

the marlboro mixer

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A FREE newsletter for the town of
Marlboro, Vermont

Published by the Marlboro Alliance

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receive the Mixer,
please contact
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We're online, too.

See us at:
marlborovt.us

Many thanks to our
volunteer proofreader,
Vanessa Redfield

So, how does Town Meeting work this year?

There will be no in-person Town Meeting this year due to the pandemic. All articles will be voted by Australian ballot per decision of the Marlboro Select Board and Town Clerk in December 2020.

How will I know where to get the information I need to vote the ballot?

All the information you will need is available on the municipal website: <https://marlborovt.us/town-meeting-2021/> and furthermore, there will be two remote Informational Meetings on Zoom, hosted by:

the Marlboro School Board on Monday, February 22, 2021, 6pm

Link: <https://zoom.us/j/5201609340>

Meeting ID: 520 160 9340

To Join By Phone: 1-929-205-6099

the Marlboro Select Board on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 6pm

Link: <https://Us02web.Zoom.Ux/J/89755939733>

Meeting Id: 897 5593 9733

To Join By Phone: 1-646-558-8656

The links to both meetings will also appear on the Town Meeting page at <https://marlborovt.us/town-meeting-2021/>. Each informational meeting will pertain to either the school ballot or the town ballot. If you have no internet access, you may call in with the phone numbers provided.

There will be discussion of articles, questions and answers, but **NO VOTING** and **NO AMENDMENTS**. This is a painful change, but hopefully we will only need to do this once!

How will voting be accomplished?

All active voters will receive ballots sent to their mailing address. Ballots will be mailed by February 10, 2021. About 10 days may elapse when you will have your ballot, but the informational meetings will not have occurred.

Town Reports will be available by February 20th and can be picked up at the Town Office, Post Office, and Marlboro School. The prior year's minutes

Town Meeting *continued on page 2*

Town Meeting *continued from page 1*

will show how the voters responded last year. The Town Report will also be available digitally on the town website <https://marlborovt.us/town-meeting-2021/>

Voters may return ballots:

- by mail
- in the drop box outside the Town Office
- hand-deliver to the office by calling ahead (254-2181) to ensure a town officer is there to receive your ballot.

In-person voting will be conducted on March 2, 2021 in the Town House at 13 Town Hill Road adjacent to the Town Offices with polling hours 9am until 7pm. If you choose this voting method, please bring your ballot with you.

How to Register to Vote

There is no deadline to register to vote. You will be able to register to vote on the day of the election. You can register prior by visiting the Town Office or going online to <http://olvr.vermont.gov/>

From the Marlboro Auditors

Rose Watson, Andy Reichsman, Gail MacArthur

The auditors have finalized the Town Report and it has been sent to the printers. Copies will be available in the post office, the Town Office, and Marlboro School by the week of the 22nd of February. They can also be accessed by visiting the town website:

<https://marlborovt.us/town-meeting-2021/>

The report will have both the town and school budgets, as well as reports from many of the organizations whose requests for funding are on the town warning. Without an in-person town meeting where these items can be discussed, it is more important than ever to access the Town Report.

Anyone who would like a Town Report and can't pick one up at the town office or access it digitally, should contact the Auditors at: marlborotownreport@gmail.com and we will try to get one to you.

Marlboro Mixer News

from the Marlboro Alliance

Our current annual cost for the Mixer is approximately \$3600, with \$3000 coming from the town. If we could reduce the number of mailed copies to 100 (or less), we could save almost \$1000 in printing costs and \$300 in postage. We are requesting that everyone who has sufficient internet to contact our editor to begin receiving the Mixer electronically. If you prefer to continue receiving the Mixer in hard copy, please consider making a donation of \$15 to cover the cost of printing and mailing. If you do nothing, rest assured you will continue to receive the Mixer in the mail.

This would also allow us to pay the editor a slight increase in stipend for her work. Our editor has not had an increase in her stipend for 10 years, but the Mixer has gone from 8 pages to 12 pages. The Alliance believes she deserves an increase in her stipend for the extra hours she puts into creating the Mixer.

If you have questions or concerns, please email marlboroalliance@gmail.com. If you are willing to go digital, please write meg@megmcarthy.com.

Talk About Our Democracy

March 29: The Origins of White Supremacy

April 26: The Answer to Tyranny

6:30 to 8:30 p.m. on Zoom

Contact Woody 802 464 3154

woodybernhard48@gmail.com

from the Marlboro Volunteers

My name is Rusty E. Sage, and I am the Chief of the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company (MVFC). Please find below a short explanation of the articles regarding the MVFC that I have submitted for your consideration at Town Meeting.

The two articles are as follows:

First Article: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$35,000 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. to help defray operating expenses.

