

March/April 2014
Volume 11, Issue 2

THE MARLBORO MIXER

A FREE newsletter for the town of Marlboro, Vermont.

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**A FREE newsletter
for the town of
Marlboro**

Also available
by email if requested
(save paper, save
money!)

For submissions or to
receive the Mixer,
please contact Robin
MacArthur at:

PO Box 472
Marlboro, VT
05344

802-258-2648

macarthur.robin@
gmail.com

We're online, too.

See us at:

<http://marlboro.vt.us>

The Marlboro Mudfling Saturday, March 1, 6:30-9:30 pm @ The Marlboro Meeting House, South Road



The social highlight of mud season in Marlboro and annual fundraiser for Marlboro Meeting House Preschool! Please join us for an evening of outrageous all-you-can eat desserts, a fabulous silent auction, cash bar featuring Whetstone CiderWorks and live music by "Bossa Renova."

Hosted by the parents of Marlboro Preschool as part of their fundraising efforts, the Mudfling is an adults-only wonderful evening out. For a \$10 donation at the door, you can enjoy decadent gourmet desserts, coffee, tea, a silent auction, and cash bar all while listening to live music (bring your dancing shoes!).

The silent action will feature a plethora of donated items from local businesses and area artists on which to bid. The items range from maple syrup to concert tickets to fine art. The music for the evening will be provided by Bossa Renova, an ensemble that performs traditional Brazilian Bossa Nova and original material, performed by Jesse Lepkoff, flutist Alison Hale and bassist Tyler Gibbons.

So escape the mud season blues and get ready for an evening of wonderful friends, food and fun.

Hope we will see you there!

For additional information visit us on Facebook or call: 254-0801

Town Meeting, Tuesday, March 4th

The polls will be open on Town Meeting Day March 5, 2013 from 10 am until 7 pm for the election of town officials. Please feel free to call for an absentee ballot if you can't make it to the polls. You can request an absentee ballot up until 4 pm on Monday March 4, 2013.

Town Meeting itself will be held on Tuesday, March 4th at 9 am at the Town House.

Town Meeting will be followed by a potluck lunch; please bring a dish or dessert to share! (Suggested donation: \$3)

Any other questions ? Call Forrest at 254-2181 Mon. Wed. Thur. 9am - 4 pm





Marlboro Select Board Report

The Select Board meets at 5:00 PM every second and fourth Thursday at the Town Office, unless otherwise warned.

The select board approved a Facility Use Policy and a Facility Use Agreement for events not connected with municipal government. The Town Clerk will have both documents available at the Town Office for those who wish to use town buildings and property in the future.

The board compiled the FY 2014 budget with Linda Peters, Town Treasurer. The board proposed a 1.6% Cost of Living Adjustment for employees and elected officials.

The Town is in the close-out phase of determining reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for town funds spent to restore infrastructure in connection with Tropical Storm Irene. The details are still being worked out with the assistance of Nora Wilson, former Town Clerk, who coordinated the administration of claims with FEMA representatives. The Town greatly appreciates Nora's work in this regard.

The select board would also like to note its great appreciation of Gussie Bartlett and Bob Anderson for the installation of a new door sweep for the Post Office.

The board has received notice of the resignation of Glenn Herrin as Emergency Management Director effective March 31, 2014. The board appreciates the work he did while here. The select board soon will be advertising for the position and taking resumes from interested candidates.

The board would especially like to acknowledge and thank Andrea Livermore for her hard work and dedication to the town as a select board member for the last three years, and last year as chair.

There are several opportunities to participate on Marlboro boards, committees and commissions. The select board will be making annual appointments in March. If you would like your name to be considered, please contact the select board for more information.

The public is always welcome to attend Select Board meetings and we value your input. There is always a ten minute period for unscheduled open public comment. You may contact the select board by email at marlboroselectboard@gmail.com or by post at Select Board, PO Box 518, Marlboro, VT 05344.

