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ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL MARKS 100 YEARS NOT JUST A BUILDING – A "LIMINAL SPACE"

The history of St. Francis Chapel is fascinating. One article in the Marlborough Bulletin cannot do it justice. The little "church" on the back side of Stone Pond, reached only by way of a private road, embraces the generosity of a wealthy person, the values and history of the Episcopal Church, some interesting twists that bring to mind the-six-degrees-of-separation theory, and the firm and loving care of those who have been entrusted with the small, plaster, brick, and pressed wood structure.

The Kershaws originally owned most of the land surrounding Stone Pond. Astoundingly, they chose to give away plots of land to people who wanted to build. The one caveat was that anything that was constructed must not be visible from any other point on the pristine little lake. This writer stood at



Entrance to the Chapel.



Outside of Chapel.

the chapel in June and, even today, 100 years later, she could just see a bit of one structure across the pond. If you are enjoying the clear, clean water at the town's public beach, see how many structures you can see.

The *Marlborough Bulletin* is also available
in color online:

1 - Marlborough Town website:
www.marlbroughnh.gov.
Click on "About Marlborough";
click on "Community Groups."

2 - Frost Free Library website: frostfree.org.
Click on "Links We Love";
scroll down and click on "News";
scroll down and click on
"Marlborough Bulletin."

ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL (cont'd)



View of Stone Pond from the Chapel

In 1926, Mr. Kershaw built a private chapel on his property. He was a devoted Episcopalian. Well-to-do families for ages have erected private chapels on their properties, where they could hold services. The history of chapels themselves is worth researching. A chapel is defined generally as a small Christian place of prayer and worship, often part of a larger building, like a church or a hospital, and which doesn't have a permanent congregation or clergy. There are chapels in hospitals, in schools, and in prisons, even in a few airports. They are places for solitude and prayer.

Francis and Justine Kershaw named their chapel for St. Francis of Assisi, the Italian friar born in about 1181. He chose a life of poverty and is the patron saint of the environment and animals. St. Francis is remembered for his love of nature and his care for the poor. Statues of St. Francis often show him with a bird and a wolf. The prayer of St. Francis, "Lord Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace," is beloved by many, especially in the Episcopal and Roman Catholic denominations.

The Episcopal bishop consecrated (dedicated) the chapel in September of 1926. The Kershaws have memorials on the site. The chapel is in the pristine condition that the Kershaws would remember. There is no electricity, no water, and no sewer.

Generations of Episcopalians have nurtured the space and the building.

At first, there were daily services, and then down the years, only on Sunday, and now there are baptisms, weddings, and summer

Sunday worship, from July through Labor Day.

Reading some of the history is fun for the historian or the curious. Two of the families associated with the property were related directly and separately to two large publishing houses in the United States. One re-

recorder recalls clearly that the building was built by Portuguese fishermen from New Bedford, MA, and was made of plaster and seaweed. Another person records that the chapel was made of "pressed wood with wires" and was built by Victor Davieau of Marlborough. There is another delightful story of the gift of a box organ given by retired physician Dr. Robert Englund through circuitous connections. (The box organ requires no electricity.)

Over the years, there has been some vandalism and disrespect for the property. That has caused the Episcopal diocese to set boundaries about use of the chapel.

One thing is certain. The chapel was, and is, meant to be a place of worship and/or meditation. The Rev. Maria Tjelveit, Priest-in-Charge, describes the Chapel and its location as "a liminal space," a place where abandoned or lonely places may appear to be forlorn, but which touch a place of spiritual "in-betweenness," where the quiet and the beauty of nature touch the soul.



Image of St. Francis Inside the Chapel



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ST. FRANCIS CHAPEL (cont'd)

This summer, in its 100th birthday, here is how you can appreciate St. Francis Chapel:

- Saturday, June 27th, 1:00–3:00 pm: The Prayer of St. Francis, Peace Practice; 108 minutes of meditative music and chanting of the prayer of St. Francis, in an interfaith gathering led by the Sikh community.
- Sundays, July 5th–September 6th, 9:00 am: Holy Eucharist (communion) at the Chapel. All are welcome!
- Sunday, July 19th, 9:00 am: Dedication of a new path in memory of Charles and Dorothy Ferranti and of a birdbath in memory of the Rev. William and Henny Hale.
- Sunday, July 26th, 9:00 am: 100th anniversary of the Eucharist with the Rt. Rev. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of NH.
- Mid-August (tentative): Display of photos and paintings of St. Francis Chapel at the Frost Free Library. Folks who have images of the Chapel, including weddings and other activities, may contact the Rev. Tjelvelt at revmaria@gmail.com.



