



New Marlborough 5 Village News

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Clayton • Hartsville • Mill River • New Marlborough • Southfield

NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOLS Treasured Resources or Costly Luxuries?

By Joe Poindexter

The budget for the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, the subject of rancorous debate in recent years, appears to be headed for its stormiest season ever. On January 4, district administrators presented the School Committee's Finance Subcommittee with an FY12-FY13 draft budget that was, in accordance with requests from the New Marlborough and Sheffield Boards of Selectmen, level-funded. There was only one catch: To avoid steep cuts in staff and faculty, said the administration, the district would have to close down the outlying schools in Egremont, Monterey, and New Marlborough.

Many New Marlborough residents were stunned. Within a day, messages sprang up on Maggie's List expressing anger and dismay. How could school administrators propose to close down a school (New Marlborough Central) that has been educating children for three quarters of a century, just to eliminate a budget gap, one asked. What would be the effect on the Town's economy, the New Marlborough Public Library, and the willingness of young families to settle in New Marlborough? Didn't the School Committee

say just a year ago that it had no plans to shut down the satellite schools?

These questions and myriad others are being raised at a series of meetings in the three towns with satellite schools (New Marlborough's on January 30) and at Mt. Everett High School in Sheffield, February 8. The objective: to present a level-funded budget to the district towns while maintaining the educational excellence that has distinguished SBRSD.

Two factors have ratcheted up the challenge: First, the district is about to enter into negotiations with the teachers' union and transportation providers. Second, the capital budget, reduced to \$125,000 in the 2011-12 budget to minimize tax burdens on the district towns, has to be increased. (Rule of thumb calls for a capital budget of \$400,000 at SBRSD). The proposed budget, including operating, transportation, and capital, for FY12-FY13 is \$13,887,392 - level-funded to the dollar with 2010-11. At \$375,000, however, the new capital budget exceeds the present one by \$250,000. How to cut those dollars from the operating budget? The answer was one that had been bandied about for years: close the outlying schools.

continued on page 2



photo by Tim Newman

As a long-term benefit, the closings would eliminate, at least for the school district, the need to renovate the buildings in the satellite towns – at a cost put at \$1.4 million, though the costs could go still higher by triggering code requirements not presently in force. New Marlborough residents will recall, some perhaps ruefully, that a bond issue that would have paid for these renovations was rejected last year.

Dismay, anger, and incredulity were all present at a January 12 open meeting of the Finance Subcommittee of the School Committee, as Superintendent Michael Singleton told parents he was faced with a Hobson's choice: close the outlying schools or fire teachers. The administration opted for the closings, he said, not simply for financial reasons but also because centralization would enhance the educational environment of the district's grade-school children. It would provide a library, a gym, theater and arts programs, internet connectivity, and athletic fields, all lacking in the outlying schools. Proponents of the neighborhood schools argued that there are intangible benefits to the nurturing environment of a small school that must be weighed in the balance.

To help articulate these values – and to search for savings in the draft budget that would achieve level funding without school closures – residents of the five district towns have formed an organization called Save Our Schools. Its first objective, says New Marlborough parent and SOS Chair Kenzie Fields, is to persuade at least four members of the ten-member School Committee that the closings are a bad idea. A super-majority of seven or more must agree to send the school-closing recommendation to the five towns for consideration at their Annual Town Meetings. SOS has at least one School Committee vote: that of Egremont's Charles Flynn, who is advising the organization.

The School Committee will meet at Mount Everett High School on February 27 to render its verdict. □

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS
TO DISCUSS PROPOSED CLOSURE OF THE
OUTLYING SCHOOLS:**

January 30, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

New Marlborough Town Hall, Mill River

February 8, 2012, 7:00 p.m. Thomas A. Consolati

Performing Arts Center, Sheffield

491 Berkshire School Road

*All interested citizens
are urged to attend these meetings.*

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

November 19: The meeting started on time with all three commission members present: Co-Chairmen Ned Wilson and John Weinstein, and Peter Marks. Last month's meeting minutes were read and approved. Next the Commission re-opened the continued hearing for a Notice of Intent (NOI) for David Shalaby of Clayton Mill River Road. Former Commission member Tom Coote represented the homeowner and reviewed the proposed scope of work to include the installation of two agricultural bridges. The discussion first focused on the existing five-foot culvert which the owner proposed to bury and fill with gravel due to cost considerations. Mr. Coote explained that bridge crossings would be limited to one vehicle at a time. The Commission then referred to the five comments on the project submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection. The Commission requested additional information from the applicant: a soil analysis from the area where the foundation of one of the bridges would be set and a scale drawing with detailed specifications of the bridge construction. Mr. Coote requested that the hearing be continued until next month, and the motion was passed.

The mail was reviewed. A notice for a meeting of the Town's department heads was noted for December 7. A memo reminding the Commission of the Town's 2011 Annual Report was received from the selectmen. A special permit for Joyce Hackett of East Hill Road was received.

December 31: With only Ned Wilson and Peter Marks present, the reading of last month's minutes was postponed until next month.

First up was Mr. Coote for the NOI permit and the continued hearing for David Shalaby of Clayton Mill River Road. Mr. Coote explained that Joe Wilkinson Excavating would be doing the bridge installation and that Berkshire Bridge and Iron would be doing the bridge fabrication. The commissioners repeated their concern about the foundation for the bridge, and Mr. Coote stated that footers would be installed. The commissioners stated that they would like the structure of the bridge to include wing walls, but Mr. Coote did not agree with the recommendation. Following some discussion, the Commission voted to approve the permit as submitted.

The mail was reviewed. A Certificate of Compliance was received for David Bailin of Deerwood Road. The Commission received another reminder to submit its annual budget and its notice for the 2011 Annual Report. A report on biodiversity in New Marlborough from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife was received. □

*reported by Martha Bryan
from minutes provided by Secretary Kathy Chretien*

OUR WILDLIFE NEIGHBORS

Peter Schuyten, of Southfield, writes: First I heard that distinctive almost prehistoric call, like the whinging of a wooden winch that's being wound too tight. I thought: It's the middle of December, way too late in the season for sandhill cranes. But then I looked up and there, high above our home on Cagney Hill, was a pair of them, wheeling against the blue sky. They were too high to see any color, but their massive wingspan and shape were unmistakable. I'd seen them once before several years ago up here on the hill, and I guess they'd returned, or perhaps they were finally on their way south. It had been until then such a mild winter.

In early January, **Don Beauchamp**, of Clayton, spotted a brown creeper pecking its way down an old apple tree and was ready to take a photo of it, "but it stayed on the dark side and



photo by Don Beauchamp

never came around into the light." The following day, in early afternoon, "something scared a cock pheasant across the way at the Clayton church and it came running toward me and then stood still and posed for this photo." Don also notes that a man from Chicopee who hunts in the hills above Celia June's house said that this year he has seen the biggest coyotes ever.

