

## LOOK WHAT'S INSIDE !

- • • • •
- A Note to Our Readers - p. 3
- Time to Get Dressed Up for the Party! - p. 4
- Complete Streets - pp. 4-5
- Recent School Tax Bill - pp. 5-6
- Schedule of Upcoming Town & School Meetings - p. 6
- Downtown Stormwater Planning Phase II Meeting - p. 7
- Post Doin's - pp. 8-9
- Water Quality at Stone Pond - p. 11



## A BENDING BRANCH DOESN'T BREAK

Covid changed a lot of lives. For Megan Baptiste-Field and Dan Field, it was transformational. The Fields are the owners and operators of Bending Branch Farm at 65 Richardson Road, which they describe as a "small goat dairy and creamery," a farm with some 70 Alpine goats, where they produce small batch cheeses and other dairy products. That description is an understatement and so is the story of how they got from careers in the arts to a complex agribusiness. It was a circuitous route.

Megan, from Frankestown, and Dan, a Peterborough native, attended Con-Val Regional High School. Then, they parted ways (although each knew that they would like to return to the region some day). Megan earned her degree in technical theater and design

from Hollins College in Virginia. Dan got his degree in Puppet Arts from the University of Connecticut. He built a career making puppets for stop-motion animation. Megan built and designed props and sets for theater, film, and television. Dan describes their life as "moving for the work." Together they lived or worked in more than a half-dozen cities and states, including Los Angeles, New York City, North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Eventually they reconnected, married, and wound up in Nashville, where they bought a home, started raising bees, and cultivated a garden as large as they could manage on the property. Then Covid happened. They returned to their roots, and "spent months decompressing," they say.

The *Marlborough Bulletin* is also available online:

- 1 - Marlborough Town website:  
[www.marlbroughnh.gov](http://www.marlbroughnh.gov).  
Click on "About Marlborough";  
click on "Community Groups."

2 - Frost Free Library website: [frostfree.org](http://frostfree.org).

- Click on "Links We Love";  
scroll down and click on "News";  
scroll down and click on  
"Marlborough Bulletin."

## A BENDING BRANCH DOESN'T BREAK (cont'd)

One day, Megan saw a Facebook ad looking for someone to milk goats in Hancock. Dan decided to take that job. One thing led to another. Dan not only milked the goats, but shortly thereafter became the farm manager. Megan signed on for the sales and cheesemaking end of the operation. Eventually, they bought the herd and the farm infrastructure. While Dan focused on animal care and milking, Megan made and sold their goat cheese to stores and at farmers' markets. They were operating out of several locations, so they began looking for a place to consolidate their new business. They learned about the Kenney Farm in Marlborough, a large amount of acreage which had been on the market for some time and had recently been split into two parcels along the road. After much patience and months of negotiations, they reached a sales agreement for the parcel on the south side of the road. They have owned the property, which they named Bending Branch Farm, since the spring of 2023. Dan says they chose "Bending Branch" because, if a branch can bend, it doesn't break.

There is more fascination with their growing business, which they are happy to discuss with visitors to the farm. They can tell you about the personalities of Alpine goats, and how they aim to treat their goats humanely, how a few of them eventually become meat as opposed to milkers, and how the processing plant they use in Massachusetts was designed by Temple Grandin (Grandin is an American inventor and ethologist, a prominent advocate of the humane treatment of livestock for slaughter and the author of more than 60 scientific papers on animal behavior and autism). "We have no biological children, so the goats are kind of like our children," they say.

When you visit Bending Branch, you will also see ducks and chickens (for eggs). Their good friend and collaborator, Jen Samborski, who is a trained pastry chef, helps with the farm and dairy products they sell; she loves ducks and wanted to have them on the property. Jen's husband, Dana, rigged up a whimsical pool for the ducks, so they have fresh, flowing water.

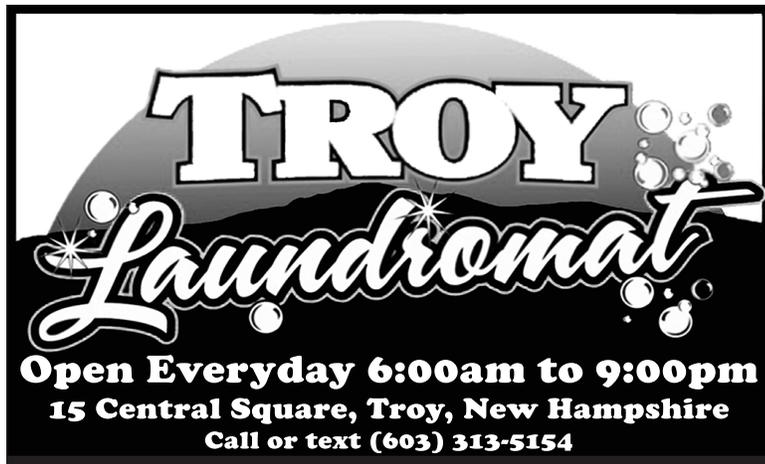
A snapshot of the farm: 22 acres of land and buildings, a three-section barn, and a house (with another fascinating history, including as

a schoolhouse, a tractor repair shop, and a location for potato sorting). The Fields, who value community, are delighted to have formed close ties with their immediate neighbors. "We borrow tools from one another." One neighbor does haying. There is a definite spirit of neighborliness and cooperation, they say.