The News from Marlboro Cares by Jennifer Mazur

Senior Lunches

The Senior Lunches continue to delight the many participants. In February, Michelle Holzapfel delighted us all by beauty and ingenuity of her wooden sculptures. She also explained her process of creation.

The next Senior Lunches will be held Friday, March 7th when Dan MacArthur from the Marlboro General Store committee will update us on what's happening or about to happen at the former Sweeties store. On April 4, Singcrony will return by popular demand to serenade us with their unique three or four part harmonies.

All Seniors (over 60) living in Marlboro are welcome to attend. Please be sure to call 258-3030 anytime up until Monday evening, March 3rd for the March lunch and then on March 31st for April's lunch to make your reservations. Feel free to call even today! We have limited space for only 25 people, so reservations are important.

Senior Lunches take place the first Friday of the month at 11:30 am in the Marlboro College Café. The cost continues to be only \$3.00.

Activities for Elders

The Vermont Performance Lab is seeking men and women ages 60 to 90 to work with visiting French choreographer Thierry Thieu Niang as part of a two-week workshop and performance of *du Printemps* – Spring! More info on page 6.

The Brattleboro Music Center is offering 3 special classes for Elders this spring, as a response to the mounting evidence that engagement in music as we age has significant positive health benefits. The classes are Music Appreciation, with drop ins welcome the first Monday of each month for \$5/class; Singing Strong Chorus led by Susan Dedell for \$35/6 weeks ; and Adult Beginner Violin Classes with Michelle Liechti for \$50/5 lessons. For more information call the BMC at 257-4523 or bmcvt.org.

Marlboro Cares volunteers will be happy to provide transportation to the rehearsals or to some classes, as requested.

For rides, errands, referrals, or other non-emergency assistance, please call Marlboro Cares at 258-3030. Someone will return your call within 24 hours.

Help Shape Our Community's Future

Two community organizations—the Marlboro Alliance and Marlboro Cooperative—have initiated a joint Capital Campaign in order to:

- 1.) purchase the former Sweeties' property and
- 2.) establish a Community Hub and General Store.

This project will enable our community to buy **basic groceries and gas—available at convenient hours**—and support our local growers and producers. The former office space will be available for **meetings, events and exchanges, emergency shelter and community information.**

We are now in the first stage of our Capital Campaign. As the Mixer goes to press, **we have raised one-third of our combined goal of \$450,000.**

The Marlboro Alliance's goal is **\$300,000, in order to purchase the property and conserve this resource for future community use.** This goal must be met by the end of March; the Marlboro Alliance is a 501(c)(3) charitable non-profit, and your **donations are tax-deductible.**

Our anchor tenant will be the Marlboro Cooperative. The Cooperative's goal is \$150,000, which will provide start-up and working capital to open the **Marlboro General Store.** The Marlboro Cooperative is a not-for-profit corporation which seeks support thorough donations, as well as member shares and loans.

We seek all individuals, businesses and organizations ready to support this project at any level. We need your skills, energy and financial resources. **Please take this opportunity to invest in Marlboro's future. Watch your mailbox for an informative fundraising appeal letter.**

Marlboro Alliance: marlboroalliance@gmail.com or Michelle Holzapfel 254-2908.
Cooperative/General Store: Dan MacArthur @dmacarthur@igc.org or 257-7328.

Thank You from the Meeting House

Thank you to the community of Marlboro for responding to the call to help us raise funds to restore the upper part of the steeple at Marlboro Meeting House. Many people are continuing to participate in our campaign and helping us to add more than \$25,000 toward the project estimated to be over \$32,000. We will of course, add our own contribution and we are fortunate to have obtained a small grant with the stipulation that we reach our \$32,100 goal by May 1, 2014. We are encouraged by the contributions still coming in and are confident we will be ready for the crane.

We received kind notes of encouragement and contributions from residents, landowners, second-home-owners, friends from neighboring towns, long-time members of Marlboro Meeting House and their families, and a very nice contribution from the Marlboro Alliance, all for which we are very grateful. We plan to complete the work during the summer when the Meeting House School is not in session.