Second Article: To see if the town will vote to appropriate and expend \$50,000 to the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company, Inc. for apparatus replacement funding.

I will discuss the operating expenses article first.

As we approach this year's Town Meeting, I have had the opportunity to assess our budget over the last year and a half. I have removed apparatus replacement costs from the "operating expenses" portion of our budget with the hopes of being more transparent. Without that funding, our current operating costs come to \$45,000.

Of this, I have sought out to level fund to last year's amount (\$35,000) due to the possibility of SARS-CoV-2 (Covid) hardships that may have struck the citizens of our town. My intention is to supplement our budget with donations to make the \$45,000, and will put off "projects" that the donation money would have been intended for. I will explain what projects we are working on later if asked.

The budget is higher than in the past for several reasons. First, we have started, and will continue, to follow applicable standards that must be met when operating a fire company. Second, we have started replacing worn, broken or outdated items that have been put aside in the past with no definitive maintenance or replacement plans. Third, things like building maintenance, training, and radio repair/replacement to name a few, are being planned for now.

In our second article we seek to procure \$50,000 for apparatus replacement funding. First, I want to be clear to everyone, this is not a one-time amount. The MVFC will be seeking this amount each year to add to this fund. We have

two fire engines that are 53 years and 35 years old this year. Our vehicles lack safety features that are standard in fire apparatus built today, such as: anti-lock brakes, air bags, rollover protection or even shoulder straps on the seat belts. These vehicles are in need of replacement, and when I did the research/design last year, the cost was going to be just over \$350,000 to replace one truck. That was last year, with prices going up about 4-6% annually.

The two fire engines we own have exceeded the normally accepted replacement age on a fire engine, which is 20 years. This accounts for a vehicle to be used as the primary truck for ten years, and the secondary truck for ten years. A town the size of ours, I feel that 15/15 with a replacement after 30 years is acceptable. As you can see, we've surpassed that timeframe with no planning ahead for replacement until now.

Since I took over in August of 2019, we have addressed multiple safety and mandatory mechanical issues with the two engines, costing us about \$25,000 and months of time with one or both trucks out of service to repair long standing maintenance issues. This doesn't include items like replacing gauges, non-essential lights, body work, etc. that we don't yet have funding and the older truck being is difficult to find parts for. These trucks are essential to the protection we provide to the town, and to keeping our firefighters safe on emergency scenes.

I intend to attend the informational meetings to give more detailed information and to answer questions that may arise. We greatly appreciate the support we receive from all of you within the Town of Marlboro, I thank you for your time and consideration at the upcoming meetings and during the vote this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Rusty E. Sage
Chief
Marlboro Volunteer Fire Co. Inc.

from Marlboro School Board

The 2020 spring and fall semesters brought challenges to the Marlboro School the likes of which have not been seen for generations. The Marlboro School Board had 38 meetings between March and December of 2020 compared to 15 meetings from the same timeframe the prior year. 2020, unlike the years before it, can truly be considered 2 years of work in one. However, the work of the Board pales in comparison to the dedicated employees of Marlboro School. The Marlboro School Board effusively praises Marlboro School's administrators, faculty, and staff for their unfettered determination in ensuring the students of the Marlboro Community were provided safe, uninterrupted educational services during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. In addition to their normal educational services, faculty and staff had to rethink instructional delivery and take on emotional and physical supports in many different facets—from compiling and distributing remote learning packets to curbside cooler lunch services. The Board cannot thank its faculty and staff enough for their dedication and adroit flexibility, and we encourage all community members who encounter a Marlboro School employee to thank them for their service.

With this thanks to all employees, we would like to single out Rachel Boyden for her years of service to the students of Marlboro. The 2020-2021 school year will be Rachel's last as she retires from her sixteen years as co-teacher in the 7th and 8th grades. Rachel's contributions to the school and students are innumerable. Her legacy includes conducting field research trips to Costa Rica and Washington, D.C. Through the rigor of her writing program and her thoughtful reading groups on the couch in the junior high, she encouraged students to become independent thinkers and writers. She encouraged self-reflection in her students. They learned to critique themselves through their use of the Realms of Learning and in preparation for the required, individual 8th grade graduation portfolio. Rachel was also instrumental in the many fundraisers held by the junior high to help finance their research trips. She encouraged students to take an entrepreneurial lead in organizing and carrying out their annual fall cider sale and for their booth at the Marlboro Fair. While saying farewell is always difficult, doing so in a hundred-year pandemic makes it all the more so. The Board offers its gratitude for her years of dedication to

students' learning and wishes her well in her retirement.