Asked if she had seen any unusually big coyotes recently, **Karly Cutlip** (see "Growing Up Hunting," January 2010, NM5VN), said that she had taken photos of a large coyote a couple of years ago, "but he was really out there," so the photos were a bit blurry. This photo was taken on October 29, 2009 in the Clayton area.



photo by Karly Cutlip

Charlie Parton, of New Marlborough, writes:

Today, January 4, we still have our flock of around thirty goldfinches who join us for coffee each morning with stragglers during the whole day till the beer drinkers arrive for a second shot in late afternoon. But today they are joined by a lone purple finch.

On warm, sunny New Year's Day, **Ned and Ellie MacDowell** invited neighbor **Laura Endacott** of Project Bee to visit an unusual find, a tree hive located in their back field. As the result of logging operations, a 19-by-22-inch section of a hollow tree was found packed with honey comb and semi-dormant bees. Former beekeepers themselves, the MacDowells saw this as a "hands on" project for Laura and her bee partner, Marius Louw.

If anyone could save the bees from cold winter weather, Project Bee could do it, a rare chance to restore a natural working hive. And if the bees don't survive through the winter, Laura and Marius will still be able to show bee enthusiasts what an actual tree hive looks like in nature.

Later in the day Marius was back to collect the hive, along with several adjacent sections of the hollow tree. He has placed it in a location protected from the anticipated bitter weather and is providing additional food to the colony to augment its stores of honey. Even if his efforts are unsuccessful, this hive is evidence that swarms of bees are utilizing our hollow trees as swarming hives. Bee lovers, stay tuned! □

compiled by Jon Swan

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Town Business Is Your Business



Board of Selectmen

December 19: All three members of the Board were present as Selectman Tara White reported that the preliminary School Budget would be presented to the Finance Committee on January 4 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **The renewals of liquor licenses were discussed and approved for the Mill River General Store as a package store, and the Old Inn on the Green and the Southfield Store for sale of alcoholic beverages as drinks.** The applications for Gedney Farm and Mepal Manor were put on hold until a satisfactory agreement for the payment of back taxes could be worked out. The agreement would allow a period dating to October 2012, with any deviation triggering a revocation of the license-renewal process. Each of the three selectmen stated his or her intention to enforce the agreement, with Selectman Nat Yohalem asking that an allowance be made for catastrophic illness or similar obstruction of the solution. Selectmen White and Davis voted for enforcement without restriction.

David Lowman resigned by letter from the committee to consider the need for additional administrative personnel or services. His resignation was accepted, and the selectmen voted to appoint Bert Imberman, an alternate, as a full member of the committee.

January 9: All three members were present to hear James Mullen, Chair of the Planning Board, request approval for renewal of a grant-of-time for technical assistance from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission in order to complete the village district overlays (maps that are placed on top of the base map and show, for example, village boundaries) for zoning purposes. There will be no cost to the Town. The request was granted.

The Southern Berkshire Regional School District 2010-13 budget was received by the Town as promised. **Ms. White addressed the audience who had been drawn to the meeting by a stipulation in the budget that the three satellite schools in Egremont, Monterey, and New Marlborough be closed.** Ms. White emphasized that the selectmen had only learned of the proposal in the past couple of days.

She stated that the selectmen of the district towns had requested that the School Committee provide a level-funded budget for the coming school year. The district administration responded that this could be achieved only by closing the satellite schools. In addition to the savings for the current year, Superintendent Michael Singleton

told the selectmen, closing of the outlying schools would obviate the need for a proposed bond of \$1.4 million for repairs and maintenance, because the maintenance of those buildings would revert to the respective owner towns.

Ms. White pointed out that the superintendent initiates the proposal. It then goes to the School Committee, which must then vote by a super-majority (at least seven of its ten members) to request that the closings be included in the warrants of each of the five towns' annual town meetings. In the interim (a period of at least forty-five days) meetings in each of the three towns with outlying schools would be held to discuss the pros and cons of the closings.

In the vigorous discussion that followed, those in attendance discussed a statement in support of the closures circulated by Superintendent Singleton - and questioned many of the twenty-one points contained in the statement. The selectmen pointed out that there was little they could do other than gather information and ask questions. They urged the public to attend meetings of the School Committee and demand answers to their questions. An external audit to analyze the merits of the budget proposal was suggested. **The selectmen declined to put a figure on the cost of maintaining the New Marlborough Central School building, should it revert to the Town.** Concerns were raised about the impact of the closing of New Marlborough Central - how it would affect the library, the Mill River General Store, the town's basic values.

Selectman White stated that the agreement with Willow Creek Partners, LLC, the owners of Gedney Farm and Mepal Manor, has been breached by a failure to make a scheduled tax payment, the latest in a series of non-payments that had precipitated, the current agreement. The selectmen have advised the tax collector to initiate a tax lien in the name of the Town. There will be a hearing on January 26 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss whether or not to revoke all Willow Creek's licenses. The selectmen would like to resolve the issue without other penalties but allowed that time and patience are running out.

The selectmen appointed Neil Blackwell, Scott Farrell, Owen Hoberman, Bridgit Hughes, Peter Marks, Teena Parton, and Joyce Sachs to the new Ladder Sign Committee. □

reported by Charlie Parton



Violinist Yuki Numata will play Adams, Donatoni, and Fauré.

HOUSE CONCERT: VIOLIN AND PIANO

The second, and final, concert of the Winter Series sponsored by the New Marlborough Village Association will take place on Sunday, February 5, at 4:00 p.m. at a private home in Stockbridge. Featured artists will be violinist Yuki Numata, who delighted the audience last season in a violin-cello duo, and pianist James Johnston. They will perform music by John Adams, Franco Donatoni, and Gabriel Fauré, as well as a new work by the pianist. As is usual in the House Concerts, the performers will give some insights into the music.

Yuki Numata is rapidly gaining attention as a charismatic virtuoso, having performed as a soloist with the New World Symphony, the University at Buffalo's Slee Sinfonietta, the Wordless Music Orchestra, the Tanglewood Music Center Orchestra, and the Eastman Philharmonia Orchestra. Ms. Numata was invited to perform Charles Wuorinen's *Rhapsody* with the Tanglewood Orchestra and — at the composer's request and as a last minute replacement — she performed Wuorinen's *Spin Five* with the Slee Sinfonietta. Born in Vancouver, Canada, Ms. Numata received a bachelor's degree from the Eastman School of Music and a master's degree from the University of Michigan.

James Johnston is an American pianist, composer, and arranger whose abilities range from fresh interpretations of the classic literature through contemporary music, improvisation, and the many varieties of rock and jazz. A graduate of the Juilliard School and Yale University, Mr. Johnston's recent concert highlights include a performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto K.453 (with original cadenzas) with the Pittsburgh Symphony Orchestra and performances of Elliot Carter's double concerto and John Adams' Grand Pianola Music with the MSM orchestra.

The concert will last one hour, with wine and hors d'oeuvres served afterward. Seating is limited, so please make reservations at: 413-229-2785 or www.newmarlborough.org



reported by Lucy Bardo

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FINANCE COMMITTEE

November 21: In a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen, Edgar Zukauskas and Prudence Spaulding reviewed the application of Ira Yohalem to join the Finance Committee, replacing William Dowling, who resigned following his move to Sheffield.