Bending Branch is active among area farmers' markets, selling their dairy products in Brattleboro (VT), Peterborough, and Keene. They also sell at the Monadnock Food Co-Op in Keene and in several other area shops. They use only natural ingredients in their specialty cheeses (like chèvre and feta), and they offer seasonal flavors. They are selling raw milk and are planning to upgrade their pasteurization equipment and build a larger cheesemaking facility.

Megan says "we hope to build a following. We use social media." (Look them up on Facebook and Instagram.) We use only good-quality food and hay for our girls."

The Fields are always looking to learn and grow. They are quick to acknowledge the help they've received from Hannah Grimes Center for Entrepreneurship, the New England Dairy Business Innovation Center, the University of NH Extension, the National Resources Conservation Services, the American Farmland Trust, and the U.S. Dept of Agriculture (although scientific and safety information was hard to come by during the recent government shutdown). The Fields want people to know that, as a state-licensed dairy and milk-processing facility, they follow a strict set of rules to ensure the quality and safety of their products. Their facilities are



## A BENDING BRANCH DOESN'T BREAK (cont'd)

inspected multiple times each year, and their milk is tested by the state on a regular basis.

Because they definitely believe in agritourism and community, they remind readers that visitors are always welcome at their farm stand (open daily 9:00 am to 7:00 pm). They also plan to start offering farm activities, such as baby goat snuggles and goat hikes next year.

*Kathleen Oliver*  
Co-Editor



*The ingenious set-up for these beautiful ducks at Bending Branch Farm.*



*Dan Field leading one of his girls to pasture.*



*How can you not love this beautiful girl?*



*Don't mess with this guy. He's still in rutting season and is protective of his female goats.*

## A NOTE TO OUR READERS

Last month, readers on one of our rural routes received their December *Bulletins* extremely late. We regret the inconvenience to our advertisers and to our readers. Marlborough has three mail categories for delivery—post office boxes and two “rural” routes. Our aim is to have the publication in mailboxes around the last couple of days of each month and no later than the first day of the new month. We try to plan for holidays.

We send the *Bulletin* through a service available from the U.S. Postal Service, called Every Door Direct Mail. The service promises that the pieces mailed to

households and businesses will arrive within a designated time from delivery to the post office by our publisher. She meets that deadline each month, including in November for the December issue. The Keene Post Office is the location from which the mailing is distributed, according to USPS rules.

The *Bulletin* regrets the error. We will do our best to prevent this from occurring in the future.

*The Editors*

# TIME TO GET DRESSED UP FOR THE PARTY!

Marlborough's Semiquincentennial Birthday Party begins on January 1st, 2026!

Pronounced: **Sem - ee - quin - sen - ten - ee - el.**

Translation please ...

In Latin: "Semi" means "half"; "quin" means "five"; "centennial" means "one hundred." Hence, half of five hundred equals two hundred and fifty.

Now that we have that sorted out, it is time to start celebrating! Most importantly, it is time to pick the perfect party outfit! The dress code is casual chic! Our designers have been hard at work creating a "just-right" jersey T, in heather grey, available in long-sleeve, with or without a hood. So, spruce up your getup, and visit the following fine locations to get one of your own:

- The Homestead Thrift Shop, 221 Main St., Marlborough, NH (re-opens on February 4th, 2026)
- 157 Main Home Décor and More, 157 Main St., Marlborough, NH

- Frost Free Library, 28 Jaffrey Rd., Marlborough, NH.

The prices for this celebratory jersey T are:

- Youth sizes - \$20.00
- Long-sleeve adult sizes without hood, small to 2X - \$25.00
- Long-sleeve adult with hood, small to 2X - \$35.00.

All proceeds go to the Marlborough Semiquincentennial Committee to support the Town's 250th Birthday Celebrations.

Thank you for your support and being part of this "Small Town with a Big Heart"!

*On behalf of the Semiquincentennial Celebration Committee,  
Linda Ferranti*



## COMPLETE STREETS

The Town of Marlborough is getting closer to implementing the Crosswalk Safety Improvement Plan by 2028. The goal of this plan is to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons on Route 101 at Ling Street, Frost Street, Church Street, in front of the Marlborough Country Convenience Store, and on Route 124 at Pleasant Street and McKinley Circle.

By now, the crosswalk improvements at Route 101 and Ling Street have been completed and are operational. The project came in under budget, which allowed the Town to purchase reboundable crosswalk signs for Frost St, Church St, and in front of the Marlborough Country Convenience Store; these will be installed in the spring of 2026. The total cost for this project was \$60,062. Of that, the town contributed a cash match of \$5,000 and an in-kind do-

## COMPLETE STREETS (cont'd)

nation of \$7,312 in staff time. The remaining \$47,750 was funded by a 2023 Monadnock Region Complete Streets Grant.

