Office, and, of course, Farm Country Soup. One of the artists in the building is son-in-law Shawn Fields, who lives in Mill River and is married

to Ned's daughter, Kenzie, the newest member of the NM5VN staff. They have three children.

"There seems to be an interest in the Southern Berkshires in modest, reasonably priced studio and office space," the new owner says, adding, "and the folks already

here like the flavor of the building and view it as more convenient than going to Housatonic, the other area offering these kinds of rental spaces."

He already has two new spaces ready for tenants, at rents of \$250 a month, and he's thinking about creating more rental spaces in the large open area upstairs after structural repairs to the roof are completed.

He also has an active interest in the building's history: "I'm very interested

in hearing from anybody who worked here or whose parents or family members worked here, in collecting whatever oral histories are available about the place."

His son, Jamie, also lives in the area, in Ashley Falls, and has an indirect connection to the building that goes back in time. Jamie is partners in a furniture building business with Peter Murkett, whose wife, Michele Miller, used to own the famed Boiler Room Cafe, which was located in the Buggy Whip, where Farm Country Soup operates today.


About the sound of those hammers pounding? They are the welcome noise of renovation, rejuvenation, and vision for the future of one of Southfield's and, indeed, New Marlborough's most famous landmarks. □

reported by Peter Schuyten



Owner Ned Odegaard at the Buggy Whip Factory

photo by Peter Schuyten



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Board of Selectmen

September 26: All selectmen were present at this meeting to hear Herb Abelow respond to a question sent to the School Committee about the **capital budget, regarding the costs and plans for replacing student computers**, all of which are becoming obsolete. He reported that the capital plan was to purchase 100 computers a year for the next three years. Selectman Tara White reported that all the other questions about the budget asked three weeks ago have been answered. Selectman Nat Yohalem asked about a reported list of questions drawn up by Courtney Turner, given to Mike Skorput, and submitted to the School Committee. Mr. Yohalem was not questioning the right of Mr. Turner to submit questions and expect answers from the School Committee, but about the selectmen's **Administrative Assistant submitting them for Mr. Turner without any selectmen having seen or known about the request**. The selectman's concerns were not answered but will be discussed in executive session. Mr. Turner's concerns were: Why are school costs so high with declining population? Why can four other towns dictate to New Marlborough what our costs will be? Is the School Committee being responsible to the town or its voters?

Debra Herman, as a member of the Town Technology Committee, was present to express **concern for the lack of information and public awareness about the town's new website**. She and Tim Newman have been concerned about the details of the contract with the company that established the site. The selectmen agreed that this should be investigated, and, at Ms. Herman's suggestion, they voted to assign the Technology Committee the responsibility for being the Town watchdog over the website as part of its mission. As this is a Town function, Ms. Herman and Mr. Newman will need to be sworn in.

Selectman Yohalem referred to a suggestion from the floor at the Annual Town Meeting that the **selectmen appoint a committee to explore the workload of, and need for assistance to, the selectmen's administrative assistant, and the possible hiring of a full- or part-time town administrator**. In this regard, at least one person has sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen asking to be on such a committee. The selectmen believe a committee should have three to five members representing differing pre-conceived opinions. Persons interested were asked to submit their names in a "one line letter" to the Board of Selectmen by October 11, 2011.

Highway Supervisor Peter Marks reported on the post-storm road conditions. The essence of his report was that the Highway Department has brought all roads damaged

by the storm to a serviceable level for this year's winter, in just three weeks' time.

Emergency Management Director Barbara Marchione reported that **New Marlborough's Emergency Mitigation Plan** has been submitted by Will Brinker of Sheffield. This puts our town far ahead of all others in Southern Berkshire in improving our status for state and federal funding for disaster mitigation. In light of the current tight economic conditions, FEMA and MEMA have warned that there will be very strict audits of the usage of all emergency funds given to persons, towns, and businesses. **Emergency funds can cover any work that is critical to the Town's activities**, such as Jersey barriers for a road hazard. Such funds will need to cover work done within four months of the event. The town accountant has set up a Storm Damage Account to hold and manage these funds. Barbara Marchione suggested that the selectmen amend the highway supervisor's contract to cover the excess time he spent dealing with the unique circumstances presented by the hurricane. This could be reimbursed by the Storm Damage Account.

The funding for problems such as removal of trees that have fallen into the rivers due to the storm raises a typically bureaucratic issue. The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Army Corps of Engineers both have jurisdiction over rivers and may pay for the clean-up; if not, then MEMA or FEMA may provide funds. These projects may, for certain reasons, allow a six-month extension of work allowed under the granting conditions. **If this reporting is confusing, it simply reflects the hoops and hassles the Highway, Fire, Police, Emergency Service, and Town must spend hours of time and paper work to get through.**

October 3: All three members were present. Selectman White reported on a work session that had been held just before the meeting. This concerned the **Town's use of police officers and highway workers who have received training as flagmen in traffic control** around work projects or road obstructions. For work on all major highways, Police Chief Scott Farrell will arrange for officers. In cases where the Town uses contract companies for resurfacing or road construction, the contractor submits a bid that includes hiring of police as flaggers; the details of cost-per-hour for this service are established by Chief Farrell with the selectmen's approval. For work on secondary roads, performed locally under Superintendent Peter Marks' control, Mr. Marks may use his own men for the job, but it is expected by the selectmen that there will be communication with the police chief.

Selectman Yohalem asked his fellow selectmen to endorse and **approve a grant request he wished to submit to the Cultural Council for \$250 to purchase tickets for the Music & More concerts** in the New Marlborough Meeting House during the summer months. The tickets would be given upon request to Town employees and their families so that they might enjoy the concerts as a gift from the Town. The selectmen voted unanimously for the proposal.

Selectman White reported that the FY2012 budget numbers should come before the Board by mid-October. **The state has revised its revenue figures upward** and it is expected that the Town will receive an increase in funding. If received, the increase is expected to be applied to the shortfall caused by the defeat of the override in May 2011.

A request to officially **change the name of Hadsell Street** back to its original name of Umpachene Road will be placed on the Annual Town Warrant for next May.

A letter of resignation from Thomas Coote from the Conservation Commission was received and accepted with regret. Mr. Coote indicated a conflict has arisen with his regular work that interferes with his time spent on the Commission. The Commission is very short of members. Persons interested in serving on this commission are asked to submit a short letter of interest to the Board of Selectmen.