Mr. Yohalem stated that he has been a resident of New Marlborough since 1976 and has recently retired from an accounting career in New York City, where he ran an accounting firm. He has been a licensed CPA for forty-five years. During his time with the firm he served as an advisor to businesses and non-profits, helping them (among other activities) prepare budgets and do long-term planning. He hoped that his skills could be put to good use in New Marlborough. In response to a question from Mrs. Spaulding, he confirmed that he was a registered voter in town. The vote to accept his application was unanimous, Selectman Nat Yohalem, Ira's brother, recusing himself. The committee is now comprised of Bill Hattendorf, David Herrick, Burt Imberman, Pat Mielke (ex-officio), Prudence Spaulding, Ira Yohalem, and Edgar Zukauskas

December 8: Following an announcement by Edgar Zukauskas that health problems might limit his ability to fulfill his obligations as chairman, the Committee voted to retain him as chairman and to create the new office of vice chairman, to which it elected David Herrick. Prudence Spaulding was re-appointed secretary.

Selectman Nat Yohalem, who has been meeting with department heads to determine their anticipated capital needs over the next five years, presented his findings to date:

Assessors: not more than \$5,000 worth of new computers

Town Clerk: materials, including computers and a scanner for file preservation.

Tax collector: no capital expenses foreseen

Building Inspector: about \$1,000 worth of computer software in 2014

Town Hall: renovation of the two bathrooms (not currently up to code), construction of a ramp to the second floor, possibly some interior painting.

Mr. Yohalem has still to determine the needs of the Police and Fire Departments and the library.

He then informed the Finance Committee that the Town was exploring the possibility of mailing tax bills quarterly rather than semi-annually as at present. He said he hoped the more frequent billing would help residents better manage the tax burden. More constant cash flow, he added, would reduce the cost of borrowing and more than offset the cost of the added mailings, which he estimated would be about \$800 per mailing.

Mr. Zukauskas urged the members of the Finance Committee to attend the January 4 meeting of the School Committee, at which the draft FY12-FY13 school budget would be presented.

The following FY13 budget requests were approved:

Council on Aging Expenses:	\$200
(an increase of \$50 over FY12)	
Council on Aging Transportation:	
level funding of	\$5,497
Animal Control Expense:	level funding of \$1,600
Senior Tax Work-off Abatement Program:	\$100
Cultural Council:	\$1,000
Conservation Committee Expenses:	\$2,000
911 Coordinator:	\$500
Board of Appeals:	\$600
Planning Board Clerical:	\$1,300
Planning Board Expenses:	\$872
Visiting Nurse Association:	\$2,451
Fire Truck Loan:	\$31,410
Highway Garage Loan:	\$48,825

At the suggestion of Mr. Zukauskas, the committee scheduled a public forum for April 9 at 7:00 p.m at the Town Hall to present the completed FY13 budget, so that residents would have ample time to consider budget requests before voting on them at the Annual Town Meeting in May.

January 5: Selectman Nat Yohalem, updating his report on quarterly tax-bill mailings, said that additional costs had surfaced: The first year cost, including new computers and programs, would be \$4,500 and \$2,700 thereafter. Further analysis, including consultation with Town Treasurer Pat Mielke, was required to determine if the increased frequency was cost effective.

Further to his research on five-year capital spending, Mr. Yohalem reported the following estimates of need:

Police Department: cruiser, \$45,000 over the five-year period; radar unit (needed in five years), \$3,500; vests (needed in five years), \$2,500; damage-resistant lap-top computer, \$3,500; radios, \$3,000; and computer program for data, \$25,000.

Fire Chief Peter Scala proposed that financing of certain capital items, a fire truck or an ambulance, for instance, be extended to ten years or longer, so as to minimize the fluctuation in real estate taxes. Mr. Zukauskas explained that the Finance Committee had been recommending this for some years but had never been successful in getting the Town to agree to it.

The request of **New Marlborough Rescue Squad** to transfer \$3,500 from the reserve fund to pay their clerical staff for the end of the year sparked a discussion

of the accuracy of accounting for hours worked and hourly amounts paid. Neil Crawford, speaking for New Marlborough Rescue, stated that entering data of the ambulance charges was now mandated by the Commonwealth and the numbers of hours were increased for this reason. Assistant Administrator Michael Skorput said that the new accounting had arrived too late to be put on the latest Special Town Meeting warrant. With a warning from Mr. Zukauskas that regular salaries should not in future be paid from the reserve fund, the committee voted its approval of the transfer.

Mr. Zukauskas then gave a brief report regarding the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Finance Committee meeting that took place on January 4. The school administration maintains that in order to achieve a level funded budget, the three outlying schools in Monterey, South Egremont, and New Marlborough need to be closed. This would affect about 100 students although some of those students are school-choice students and might not transfer to the Undermountain campus.

District Superintendent Michael Singleton stated that these schools are in need of large capital improvements, Monterey (\$300,000), South Egremont (\$290,000), and New Marlborough (\$800,000). Beyond the capital improvements, Mr. Singleton advanced a number of reasons for closing the schools. Among them: safety of students in the two smallest schools, the lack of library facilities, school nurse availability, gym, cafeteria, computer technology, adequate playgrounds, and limited exposure to art, music, and theater programs - all available at Undermountain but not at the satellite schools.

The closing of the small schools would result in a savings of \$1,390,000 in capital costs, and \$52,225 annually in utilities, with an estimated reduction in staff saving the district \$282,500. Mr. Singleton reminded selectmen present at the meeting that the towns had voted down a request for a \$3-million bond to cover these and other capital costs. As reported by Mr. Zukauskas, Superintendent Singleton estimates that the proposed budget would be at least 4 percent higher if the savings by closing the schools are not realized. (See story page, 1.)

Town Clerk Kathy Chretien requested a transfer of \$2,500 from the reserve fund to the **Town Records Preservation Fund**. Two record books, including one for the period of 1759-1821 will be preserved on 35mm microfilm. These books, Ms. Chretien explained, represent our town's early history and should therefore be preserved. With Mr. Zukauskas once again pointing out that such amounts should be included in the annual budget, the committee approved the transfer.

Budget requests, level funded or with small increases, were approved for the following departments:

Fire Department: \$60,900
Fire Department clerical: \$1,700

A Fire Department request for a stipend of \$43,500 was put on hold for a subsequent meeting. Mr. Scala revealed plans to tear down the old firehouse and add two bays to the new firehouse, one to house the ambulance and one to house the police cruiser. As envisioned by Mr. Scala, the police department would pay a rent of \$12,000 per year to cover the cost of servicing the mortgage that will be required to add the two new bays.

Children's Health Program: \$1,000
Treasurer's expenses: \$3,108
Treasurer's software: \$3,280
Tree Warden's salary: \$1,000

Three items were put on hold: a request of \$10,000 for tree work, \$2,476 for Building inspector's expenses, and the Building Inspector's salary, so that additional information can be provided. □

written by Joe Poindexter from minutes provided by Prudence Spaulding

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Neighbors



In the January NM5VN, there was an article about the January 17 foreclosure auction of three tracts of corn fields along the Clayton Mill River Road. That auction was subsequently cancelled. An unconfirmed source has suggested that the owner may have declared bankruptcy. Should further information become available regarding the future of these fields, it will be reported here.