Next on the list is to address the crosswalk at Route 124 and Pleasant Street & McKinley Circle. This will include not only the installation of a Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon System, similar to the ones at Water Street and Ling Street, but will also have an advance Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon System around the sharp curve, needed to alert vehicles coming towards the intersection with Route 101 that there is a marked crosswalk ahead. This project has a budget of just over \$63,000. The Town of Marlborough was awarded a 2024 Monadnock Region Complete Streets Implementation Grant in the amount of \$48,750. Again, there will be a \$5,000 cash match, and the remainder will be an in-kind match for staff time.

An application has been submitted for the 2025 Monadnock Region Complete Streets Implementation Grant. If awarded, the next crosswalk scheduled for upgrading is on Route 101 at the Marlborough Country Convenience Store. Due to the Downtown

Stormwater Project, Church and Frost Streets will be the last crosswalks to be improved.

In 2023, the Select Board adopted a Complete Streets Policy, the goal of which was to eliminate motor vehicle fatalities and injuries on all roads in Marlborough by designing, managing, and maintaining transportation networks to enable safe access and mobility for people of all ages and abilities while walking, driving, or bicycling.

As part of the data gathering process, the workgroup, in conjunction with Southwest Region Planning Commission (SWRPC) conducted a survey that resulted in the identification of implementation projects to address safety concerns. The results showed that 67.8% of respondents were concerned about pedestrian safety. A percentage of 43.5% of respondents said they would be more likely to walk if there were crosswalk improvements, and 46.9% said they would be more likely to walk if there were lighting improvements.

*Ellen Smith*  
Town Administrator

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT OUR RECENT SCHOOL TAX BILL

**T**here was an unhappy surprise in the mail when our December tax bills arrived—an increase of \$2.08/\$1000 from the prior year in the local school tax rate.

You may remember that \$2.08/\$1000 was the projection for the tax rate increase communicated at the District Meeting early in 2025. At the time of that meeting, the school was confronting unresolved and potentially very expensive special education issues that would have impacted the school in the latter part of the 2024-2025 school year. The worst case would have created a \$150,000 budget deficit, which is not allowed by statute. The voters funded that contingency with a Deficit Warrent Article.

As you may have heard, the issues of concern took a more positive turn. The result was that the school



**GREENWALD**  
REALTY GROUP

**Gina Paight**  
REALTOR®

55 Main Street, Keene, NH 03431  
o: (603) 357-3035 x21  
c: (603) 209-4624  
gp@greenwaldrealty.com



## SCHOOL TAX BILL (cont'd)

ended the year with a positive bottom line of \$127,562 and, therefore, did not need the \$150,000.

That change of almost \$280,000 is the equivalent of reducing the increase in the December local school tax bill from \$2.08/\$1000 to approximately \$0.87/\$1000. That's a 4.5% increase from year to year instead of a 10.9% increase. It is still higher than we would like, but it is much better.

That is good news for all of us, **except** that, when the state set our local December tax bill rates, those savings were known but were not included in the calculation. It is not a mistake; it is just the process.

Even the NH Department of Revenue Administration was unclear about how the unspent \$150,000 was going to work. As a result, the increase stayed at \$2.08/\$1000, and taxpayers need to wait until next December to see that positive impact on our property tax bills. Nobody likes to pay money now and have to wait to get it back later, even if that is better than not getting it back at all.

Thank you for understanding,

*Jeff Miller*  
*Chair, Marlborough School Board*

## SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING TOWN AND SCHOOL MEETINGS

Date (all in 2026)	Time	Location	Subject
Tuesday, January 6th	6:00 pm	Frost Free Library	Public Hearing – Eversource Tree Cutting on Frost Hill Rd (scenic road)
Tuesday, January 6th	7:00 pm	Frost Free Library	Public Hearing – RTC Ordinance & Fee Schedule
Wednesday, January 14th	6:00 pm	Town Office	Public Hearing – 2026 Zoning Amendments
Tuesday, January 20th	6:00 pm	Marlborough School Library	Downtown Stormwater Project Informational Meeting
Monday, January 26th	7:00 pm	Marlborough School	Public Hearing – School Budget
Wednesday, January 28th	6:00 pm	Town Office	Public Hearing – 2026 Zoning Amendments (if needed)
Thursday, February 5th	7:00 pm	Marlborough School	Public Hearing – Town Bonds over \$100,000 and Annual Budget
Tuesday, March 3rd	7:00 pm	Marlborough School	Annual School District Meeting
Tuesday, March 10th	1:00-9:00 pm	Marlborough School	Annual Town Meeting – Ballot Voting
Tuesday, March 10th	7:00 pm	Marlborough School	Annual Town Meeting – Warrant Article Voting

## WANTED: SCHOOL DISTRICT CLERK MARLBOROUGH SCHOOL

**T**he Marlborough School Board is looking for a volunteer (there is a stipend!) School District Clerk. No experience necessary, training available. Almost all activity occurs between January and March.