October 17: All three members were present. Selectman White reported that the **school bond issue is dead for the time being**, having been voted down by one town in the district. The School Committee will reintroduce a more detailed bond proposal after further study of the building needs for construction and maintenance. The figures from the last and future fiscal years will be provided to the towns in a week or so, for comparison of proposed changes in the operations and transportation plans.

Selectman White reported that **four bids have been received for the proposed new entrance to the Town Hall**. The bids will be opened at 5:30 p.m. on October 26; if accepted, the project can start immediately, with the goal of completion before winter. Michael Skorput pointed out that the new insulated windows in the ground floor have been installed. All of these environmental and energy improvements have been paid for from a grant. As a part of the original energy savings program, the only building that could benefit from installation of solar electricity panels is the Highway Department. This project will have to wait for further consideration until the spring at the earliest.

Peter Marks reported that the Hatchery Road project is complete except for guard rails and paving. Although paving will now have to wait for spring, the road will be open for traffic in four days. The Town of Monterey will have to close the road for two weeks this month to clear trees that have fallen into the river because of the hurricane.

Mr. Marks estimates that the **cost of removing and replacing the broken drainage pipe** flooding the Sheldon property off County Road will cost approximately \$7,000. The initial "fix" worked for several years but the pipe has been broken and it was undersized. A letter explaining the process will be sent to Mr. Sheldon, informing him that because of current muddy conditions, the work will be done in the spring.

The Canaan Southfield Road will be closed during working hours beginning on Tuesday, October 18. The Clayton Mill River Road project has been completed. The selectmen voted to approve payment of \$60,000 - \$80,000 from the Roads and Bridges Account for painting the center line of all of the Town's paved roads. It should be completed before winter.

Selectman White provided copies of the schedule of all **School Committee budget meetings**. Additional copies can be obtained from the Town Hall. She urged everyone to attend and make comments or ask questions.

She announced that the towns of Sandisfield, Monterey, Otis, Tolland, and Tyringham have invited the selectmen of New Marlborough to **join in get-togethers to explore current issues involving our towns and discover ways the group might help to solve them**. The selectmen agreed to participate.

Selectman Nat Yohalem reported that the Board has received nine letters expressing interest in an **appointment to a committee to explore improving the Town administration**. It is the selectmen's responsibility to develop a mission or task statement as a guideline for the committee. They will try to obtain a membership balance among those who support, object to, or are indifferent to the concept of a town administrator. It is believed that five or six will be an appropriate number. The selectmen will discuss these issues during the week and hopefully make appointments. A report of the committee recommendations will be expected by March 1, 2012.

A review of the report of Town account expenditures dating from July 1, 2011 to October indicates that **all departments are within their budget parameters**. □

reported by Charlie Parton

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A KINDER, GENTLER BUDGET – MAYBE

Well, perhaps we're not going to need a Super-committee of six Democrats and six Republicans after all. Although New Marlborough is already a third of the way into fiscal 2012 and still without a budget, fears that an increase in the Town's allocation to the school district might result in unplowed roads and shorter library hours appear to be premature.

The shortfall, originally thought to be about \$100,000, now looks as if it will be much more manageable, says Administrative Assistant Mike Skorput. The biggest reduction comes from the school district itself, whose mid-July budget revision resulted in a reduction of \$40,000 in the amount owed by New Marlborough. Closer scrutiny of the FY12 budget has uncovered smaller pockets of cash elsewhere: a \$3,000 increase in tax revenues from new growth; up to \$5,000 more in state aid and other receipts; \$9,000 in taxes on a property whose completion had never been recorded with the assessor's office; a \$10,000 to \$12,000 reduction in a so-called overlay surplus account. According to Mr. Skorput, the FY12 deficit at this point may be no greater than \$20,000 to \$25,000.

Mr. Skorput cautions that these figures are

preliminary. As this issue of *5 Village News* goes to press, the Board of Selectmen had yet to receive state certification of the FY11 budget. The Department of Revenue was awaiting further detail on about a dozen items before giving last year's balance sheet its seal of approval. Until then, the Town will not have a true foundation on which to build FY12.

In a tangentially related development, the Board of Selectmen, Tara White recusing herself, voted to appoint Ms. White as accounting officer only until October 31, giving it time to consider other applicants to the position. According to the minutes of an August 25 meeting, Selectman Larry Davis expressed concern that Ms. White's dual roles "at times . . . becomes an issue for Mike Skorput." Presumably, he was referring to the fact that while Mr. Skorput needs Ms. White's cooperation to produce budgets on a timely basis, he also remains cognizant of her role as chairman of the board that hires him. On October 17, Selectmen Davis and Nat Yohalem interviewed two other applicants for the job of town accountant. □

reported by Joe Poindexter

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MESSAGE FROM POLICE CHIEF FARRELL

Summer has ended, and with it a fairly busy time for the NMPD. The addition of our full-time officer, Graham Frank, has added immensely to our ability to deal with emergencies and interact with the public. Graham's presence gives the department the capacity to follow through and investigate more of the issues affecting our town. Our part-time officers continue to assist with coverage, mainly on the weekends, but also during weekdays where needed.

Late this summer, one of our part-time officers, Ed Deming, was injured at his full-time job and suffered a significant head injury. He was a consistent presence in town and will be out for a while recovering.

This past month, Officer Frank and I completed a four-day training to become child passenger safety technicians. This is a national certification that allows us to install child car seats, assess vehicle safety, and educate the public about child-passenger safety issues. We will be conducting child-seat events in the community in the coming months and will be working at all the local schools to assist parents with any questions or concerns. Anyone looking for information about this should call 229-8161.

The department will once again be heading to New Marlborough Central School for their Halloween parade. We give out reflective bags, glow sticks, and glow bracelets to all the students to keep them safe while out on Halloween night.

One noteworthy item is something that Officer Frank and I have recently discussed. On many of our calls, individuals tell us, "I don't mean to bother you," or, "Sorry to bother you." At times, we even hear that people did not call on a suspicious issue because they "did not want to bother." Both Officer Frank and I would like everyone to please CALL US. We can only help, investigate, and respond to what we know about, and we are more than happy to come out at any time when we are available. As hunting season approaches, keep us in mind.

Reminder: The New Marlborough Fire Company will host a second Open House at the new Emergency Services Center from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 13.