Miss Hall's School in Pittsfield has recently received honorable mention awards for two of its publications - the alumnae magazine, *Miss Hall's*, and the admissions viewbook, *Get Real*. The Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE) annually recognizes outstanding communications of schools, colleges, and universities; its District 1 includes all of New England and eastern Canada. **David A. Smith**, of New Marlborough, communications manager for Miss Hall's, did the copywriting for the award-winning publications. Congratulations to David and his colleagues! (By the way, David is also responsible for assembling The Log in the NM5VN.)



Two major suites of work spanning thirty years in the artistic career of **Ann Getsinger**, are on view in the Hillman-Jackson Gallery of the Daniel Arts Center at Simon's Rock. Each in its way focuses on the passage of time. The earlier work, twelve pen drawings called San Francisco Calendar Series and never before shown, was done a month at a time, starting in 1979, during Ann's first visit to a major city.

By contrast, the ten works that comprise *Panoptica* are large-scale oils that dazzle with color and evocative imagery. Painted in 2009, the paintings express a timeless quality as they cycle through the seasons and hint at relationships that defy narrative. If *Panoptica* mystifies, clues to its meaning may be found in a short film on the creation of the series made by **Larry Burke**, a professor of film at Simon's Rock, which will be on view during gallery hours of 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The show, which opened January 24, closes February 17.

Neighbors is compiled by Barbara Lowman: deeuell@yahoo.com

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NEW MARLBOROUGH MENAGERIE

Jason Ben David, a fourth-generation local on Martha's Vineyard, never thought he would leave the island. But he and his wife Lynn Webster felt drawn to the Berkshires, the rural lifestyle it offered their family, and the nice people they met while visiting. Particularly drawn to the small towns in South County, they relocated their family to Hartsville in August 2010.

Lynn is the current early kindergarden and kindergarden teacher at the Monterey school, and Jason, a carpenter, spends most of his spare time tending the family's spectacular array of birds: mandarin ducks, wood ducks, Birmingham roller pigeons, silkie chickens, laying hens, African triangle doves, Cornish game hens, and a pair of peacocks. They also have ten Californian rabbits - and, until they went into the freezer, two pigs.

Jason learned self-sufficiency in raising animals and vegetables from his grandfather, and his love of ornamental animals he inherited from his Uncle Gus, a retired director of Mass Audubon's Felix Neck Wildlife Sanctuary. Uncle Gus now runs a bird park out of his backyard on Martha's Vineyard and has a reptile exhibit in his basement, including the largest reticulated python in captivity.

The Ben David-Webster's two daughters, Maple, eight, and Ivy, six, both students at New Marlborough Central School, spend a lot of time taming the chicks of various breeds. They can become amazingly tame when handled by humans right from the start, says Jason. He has gone to great lengths to make their habitats predator-proof. He has installed electric fencing around the barn in which the pens and hutches are located. And, just to see what's out there, he has set up a wildlife camera with a motion sensor to take pictures of animals on their property at night. So



Jason Ben David with daughters Maple and Ivy

far, the camera has captured bobcat, coyote, foxes, and raccoons.

Last summer, joining three other New Marlborough residents - (Steve Cunningham of Berkshire Bounty and Teena and Charlie Parton, offering wool and knitted goods) - Jason sold vegetables at the Norfolk farmer's market. Although he still hopes to establish a farm and sell naturally and organically raised meat, eggs, and vegetables to local residents, Jason's efforts are presently focused on filling the family larder.

And this includes the rabbits (which he prepares in a tomato sauce or with mushrooms, onions, and cream), though their primary function is to add manure to the compost for growing vegetables. Jason roasts the Cornish hens, marinating them in whatever savory condiments may be at hand - barbecue sauce, teriyaki sauce, mustard, or balsamic vinegar. Here are two of his favorite recipes:

Rabbit in Tomato Sauce

Parboil whole rabbit in water with herbs (bay, thyme, parsley, etc)

When meat falls off bone, transfer to a pot of tomato sauce of your choice

Bring to a simmer for about 10 minutes, or until flavors blend, and spoon rabbit in sauce over freshly cooked pasta

Roast Cornish Game Hen

Rub with herbs, butter, salt and pepper

Or marinate in a strong, savory condiment of your choice, about 8 hours.

Cover with foil and roast in a preheated 450 degree oven, 30-40 minutes depending on size of bird

Remove the foil and continue roasting for an additional 15-20 minutes for finishing. □

reported and photos by Kenzie Fields

WHEN FEMA CAME TO TOWN

Some refer to it as the channel, others simply as the drainage ditch. And it's been said that it was rammed through by the Town during the last days of the FEMA-funded cleanup after Hurricane Irene, marring an otherwise widely praised disaster recovery effort by the Town's emergency management team.

The "it" in question here is a less-than-quarter-mile stretch of the Konkapot River just downstream from the Route 57 bridge in Hartsville; it was supposedly straightened, or "channeled," by a pair of large excavators working right down in the riverbed, in contravention of Department of Environmental Protection wetlands rules and without consulting the Town's Conservation Commission.

Indeed, while some of the details are still a little murky, this has become a hot-button issue for the environmentalists in town. The fact that the work was done in a supposedly sandy area being considered for a conservation easement to protect the habitat of an endangered species has only sharpened criticism of the intervention.

Hartsville, of course, was the hardest hit of New Marlborough's five villages. Trees, all sorts of debris, even propane tanks were hurtling down the river, notes Chuck Wyman, whose sawmill is adjacent to that stretch of the Konkapot. "But the biggest problem was the rocks. They filled up the river. So there was no place for the water to go." No place except up over the bank and out through the village.

Of the sixty-five or so calls received during or immediately after the storm by the emergency management team, a majority were from Hartsville. Basements were flooded, driveways washed out, and in at least one case a well was compromised, as was a septic system. Other wells and septic systems were threatened. There was concern about what would happen if Irene were followed by another storm or even a heavy rain.

"We had to clear the river before the next rain," says Barbara Marchione, emergency management coordinator. "As it was, we were this close to evacuating Hartsville."

Confusion and misunderstanding remain over the measures that were, in fact, employed. Take that channel, and the adjacent fifteen-foot high berm. According to Dave Dempsey, whose family farm straddles the Konkapot there, it was actually the Army Corps of Engineers that dredged that stretch of river and built the berm more than half a century ago after the devastating floods of 1955 in



Excavators cleared the Konkapot River upstream of the Route 57 bridge in Hartsville

the aftermath of Hurricanes Connie and Diane. And right before Irene hit, the DEP made a point of relaxing or waiving many of its wetlands and waterways restrictions to facilitate the post-storm cleanup, requiring only that municipalities had to work with their local conservation commissions and file the appropriate paperwork.