We need someone to serve through Annual Town Meeting in March—and hopefully to sign up to run for election for the next year (optional!).

If you are interested or have questions, please send an email to Jeff Miller, Board Chair, at: [jmiller@sau29.org](mailto:jmiller@sau29.org).

Help the Town and our School!

Thank you.

*Submitted by Jeff Miller.*  
*Chair, Marlborough School Board*

## DOWNTOWN STORMWATER PLANNING PHASE II MEETING:

Tuesday, January 20th, 2026, at 6:00 pm at the  
Marlborough School Library

This will be a public informational meeting with engineering firm DuBois & King, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, and Town Officials. This project will address a chronic flooding issue that has been affecting this part of town for decades.

There will be an overview of the project with a concentration on the Upper Bypass. Plans for the Upper Bypass are reaching 90% completion. The Select Board will be including a Warrant Article for the 2026 Town Meeting to ask voters for permission to borrow funds to pay for the project.

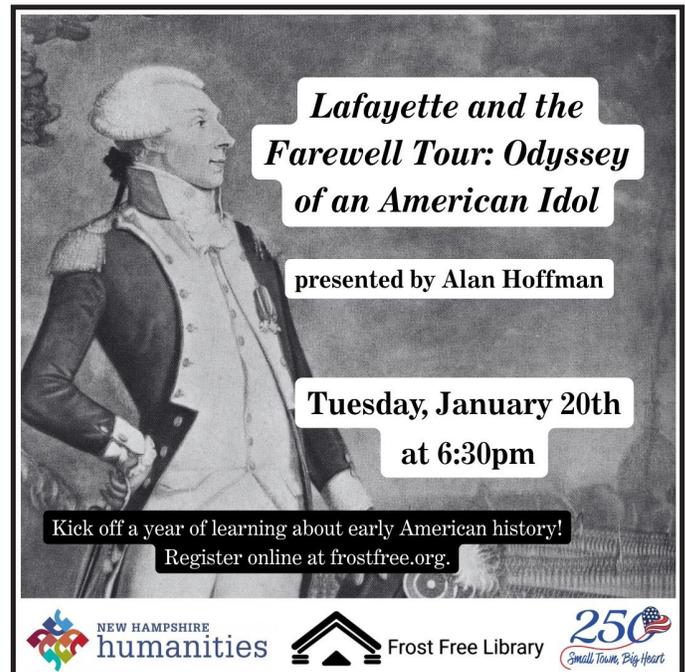
The construction of the Upper Bypass will include the following elements:

- Installation of a 60" stormwater pipe from the corner of School Street and Church Street out to the Minnewawa Brook;
- For the stormwater pipe to fit, a section of the water main and several sewer service lines need to be replaced and relocated;
- Due to the age of the water main that runs from the end of Basset Court on School Street and the entirety of Church Street, the entire main will be replaced while the area is under construction;

- This same area will see a rebuilt road and sidewalk.

Please join us and learn how you can help support this vital infrastructure project.

*Ellen M. Smith, CPA*  
Town Administrator



*Lafayette and the  
Farewell Tour: Odyssey  
of an American Idol*

presented by Alan Hoffman

Tuesday, January 20th  
at 6:30pm

Kick off a year of learning about early American history!  
Register online at [frostfree.org](http://frostfree.org).

NEW HAMPSHIRE humanities Frost Free Library 250 Small Town, Big Heart



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](mailto:lucius.parshall@leg.state.nh.us)  
Town of Marlborough Select Board: (603) 876-3751  
Marlborough School Board Chair: Jeffrey B. Miller; [jmiller@sau29.org](mailto:jmiller@sau29.org)

# POST DOIN'S



**W**elcome 2026! It's going to be a very busy year for the Post, as well as for the Town of Marlborough. Not only will our country be celebrating the 250th anniversary of its founding, but Marlborough will also be celebrating its 250th birthday!

Croteau-Coutts-Ford Post 24 is proud to be involved and will be sponsoring events over the course of the celebration. Our first event will be the Memorial Day Parade, scheduled for May 24th, 2026. This will be the official kick-off of the Community-wide 250th Birthday Celebration. Again this year, the Post is inviting the community to enter floats, antique cars, marching groups, etc., as participants in the parade. Remember: The theme of the parade is the "semiquincentennial"! Plan your participation and start those floats now! Request parade entry forms at: [post24-americanlegion@gmail.com](mailto:post24-americanlegion@gmail.com), or download the forms at: [www.marlboroughnh.gov/sqc](http://www.marlboroughnh.gov/sqc). All entry forms must be returned to Croteau-Coutts-Ford Post 24 by May 15th, 2026.

## **Memorial Day – Semiquincentennial Parade Sunday, May 24th, 2026, at 2:00 pm**

**Categories:** Non-Float Walking Groups & Individual Walkers

1. For judging to occur, a walking group (consisting of three or more people) or an individual entry must be representative of the parade theme and executed in good taste. "Walking" may include wagons, strollers, and other movable units that are pulled or pushed by walkers.
2. Walkers need to be registered as a parade entry.
3. Any animals entered must be leashed or tethered for the safety of other walkers and spectators.
4. All walking groups **MUST** be at the Terrace Street staging location by 1:30 pm on parade day for line-up.