Reminder: It is time to make sure you are ready for winter. Change the batteries in your smoke detectors, test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and have your chimney cleaned.

Reminder: You will have received this year's fundraising letter from the New Marlborough Township Volunteer Emergency Services Fund. Your continued support is greatly appreciated, and your contribution - no matter how large or small - will continue making a difference for the Emergency Services here in town.

Reminder: If you have concerns or issues that you would like to see addressed in the future, contact Fire Chief Peter Scala (413-229-8100) or Police Chief Scott Farrell (413-229-8191). As always, dial 911 if you have an emergency.

NEW MARLBOROUGH POLICE CALL LOG

Motor Vehicle Citations/Warnings as of Sept. 30: 388

Log Entries: 176 — Log Entries represent an officer's interaction with the public, either as a call for service/assistance or an officer's initiation of an investigation.

- Sept. 1 7:10 p.m. - Served Summons, Clayton
- 8:10 p.m. - Tractor trailer accident, Southfield
- 8:10 p.m. - Motor vehicle collision, no injuries, Southfield
- Sept. 2 3:20 p.m. - Wanted out of Sheffield, male violated restraining order
- 7:20 p.m. - Motor vehicle stop, license and insurance expired, Rt 183
- Sept. 3 2:00 p.m. - Met with FEMA regarding flood damage, Hartsville
- 5:00 p.m. - Assessed washout damage on Downs Rd. with FD Chief
- 8:38 p.m. - Abandoned 911 call, Southfield
- Sept. 4 7:25 p.m. - Report of a male lying in a ditch, Southfield
- Sept. 5 9:10 a.m. - Tree down on wires, Norfolk Road
- 10:00 a.m. - Breaking and Entering with property damage, Mill River
- 12:50 p.m. - Assisted with medical emergency, Hartsville
- Sept. 7 07:55 a.m. - Assisted with medical emergency, Hartsville
- 11:00 a.m. - Domestic dispute, Hartsville
- 2:00 p.m. - Met with FEMA regarding registration process
- 3:00 p.m. - Report of a party digging holes at Umpachene Park
- 7:00 p.m. - Supervised personal belonging dispute, Hartsville
- Sept. 8 9:30 a.m. - Delivered FEMA registration paperwork, Hartsville
- Sept. 11 1:45 p.m. - Suspicious activity, Southfield
- Sept. 12 11:00 a.m. - Restraining order violations, Hartsville
- 1:50 p.m. - Assisted with medical emergency, Hartsville
- 5:00 p.m. - Served Restraining Order for case out of New Marlborough, Sheffield

- Sept. 13 10:50 a.m. - Served Summons, New Marlborough
12:17 p.m. - Contacted Elder Services - possible neglect, Southfield
3:00 p.m. - Report of fraud/scam via phone, Mill River
- Sept. 14 1:30 p.m. - Assisted EMS with well-being check, Southfield
4:00 p.m. - Assisted citizen with lost LTC card, Mill River
8:15 p.m. - Individual threatening to do self-harm, Southfield. Transported same to BMC.
- Sept. 16 6:15 p.m. - Firearms renewal
- Sept. 19 4:45 p.m. - Motor vehicle stop, registration expired, license suspended, Southfield
6:45 p.m. - Firearms renewals
- Sept. 21 4:00 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, no injuries, Southfield
8:00 a.m. - Suspicious activity – hunting violation, Clayton
10:41 a.m. - Tree down on wires, Corashire Rd
12:10 p.m. - Motor vehicle accident, no injuries, Clayton
- Sept. 25 10:30 a.m. - Found/replaced traffic cones on Canaan Southfield Road
- Sept. 26 1:00 p.m. - Assisted party with fingerprints for employer
1:40 p.m. - Homeowner/contractor dispute, Mill River
3:00 p.m. - Report of missing dog, Mill River
4:37 p.m. - Report motorist throwing beer cans out of window, Mill River
6:30 p.m. - Firearms applications
7:50 p.m. - Investigated suspicious message left on answering machine, Mill River
- Sept. 27 11:00 a.m. - Motor vehicle stop, farm truck unregistered, Clayton
11:30 a.m. - Spoke with party regarding accident with property damage, Clayton
11:35 a.m. - Suspicious motor vehicle activity, license plate found in corn field, Clayton
- Sept. 29 10:00 a.m. - Report of abuse of mentally challenged individual, Southfield
- Sept. 30 6:30 p.m. - Served summons, Clayton
- All calls represent active patrol time, with an investigation by the responding officer. Outcomes of many of the calls have been omitted to save space, with the exception of arrests and filing of criminal charges.
 - If residents have concerns about calls and would like more information they may stop by the station from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. on Mondays for additional details.

New Marlborough Fire and Rescue Log

Sept. 1	1:30 p.m.	Cross to Canaan Valley Road	Fire Alarm
Sept. 1		Great Barrington	Medical Mutual Aid
Sept. 3	11:50 p.m.	Great Barrington	Medical Mutual Aid
Sept. 4	1:11 a.m.	Great Barrington	Medical Mutual Aid
	3:39 a.m.	Lumbert Cross Road	Medical Call
	11:52 a.m.	Hartsville N.M. Road	Bicycle Accident
Sept. 6		Canaan Southfield Road	Medical Call
	12:47 p.m.	Lakeside Drive	Medical Call
	12:10 p.m.	Hartsville N.M. Road	Basement Pump
Sept. 7	8:38 a.m.	Lakeside Drive	Medical Call
Sept. 8	11:30 a.m.	Mill River G.B. Road	Basement Pump
Sept. 9	9:59 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road	Fire Alarm
Sept. 12	1:43 p.m.	Lake Buel Road (Mutual Aid from Mont)	Medical Call/Fall Evac. By Boat
Sept. 13	8:15 a.m.	Brewer Hill Road	Fire Alarm
Sept. 14	1:20 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road	Medical Call
	10:56 p.m.	Tamaridge Road	Medical Call
Sept. 16		Underwood Road	Odor of Gas
Sept. 17	7:04 p.m.	Canaan Southfield Road	Medical Call
Sept. 19	1:44 p.m.	Great Barrington	Medical Mutual Aid
Sept. 22	3:05 p.m.	East Hill Road	Fire Alarm
Sept. 23	10:49 a.m.	Rhodes & Bailey Road	Medical Call
	10:03 p.m.	Southfield M.R. Road	Medical Call
Sept. 24	12:15 p.m.	Cross to Canaan Valley Road	Motor Vehicle Crash
Sept. 28		Hartsville N.M. Road	Medical Call

THE ART AND SCIENCE OF REPAIRING GRAVESTONES

First, do no harm. This commandment, borrowed from the Hippocratic Oath, is a guiding principal of the exacting profession of cemetery conservancy. Just how delicate a job it is to repair gravestones was amply demonstrated by James and Minxie Fannin, cemetery conservators who spoke to members and guests of the New Marlborough Historical Society in the year's final First Fridays program in September.