Thank you all for the community support.

Sincerely,
Marlboro Meeting House Board of Trustees and the Steeple Committee
Marlboro Meeting House, PO Box 64, Marlboro, VT 05344



News From Marlboro School by Francie Marbury

January and February have been a wonderfully productive time at Marlboro School. The fun and excitement of Winter Sports on Monday afternoons is balanced by students digging into the fun and excitement of new learning.

Highlights include...

Kindergartners learned about their bodies as they each added body systems such as the brain, heart, veins, and arteries, and lungs to a lifesize paper cut out. Primary students did a research project on owls to follow up on their more general study of birds. The 3rd-4th grade class learned about electricity and built flashlights. The 4th-5th grade class visited Billings Farm in Woodstock and spent the day engaged in activities typical on a 19th century Vermont farm. The 5th-6th grade class wrote and produced shadow puppet plays based on Greek Myths and the Junior High conducted independent studies, called I projects which were presented the week before the February vacation.

Field research and independent study are an important part of what goes on at MES. When the Junior High students do I projects, they learn critical skills such as how to determine the accuracy and/or bias of websites, how to organize what they learn in a new and interesting way, and how to present what they've studied so that their audience is engaged. They learn in depth about the topic of their choice and they (along with the teachers) also learn about everyone else's study.

I Projects this year included Adaylia's study of Phantom Limbs, Aleah on The Hidden Meaning of Nursery Rhymes, Andre on Bruce Lee, Paul on Work Goats, Walker on the History of the Automobile, Morgan on Ivory Trade, Frida on Women's Fashion of the 19th century, Zev on Scientology, Makayla on Santa Claus, Ellie on The Titanic, Haley on the History of Mental Asylums & Mental Health, Delaney on Kindertransport, Gigi on Teens & Illegal Drugs, Lindsey on Paranormal Activity, Liam on Gambling, Shadda on Usain Bolt, Mason on Dreams and Sleep, Aidan on Photovoltaics, Linaea on Drawing & Manga, Cooper on the Tesla Turbine, and Brite on The Simpsons.

As you can see it was a fascinating variety, and the student presentations were excellent. Many included Power Point presentations, as well as models and demonstrations. Paul's was a trip to his house to learn about the goats firsthand.

Now we're all ready for a well-earned Winter Vacation!

Brattleboro Women's Chorus Now Accepting New Members for Spring 2014!

Join us for an OPEN SING
for all women ages 10+ and experience what chorus is all
about!

Sing, Learn, Laugh, Harmonize
one time or all spring.

Wednesday, March 1st 7-9 pm @ All Souls Church,
West Brattleboro

For more information, contact Director Becky Graber at
254-8994 or visit
www.brattleborowomenschorus.org

Dear Marlboro Folk,

I have decided to run as a write-in candidate for the forthcoming vacancy on the Select Board. For those of you I haven't met, I live on MacArthur Road with my wife Robin MacArthur and our two young children, Avah (5) and Owen (1). Please feel free to contact me at majorgibbons@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Forrest can answer questions about how the write-in vote works, and is available at the town office at marlborotownclerk@gmail.com or 254-2181.

Thanks and happy mid-winter!
Tyler Gibbons
MacArthur Road

Recent Internet Survey in Marlboro

by Sara Kermenski

I can access the Internet “if I put my cell phone in the window just right” – does this sound like a familiar action by you or one of your neighbors? The Internet survey was released in January of 2014. Since that time, 120 Marlboro households have completed it. That's nearly 1/3 of our town! A preliminary summary of the results follows.

One third of households surveyed in Marlboro don't have DSL. 16% don't have any Internet at all. The remainder of those without DSL use dial-up, satellite or cell phone. Of those that don't have it at home, only a handful choose not to have it – all others want it but can't get it. A full 76% of all respondents including those with Fairpoint DSL would like to have something better than their current Internet connection. Only 32% feel their Internet connection is very reliable. When asked if it's possible to stream a video with their broadband connection, 44% said yes.