5. All walking entries must be ready to go by parade kickoff.
6. All groups or individual walking entries need to have a visible sign that displays the group's or the individual's name and/or organization represented.
7. All walkers must travel the entire parade route and may not slow or otherwise delay the parade movement.
8. The number of awards presented in these categories is contingent upon the number of entries.
9. Cash prizes (via check) will be awarded to winners in each category and mailed following the parade.
10. Candy or other objects may be distributed but **NOT THROWN OR TOSSED** on the street, for the safety of children, spectators, and participants.

### **Categories:**

**Community:** Commercial, civic, non-profit organizations, businesses, churches, political groups, for-profit organizations, etc.

**Education & Youth:** All levels of schools, university, home-schooling, Girl and Boy Scouts, youth groups.

1. For judging to occur, a float entry must be representative of the parade theme and designed and decorated in good taste.
2. All float entries must be theme-decorated and built on any of the following: a pick-up truck bed, a farm wagon, a flatbed truck, or a trailer.
3. Floats must be electric or fuel-driven and have breaks and steering capabilities. They can include both a moving vehicle and a team of walkers.
4. All decorated floats **MUST** be at the Terrace Street float staging location by 1:30 pm on parade day for line-up.
5. The float entry cannot be higher than 13 feet, measured upward from the ground/street level.
6. All floats must be completed by parade kickoff.

## POST DOIN'S (cont'd)

7. All float entries will receive an "Entry Number" prior to the day of the parade. The number must be displayed in six-inch-high numerals, plainly visible on both sides of the float. Entrants supply their own printed entry number on their float.
8. All floats must display the group's or the organization's name.
9. All floats must travel the entire parade route and may not slow or otherwise delay parade movement.
10. The entrant will be responsible for transporting the float to and from the parade in accordance with all highway and safety codes.
11. The number of awards presented per float category is contingent upon the number of entries.
12. Cash prizes (via check) will be awarded to winners in each category and mailed following the parade.
13. Candy or other objects may be distributed but NOT THROWN OR TOSSED on the street, for the safety of children, spectators, and participants.

Our second event will be in late June. For those of you who remember the Mad Dash, it's back for a one-and-done 2026 encore.

### 250th Birthday Bash Mad Dash 5K Road Race Saturday, June 27th, 2026, at 9:00 am

On June 27th, runners from throughout New England and beyond will gather in the Town of Marlborough for the running of the Marlborough 250th Birthday Bash Mad Dash. The theme of this year's race will be: "Semiquincentennial: The 250th Anniversary of the Founding of Both the USA and of the Town of Marlborough."

Convenient online registration for the 250th Birthday Bash Mad Dash will begin in January 2026 and can be found at [www.marlborough5k.com](http://www.marlborough5k.com).

Prize categories for the race this year have been greatly expanded. This year, the top three male and female runners will receive awards and prizes. First-place men and women runners will receive \$100.00; second-place men and women runners will receive \$50.00; and third-place men and women runners will receive \$25.00.

In addition to the awards and prizes listed above, top finishers in each of the following categories will receive a \$25.00 local gift certificate; age groups include 0-12, 13-19, 20-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, 60-69, 70+.

Contact Croteau-Coutts-Ford Post 24 for more information at: [post24americanlegion@gmail.com](mailto:post24americanlegion@gmail.com).

## PERSON IN THE STREET

### DO YOU DO "NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS"?

The *Bulletin* wondered whether setting goals for the New Year is a thing of the past. We asked about that on the Marlborough NH Area Neighbors Connect Facebook page. Here are some responses as of publication date.

"Yes, both short-term/quick goals and long-term goals. And, of course, some are easier than others."



"No to the New Year's resolutions. Yes, to spring goals. It's hard to start things in the 'dead' of winter. It's much easier for me to start things with the grow season."

"No. I've never officially 'listed' New Year's resolutions."

"Absolutely. We call them goals and add them into our five-year plans with the kids."

"I've been able to keep my last New Year's resolution for decades. It was to never make a resolution on New Year's."

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

## *“Still More Animals in the Wild”*

I have written a few tales about the creatures that I have encountered and the adventures I have had in the forests of our great State of New Hampshire. It's easy to see how I have accumulated so many sightings over the last 50+ years working as a land surveyor, when you know the forest statistics. The NH Division of Forests and Lands estimates that our state's land area is 82% forest. New Hampshire has the second most percentage of forest-land coverage of all of the states in the USA. Yes, Alaska has more trees, but they also have many acres of tundra without trees.

I believe that it is also true that most creatures that are not human live in the woods. The odds are pretty good that, if you go out into the forest, you may see something. The winter is even better by far because you will see lots of signs of all the critters that you don't generally get a chance to see. Tracks are everywhere; bits of fur are scattered around; and, of course, scat is all over the place.