The tools of the conservator's trade include non-ionic detergent, shish kebab sticks, plastic scrapers, and firm toothbrushes (this last increasingly difficult to find, now that dentists prefer we brush with soft bristles). They use specially formulated cement to join pieces of broken stone and a mixture of sand and pea stone to hold them upright. It is not work to be undertaken by willing but untrained volunteers, though gravestone-repair workshops are now being offered to a public increasingly aware of the historic importance of its cemeteries.

The Fannins illustrated their talk with photos taken in the New Marlborough Village Cemetery, where there are, they said, 458 stones that are tilting, fallen, or broken. They praised the cemetery as a fine Colonial burying ground with an unusually large number of footstones. They admired the beautiful carving on some of the headstones, particularly two showing the work of the so-called Beartown carver. The fact that the cemetery has been in continuous use from the mid-eighteenth century to the present time is also remarkable, they said.

Regarding the on-going debate as to the origin of the two mounds in the oldest part of the cemetery, the Fannins said they doubted that the earliest settlers would have been so politically incorrect as to bury their dead



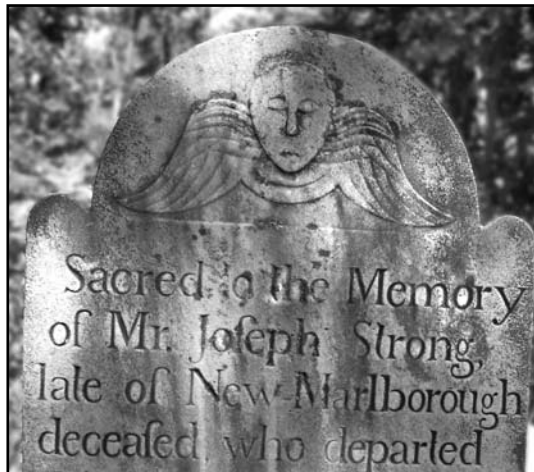
New Marlborough Village Cemetery

photo by Diane Barth

atop the graves of local Indians. The hilltops, they point out, were regarded as places of honor, the summit of each containing the gravesite of each of the Town's first two ministers. Hillsides and uneven ground were typically chosen as locations for graveyards, since they were ill-suited for cultivation. Land for the New Marlborough Cemetery was deeded to the Town by Reverend Thomas Strong, whose remains rest on the eastern hillock, on the condition that the graveyard be enclosed by a fence. The fence, now all but disappeared, would be another candidate for restoration.

The New Marlborough Historical Society is seeking grant aid to help finance conservation of the Town's cemeteries. The Society will resume its First Fridays series of programs in June 2012. □

reported by Joe Poindexter



A gravestone by the Beartown carver

photo by Diane Barth

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NEIGHBORS



The Trailblazers 4-H Club (New Marlborough and Sheffield kids) is collecting food for local pantries this fall. There will be a basket located at the New Marlborough Library for donations beginning October 22. They are trying to collect 500 pounds!

The ladder signs that appear throughout the town have been in need of refurbishing for many years, and a group of residents has mounted a campaign to raise funds for this purpose. After the first sign was pulled and inspected, it was immediately obvious that sanding and painting could not bring these signs back. The new materials closely duplicate the originals and retain the original

character. The first completed sign has been replaced at the iron bridge in Southfield, and it is a beauty! The group hopes these signs will carry through for another few decades. There are eight signs throughout four of the five villages, and plans are to add one in New Marlborough. Funds have been generously donated so far by thirty residents; an anonymous resident has donated \$4,000 to "shake the leaves" and hopefully inspire more donations to meet the final goal. Each sign, depending on size, costs approximately \$1,200. While individual merchants will pay to have their names added to the signs, another \$4,000 is needed to complete the drive. The members of the ladder sign committee include, from left, **Bridget Hughes, Neil Blackwell, Teena Parton, Joyce Sachs, Peter Marks, and Owen Hoberman.** (Member **Scott Farrell** was absent.) If you are an interested merchant, or simply wish to contribute to this neighborly project, please contact N M Ladder Signs, Teena Parton, P.O. Box 51, Mill River, MA 01244.



photo by Charlie Parton

East Hill resident **Holly Poindexter** has joined the robocorps of townspeople getting replacement parts for ailing joints. In the third week of September, she underwent a bilateral knee replacement (yes, both knees) and ten days later was back in Southfield, negotiating stairways and fieldstone paths. After her first visit to the physical therapists at Fairview, they took away one of her canes, telling her she didn't need two. She's been spotted over at the Mill River General Store, comparing notes with fellow robocorpsman **David Herrick.** They both have welcomed the most recent member, **Herb Abelow,** who received a brand new left shoulder at the end of September. □

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

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NEW MARLBOROUGH LAND TRUST HONORS RITA MATHEWS

The Thousand Acre Swamp picnic site was the setting recently for the New Marlborough Land Trust (NMLT) 2011 Annual Meeting and picnic. A short business meeting was followed by a tribute to NMLT founding member Rita Mathews for her tremendous contribution to the protection and preservation of the unique rural beauty of the Town of New Marlborough.

The weather fairies provided a glorious October day for the event. There was a vibrant palette of fall leaves reflected in the water surrounding the site on three sides. Over sixty members of the Land Trust, and friends and colleagues of Rita's, sat on rough-hewn half-logs as Jane Burke highlighted some of Rita's accomplishments as a professional explorer, scientist, and educator, which carried over into more than twenty years of volunteer work, helping to protect the environment of the New Marlborough community.