The results underscore the fact that Marlboro is significantly underserved when it comes to broadband access – certainly nothing like 99% of Vermonters that the Governor claims are covered by broadband Internet.

Numerous survey comments included slow connections in the evening with speeds under 1 megabit per second (mbps) and many interruptions in service. Some felt that 3 mbps (the maximum download speed offered by Fairpoint DSL when it is working properly) was not adequate and they will require higher speeds in the near future in order to keep up with their family or business needs. For comparison, cable Internet packages (fiber optic) like those available from Comcast in Brattleboro range from 6 to 105 mbps.

More than half of the households surveyed, 54%, have considered the impact on their property's value and on future prospective buyers if their house does not have access to broadband Internet. Many respondents felt that their property value was negatively affected by a lack of broadband service and wrote thoughtful comments like:

- “I could not do my job (I work for home) if I didn't have DSL. The state and local govt. should think about the tax base too, if someone like me were unable to work.”
- “My landlord had the property vacant for 8 months due to lack of Internet service.”
- “Being in the real estate industry, broadband is the new utility & some individuals won't even look at a property without it. Also, in Marlboro it doesn't transfer like other utilities, just because your house may have it ... it isn't guaranteed.”
- “My understanding is that if I sell the buyers aren't assured access to Fairpoint DSL.”

Where should we go next? While DSL has been the fastest option offered in Marlboro to date, it appears to be lacking in adequacy for many who have it and will not sustain the evolving need for data access as we move into the future. DSL is slower and less reliable than a fiber optic connection. Sovernet has a fiber optic line that runs along route 9 right through our town but does not currently offer service to residences. Our group has contacted all of the Internet providers for our area and none of them plan to expand or upgrade service for Marlboro without a significant investment by government grants or other funding.

Currently, our group is unaware of any Internet grants for Marlboro, which means that we could wait many years for our current situation to change. However, 23 other towns in Vermont have been faced with the same situation a Marlboro, but did something about establishing a municipal Internet network.

Through citizen investments in the form of loans, those towns were able to raise enough money to run their own fiber optic Internet lines. Once an investment is paid back, the town receives the revenue from households using the service and also uses it to provide for maintenance of the system. This may be one option for our town. You can search “EC Fiber” for more information.

This survey was a first step in obtaining data that could be presented at the Town and State level. We are a small group of volunteers and we need help from other citizens and the support of the Town if we want to bring fiber optic broadband Internet to Marlboro. If you'd like to participate or have information to add, we are gathering contact information and hope to see enough interest to move the issue forward. Please email Wayne at wkermenski@gmail.com. We will continue to update via the Front Porch Forum and the Mixer.

Vermont Performance Lab, Spring 2014

Thursday March 6 @ 7PM

VPL ON SCREEN: *Action Conversations: Bellows Falls*

Presented by VPL in association with Youth Services

@ The Bellows Falls Opera House, The Square, Bellows Falls, VT

In the summer of 2012 Vermont Performance Lab brought choreographer Victoria Marks and documentary filmmaker Ann Kaneko to Southern Vermont to embark on a six week dance/film project that brought five teens and five adult women from the Greater Bellows Falls community into an "action conversation." Join us for an evening that focuses on youth and the work of Youth Services that will include the premiere of *Action Conversations: Bellows Falls* - a docu-dance film that captures the stories and reflections of these Vermont women and their community.

Free. No tickets or reservations required.

Monday April 1 @ 7pm

VPL IN THE WORKS: *Schwanze-Beast*

Alina Troyano (a.k.a. Carmelita Tropicana)

presented by VPL in association with Marlboro College

@ The Whittimore Theater, South Road, Marlboro, VT

Schwanze-Beast is writer/performance artist Alina Troyano's latest endeavor with long-time collaborator filmmaker Ela Troyano and actor/director Susanne Sachsse. Part psychological sci-fi thriller part performative scientific lecture, *Schwanze-Beast* delves into biotech and bio-politics and civil rights and poses the question: "what separates human from beast?"