Conservation Commission co-chair John Weinstein notes that Ned Wilson, his co-chair, went with Highway Department supervisor Peter Marks to all the sites on the FEMA-related work list, including the rivers, and that paperwork was filed with Conservation Committee's secretary Kathy Chretien. He also noted that other DEP officials, "higher-ups from the Western Region office," were in town during that critical period. So the charge that the Conservation Commission was never consulted is not supported by the facts.

What is true, however, in a stroke of monumentally unlucky timing, is that there was an unofficial visit by a pair of representatives of the State Division of Fisheries and Wildlife to that very stretch of the Konkapot when the excavators were working in the riverbed. The representatives reportedly left in a hurry, apparently shocked by the sight of the work going on in an area under consideration for protection as a habitat for the endangered wood turtle (*Glyptemys Insculpta*). Although rarely seen, the wood turtle is easily distinguished by its bright orange legs and neck and the rough pyramid-like scales on its upper shell or carapace. Its ideal habitat is a slow, meandering river with sandy or gravelly banks, very much like the Konkapot just downstream from where the excavators were at work.

Given the cost of the river work, FEMA's participation



Downstream, the river displayed its newly created berms. Photos by Larry Burke



was crucial. Latest estimates are that the recovery from Irene will run to \$1 million, but according to Ms. Marchione, FEMA will reimburse the Town for 75 percent of that, or \$750,000. And the state helps, too, by picking up 12.5 percent of the remaining \$250,000 and ultimately may pick up the rest. There's also a twelve-to eighteen-month window after a disaster in which to file claims for damage which was not apparent at the time but can be shown to be related to the storm. So the total cost figure and reimbursement amount could grow, notes Ms. Marchione.

As for that stretch of river, "it's narrower than before Irene, and it's shallower," says Mr. Wyman, who has lived on this part of the Konkapot since 1966 when he was four years old. "But they didn't change the shape of the river. It was always straight and

there were no sandy banks where the work was done," he adds. But he's confident about the river itself. "Trees and bushes will start to grow [on the banks] between the rocks. It'll take a while, maybe ten years. But there's no way in hell the river would've healed itself the way it was right after Irene." Mr. Wyman will also presumably keep his eyes peeled for a wood turtle. Thus far, he says, he has never seen one.

In terms of the conservation easement, even that may have a happy ending. There was a second, more favorable visit to the river by Fisheries and Wildlife some weeks after the excavation work was completed, and according to Andrew Madden, the division's Western District manager, "While there were certainly better ways of doing some of that work, it's still a wonderful piece of property and as far as the state is concerned the project is still alive."

reported by Peter Schuyten



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The Mailbox



The United Church of New Marlborough wishes to extend our gratitude to all the folk of New Marlborough who celebrated with us on Christmas Eve at our service of Lessons & Carols. The music, the scripture, the pews filled with friendly faces both familiar and new created an evening of worship that was truly special. For that we are very grateful and look forward to more times together in the years to come.

During the service, an offering was taken for the purpose of adding to the Deacon's Assistance Fund. This fund gives aid to church members and neighbors during times of need. In the fiscal year that ended last September, the Fund paid over \$5,400 toward food, heating fuel, rent, mortgage and telephone service for families and seniors who reached out to our church. Since the beginning of this fiscal year in October, the Fund has already provided over \$3,000 in similar assistance.

The church is so very thankful to all who gave so generously to the offering on Christmas Eve, which resulted in an additional \$908 to further assist our neighbors during difficult times in the coming year. It was the church's intention that the service of Lessons & Carols would be a Christmas gift to all the folk of New Marlborough, and in every respect that intention was realized. For that we are truly grateful. May God bless each and every one of us this coming year.

Robert Olsen,
Pastor, United Church of New Marlborough

I read with interest Joe Poindexter's report on last year's final First Friday program, which featured a talk by cemetery conservationists James and Minnie Fannin, illustrated by photos taken in the New Marlborough Village Cemetery ("The Art and Science of Repairing Gravestones, November NM5VN). On the subject of the twin hills in that cemetery, Joe reports, the Fannins doubted "that the earliest settlers would have been so politically incorrect as to bury their dead atop the graves of local Indians." Earlier that year, Stockbridge historian Lion Miles said much the same thing, (see "The Mysteries Remain," NM5VN, July 2011).

I find it hard to share this opinion. For one thing, it assumes that early English settlers were finicky about what bones they might uncover in the process of burying their own dead. For another, the opinion seems to assume that the twin mounds were built as burial mounds, and built, moreover, by the Mohican people whom the settlers encountered when they arrived in the Berkshires - a

pitifully small band of people led by Chief John Konkapot. Whatever purpose the mounds might have served, their construction would have been beyond the means of Konkapot's people.

It is far more likely, then, that, if the twin mounds were man-made they were constructed thousands of years before white settlers arrived in the Berkshires. Paleo-Indians settled in the Northeast some ten thousand years ago. If they were builders, and if the mounds were constructed as burial mounds, the bodies of those interred would have long since turned to dust by the time New Marlborough's settlers chose the site for their own burial ground. So the allegedly politically sensitive settlers would have no reason to shy away from burying their dead on the slopes of the hills.

I asked Lucianne Lavin, director of Research and Collections at the Institute for American Indian Studies in Washington, Connecticut, for her opinion on this subject, and she replied, in part:

It is an archaeological fact that burial mounds exist in northern New England and adjacent Canada. They have been radiocarbon-dated to ca. 7,000 - 8,000 years ago. The Morrill Point Mound in Salisbury, Massachusetts, produced a radiocarbon date of 7,125 years ago. The styles of the accompanying artifacts supported the accuracy of that date. So it is entirely possible that eighteenth-century Englishmen had no idea that the mounds were artificially constructed by indigenous peoples or that they contained burials. In any case, I do not think that the presence of Native American burials would have made much difference to many of them. There are plenty of instances in local town histories that describe the purposeful disturbance of Indian graves, beginning with the Pilgrims' arrival in Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Jon Swan, Clayton



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ED HARVEY: Camp Wa Wa Segowea Volunteer of the Year

Last summer, Southfield resident Ed Harvey found himself spending more and more time at YMCA Camp Wa Wa Segowea, at the top of Foley Hill Road in Southfield. It was like coming home, not just because he'd been a camper and on staff there for many years, but because his family – his parents and his brother Tom and himself – had called the place home for more than twenty-eight years. “I was surprised by the amount of time I spent at camp,” he said. “And how the more I was there, the more I wanted to stay down there as much as possible.”

Ed, in fact, spent so much time there and played such a big role in the vitality of daily life of camp that he was named one of three Volunteers of the Year at the YMCA Leadership Rally in Albany last November. It could hardly have been a surprise to him, but he had not taken it for granted at all. “It is an honor,” he said, “but also somewhat humbling. Part of my time this past summer I saw as pay-back for the time that the camp provided me a year-round home for so many years.”