Jane recounted how Rita and her husband first came to the Berkshires in the late 1970s as part-time residents. Although she had a very demanding career in New York as a research scientist, Rita was increasingly drawn to the beauty of the region and sought to spend more time here as she cut back on her professional commitments. She foresaw the need to protect New Marlborough from development, and began to get involved in local activities to preserve the natural beauty which had attracted her to this region. She eventually became an active conservationist in the community and turned her keen mind, scientific background, organizational skills, and respect and appreciation of natural beauty to these issues.

One of Rita's first ideas for community conservation was

the need to organize a local land trust. She and three other New Marlborough residents founded NMLT in the late 1980s by buying a large parcel of land on Hotchkiss Road bordering on Thousand Acre Swamp. They then donated the parcel to NMLT as its first property. Rita took over the leadership of NMLT from Founding Chair Ron Melvin after five years.

In the late 1990s she was appointed to the New Marlborough Conservation Commission, which she eventually chaired. Jane Burke, who worked with Rita for several years on the Conservation Commission, remembers that Rita's "expertise in the science and the law behind wetland preservation led her to take on offending landowners whom others would not challenge."

Rita also made a major contribution to the writing of the New Marlborough Open Space and Recreation Plan in 2004 which, unfortunately, did not receive adequate support from the community to be adopted. Last but not least, Rita has played an important ongoing role as a mentor to Flying Cloud Institute's Young Women in Science for several years.

Following resounding applause, Rita accepted an initialed walking stick carved from local wood by Monterey artist Peter Murkett. A hearty chicken stew with cornbread, apple tarts, and wine, catered by the Old Inn on the Green, was served as people chatted informally with Rita and fellow residents and friends. A bright, nearly full moon helped light the way back to Hotchkiss Road as people headed home. □

reported by Pam Stebbins



Over sixty people attended the Land Trust Annual Meeting. The Land Trust presented Rita Mathews with a hand-carved, monogrammed walking stick in honor of her years of service to the community.

photos by Larry Burke

THE NEW TOWN WEBSITE

A Review...

In the past year, New Marlborough's Town website has undergone a complete renovation. There is a new look and a new address: <http://www.newmarlboroughma.gov>. The site was designed and is hosted by the Maynard, Massachusetts, company Virtual Towns and Schools. (The company was formerly known as Virtual Town Hall, but has since changed its name to reflect its expanded focus. You can visit their website at <http://www.vt-s.net>.)

New Marlborough's new website came about due to the efforts of former Selectman Chuck Loring. Responsibility for maintaining the site is split between Virtual Towns and Schools and the Town itself. In effect, Virtual Towns and Schools provides the scaffolding for the site, but the Town is responsible for the fluctuating content.

Millard Rose, the president of Virtual Towns and Schools, explains that the New Marlborough site is set up to allow content to be updated by responsible parties within the Town government. The company, which Rose says has developed sites for 125 towns, provides unlimited support to assist town officials in the technical aspects of keeping the site content up-to-date.

If you go to the new site, you will see images representing each of the five villages at the top of the page. You will also find links to key information, including the Town phone directory, minutes and agendas, the Town calendar, and more. You may find an important announcement near the center of the screen. At the time I am writing this, there is a link warning that Clayton Mill River Road is closed until further notice. You can click on the link for a few more details. A News & Notices section has an announcement that the tax collector's office now accepts

credit cards, information on trick-or-treating houses, and the date for the senior luncheon.

Some town officials offer email links, notably Town Clerk Kathy Chretien and Tax Collector Caren J. Adams, but many do not. If you want to write the selectmen, you can do so in a roundabout way using the Comments link on the Home page. Just be sure to indicate that you are expecting a response!

The site has a number of glitches. For example, if you click on a link seeking more details, sometimes you are taken to a PDF file. To read this file you need to have Acrobat Reader installed on your computer. When you close that file you are no longer on the Town site and will need to enter the address again to go back. Other links simply update the information on the site itself, saving you the need to install Reader and the trouble of returning to the site by your own efforts.

A review of the site over the past month or so indicates that information is only sporadically kept up-to-date. Today, I find upcoming events in October are listed including Selectman's meetings. When I looked a few days ago, nothing at all was listed. You may like to plan ahead, but you won't find anything listed for November which is, at this writing, a mere two weeks away.

The site offers selectmen's minutes but not those of the Finance Committee. A Home page link that exhorts the viewer to "Sign up for E-News" does not result in announcements being sent to your email box as promised. Virtual Town's Rose explains that the notices must go in a special place on the site in order to be distributed to those who subscribe in this way.

reported by Debra Herman

... And Suggestions

With the new Town website up and running, we have the potential to greatly improve communication between Town government and its citizens. If the habit can be formed among us to use the Town website as a regular means of receiving communication from Town officials, we believe residents will end up with better information on the working of Town government and will be able to participate more fully.

For that to work, two basic things need to happen: 1) everyone needs to know the website address, and 2) the website has to contain the kinds of up-to-the-minute information that will make visiting the site a productive and informative experience. With those two basics in place, we will all need to develop the habit to make the website a regular place to visit when online.

The suggestions below are a first step toward that end.

- The Town's web address should appear, whenever feasible, along with the address and telephone number

on Town correspondence and official documents.

- A notice regarding the existence of the new town website should be sent to every household in town as an insertion to the next mass mailing. (For example, it could be included with a tax bill or street listing mailing.) The reason for this is to make sure everyone knows about the new website, and to begin to use it (together with digital communication from citizens) to improve communications on Town business.
- The Board of Selectmen should officially request that the Mass.gov website update its link to the New Marlborough Town website to point to the current rather than the old Town website now in private hands.
- The Board of Selectmen should contact as many New Marlborough-related websites as possible asking them to link to the new Town site. If possible, the Town site should, in turn, link to such sites as those of the Village

continued, page 13

The New Town Website, continued

Association and other important New Marlborough-related sites.

- The Board of Selectmen should clarify who is responsible for maintaining information on the Town website and ensure that such information is conveyed in a timely and consistent manner. Services promised as part of the agreement that are not currently functional (such as the email notification system) need to be made to function as promised.
- The Board of Selectmen should review its contract with Virtual Towns and Schools so that the division

of responsibility for the site between the town and the company is well-understood. (We add that we would be pleased to review the agreement.)

- The Board of Selectmen should have a clearly visible email address to which residents can address their questions and concerns. The current Comment box does not serve that purpose as it appears to be intended for comments regarding the web site and not other issues concerning town governance. □

reported by Debra Herman and Tim Newman

FIONA DE RIS, HOT HOT SAUCE



photo by Kenzie Fields

Fiona De Ris, wearing gloves, trims jalapenos for a very hot sauce.