NOW SEEKING for May 2014 Project:

Men and Women ages 60-100 to participate in upcoming Vermont Performance Lab residency with French choreographer

Vermont Performance Lab (VPL) and Massachusetts International Festival of the Arts (MIFA) team up to bring French choreographer Thierry Thieû Niang to New England for a two week workshop and residency Working with 25 local participants ages 60-100 Niang stages a powerful re-imagining of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*. No dance experience necessary. Participants will receive a \$50 honorarium.

Interested participants should call Sara Coffey at VPL ([802-257-3360](tel:802-257-3360)) and attend an info. session/ workshop with Thierry Thieû Niang on Tuesday May 14 10am-noon in the dance studio @ Serkin Center @ Marlboro College

Must be available to be part of the two week workshop: Tues-Fri May 20-30 9am-1pm + showings on May 28 + 30.

Info & reservations: www.vermontperformancelab.org or [802-257-3361](tel:802-257-3361)

Marlboro Emergency Shelter Update

The Emergency Shelter Committee of the Marlboro Alliance will soon be looking for community volunteers who are interested in maintaining and staffing a Marlboro Emergency Shelter as needed. The Red Cross will provide the necessary training and equipment. As Larry Kupferman, Shelter Coordinator of the American Red Cross states: "A community that receives the training and material resources being offered by the Red Cross will be taking an invaluable step toward a level of preparedness that meets today's realities." Our town's recent experience with Tropical Storm Irene reminds us all too starkly that we must be able and ready to meet "today's realities."

Look for more information in our next Mixer. If you have questions, please call:

Felicia Tober
254-8038

Municipal Meetings:
(unless posted otherwise)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MARCH

- 1ST....THE MARLBORO MUDFLING (P.1)
- 4TH....TOWN MEETING/Election Day (P.1)
- 7TH....SENIOR LUNCH (P.3)

APRIL

- 1st ...VPL IN THE WORKS (P.6)
- 4THSENIOR LUNCH (P.3)

Select Board: 2nd & 4th
Thursdays at 5pm

School Board:
1st Monday at 6pm

Board of Listers:
Wednesdays at 7pm

Planning Commission: 2nd
Tuesday at 5pm

Town Auditors: 3rd Monday
at 3:30pm

Development Review Board:
3rd Tues at 7pm

Fire Company: 2nd & 4th
Wednesday at 7pm

Marlboro Energy
Committee: 3rd Thurs at
7:00pm , MES

Conservation Commission:
1st Monday at 7:00

Mystery Photo....solved!

Many thanks to all of you for helping us solve this mystery photo! Responses came from near and far.

Marcia and Richard Hamilton were most thorough in their research. They wrote:

Richard Hamilton identified the people in the picture. Marcia Hamilton researched and found the 1952 Town Report and provided further speculation of the circumstances of the photo.

This photo could have been taken in 1952 or winter of 1953 because of the slate of officers, which matches the people in the image.

Standing: Raymond Powers, Justice of the Peace, Harold Whitney, Selectman*

Seated: Bernard Greenwood, Selectman and Justice of the Peace; Richard Hamilton, Selectman; Charles Richardson, Justice of the Peace

The Town Clerk in 1952 was Gerald Adams (not in the photo) who was also a Justice of the Peace. The fifth Justice of the Peace in 1952, not shown, was George Hughes. These missing people could be in the room. The pocketbook on the table could belong to the woman whose leg shows in the lower bottom right.

This could possibly have been a Board of Civil Authority meeting composed of the Town Clerk, Selectmen and Justices of the Peace.

*Selectman was the term used in 1952.



Marlboro Town Services Want to list your business or skills here? Call or email **The Mixer**.