St. Francis Chapel is the private property of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire. You are welcome to visit but please be respectful. No fishing, boat launching, camping or commercial use is allowed.

- Saturday, August 29th, 12:00–4:00 pm: Open House in conjunction with the 250th Anniversary of the Town of Marlborough.

Kathleen Oliver

[Resources used for this article are from “Stone Pond—A Personal History” by William D. Eddy, the Rev. Maria W.E. Tjelvelt, and the Rev. Sanford and Bonnie Johnson. The Johnsons live in Marlborough.]

MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND

HISTORY AND MISSION

The Marlborough School District Endowment Fund (MSDEF) was established at Town Meeting in 1996 with two goals in mind: To enrich and enhance the educational experience of Marlborough students, while reducing taxpayer burden. Our current slogan says it all: “Working for the benefit of Marlborough students, teachers, parents, and taxpayers.”

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The School Endowment Fund is overseen by a Board of Directors, all volunteers, who are united in the belief that our community benefits from having a strong school and well-educated students.

RAISING AND MANAGING OUR MONEY

We raise money through donations, bequests, sponsorships, and fundraising activities. The money is then invested with

the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, which sends us an annual disbursement based on investment return for the year. We never spend the original donations, only the investment income. The “protected” endowment balance currently stands at \$311,000. The Board has made a commitment to raise

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MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT ENDOWMENT FUND (cont'd)

that figure to \$500,000 within the next 10 years.

A PARTIAL LIST OF PROJECTS AND PURCHASES

Over the years, the School Endowment Fund has provided funding for a wide range of school-related purchases, projects, and activities, including science books, outdoor learning equipment (snow boots, equipment sled, rain gear, binoculars), art supplies, a clay press for making pottery, musical instruments, classroom furnishings, field trips and outings, Special Ed items, Preschool playground equipment, Preschool lending library, Preschool and Kindergarten student assessment kits, plus support for the School Media Center.

In 2025, when Marlborough School was facing a budget deficit, the Endowment Fund stepped up and paid the entire bill for a year's worth of instructional services rendered by the NH Dance Institute to over 100 Marlborough students, thereby sparing local taxpayers the expense.

In early 2026, we provided tools, building supplies, soil, and seeds to the Student Garden Club for two raised-bed gardens on school property.

At our May 2026 Board Meeting, we approved funding for two new initiatives:

- Costumes and regalia for fourth-graders marching in the town Memorial Day parade as Revolutionary War soldiers;

- A large, upright weaving loom allowing up to eight students to create tapestry art together at the same time, for a possible art installation at the school.

Our proudest moment came 12 years ago, when a 23-acre parcel of privately owned woodland immediately adjacent to the school was about to be put on the market. The School Endowment Fund partnered with the Town of Marlborough, the Marlborough Conservation Commission, and the Monadnock Conservancy to purchase the property, so that the land would **then, now, and forever** be available for the benefit of Marlborough students and teachers.

We thank all who have supported our mission over the past 30 years.

The Marlborough School District Endowment Fund is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable/educational organization. Donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed under federal tax law.

We are always looking for new Board members, people with new ideas and new energy. The only requirement is that you be a resident of Marlborough.

For more information, please check out our website www.msdef.org or visit us at www.facebook.com/MSDEF. Our email address is msdef.org@gmail.com.

Submitted by Laurence Upton.

POST DOIN'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL PARADE 2026



It was a very busy couple of months for the Post. Late May saw our annual Memorial Day Parade and the Semiquincentennial kick-off. The Parade, originally scheduled for Sunday the 24th, was rescheduled to Monday the 25th. Thanks to the quick

thinking of "Weatherman Ted," the Semiquincentennial Committee was called together on Saturday morning and was presented with the dismal weather forecast for the following day. Monday afternoon promised much better weather, so the decision was made to postpone. Everyone pitched in, making phone calls, sending texts, putting out signs, and getting the word out on social media. The only casualty of the postponement was the Monadnock Regional High School Band, which was

Continued on page 6



CLIMATE CHANGE AND CLEAN ENERGY AN UPDATE

Wednesday, July 15th
7:00 pm

Frost Free Library, 28 Jaffrey Rd.