Fiona de Ris, mother of three, motorcyclist, cook, gardener, and South County Berkshire local, met me at her home in Hartsville on a weekday evening this month to see what might be around in the garden and to cook. Growing her own ingredients is not just a part of her own family's kitchen, but also her professional life. Formerly the owner of SOL Kitchen Catering, she is now tackling the demands of managing the Roadside Cafe in Monterey, reopening the cafe for business after a two-year hiatus. As a result, this summer her large and varied vegetable garden was left to its own devices – the main crops were perennials and other volunteer vegetables from seeds left behind by scratching chickens. The garden looked especially lush and jungley for the end of October, covered in waves of deep purple amaranth. One of the most vigorous vegetables this year were the jalapenos, which naturally inspired her to make hot sauce – the harvested peppers were starting to wrinkle and soften, threatening to go by or be made into something delicious. Down in the cellar Fiona showed me some of her stock put up from past seasons - elder blossom elixir and strawberry jam. She brought up a box of skinny jars for the hot sauce to the kitchen, where her eighth grader was busy translating passages from *The Little Prince* into German while we chopped. The quantities in the recipe below made about one gallon of very hot hot sauce. The ratio of peppers to onions and garlic can all be altered to taste, and the recipe can be halved or quartered to suit your own ambitions. □

reported by Kenzie Fields

Hot Hot Sauce

40 jalapenos
6 medium onions
1 head of garlic
salt (tablespoon or so)

If using a grill, light the grill. (You can also broil or saute the peppers in a cast iron skillet, but grilling imparts the smokiest flavor, ideal for this recipe).

Wearing gloves, trim jalapenos, removing stem and any blemishes. (You will forget, no matter how many times you say you will remember, not to touch your eyes or nose after handling peppers with bare skin).

Remove gloves. In a large bowl, toss the whole jalapenos in olive oil. Keep this bowl handy for later. Scatter evenly onto grill, if using, or into skillet on stovetop. Heat should be high.

While jalapenos are blackening, chop onions coarsely.

Roughly chop garlic.

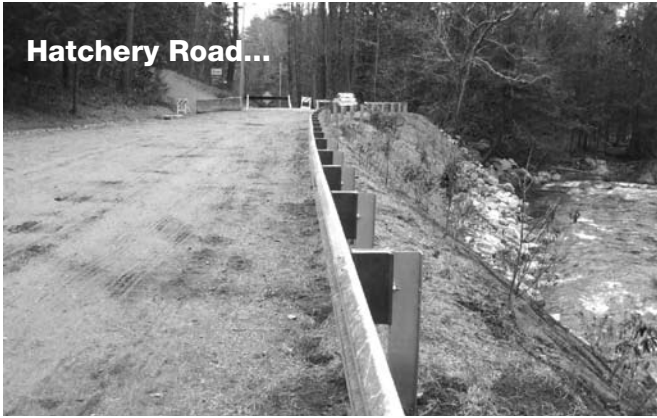
Once jalapenos are charred, soft, and very fragrant (if you lower your nose to the peppers, your eyes will water, in a good way).

Remove peppers from grill, or skillet, and empty back into bowl. Saute onions until wilted and turning brown, salt generously, then add garlic. Saute until garlic is fragrant, one or two minutes.

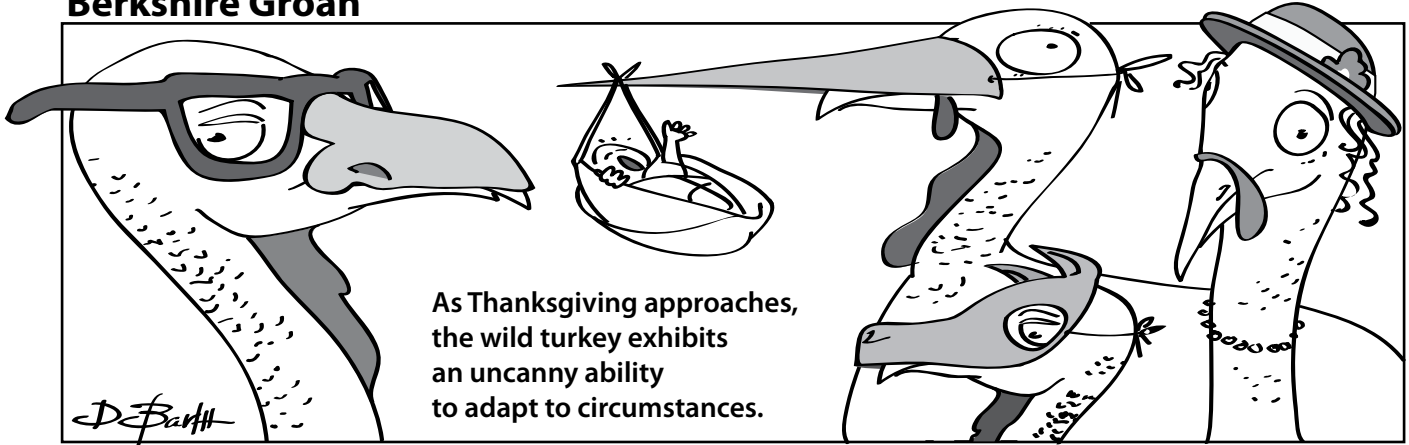
Put all ingredients into a food processor. Pulse, adding water a splash at a time until you reach desired consistency (can be a pouring hot sauce or spoonable, whichever you prefer).

Pour (or spoon) into jars, cool, refrigerate (or can as directed).

photos by Larry Burke.



Berkshire Groan



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MUSIC & MORE CLOSES TWENTIETH SEASON

The last two events of the 2011 Music and More Series in the Meeting House demonstrated some of the range that this annual event has developed over its twenty years of existence. The first of these, on September 24, was a celebration of Bob Dylan's seventieth birthday, featuring a talk by Seth Rogovoy, followed by a medley of Dylan songs performed by Mr. Rogovoy's band. Playing bass in the band was former New Marlborough resident Miles Lally (standing on the right in the photograph). As part of this event, there was a showing in the Gallery of photographs by Ken Regan, who had been Mr. Dylan's longtime official photographer.