Let me tell you about one odd sighting I had—one that involves the most dangerous creature on the face of the earth. We were working on two 300 +/- acre-conservation easements surveys in the Town of Windsor, NH. Yes, Windsor, NH. Most people have never heard of Windsor, NH. Most people say, “Windsor? Yes, the birthplace of Vermont”; or they ask, “Windsor Castle?” No. Twice. Windsor, NH, is a very small town in Hillsborough County. It is so small that it only has one state highway that leads into it; then, it stops! The town actually was a gore, originally named Campbell's Gore, and is the smallest area town south of the White Mountains.

There are a lot of trees in Windsor and plenty of wildlife roaming around among them. In fact, I believe there are more animals in the woods of Windsor than there are people in the town. Campbell's Gore, a.k.a. Windsor, started out with 120 residents in 1790 and has seen phenomenal growth since then, now housing 262 people, according to the 2020 census numbers.

Our youngest daughter happened to work a few years as a counselor at a residential school for boys located on another 300+/- acre parcel, abutting one of my projects. Our family has seen Windsor up close.

While working there in late fall, Mike and I sat down for lunch one day, overlooking the remote, beautiful Bagley Pond. During our lunch break, we had a clear line of sight and were watching three otters playing happily at the edge of the pond. They were chasing each other in and out of the water. What could be better than lunch and a show in the woods? Our time in Windsor had us coming across three or four different moose, several deer, turkeys, porcupines, and many other wild creatures and signs left behind.

Our work on these two projects continued into the winter months, and it just so happens that a major snowmobile trail ran along the old class VI highway that bordered one of the properties. This trail was well-groomed, wide, and packed down solidly. It was wide enough to drive a jeep on it, although it probably would not have supported that much weight. We were able to walk in each morning while things were still hard, without wearing snow shoes, only donning them when we reached our project or on the trek out in the afternoon, if it had warmed up any.

It was on one winter morning's walk into the job that we had the surprising encounter. We were moving along briskly in the morning chill, rounding a long, sweeping curve in the old road, when we had the



License 082241

**ALAN GERMAIN**

REALTOR

📞 **802-275-2299 cell**

✉️ **alangermain@kw.com**

603-352-0514 office ext. 6966

603-488-6966 direct

📍 60 Island Street Suite 3, Keene, NH 03431

**kw** METROPOLITAN  
KELLERWILLIAMS, REALTY

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated



---

## BEEN THERE, DONE THAT (cont'd)

meeting—a meeting that we considered a strange sight so early on a winter morning, just inside the close edge of nowhere.

A young lady came shuffling along on snowshoes heading right towards us. We thought it was strange that anyone would wear snow shoes on such a hard-packed trail, if they didn't have to. Our passing by each other was uneventful. There were only offerings of pleasant good mornings to each other, and she was soon heading out to civilization with us proceeding into the wild.

We continued our hike, now following the light trail of snowshoe-scratching tracks on top of the groomed trail for a short distance. We soon reached a place where the snowshoe tracks were very different. They appeared to have stopped on a spot, spun around a few times, and came together with the front of the shoes touching head-to-head. The rear or tails were spread far apart with a very prominent small yellow hole in the snow between the snowshoe tracks, all of this being in the middle of the

snowmobile trail.

The two of us stopped, looked behind us, and, then, being guys, resorted to juvenile chuckling. Laughter was soon finished; now back to the task at hand. We needed to keep going to maintain our warmth—remember, the trail was solidly packed.

*Edward C. Goodrich, Jr.  
Licensed Land Surveyor*

*\* At the recent 55th Annual Meeting of the New Hampshire Land Surveyors Association in Manchester, Ed received his fourth "Literary Award" for his story submissions, which he started writing in 2010. He has served on a number of committees over the years, including being its 30th president when all of the New England States met for a combined meeting in Providence, RI. At this last meeting, Ed was nominated for "Life Membership," meaning he no longer has to pay the annual dues!*

---

## WATER QUALITY AT STONE POND

**T**he Conservation Committee has tested the water quality at Stone Pond for the last 33 years on a volunteer basis, in partnership with the Volunteer Lake Assessment Program (VLAP). This testing is evaluated at a laboratory in Concord; the results are eventually reported from the NH Department of Environmental Service (NHDES). Samples were taken from the surface and deep-water areas on September 4th, 2025. The inlets and outlet were not tested, due to insufficient flow rates caused by the very dry weather of August.

Testing this year showed favorable water quality for Stone Pond. The good news is that some of the tested categories show stability over many years. Chloride (salts) and the pH (acidity) remain at or below acceptable state averages. The clarity (transparency) of the water is considered exceptional at visible depths of about five meters. Turbidity is also at low levels in each temperature layer of the pond. The concerns of total phosphorous amounts from 2023 have abated

and have returned to appropriate averages. You can look up the results at the NHDES website and link to the VLAP site. There is also an interactive map for most NH water bodies.