We know the climate is changing, causing more severe weather, affecting our food chain, and much more. Are we learning to deal with it? What steps are being taken here and around the world? Come listen to Rob Werner, the New Hampshire State Director of the League of Conservation Voters (a national advocacy organization that works to turn environmental values into national, state, and local priorities). Among other achievements, Rob has a certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School in Climate Change and Energy Policy, served for seven terms on the Concord City Council, and chairs the Concord Energy and Environment Advisory Committee. Rob is a Global Affiliate to the Gund Institute for Environment at the University of Vermont. Join us for an interesting talk, followed by a lively discussion!

ANIMATION WITH PROFESSOR PHIL

Wednesday, July 29th
2:00-3:30 pm

Frost Free Library, 28 Jaffrey Rd.

Come learn the basics of frame-by-frame animation on paper with Phil Davis. Phil grew up in Marlborough in the 80s-90s and went on to study film at Syracuse University. He got his Master of Fine Arts in Imaging and Digital Art at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. He is now a professor of animation and digital art at Towson University in Maryland. Phil makes 2D and stop-motion animated films. He is also the director of the Sweaty Eyeballs Animation Festival in Baltimore.



FROST FREE LIBRARY TEA TRANSFORMING OUR OUTDOOR SPACE (RESCHEDULED)

Wednesday, July 29th
6:30 pm

Frost Free Library, 28 Jaffrey Rd.

Landscape Marty Castriotta of Earthcraft Designs, LLC, in East Alstead, will discuss the ongoing project to beautify the Library grounds.



Elizabeth Richards Summer Concert Series

28 Jaffrey Rd; Marlborough, NH
Concerts begin at 6:30. Shine only.

June 30th - Westmoreland Town Band
Sponsored by Wilcox Tree Service

July 7th - Decatur Creek
Sponsored by BC Construction

July 14th - 20th-Century Pops
Sponsored by Main Crust

July 21st - Sheep Dip
Sponsored by Monadnock Lions

July 28th - Webb Depot Boys
Sponsored by Savings Bank of Walpole

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LOOKING AHEAD

The Senior Luncheon returns from vacation in September.
Gramma's Table will remain on vacation until October.



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POST DOIN'S SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL PARADE 2026 (cont'd)



Mark Polifrone and pipers lead the way.

booked solid for Monday, but everyone else got the word and were all present and accounted for by Parade "Step Off" at 2:00 pm!



Meredith Hines' 4th-Grade Class from the Marlborough School took 1st Place.

This year's Float Contest was very successful with a total of nine entrants. Those organizations entering floats or walking groups were the Marlborough Historical Society, McNabb Slabs, the Marlborough Garden Club, Dave's

Automotive Enterprises, the Federated Church of Marlborough, the Homestead Thrift Shop, the Monadnock Lions Club, and the Marlborough School 4th Grade. Contest winners this year were 3rd Place—The Homestead Thrift Shop, 2nd Place—The Federated Church of Marlborough, and 1st Place—the Marlborough School 4th Grade.

Overall, it was a wonderful day! The weather was perfect, parade participants were eager, and the parade route was lined with enthusiastic spectators. Thank you to everyone who helped make this such an enjoyable and successful day. Best parade in many, many years!

On June 10th, Post Commander Drew Cullen and Senior Vice Commander Chris Frontiero attended Senior Award Night at Monadnock Regional High School to present the First Annual Braydon Paul Sweet Ring Memorial Scholarship. This \$3000 scholarship is awarded in memory of Braydon Paul Sweet Ring, who passed away in March of 2025. This year, the scholarship was awarded to Makayla Harwood of Swanzey, NH. She will be attending Colby-Sawyer College in the fall. Congratulations, Makayla, and good luck with your future studies!



Post Commander Drew Cullen, Senior Vice Commander Chris Frontiero, and awardee Makayla Harwood.