On October 3, the culminating event of the season was held – a talk with four award-winning authors, hosted by Mitchel Levitas. Seated from left to right in the accompanying photo are Andrew Hacker and Claudia Dreifus, co-authors of *Higher Education? How Colleges Are Wasting Our Money and Failing Our Kids – and What We Can do About It*; Bruce Murkoff, author of *Red Rain and Waterborne*; and Tracy Kidder, Pulitzer Prize winner and author most recently of *Strength in What Remains*; and host Mitchel Levitas.

At the outset of the afternoon's program, Harold Lewin received a hearty round of applause for the outstanding job he has done over the last twenty years in building and sustaining this high-quality event. □

reported by Louise Yohalem and Larry Burke



Dylan photo by Ken Regan. Band photo by Larry Burke



photo by Larry Burke



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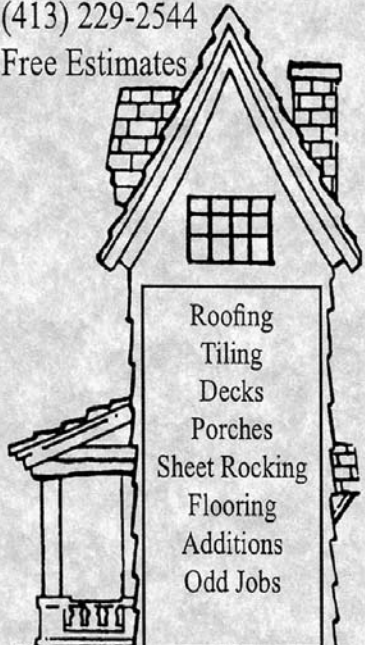


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Quail: Oct. 15 – Nov. 26
Ruffed Grouse: Oct. 15 – Nov. 26
Wild Turkey: Oct. 31 – Nov. 5

Black Bear
Sept. 6 – Sept. 24; Nov. 6 – Nov. 26

Deer
Archery: Oct. 17 – Nov. 26
Shotgun: Nov. 28 – Dec. 10
Primitive Firearms: Dec. 12 – Dec. 31

Furbearers
Bobcat: Dec. 20 – Mar. 8
Coyote: Dec. 20 – Mar. 8
Fox (red or gray): Dec. 20 – Feb. 28
Raccoon: Dec. 20 – Jan. 31
Opossum: Dec. 20 – Jan. 31

FAMILY FRIDAY

On Friday, October 14, fourteen hammers striking nails resounded in the Meeting House Gallery as families worked together to create their own birdhouses. It was the first Family Friday event, sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association, and forty-eight enthusiastic children and parents came to share dinner, learn about hole-breeding birds of the Berkshires, and make their own birdhouses.

Noted ornithologist David St. James gave a talk focusing on bluebirds and the challenges they face due to predatory birds that invade their nests. We learned that bluebirds like clean homes, so their houses must have roofs that open or other openings through which they can be cleaned. Following the talk, Jeff Homeyer, a master carpenter, assisted by David Soules of the Wild Birds Country Store (resident of Hartsville), helped each family make its own birdhouse. Each family received a bag of bird seed compliments of David and Jody Soules, who also gave each child a wild bird activity book.

The program began with a pizza supper catered by Terry Ferrara of Mill River. Nan Smith of New Marlborough



photo by Kenzie Fields

Kristen Sparhawk, Ryan Marchione, and their children complete the family's birdhouse.

coordinated the program, along with NMVA President Louise Yohalem of Mill River.

The next Family Friday will take place on November 11 at 6:00 p.m. at the Meeting House. More details will be forthcoming. □

reported by Louise Yohalem

NEW MARLBOROUGH MONTEREY PTA REACHES OUT

The beginning of the 2011/12 school year welcomes two new (although not new to New Marlborough School) NMMPTA co-presidents, Caren Adams and Michelle Sermini. Both are active members of the school community. Caren drives the number 2 school bus and has a daughter in the second grade. Michelle serves as a substitute administrator and is the mother of two NMC graduates, with her younger two in Pre-K and First Grade at NMC this year. Long-time NMMPTA members Sabrina Ruggiero and Phil Morrison continue as vice president and treasurer, respectively, along with Nan Smith as clerk.

The New Marlborough-Monterey PTA, although primarily a fundraising entity for the schools, is also looking to strengthen parent, teacher, and student relationships, and to connect the schools with the larger community. It is widely recognized that the residents of New Marlborough and Monterey make this a unique and desirable area in which to live. It is their talents, histories, and sense of service to the community that enrich the education of the elementary school children, and the NMMPTA works diligently to harness these connections to the benefit of all involved.

Some of the programs the NMMPTA plans to sponsor this year include collaborating with the Flying Cloud Institute and tapping a few of the community's talented

artists and educators for after-school workshops in the areas of drama, science, art, robotics, and math. The NMMPTA is also working with the District Attorney's office to present separate seminars to the children, teachers, and parents on bullying.

The NMMPTA has set up a Yahoo group to improve communication between its members and the immediate school community. The Yahoo group is essentially an online bulletin board, where members can post messages, meeting minutes, reminders about town meetings, etc., and generally be a more connected, cohesive group. NMMPTA members are also making an effort to have one or more members present at every School Committee meeting to stay in tune with and be a part of the decisions and discussions directly affecting the New Marlborough Central and Monterey schools as well as the district.

November is when the NMMPTA begins to organize its largest fundraising event of the year, the annual Holiday Fair, on December 3. Added to the familiar silent auction, holiday tree sale, and hand-made crafts, will be live music and caroling. Local business people and artists are encouraged to contribute items or services to the silent auction, and should contact Michelle Sermini or Caren Adams at the school office for further details. □

reported by Kenzie Fields

DOING GOOD AT MOUNT EVERETT

The Mount Everett SWAG club (Students Who Achieve Goodness) was created in 2010 by art teacher Stephanie Graham. Last year the club held a locks-a-thon where students and teachers donated their hair for Locks of Love. This year, the group has chosen to do a fundraiser for Heifer International, a program that sends animals to places in need and teaches the people the skills necessary to raise animals. Their mission is to end poverty and world hunger by giving the people of that area the ability to pass on "the gift." They give what they can to their neighbors such as surplus crops, eggs, meat, or the baby of an animal they have. In this way a donation to Heifer has a ripple effect on others.