Stone Pond is a treasured landmark of Marlborough/Dublin. Be lake smart: Use erosion-control methods; be aware of fertilizer contents and their use around water; keep fireworks under control; and report any suspected blooms or scum on the surface. Also, be sure your boat and motor are cleaned before launching. There is presently little invasive weed growth, and we would like to keep the pond free of destructive weeds. There are some water bodies in NH that are literally choked with invasive weeds. Enjoy your time on the water this 2026 summer, and take care of our Stone Pond!

*Submitted by Chana Robbins.*

## FROST FREE LIBRARY NEWS - JANUARY 2026

- We are so excited to explore the remarkable history of Marlborough and of the American Revolution in 2026, **the 250th year since the incorporation of Marlborough and the Declaration of Independence**. This year will be full of events and activities for all ages to engage with the fascinating stories of our past. And, of course, we'd love to help you find a good history book, if you want to learn more on your own!
- Finish up your school holiday vacation strong at our **Snow Dyeing Activity on Friday, January 2nd, at 2:00 pm**. Bring your boring white cotton clothes to the library and hope for snow (although we'll use ice if natural snow isn't available). We'll be sprucing them up! No cotton? No problem! We can provide items for you to turn into masterpieces. This program is recommended for children ages 6-11.
- Our **Friends of Frost Free** meet on the first Wednesday of every month for tea. This month they will be hosting their **Tea Party on Wednesday, January 7th, at 2:15 pm**. The guest speaker will be our very own librarian, Henry Barker, and the topic will be AI, artificial intelligence. Henry will share practical tips and tricks on how to use and how not to use current AI apps in your daily life, and what you should be careful about.
- Join us **Wednesday, January 7th, at 7:00 pm** for our **Acoustic Jam Session**. Bring an instrument, a song, or your voice, and join the group! Beginners are welcome, as well as those who are simply interested in listening.
- On **Tuesday, January 20th, at 6:30 pm**, guest lecturer **Alan Hoffman** will present Lafayette and the Farewell Tour: Odyssey of an American Idol. We'll examine how Lafayette's life, his role in the American Revolution, his friendship with George Washington, his support of American interests, and his Farewell Tour shaped his remarkable reputation. Hoffman will highlight Lafayette's visits to cities and towns in New Hampshire, to further illustrate how the American people celebrated Lafayette and America during the tour. This program is funded by New Hampshire Humanities.
- The **Book Group** will meet on **Wednesday, January 21st, at 6:30 pm**. Join us, as Jane leads the discussion on this month's book *Rise to Rebellion* by Jeff Shaara. Share your thoughts on the book, and enjoy cookies from Dublin General.
- **Game Nights** happen every Thursday evening from 5:00-6:30 pm. Frost Free has a large catalog of board games to enjoy, but attendees can bring their own games, if they prefer. Join us on **Thursday, January 8th, from 5:00-7:30 pm**, when we will provide FREE pizza and play longer games in smaller groups.
- Our **Knitters** meet each **Wednesday night at 5:00 pm**. Embroidery, cross stitch, and other crafts are welcome. Bring your unfinished projects, and join in the fun!
- We have **Storytime** for children ages 0-5 **each Friday from 10:30-11:30 am**, when children can listen to a story and enjoy a craft activity.
- The **Library Trustees** meet on the second Monday of every month, with this month being on **January 12th, at 5:30 pm**. The Board is currently seeking an alternate, so this would be a great opportunity to learn more, if you are interested.
- Don't forget about our ongoing **puzzle-swap shelf**, alongside our **board game collection!** Winter is the time for puzzles and games, and we have plenty available!

**SNOWPLOWING FOR**  
**2025/2026**  
**WINTER SEASON**  
Call us to get on our list!  
**603-363-8197**  
**WILCOX TREE SERVICE**  
SERVING THE TOWN OF  
**MARLBOROUGH**

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SELECT BOARD

### From November 12th:

The 2025 tax rate has been set at \$31.24.

Ted Mead and Gerry Burns of the Energy Committee and Frank Richter of Clean Energy NH came to discuss energy efficiency projects for the Town Office. Margaret Dillion conducted an energy audit of the Town Office building, paid for by Eversource. A report will be forthcoming. Since the Town has funding challenges, the Board is not in a rush to implement the proposed energy efficient projects at this time. Mr. Richter explained a few of the incentive programs currently in effect. There was a brief discussion about establishing a Capital Reserve Fund for energy projects.

### From November 19th:

Donations for the Revolutionary War Monument are coming in.

The crosswalk at Route 124 and Pleasant St. will have the lights installed next week.

T.A. Smith announced that the Town has been awarded a Monadnock Alliance for Sustainable Transportation (MAST) 2025 Complete Streets Grant. The total project cost is \$55,000, with the grant being \$44,000.

The Town will provide a \$5,000 cash match, and the remaining costs, such as staff time, will be paid for with an in-kind donation. This funding will pay for the installation of a beacon system at the crosswalk at Route 101 and the Marlborough Country Convenience Store.