On June 16th, Commander Cullen and Former Commander Fletcher attended the Marlborough School Awards Night to present two awards. The American Legion Certificate of School Award is presented to a student who exhibits the attributes of courage, honor, leadership, patriotism, scholarship, and service. This year's School Award winner was Tremaine Williams-Wilcox. The John F. Fletcher Award was presented to Isabelle Ziarnowski. Congratulations, Tremain and Isabelle!

Also happening for the Croteau-Coutts-Ford Post 24 in June were the Birthday Bash Mad Dash 5K Road Race and, finally, the groundbreaking for the long-awaited Veterans Memorial Park renovation at the Marlborough School. More on these two events in the next edition of the Marlborough Bulletin.

Submitted by Dana Whitehouse.



LET YOUR REPRESENTATIVES KNOW YOUR CONCERNS!

U.S. Senator: Maggie Hassan – (202) 224-3324

U.S. Senator: Jeanne Shaheen – (202) 224-2841

U.S. District 2 Representative: Maggie Goodlander – (202) 225-5206

N.H. State Senator: Donovan Fenton – (603) 271-3469

N.H. State Representative: Lucius Parshall; lucius.parshall@leg.state.nh.us

Town of Marlborough Select Board: (603) 876-3751

Marlborough School Board Chair: Jeffrey B. Miller; jmiller@sau29.org

FROST FREE LIBRARY NEWS - JULY 2026

- Happy Independence Day! Bring your friends, and join us at **10:00 am, July 4th**, for an epic **Town photo** with the new Revolutionary War monument!
- This month at Frost Free we're excited for **Summer Reading!** Stop by **every Wednesday afternoon for children's activities**, including:
 - ♦ **Wednesday, July 1st, at 2:00 pm:** Come to the Community Room and make your own Perler bead designs! You can use a template or make a design unique to you. All materials (and ironing) provided; recommended for ages 5+.
 - ♦ **Wednesday, July 8th, at 2:00 pm:** Get your hands in some dirt! Together, we'll build terrariums, creating cozy habitats for some small plants and maybe even an insect or two. All materials provided; recommended for ages 8+.
 - ♦ **Wednesday, July 15th, at 2:00 pm:** LEGO Day – Come play and build with a toy we all know and love! All materials provided; all ages welcome.
 - ♦ **Wednesday, July 22nd, at 2:00 pm:** Join Mael for even more puppet making! This one is more advanced than our first puppet-making workshop, so come ready to work hard and have fun! All materials provided; ages 10+ recommended.
 - ♦ **Wednesday, July 29th, at 2:00 pm:** Learn about frame-by-frame animation with Professor Phil Davis! All materials provided; recommended for ages 8+.
 - ♦ **Wednesday, August 5th, at 2:00 pm:** Our final Summer Reading program is a celebration of Gillbert, and all axolotls! Spend some time watching the animated short "Axolodysey," create some beautiful tie-dye to take home, and munch on some axolotl cookies. All materials provided; all ages welcome.
- The **Elizabeth Richards Concert Series** started June 30th and will be running **all through July**, with **each Tuesday at 6:30 pm** featuring a different band. Please visit the online calendar at **frostfree.org** to see who will perform and when. Shine only.
- The **Book Group** will occur on **Wednesday, July 15th, at 7:00 pm**. Join us as Jane leads the discussion on this month's book *Moloka'i* by Alan Brennert. Share your thoughts on the book, and enjoy cookies from Dublin General.
- On **Saturday, July 18th, at 11:00 am**, we'll be celebrating **Rufus Frost I's 200th birthday!** Come eat cake and maybe even chat with a special surprise guest...
- **Marty Castriotta** of Earthcraft Designs (based in East Alstead) is leading a team that is transforming our outdoor space this summer. Join us on **Wednesday, July 29th, at 6:30 pm**, to learn from him about the plan, the plants, and the permaculture principles behind this restorative landscape project.
- Don't forget about the **ongoing Historical Scavenger Hunt!** Sign up at the desk to get your packet with eighteen clues that will lead you to historically significant sites and objects around town. Hints are available if you get stumped. Fun for adults and children of all ages.
- Our **Friends of Frost Free** will not have their monthly Tea for July. Come back next month to see what they're up to!
- The **Library Trustees** meet on the second Monday of every month, with this month being on **July 13th, at 5:30 pm**.