On Thursday, October 13, a group of twenty students in grades 9-12 from the Mount Everett SWAG club visited Overlook Farm in Rutland, Massachusetts. The students reported to school at 6:00 a.m. to prepare an informational poster board to bring with them. They set out at 8:00 a.m. for Overlook Farm. This is a fully functioning farm that serves as an educational center for Heifer International.

In addition to having a wide array of animals, from goats and chickens to a yak and even a camel, they have a large garden and a global village that models the housing in third world countries. The global village is like the world showcase at the Epcot Center, but it shows the other side of things in these countries. Rather than showing the temples and castles, the global village is filled with the small one- or two-room homes that the population living in poverty would have. Each has animals unique to that region and the kinds of gardens they would have there. For lunch, the students used a campfire to cook a meal native to the country they were in at the time. One group was in Kenya and cooked a sakuma wiki and ugali. This is a kind of vegetable stir fry and a corn meal mixture. The students got a better impression of what it's like to live in these countries. Throughout the next few months the SWAG group will be presenting what they've learned and will collect money to send to the Heifer International program. □

reported by Catherine Twing

HAMLET

Once again, Mount Everett is participating in Shakespeare and Company's Fall Festival. The festival is in its twenty-third season, and now includes ten schools in our region from New York State to Springfield. This year Mount Everett students will be performing *Hamlet* with directors Carmen Manley and Adam Maldonado. Since they began in September, the students have been hard at work learning the lines, creating the sets, and attending master classes in acting. The program gives the students a unique opportunity to shape the show with expert guidance from the directors. The play will be performed on November 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the TAC PAC at Mount Everett. A week later, they will join the casts from the other participating schools for the three-day marathon of performances at Shakespeare & Company in Lenox. □

reported by Catherine Twing



Students rehearse a scene from the upcoming production of Hamlet. Samantha Twing of Hartsville is the kneeling masked figure on the right. photo by Diane Barth

Thank You to Our Contributors!

Peter & Barbara Goodman; Scottie Mills; Greg Kerr;
 Brian & Rose Dugan; Rhee Kasky; Cindi Labshere;
 Patricia & Sanford Ross; Sue Connell; Hope Crocker;
 Ken & Pat Rudolph; Domenic & Anna Broggi;
 Helen Liveten; Janett & Michael Miller;
 Patricia & Thomas Rajala; Leonard Mandile;
 Ian & Kerri Devine; Savage Frieze, Jr.;
 Phillip G. Futterman; Julian & Judith Jadow;
 Joseph & Evelyn Loring; and Angeline V. Pell

HEY, ALL SENIORS!

The students at the Mount Everett High School have invited us to a luncheon complete with music from all of their musical groups, and possibly a secret dramatic performance. They will be preparing and serving the meal, so don't miss it.

Thursday, December 1 at 12 noon

Place: Mount Everett School Cafeteria

This invitation is by reservation only for 100-120 persons so you must call the Sheffield Senior Center at 229-7037 to be on the list.

New Acquisitions at the Library

Adult Fiction

The Submission, by Amy Waldman
Lethal, by Sandra Brown
The Leftovers, by Tom Perrotta
River of Smoke, by Amitay Ghosh
Operation Napoleon, by Arnaldur Indridason
Full Black, by Brad Thor
Nightwoods, by Charles Frazier
The Map of Time, by Felix J. Palma

Adult Non-Fiction

Killing Lincoln: The Shocking Assassination That Changed America Forever, by Bill O'Reilly
1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created, by Charles C. Mann
Oink: My Life with Mini-Pigs, by Matt Whyman
1812: The Navy's War, by George C. Daughan

Children's Fiction

The Bridge to Neverland, by Dave Barry
Daniel X: Game Over, by James Patterson
Mr. Putter and Tabby Ring the Bell, by Cynthia Rylant
The Ogre of Oglefort, by Eva Ibbotson
City of Lies, by Lian Tanner
Grandpa Green, by Lane Smith

Children's Non-Fiction

About Hummingbirds, by Cathryn Sill
A Little Bitty Man and Other Poems for the Very Young, by Halfdan Rasmussen

Library Winter Hours:

**Monday,
Wednesday and Saturday**

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

Tuesday & Thursday

1:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Friday

1:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



**Friends of the Library will hold their annual
Pre-Thanksgiving **PIE SALE** November 19 at 9:00 a.m.**

-- Discussion Group at The New Marlborough Town Library --

Please join us Saturday, November 12, at 10:00 a.m. for coffee, bagels, and a lively book discussion.

Our book will be *Tourmaline*, by Joanna Scott. Stop in and pick up your copy today.

For more information, contact the library at 229-6668.



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Fax: 413-528-4809

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Contributions are needed to continue the paper!

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

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

Yes, I want the New Marlborough 5 Village News to Continue!

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

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We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Barbara Lowman, issue editor; Diane Swartz, issue designer;
Pam Stebbins, Kenzie Fields, Debra Herman,
Jane Burke, Charlie Parton, David Lowman,
Martha Bryan, Joe Poindexter, Larry Burke,
Peter Schuyten, Marianne Swan, Jon Swan
Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott,
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

New Marlborough 5 Village News
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SERVICE SECTOR

- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Berkshire Geo-Technologies:** Civil engineering – perc testing, septic designs, wetland permitting, residential & commercial site design, structural evaluation & design. Located in Monterey. Please call 413-429-4888
- ♦ **Campbell Falls Carpentry:** Licensed contracting and building. 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 cljvedelman@aol.com
- ♦ **Fine Jewelry:** Designers and manufacturers; custom orders/commissions welcome; expert repairs. 45 years experience. Sachs Reisman, Inc. 25 Maple Ave., Sheffield 229-0050
- ♦ **Firewood!** Split for you and delivered. Call Jim 229-3302
- ♦ **KMB House Checking Unlimited:** Committed to outperforming my competitors by providing a thorough, reliable, and individualized property management and house checking service. Kristopher Balestro 413-429-7094
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Mac's Custom Installations:** Licensed contractor #CS81431; kitchen and bath design. Ceramic tile and stone installation, specializing in custom shower pans. Call Mac: 413-442-9674
- ♦ **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
- ♦ **Southfield Fitness Training:** Certified and insured. Private and group physical exercise in your home or mine. Call Cassie 229-3302
- ♦ **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

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