“Home” is a theme that permeates summer camps far and wide, including Wa Wa Segowea. It's part of the magic of the sleep-away experience: campers come to feel that the camp is, indeed, a home away from home, and that their fellow campers and the staff members are all part of an extended family. It was this magic that Ed so naturally became a part of. Despite his stature (towering over the campers as he did), he was able to tenderly attend to “boo boos, bruises and bellyaches,” as he aptly called them. He also made campers feel right at home behind and in front of the lens in his photography classes. His many photographs have become part of the camp's “Family Photo Album” which will endure for years to come.

Countless campers, counselors, staff, and volunteers over the years have felt at home at Segowea. But there was a melancholy period of time, from 2006 to 2009, when the home and hearth stood cold. It was through the efforts of many caring alumni that the camp was brought to life once again in 2010, under the direction of

the Capital District YMCA of Albany, New York. More than \$750,000 was raised for the refurbishment of the property, and countless hours were spent by staff, board members, and alumni in getting the word out that YMCA Camp Wa Wa Segowea was reopening. “I wanted to be part of camp in some way,” Ed said. “Then I saw that the rebirth of the camp was nearly complete and that it was ready to grow.” Ed was overjoyed with the opportunity to reconnect.

Last summer saw a 75 percent increase in campers from the year before, with most of the campers from 2010 returning. Segowea serves hundreds of campers, from as near as Southfield and as far away as Brooklyn. This year we expect to host international campers as well staying for a week or as long as most of the summer. Segowea's resurgence is due in no small way to volunteers like Ed,

who will be returning once again to lend a hand.

In addition to the great staff, campers love the setting and the myriad activities. Waterfront activities on the twenty-three-acre private lake include swimming, canoeing, sailing, rowing, kayaking, and fishing. Other recreational activities include archery, basketball, volleyball, soccer, hiking, overnight trips, arts and crafts, and outdoor living skills. Each week includes time for building friendships, caring for the camp property, connecting

as a community, and reflecting

on how the values and experiences of camp can carry on throughout the year and into the greater community of our world. □

— Kat Fitzpatrick, Camp Wawa Segowea Director



Ed Harvey and appreciative Segowea campers



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Thomas Coote, Director: 413-644-4509
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THE LOG

We can't help you if we can't find you!

An emergency response features many pieces – the 911 system, a dispatch center, radio towers, and transmitters to relay information to pagers that all firefighters and first responders carry, and apparatus for responding. For all of New Marlborough's rural charm, it is perhaps comforting to know that within minutes of an emergency, a fire truck or ambulance can be moving in your direction – if we know where to go.

Every home in New Marlborough is assigned a 911 number. Not every New Marlborough homeowner, however, displays a 911 number at the end of his or her driveway. And many of those posted are difficult to read, even in ideal conditions, let alone at 2:00 a.m. For obvious reasons, it is important to display a clearly visible 911 number.

You may order 911 signs, which are two-sided and highly visible, at the Mill River General Store. They cost \$20. If you need help hanging your sign, call us. If you prefer to post your street number, keep in mind that numbers:

- must be at least 3 inches tall and visible from the road;
- must be visible from both approaches to your driveway;
- must be high enough so as not to be obscured by snowbanks or shrubs.

In an emergency, every minute counts. Make sure we don't waste them trying to find you.

Mark Your Calendars: The New Marlborough Fire Company's Annual Spring Dance will be held Saturday, May 12, at Gedney Farm. Tickets will be available soon! Call David Smith, (413) 229-0291 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>Dec.1: 12:35 p.m. Assist Fire Department with brush, fire, Mill River
2:30 p.m. Attempted suicide, taken into custody and transported to BMC, Southfield</p> <p>Dec.2: 4:00 p.m. Missing juvenile, possible family abduction. Later located, Clayton</p> <p>Dec.5: 9:00 a.m. Car vs. deer accident, no injuries, Clayton
10:30 a.m. Property damage, Hartsville</p> <p>Dec.6: 3:45 p.m. Property damage, Hartsville
10:30 p.m. Car vs. tree accident, operator transported to Fairview, Clayton</p> <p>Dec.8: 6:30 a.m. House alarm, Southfield
12:00 p.m. Traffic hazard – tree on wires, National Grid contacted, Mill River
12:45 p.m. Individuals in for firearms permits
3:15 p.m. Suspicious activity – illegal hunting, Mill River
4:15 p.m. Abandoned 911, Southfield
4:20 p.m. Police presence requested for hazardous spill cleanup, Hartsville</p> <p>Dec.9: 11:30 p.m. House alarm, Mill River
11:00 p.m. Suspicious motor vehicle, all checked out OK, Southfield
11:30 p.m. Motor vehicle stop, expired registration, Southfield</p> <p>Dec.10: 8:30 a.m. Disabled motor vehicle blocking Rt. 57, removed, N. M.
10:00 a.m. Requested for exchange of belongings per restraining order, Hartsville
11:30 a.m. Property damage, Mill River</p> <p>Dec.12: 5:30 p.m. Animal complaint, loose cows, Rte. 57, New Marlborough</p> <p>Dec.13: 8:30 a.m. Animal complaint, loose cows, Rte. 57, New Marlborough
7:00 p.m. Possible restraining order violation, investigation opened, Hartsville</p> | <p>Dec.14: 8:07 a.m. Property damage, Southfield
8:50 a.m. Animal complaint, Mill River
3:20 p.m. Property damage, Southfield
9:30 p.m. House alarm, open door – all secure, Clayton</p> <p>Dec.18: 4:15 p.m. Firearms applicants</p> <p>Dec.19: 11:30 a.m. Hunting violations, New Marlborough
12:30 p.m. Met with Conn. State Police Re: shared investigation
1:30 p.m. Assist citizen with licensing questions, Mill River
1:50 p.m. Suspicious phone calls, Southfield</p> <p>Dec.21: 5:40 p.m. Motor vehicle lockout, Mill River</p> <p>Dec.22: 9:30 a.m. House alarm, Hartsville
12:00 p.m. Met with Conn. State Police Re: shared investigation
1:15 p.m. Report of erratic operation, Hartsville
1:20 p.m. House alarm, contractors on scene – all secure, Clayton</p> <p>Dec.27: 4:20 p.m. Car vs. car accident, no injuries, criminal charges filed, Mill River
5:40 p.m. Confirmed breaking report, investigation opened, Southfield</p> <p>Dec.28: 12:50 p.m. Report of larceny from a dwelling, Clayton
9:30 p.m. Wanted notification issued for larceny suspect, Clayton</p> <p>Dec.29: 11:00 a.m. Larceny reported; more discovered, connected to previous ones in Clayton
1:00 p.m. No trespass order taken out for suspect in larceny, Clayton
3:05 p.m. Link to Life call, medical, Clayton
4:30 p.m. Citizen found open door at house in Southfield, same secured.
7:30 p.m. Disabled motor vehicle, Mill River</p> <p>Dec.31: 3:00 p.m. Party trespassing; left scene on arrival; backup called for search. Party found, under arrest, Clayton</p> |
|---|--|