BEEN THERE, DONE THAT: ANOTHER TALE FROM A COUNTRY LAND SURVEYOR

"Friends in Life"

Life. Isn't it full of adventures? Most of the time it just rolls along; other times there are so many surprises. There are some great joys and some heartaches as well. This tale happened very recently. And it has heartache and comforting thoughts.

I have written in the past that land surveyors are a tough, opinionated, and cantankerous bunch. We endure long days in the field, sometimes in harsh weather, hours of studying old, dusty records in dimly-lit stuffy rooms (albeit today it's more staring at computer screens until your eyes bug out), and, of course, the occasional sitting in the witness box giving testimony.

There are friendships made and, sometimes, sadly lost. I experienced losing a couple of friends recently, one of whom I was fortunate enough to be able to say goodbye to.

Early in my career, I had the misfortune of mislabeling a tree on one of my plans. I called it a Scotch Pine when, in fact, it was a Pitch Pine. I was soon taught, in no uncertain terms, that I was wrong. It was not a friendly lesson, the giver being very intent on my education. You see, this person was an older, licensed land surveyor and a forester. I vowed to study trees more thoroughly in the future.

As it does in so many cases, when the dust settles, we shook hands and were friends from there on. Good friends. We would ride together to meetings and have lunches and occasionally a breakfast or two together.

Until I got the email. The email that informed me that my friend was in bed, not speaking, and had not eaten or had anything to drink for three days. It was good that I was sitting down at my desk when I read that one. I immediately called his wife to check in; she confirmed the news. I went the next morning to say goodbye.

I was announced loudly as to who I was and that I was there to see him. I found my friend lying in bed, not speaking. I said hello and started to talk to him. He spoke back, but only with his eyes. He would open them widely several times when I hit on some past event. Then, he slowly raised his left

hand to shake. I grabbed it. He had a firm grip and periodically squeezed it harder when I reminded him of some funny incident.

One such incident occurred 27 years earlier. My friend was a heavy smoker and had just had a severe heart attack where he coded and had to be paddled back to life. When I reminded him of that time, he squeezed harder and stuck his tongue out at me. I smiled.

It was a very good visit. I left his room knowing that this probably would be our last meeting. I received an email the next morning confirming that, in fact, it was. I will be forever grateful for having had the opportunity to say goodbye.

The tale that I told him was how I had stopped by his house early one morning, a morning that changed very quickly. I had stopped by his house to use his driveway where another friend was leaving his car, so we could share a ride down to Providence, RI. We were heading to a joint meeting and gathering of several New England land surveyors' associations. My recovering friend indicated that he would have loved to go, but thought better of it. Until.

Until his wife came out and told him he should go with us. Talk about surprises! That tale is included on page 9.

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BEEN THERE, DONE THAT (cont'd)

"Pins & Needles and Providence"

Land surveyors are not your advocates. Land surveyors are defined by New Hampshire RSA 310-A:54, II as follows: "A *"land surveyor"* is a professional specialist in the technique of measuring land, educated in the basic principles of mathematics, the related physical and applied sciences, and the relevant requirements of law for adequate evidence and all requisite to the surveying of real property and engaged in the practice of land surveying as herein defined." Land surveyors are finders of fact. In doing that, they often deal with problems; it comes with the territory. Problems like: Faulty legal descriptions, faulty measurements, faulty monumentation, faulty bodies. Wait! Faulty bodies? Yep. Faulty bodies.

I was president of the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association in 1999 when our Annual Meeting was held in Providence, RI, in conjunction with the other societies from the New England states. I was driving down after picking up the past president of NHLSA, Brian N. Burford. Brian worked in the New Hampshire Secretary of State's Records and Archives office in Concord. We were meeting in Peterborough at William Bean's home, another NHLSA past president.

It was early in the morning when we arrived at Bill's home. Mr. Bean was still in his PJs and bathrobe when he came to the door to meet us. Bill was not going with us, just providing a parking lot. That was the plan. Mr. Bean was staying home because he had just suffered a major heart attack only a few short days prior. His attack was so severe that the paramedics had to paddle him back to life. Bill had been a heavy smoker, and it had taken its toll on him. The lesson learned, he had now quit smoking and was on the mend.