### From December 5th:

**Beginning on January 1st, 2026, generator installations will now require building, electric, and gas permits.**

Update on the Downtown Stormwater Project: The plan is to bring forward to the 2026 Town Meeting a Warrant Article for the Upper Bypass that will run a 60" stormwater pipe down the length of Church Street, under Route 101, and out to the Minnewawa Brook. In order to do this, a portion of the water main will need to be relocated, as will a few sewer service lines.

Bill's Concrete & Construction, LLC, has provided a Winter Maintenance Agreement to cover the open route for the 2025-2026 plowing season.

*Marge Shepardson*  
Co-Editor



### **Federated Church of Marlborough**

Sunday Worship 10 am  
Rev. Stacey Kullgren

16 Pleasant Street (603) 876-3863  
office@federatedchurchmarlborough.org  
www.federatedchurchmarlborough.com

An Open and Affirming, Reconciling, and Creation  
Justice Christian Congregation

**Tired of shopping around  
for the right Mechanic?**

Give us an opportunity  
to earn your business!

**NEW CUSTOMERS  
SAVE 10% ON ANY  
SERVICE**

Price applies to labor only; excludes  
parts See associate for details.

**Dave's Automotive Ent.**

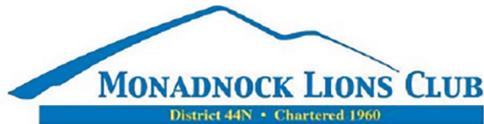
FULL SERVICE AUTO REPAIR

42 Roxbury Rd., Marlborough, NH

**603.876.3961**  
**DavesAutoEnt.com**

NE-384374

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."



**Construction, LLC.**  
Marlborough, NH  
**603-876-9000**



**VOTED #1 IN EXCAVATION  
IN THE KEENE SENTINEL  
CHOICE AWARDS**



HERE FOR ALL YOUR SEPTIC NEEDS

[www.davidoneilconstruction.com](http://www.davidoneilconstruction.com)

# Lee & Mt. Fuji

Chinese & Japanese Cuisine



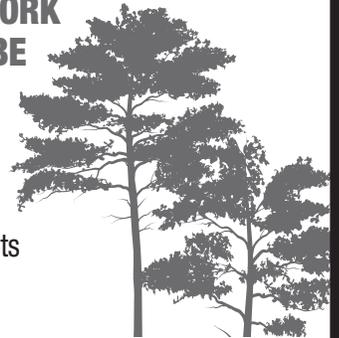
314 Main Street, Route 101,  
Marlborough, NH 03455  
Tel: (603) 876-3388 ☎ Fax: (603) 876-3888

# PHIL'S TREE SERVICE

KEENE, NH 603-352-0202

**IF YOU NEED TREE WORK  
OF ANY KIND, WE'D BE  
HAPPY TO HELP!**

- Hazardous Tree Removal
- Pruning/Trimming
- Stump Grinding
- Land Clearing / House Lots
- View Cuts
- Crane Services



**FREE ESTIMATES • FULLY INSURED**

Give us a call! 603-352-0202  
24-Hour Emergency Service



**603-249-6777**

- FENCE & GATE INSTALLATION
- BRUSH & TREE REMOVAL
- MATERIAL SPREADING & MORE



**Main Crust Pizza**  
**603-876-4500**

**Online Orders:**  
**MainCrust.com**

# Guyer & Son ROOFING

*Your Local Roofer For Over 50 Years*  
*"Committed to Giving Back to Our COMMUNITY"*

**RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL**

**Call for a FREE Estimate today!**

**603-876-9915**



**GuyerRoofing.com**



# BC CONSTRUCTION

**- SITEWORK - CONCRETE - UTILITIES - DEMOLITION -**

MARLBOROUGH, NH

603-876-4141

**BCCONSTRUCTION.ORG**



# Marlborough Bulletin

PO Box 622

Marlborough, NH 03455

PRSR STD  
ECRWSS  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EDDM RETAIL

\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSS\*\*\*\*

LOCAL  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

## For Your Information...

### Important Phone Numbers:

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector:**  
(603) 876-4529

**Police Department:**  
(603) 876-3311

**Post Office:**  
(603) 876-4590

**Marlborough School:**  
(603) 876-4465

**Library:**  
(603) 876-4479

**Select Board:**  
(603) 876-3751

### Operating Hours:

#### 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](mailto:library@frostfree.org) / [www.frostfree.org](http://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:** On the first Tuesday of each month, the meeting is at 6 pm at the Frost Free Library. The remaining weekly meetings are on Wednesday mornings at 10 am at the Town Offices. Meeting notices are posted at the Town Office and the Marlborough Post Office, as well as on our website calendar.

**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, Ira Gavrin, Charlene M. Grant, Kathy Oliver, Marge Shepardson

Contact us at: [marlboroughnhbulletin@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroughnhbulletin@gmail.com)

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. We are supported by advertising and donations, and are especially grateful to the Homestead Thrift Shop. Donations may be made out and sent to: Marlborough Bulletin, PO Box 24, Marlborough, NH 03455.