NEW MARLBOROUGH FIRE AND RESCUE

- Dec.1: 12:39 p.m. Mill River-Gt. Barrington Road
brush fire
1:43 p.m. Tamaridge Way medical call
- Dec.2: 9:24 a.m. Tamaridge Way medical call
mutual aid to Great Barrington
medical call
- Dec.4: 9:50 a.m. Hartsville-N.M. Road medical call
- Dec.6: 11:10 p.m. Canaan Southfield Road MVA
- Dec.8: 2:31 p.m. Route 57 MVA
6:27 a.m. Hartsville N.M. Road fire alarm
- Dec. 13: 7:10 a.m. Clark Way chimney fire
- Dec. 14: 4:25 p.m. Clayton-Mill River Road
medical call
- Dec. 15: 8:11 a.m. Mutual aid to Great Barrington
medical call
- Dec. 17:11:25 p.m. Mutual aid to Norfolk structure
fire
- Dec. 18: 1:00 a.m. Mutual aid to Norfolk structure
fire
1:00 a.m. Mutual aid to Norfolk MVA
- Dec. 20:12:08 p.m. Canaan-Southfield Road
medical call
8:00 p.m. Canaan-Southfield Road
chimney fire
- Dec. 21:10:00 a.m. Knight Road, medical call
10:55 p.m. Canaan-Southfield Road MVA
- Dec. 29: 3:03 p.m. Canaan-Southfield Road
medical call

**NEWS FROM THE TOWN CLERK****CENSUS**

It is time again for the annual town census. As required by the state, the annual census is conducted each January and February by the town clerk's office; it should have arrived in your mail by the time you read this article. All households in New Marlborough are encouraged to complete the annual census; it helps the Town with state funding, so please return the completed form within ten days of receiving it. Please note that New Marlborough's census lists the zip code of 01244 for all residential addresses; this is a glitch with the software the state has purchased. It cannot be changed, since the computer only recognizes the one zip for New Marlborough's residents - in this case in the village in which the states's computer is located, Mill River. Please note that the town clerk cannot remove any voter from the annual census without that voter signing the form, even if it is your child. Please include all children living in your house. In the interest of obtaining as accurate a count as possible, the clerk will return all forms that fail to list children known to reside at the residence filing the form. If you have questions about the census, please call the clerk's office at 229-8278.

DOG LICENSES

The 2011 dog licenses will expire on March 31, and the 2012 dog licenses are available now. Renewal fees are \$7 for spayed or neutered dogs and \$15 for intact dogs. Kennel licenses are \$30 for one to three dogs; \$50 for four or more, as per Section 137, Chapter 140 of Massachusetts General Laws. All dogs six months or older and housed in town must be licensed. Proof of current rabies certificate is also required. If you would prefer to mail your payment, please include a self-addressed envelope to: Town Clerk, P.O. Box 99, Mill River, MA, 01244. Checks are payable to Town of New Marlborough. You have the option of ordering online on the Town's official town website, www.newmarlboroughma.gov. Click on Town Clerk under "Departments", and then click on online payments. You may prepay by credit card or check, but please note that there is a fee if paying by credit card; there is no fee if paying by check. Please renew before May 1 to avoid dog law violations fines of \$25 per dog (Section 141, Chapter 140).

TOWN CAUCUS

Please be aware that the annual town caucus is coming up on Tuesday, March 27. Caucus nomination papers are available at the Town Hall.

SPORTING & HUNTING & FISHING LICENSES

As of 2012, the Town of New Marlborough will no longer be a vendor for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife hunting, sporting, and fishing licenses and stamps. Please note that the Mill River General Store is selling the 2012 licenses and stamps. For a list of other vendors, contact the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife website at www.mass.gov/masswildlife

ELECTIONS AND VOTER REGISTRATION

This year has a full schedule of elections:
Tuesday, March 6: Presidential Primary (Please note that the deadline to register or to change party status is twenty days prior to an election.)
Tuesday, March 27: Town Caucus, 7:30 p.m.
Monday, April 23: Last day of voter registration for Annual Town Meeting and election
Monday, May 7: Annual Town Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, May 14: Annual Town Election, Noon - 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 6: Primary Election, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 6: Presidential Election, 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Please check your voter status well before the primary in March. Voter registration is available year round. You may visit the Town's website to register on the Town Clerk page, or at the Secretary of the State's website at www.sec.state.ma.us/ele. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office 229-8278 or stop in.



FORESTS REBORN

19th Century New Marlborough Was Surprisingly Barren of Trees

In 1829, *A History of Berkshire County, Massachusetts*, by "Gentlemen in the County, Clergymen and Laymen" was published. Clergymen from every settlement in the county wrote a section on their respective towns. The Reverend Chester Dewey of Williams College wrote the first section of the book, which is called "Natural and Human History of the Region." The book makes for fascinating reading and is a portal to New Marlborough of almost 200 years ago.

The Berkshires and New Marlborough were among the last areas of the commonwealth to be settled by white people. When they first arrived in the 1700s the area was utter wilderness with a small population of Native Americans. Roads were absent and settlers from Sheffield visited the first New Marlborough settlers in the winter by hiking ten miles on snowshoes. Wildlife abounded, including wolves, bears, rattlesnakes, and of course deer, wild turkey, and eagles.

By 1829, when the book was published, much had changed. New Marlborough had become a bustling center of farming and commerce. What was the United States like in 1829? John Quincy Adams had just been defeated in the 1828 election. On March 4, 1829, Andrew Jackson was sworn in by Supreme Court Chief Justice John Marshall as the seventh president of the United States. John C. Calhoun was vice president. The Civil War was decades away, and the western territories were undergoing rapid expansion. When we think of the Berkshires of 1829, we envision an idyllic, natural setting as portrayed in a lovely landscape from the Hudson River School of painting. This view, however, is far from the truth.

The U.S. census of 1820 showed Berkshire County with 35,720 inhabitants and New Marlborough with a population of 1,668 (by comparison, the 2010 census shows 1,509 inhabitants). New Marlborough in 1829 was a busy place. According to the authors, there were two libraries (the larger with 115 volumes), 278 houses, four grist mills, fifteen saw mills, a forge, five clothier businesses, two post offices, six stores, and one tavern. Virtually all trees had been cut down to feed the sawmills, build houses, or for charcoal to smelt iron, which had been discovered in various South County and Connecticut locations. The view in every direction was of pasture, with an occasional oak tree left standing near a stonewall to attract squirrels - and much smoke from various enterprises.

Unfortunately, the increase in population, businesses, and logging had come at a high price. According to the *History*, by 1829 almost all wildlife was gone. "In the early

settlement of the county bear, deer, and wolf though not abundant were not uncommon. These have long since disappeared. Occasionally a deer or a few bears pass along the Green Mountains into the north part of the county and excite all the remnant of the old hunting spirit. . . . the rabbit and hare and several kinds of field mice remain. . . .The wild turkey has disappeared."

Many years have passed since 1829. Farming thrived and businesses grew, but ultimately the area was bypassed by the great industries of the twentieth-century. New farming areas with flat land and rich soil in the Midwest lured farm families away from stone-filled, hilly Berkshire terrain. By the early 1900s, and especially during the Great Depression, many of the old farms and businesses failed and were abandoned. Fields were no longer tilled, trees grew, and uncontrolled second growth of the forests burgeoned. Mills fell into ruin, the population stagnated and then shrank. Large tracts of lands were acquired by the wealthy and became estates, family compounds, and second homes. This era ushered in a rebirth of Berkshire County wildlife.