Mr. Bean told us that he would like to go with us, but thought better about it. So did we—until Lisa, his wife, came and joined us. Mrs. Bean worked in the medical field and made her thoughts known that it would be okay if he went with us. Now, I'm not sure what Lisa's motive was, but she had my undivided attention. She then added, "you'll be fine," looking straight at Bill.

Land surveyors are tough people. They're used to working under adverse conditions. Those experienc-

es give them the confidence that they can complete every task successfully, no matter how difficult it may appear on the surface. Add to that that Brian, Bill, and I were too scared to disagree with Mrs. Bean. So, Bill went inside to get dressed, while Brian and I paced around the driveway. No, we weren't pacing to determine how large the parking area was. We were expelling nervous energy. Well, I certainly was.

Bill came back out shortly with a sports coat and tie on and carrying a black bag with him. No questions asked, we piled into my car and headed south. The contents of his bag were soon revealed. It contained nicotine lozenges, the kind used to aid individuals in quitting smoking. Bill popped one in his mouth before we had even gotten out of the



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BEEN THERE, DONE THAT (cont'd)

driveway, an exercise that he completed many, many times between Peterborough, NH, and Providence, RI. I'm not sure if he needed the medication for his previous habit, or if he felt nervous with my driving. For the record, I don't smoke cigarettes, never did, but wanted one then!

I just drove on and kept telling myself that we were not heading into the outback or the great north woods. We would be driving right past many medical schools and hospitals on our trek south. I just kept reassuring myself of this, trying desperately to believe it.

After our 95-mile drive came to a safe end, we arrived at the conference center, checked in, and soon went our separate ways. We attended several meetings and met many fellow practitioners that shared the same issues that we did. All and all, it turned out to be a good experience and an uneventful day. The concerns that I had in the morning regarding Bill's

medical history proved to be unwarranted. Perhaps Lisa was right.

At the end of the day, the three of us met at the appointed time and place and were ready to journey home. So far, so good, but we still had a two-hour drive ahead of us. This time, we were heading north into the woods—not the Great North Woods, but the woods nonetheless. We were also aware again of Bill popping those lozenges.

Our journey was completed safely. Yes, thankfully, the day was uneventful. And the lozenge bag was considerably lighter when we arrived back in Peterborough.

Edward C. Goodrich, Jr.

Licensed Land Surveyor

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES!

Eighth-Grade Students Graduating from the Marlborough School 2025-2026

Carly Alexander - Eleanor Audet - Lane Bauer - Jackie Bohannon - Baylee Calkins
Olivia Connors - Alexis Duverger - Anayia Fairfield - Layli Farashahi - Skyla Fish
Favian Gostyla - Kionna Morse - Emma Parrott - Kaylee Robinson - Isabel Scheall
Nicholas Smith - Myles White - Tremaine Williams-Wilcox - Isabelle Ziarnowski



Keene High School Graduates from Marlborough 2025-2026

Taylor Affeldt - Camilla Bryans - Taryn Croteau - Alexander Delpha - Lucy Fisher
Hayden Gonzalez - Michael Hanson - James Hill - Jace Jewett - Grace Lyons
Molly Main - Mackenzie O'Connor - Anthony Piscillo - Alyvia Singleton - Gaige Vaudren

HTS ADDENDUM

The Editors add to the celebration of the Homestead Thrift Shop's five-year anniversary by honoring Deb Reynolds, of Marlborough, who spearheaded the startup of a thrift shop in Marlborough, along with the late Malaise Lindenfeld, active community member, who conceived the idea, and Beau Gillespie, her spouse and partner, who donated their property as the ideal space for the shop.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION VOLUNTEER POSITION

The Town of Marlborough is still seeking candidates for the Conservation Commission. Please contact the Town Administrator, Ellen M. Smith, at esmith@marlboroughnh.gov for the following information about the position:

Duties of the position, responsibilities, appointing authority, length of appointment, time commitment, qualifications, and support provided.

Submitted by the New Hampshire Municipal Association.



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WHAT IS A CASA?