Amy Taliaferro 802-999-6590, Massage, Craniosacral Therapy

Lance C. Shader, 464-5676, Attorney at Law

Malcolm Moore, 254-5664,
surveygmls@gmail.com
Green Mountain Land Surveying

J. Mark Littlehales: Boat building, repair, maintenance & woodwork for the home.
jmark@sover.net, 254-6955

Mountain Meadow Farm: 348-7344
Organic Beef; Composted manure

Kevin Hamilton: 257-5666
Softwood shavings; maple syrup; cordwood

Russell Horton 254-2651, Drum repair and lessons

Applewoods Studio and Gallery, 254-2908
Turned vessels and wood furniture

Wylie Carlisle 579-8311
Landscaping and lawn services

Rob Shapiro, chipping services 254-2570

Absolute Computer Solutions, 413-388-8041 (in Marlboro)

Jerry Lundsted 254-6512. Earthwork, excavating

Whetstone Ledges Farm 257-7328
Maple syrup, seasonal produce, berries

Green Power, 2063 Route 9, Small engine sales and repair

Will & Paula Fielding Banjos: banjos, repairs, lessons 464-3260, fieldingbanjos.com

Lucy Gratwick Fine Hand-weaving 257-0181
Functional hand-woven apparel

Donald Sherefkin, AIA 254-9736. Architectural Services, sherefkin@gmail.com

Yoga & YogaDance 254-7724 <kel@sover.net>
Kripalu Instructors Casey Deane & Kelly Salasin.

Nat Waring Woodworking 257-4100, custom furniture, built-in cabinets, corian countertops

Brian McNeice—Bonvue Farm. Pastured poultry & 100% grass-fed beef. 258-2296

Greg Burnell 257-0796 Guitar Lessons. All ages all styles. gregsblues18@yahoo.com

Walt's Chain Saw Carvings, Walter F. Ridel, 1947 Auger Hole Rd. 348-7162

Theo's Handyman Services (802) 254-4738

Custom hardwood frames & more, Bob Kreitzer 464-5992 whoframedbob@myfairpoint.net

Alcan power equip---lawn equipment, chainsaws,generators-sales &service [348-7898](tel:348-7898)

Dave Matt: firewood, hay, maple syrup 464-9788

Brent Seabrook - Carpentry: Design, Build, Restore, Refinish. 464-5169

A&J Heating LLC, Aaron Diamondstone 254-2246. solar hot water and all heating systems

Green Mtn. Floral Arts; weddings & special events. Carie Kowalski, 380-2832

David Johnson, lawn mowing & odd jobs. 464-5891

Skunk's Tree Service 802.598.4434.

The Poetry Studio- 257-8972
Poetry classes for young people and adults

Whetstone CiderWorks, Artisan Hard Cider whetstoneciderworks@gmail.com, 254-5306

Kate Tarlow Morgan 257 0855 or katetarlowmorgan@gmail.com
Editorial Skills, Stretch Coach/Prevention

Gary MacArthur, 257-7026, Solar PV & hot water systems, gwmaca@gmail.com

Refilling Your Well Counseling, Robin White 802-254-2246 www.refillingyourwell.com

Jorge Romo, Renovation, New Construction, Painting, Roofing, Drywall, Tile 251-0214

Malcolm Wright, The Turnpike Road Pottery. theturnpikeroad.com, 254-2168

Sunrise House Painting and Landscaping. 257-7184 SunrisePaintersVT.com

Allen Warner - 464-2099 Painting, Small Carpentry, Pressure Washing, Lawn Mowing & small snow removal

Ames Hill Storage, LLC Heated winter storage. 802-254-2501

Lavigne Photography: 257.6918
lavignephotography.blogspot.com

Rambling Brook Farm, pastured-grained pork, seasonal produce, firewood, 258-0409 or Rob@RamblingBrookFarmVermont.com

Adirondack Chairs, Picnic Tables, Trellises, etc., made to order. Fred Bisbee, 464-0297

STiLL-Fine Photography, Pet Portaiture & Animal REIKI (People too!) 860-716-1049, rebeccawhitney8@yahoo.com.

NEXT DEADLINE: April 15th for the May/June Mixer

**MARLBORO MIXER
C/O ROBIN MACARTHUR
PO BOX 472
MARLBORO, VT 05344**