Fast forward to 2012. Deer abound, bears are abundant enough to be seen and hunted, coyotes roam the hills, bobcats, wild turkey, and maybe even a mountain lion or two occupy our township. An occasional moose crosses our fields. Stone walls that separated pastures and crops are now ruins amid dense, eighty-year-old forest land. Towering pine, oaks, maples, poplar, and cherry populate our forests. We have indeed been provided a second chance in New Marlborough and the Berkshires that we take for granted. It is hard to imagine what an 1829 New Marlborough resident would think seeing most of the fields gone and the rebirth of the wilderness.

The cycle presents a cautionary tale, as New Marlborough looks to the future and attempts to create a healthy blend of economic development and wildlife preservation. One potential assist in this effort: the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act (CPA), M.G.L. Chapter 44B, which gives towns the power to raise revenue that is matched by the state to be used to create a local Community Preservation Fund for open space protection, historic preservation, affordable housing and outdoor recreation. Over 40 percent of all towns in the commonwealth have joined this program. It has helped them to preserve historic houses and buildings, to have affordable places for local people to live, and to allow intelligent development that brings jobs and resources to town, but preserves unique second-growth forests and wildlife.

The authors of the 1829 history of Berkshire County present stark evidence of the consequences of unplanned growth. □

reported by John Schreiber



THANK YOU TO OUR CONTRIBUTORS!

Carol Parrish & Paul Clark; Joyce & Tom Sachs; Stephen & Maria Schumacher; Miladeen Wyman; Priscilla J. Beers; Edgar & Eileen Koerner; Andrew Weinberger; H. Dennis Sears & Rene C. Wood; M. Levi; Richard Silver; Sally & Gene Stamper; Jean Travis; and William & Judianne O'Brien

UPCOMING: EVENT CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY AND MARCH

February 2: Gallery Talk - Ann Getsinger's Panoptica, a series of ten paintings on the passage of time on view (January 24 to February 00) at the Daniel Art Center, Bard College at Simon's Rock, 84 Alford Road, Great Barrington. Paired with Panoptica are a dozen pen and ink drawings, called San Francisco Calendar, and a movie on the making of Panoptica by Simon's Rock professor and New Marlborough resident Larry Burke.

February 3: Knit one, purl two, or just learn the basics at the bi-weekly meeting of Knitting at the Library, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the New Marlborough Public Library. Future meetings: February 17, March 2, 16, and 30.

February 5: House Concert - The final in the Village Association's Winter Series, featuring works by Faure, John Adams, and others, played by violinist Yuki Numata and pianist James Johnston, at a private home in Stockbridge, \$25, \$20 for Village Association members. Call 413-229-2785 for details.

February 8: Public Meeting on closing satellite schools - 7:00 p.m., Consolati Performing Arts Center, Mt. Everett High School, Berkshire Road, Sheffield

February 15: Last day to register for the Massachusetts presidential primary

March 6: Presidential Primary - Town Hall, 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

March 27: Town Caucus - Town Hall 7:30 p.m.

SUSAN M. SMITH Attorney At Law

32 Corser Hill Road
Great Barrington
Massachusetts 01230

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email: ssmithlaw@hughes.net

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Adult Fiction

Red Mist, by Patricia Cornwell
Breakdown, by Sara Paretsky
Private: #1 Suspect, by James Patterson
Covert Warriors, by W.E.B. Griffin
A Devil Is Waiting, by Jack Higgins
The Hunter, by John Lescroart
The Rope, by Nevada Barr

Adult Nonfiction

Catherine The Great: Portrait Of A Woman, by Robert K. Massie

Children's Fiction

The Girl Who Could Fly, by Victoria Forester
The Secret Zoo, by Bryan Chick
The Umbrella, by Ingrid Schubert
A Boy Called Dickens, Deborah Hopkinson

Children's Nonfiction

Charles Dickens: Scenes From An Extraordinary Life, by Mick Manning
North: The Amazing Story Of Arctic Migration, by Nick Dowson
Escaping Titanic: A young Girl's True Story Of Survival, by Marybeth Lorbiecki

Library Winter Hours:
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 Tues. & Thurs.
 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
 Fri. 1:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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Book Discussion Group -
 February 18 at 10: a.m.

Join us for coffee, bagels and a lively discussion of *Bel Canto*, by Ann Patchett. Everyone welcome - stop in and pick up your copy!

Did you get a Kindle, Nook, or other E-Reader this year? Did you know you could download **free e-books** via the library, as well as from Gutenberg and other sites? Interested? The library would like to hold a workshop in late March or April, but we need to have eight to ten participants. If you would like to attend, please contact the library at 229-6668.

DENNIS J. DOWNING

ATTORNEY & COUNSELLOR AT LAW
 17 MAHAIWE ST, GREAT BARRINGTON, MA 01230
 Tel.:(413)528-5040; Fax: (413)528-5095
 e-mail: downing.law@verizon.net

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www.BarnbrookRealty.com

271 Main Street
 Great Barrington MA 01230

(413) 528-4423

FAX (413) 528-4727

Mary@BarnbrookRealty.com

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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)

NAME _____

MAILING ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

We welcome advertisements from businesses owned by New Marlborough residents.

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

NM5VN Editorial Team

Joe Poindexter, issue editor; Marianne Swan, layout;
Pam Stebbins, Debra Herman, Kenzie Fields,
Jane Burke, Charlie Parton, Larry Burke,
David Lowman, Martha Bryan, Jon Swan,
Peter Schuyten, Barbara Lowman, Diane Swartz,
Contributing writers: Janice Boults, Laura Endacott,
Ann Getsinger, Mary Richie Smith, and Tara White.

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For advertising, contact: Barbara Lowman, tel: 229-2369
PO Box 243, Southfield, MA 01259
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:** Saturday at 10 a.m.
- * **Board of Assessors:** Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- * **Fire Department training:** Every Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station
- * **Building Inspector:** Monday 5 - 7 p.m. Wednesday 8 - 10 a.m.
- * **First Responders:** meeting/training: First and third Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Fire Station
- * **Cultural Council:** Second Thursday at 4:15 p.m.
- * **Town Treasurer:** Wednesday 3:30 p.m. - 6 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.
- * **Tax Collector:** Monday - Thursday, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 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. - 4 p.m. weekdays; Saturday by appointment
- * **Town Hall:** 229-8116
- * **Police:** business office: 229-8161

Emergency calls: Police, Fire, and Medical: 911

Transfer Station hours:

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

PERMITS ARE DUE ON JULY 1

They are available at
the Town Hall in Mill River
FEE IS \$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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MA 01230

CHANGE SERVICE
REQUESTED

SERVICE SECTOR

- ◆ **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
 - ◆ **Reiner White:** General Contractor; 413-229-8450
 - ◆ **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
 - ◆ **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
 - ◆ **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.*