I have been a Court-Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem (CASA) for six years. It's a long, fancy name for a simple but important concept. A CASA is a trained volunteer appointed by the court to advocate for the best interests of a child who has been abused or neglected. CASA's mission is to provide a court advocate for every child involved in a case of abuse or neglect. I was saddened to hear recently that the Keene CASA office had to turn a case back to the court because there wasn't a CASA available to take it. I am concerned that no one from Cheshire County was trained to be an advocate in the last training session. I often try to talk to people about becoming a CASA. They tell me that they couldn't do it because it would be too sad, or that they would get so angry, or that the work would be too intense. Yes, it is hard to hear the story of a child who has been abused and/or neglected, but imagine how it feels to be the child

who is living it. I am not trying to make you feel guilty, but rather to inspire you to look into what is involved in becoming an advocate. What I want you to know is that a CASA is an ordinary person who becomes a member of an amazing team that works together to make a better life for abused and neglected children. The CASA organization is like no other and provides great support to all its advocates. They train you well. You will be provided a peer mentor and a supervisor who will "walk" beside you every step of the way as you work through your case. I'm not going to pretend that there is not work involved or that you are going to develop a close relationship with every child you meet, but there are genuine rewards in knowing that you made a difference in a child's life. I've been assigned several cases over my years, and every child has ended up in a better place, loved and safe. Being an advocate is not for everyone, but, if you ever contemplated being one and discounted the notion because you thought it would be too hard, please reconsider. Sometimes the hard things are the ones most worth doing.

Please visit the **CASA of New Hampshire Volunteer Portal** for specifics and consider becoming a volunteer, and/or call the Keene CASA office and talk to the Advocate Supervisors there, Alison and Idina, at 603-358-4012 for more information. CASA offers monthly information sessions that you can attend to learn more—no commitment, just an opportunity to learn more about this work and whether it feels like it could be a good fit. The times and dates for these sessions are listed on CASA's website at: <https://casanh.org/volunteer-to-become-an-advocate/> or just casanh.org. You can also email speak-up@casanh.org with questions.

Submitted by Joyce Puleo, Court-Appointed Special Advocate/Guardian ad Litem



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EDITORIAL

"The Marlborough Bulletin is a free monthly newsletter by and for the people of Marlborough. Our goal is to be informative and to connect and promote our community—its people, organizations, and businesses. All submissions, including "Letters to the Editor," will be reviewed for factuality, general interest, and good taste, and may be edited for length. Political ads will be limited to one-quarter page...." [Marlborough Bulletin mission statement and editorial policy. It is always published on the back page of the newsletter.]

The Editors believe that clarification is needed about our policy.

"Letters to the Editor" are exactly that—letters. Letters are the expression of individual readers who live in Marlborough or who have close and reasonable ties to our Town.

There appears to be some confusion between letters and a column from our elected representative to the NH General Court. Our Representative is Lucius Parshall, who lives in Marlborough. He represents District 8, which comprises Harrisville, Marlborough, Nelson, Roxbury, and Sullivan. As with recently elected representatives over the past ten plus years, the Bulletin has invited Mr. Parshall to submit reports. His reports and frequent columns are not to be confused with "Letters to the Editor."

Recently, there was some discussion on social media about Rep. Parshall's May column. In one of the posts, an originator of the Marlborough Bulletin shared history about how our Town newsletter was founded. He recalls it being done following a lengthy and painful division in town about the location of building a new school. The

Bulletin was meant to draw people together and not to be divisive. Division has now become a sad hallmark of much of our living together. The people who founded our country were aware of differences, and the U.S. Constitution was developed to balance those. So is the Marlborough Bulletin in our small-town way. The no-politics approach has evolved over the years. "Letters to the Editor" allow for expression of those differences, as well as for the opportunity to celebrate community. We believe that expression can be healthy in an open society. The publication of "Letters to the Editor" and reports from our elected representative can add to our goal of being informative and to connect us with one another.

As for political ads: An ad is a paid notice over which we do not exert editing. Our policy of respect and good taste still operates. We decided on a quarter-page size limit for two reasons. One is that we are a small publication, published only once a month, and have limited space. The other is that by setting a limit, every candidate has the same amount of space in an issue.

The Editors' individual opinions are exactly that. Everything that is published representing the Marlborough Bulletin must be a statement which represents our shared position on an issue and not our individual opinions. We are held to the same standard of factuality and good taste.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SELECT BOARD (SB)

From May 20th:

Drew Cullen asked about the Sexton position. The Sexton is appointed by the Select Board (SB); Town Administrator Smith found a job description template and forwarded it to him. Drew reminded the SB about the Memorial Day Parade; Chairwoman Paight and SB member Nelson will participate. Drew submitted a request for \$1,400 to be paid to the American Legion for Memorial Day expenses.

From May 27th:

A shed for the Recycling Transfer Center (RTC) Swap Shop has been purchased. RTC Foreman Chris Batchelder will be scheduling delivery soon.

Ted Mead presented a follow-up on the cost to improve the walkway to the Bell Tower. An estimate of \$2,800 was

received for the upgrade. He has \$1,400 in the Heritage Committee budget for the project. The Select Board voted to expend \$1,400 from SB trust funds to help fund the walkway improvements to the Bell Tower.

Aaron Kenny was in to discuss a plan he has for a portion of the Marlborough Convenience property to the right of the Homestead Thrift Shop. He would like to clean up the area and make improvements, so that area food truck vendors could rent a space. His plan would also include an ice cream stand. The Zoning Ordinance does allow this type of enterprise in that location. SB member Pitt recommended that Mr. Kenny attend the next Planning Board Meeting as a courtesy and explain his plan to the group.

Monadnock Lions Club is always looking for new members. If you are community-minded, come join us. We are now 32-members strong and want to grow to better serve our community. We meet the first Tuesday and third Thursday of the month. We do vision screening for all elementary students in Dublin, Harrisville, and Marlborough. We recycle glasses, hearing aids, and plastic film. We host a Roast Beef Supper in March, serve a free Community Meal in February, and sell Christmas trees at the end of November. Come join us. Our motto is "We Serve."



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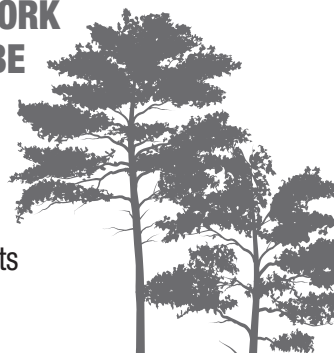
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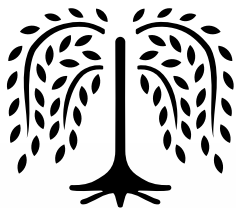
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The Marlborough Select Board is
looking for volunteers to serve on the
Conservation Commission.

The Commission holds public meetings
and hearings whenever there is an
issue relevant to its authority. Monthly
meetings are likely.

To learn more, please visit the town
website at www.marlbroughnh.gov,
and click on the "News" tab.

Marlborough Bulletin

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Marlborough School:
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Library:
(603) 876-4479

Select Board:
(603) 876-3751

Phone

Library:

Tues. 1 pm – 5:30 pm
Wed. 1 pm – 7 pm
Thurs. & Fri. 10 am – 5 pm
Sat. 10 am – 1 pm
library@frostfree.org / www.frostfree.org

Town Office:

Mon. 9 am – 6 pm
Tues. 9 am – 4 pm
Wed. 7 am – 12 noon
Thurs. 9 am – 4 pm
Fri. Closed

Drop Box is for payment of utility, tax, dog licenses, and motor vehicle registrations. No cash.

Recycling Transfer Center Hours:

Wed. 3 pm – 7 pm
Fri. 8 am – 1 pm
Sat. 8 am – 3 pm

Recurring Meetings:

Select Board: Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 pm, with the remaining weekly meetings on Wednesdays at 10:00 am. All meetings take place at the Town Office. Meeting notices are posted at the Town Office and at the Marlborough Post Office, as well as on the Town website.

Planning Board and Zoning Board of Adjustment: The PB meets every third Wednesday at 6:00 pm, at the Town Office, 236 Main Street, unless a notice of change is posted, as is permitted by law. Notices are posted in the Keene Sentinel and at the Post Office kiosk.

Library Trustees: Second Monday of each month at 5:30 pm.

Kathy Oliver, Charlene M. Grant, and Marge Shepardson, Co-Editors
Bulletin Committee:

Trent Boehmler, Charlene M. Grant, Kathy Oliver, Marge Shepardson
Contact us at: marlboroughnhbulletin@gmail.com.

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