With the bulk of 2020-2021 behind us, we look toward the future and ask that the Marlboro voters approve this currently outlined 2021-2022 budget via Australian ballot. Our proposed spending amount for the upcoming school year is 5% less than the prior year. The Board anticipates that this budget will decrease the Education tax rate this coming year by about 10% from \$1.99 to \$1.80. It results in a decrease of about 9% in the Equalized Per Pupil spending. There were many factors that led to the creation of this budget

Last year, the Marlboro School Board expected to lobby the legislature to ensure that they took up the equity discussion around the weighting study, which would favorably impact Marlboro's programs. That legislative work was placed on hold due to the pandemic, so no program spending relief was expected to come from a restructuring of pupil weighting. The Board continues to do its work under an imbalanced, inequitable distribution system throughout Vermont, and much of our work this year will be related to once again rallying community members and lobbying the state legislature as—the state moves out from under its pandemic-focused work and back to addressing this inequity.

This year the town received federal Covid relief funds to aid in several of its programs and expenditures which helped to create a lower tax rate, but the Board anticipates the State and Federal agencies recouping this money in the future. Therefore, in our anticipation of future costs, the Board asked the administration to present a spending plan that created a tax rate between \$1.80 and \$1.85. Over the course of five meetings, the Board came to the current proposed budget, and we thank principal Wayne Kermenski for his challenging work in adjusting program schedules and class structures (see his Principal's Report in the Town Report for those programmatic details, which includes meeting several program and educational needs such as a Math specialist, middle school restructuring, and assistant for large enrollment in the lower grades for literacy support). In future years, as Covid expenditures settle, and the legislature addresses the weighting formula (as it is bound to), the Board will revisit any program

adjustments that have been made. With respect to the Marlboro taxpayers, we are approaching the future with a cautious mind.

It is important to note how much has changed regarding funding and expenditures within the Marlboro School these last two years. Some of these changes are outside of the Board's purview but all are worth noting for the community as they begin to take root:

- We are pleased to be working with the newly formed Marlboro Education Association—a teacher's union who now negotiates with the Marlboro School Board to develop contracts with its teachers. In a world where union strength appears to be diminishing, we are happy to have such competent negotiating partners. Marlboro School was one—if not the last—of school districts in VT to unionize. We look forward to a long partnership.
- When Acts 153 and 173 were passed in the legislature, they required all districts to begin centralizing their ledger and special education spending within the supervisory union. These laws impacted Marlboro as follows:
 - The tracking of finances for the Marlboro School was moved to a system managed by the Windham Central Supervisory Union (WCSU) staff. Previously the Marlboro Town Office worked with the board and administrators for this financial oversight and review, and we appreciate their many years of service in partnership. While we understand the legislature's desire to better call up line-item spending across districts with the click of a button, the amount of work it took to transfer finance systems from Marlboro to WCSU was an enormous task and adjustment for all involved. We thank Linda Peters in particular for taking the brunt of this mandate on and working to ensure all dollars were accounted accurately. While this change increased the Marlboro School budget last year, and is an expense we now must bear, we are determined to utilize the WCSU office for the benefits of our understanding, budgeting, and reporting.
 - All special education dollars are now placed in one pool of money shared by the entire WCSU. Prior to

Act 173, any increase in special education spending was the sole responsibility of the town. After Act 173's passage, all districts in the WCSU needed to create a model of spending that was shared. Last year the WCSU came to an agreement to share spending based on Average Daily Membership within the school. This year an amendment was made to that agreement that allowed legacy tuition students (students from outside of town that are enrolled in the Marlboro School and paying tuition to Marlboro) to continue at the Marlboro School; however, from this July forward, we only accept school-placed tuition students and any school can choose to send their student to Marlboro. Families can no longer choose to tuition their students to Marlboro, except for Pre-K (under Act 166).

- The State of Vermont now sets the employee/employer payments related to health insurance. In prior years, the Marlboro School negotiated directly with its teachers to set this ratio (e.g. 80/20; 90/10; etc.) but from 2020 onwards this will be determined by the State. This gives the Marlboro School Board less flexibility in its negotiating contracts, but it lends more predictability in upcoming expenditures and forecasting statewide.

While much of 2020 was spent focused on repercussions related to the pandemic, the Board continued to fit work in that looked to the future. We have worked with the administration to find and set a timeline for addressing the much needed capital improvements to our school. We have even received an entreating letter from students asking us to address the issues. As you may know from last year, the Board has engaged with Banwell Architects to address the capital improvements. In the next year, Banwell will host several sessions with faculty, administration, students, and community members to engage with each stakeholder to develop the literal structural vision for the school. Banwell Architects's main focus is schools, and we are excited to have them working with the Marlboro School.

While 2020 has brought extreme challenges, the Board has neither let the pandemic disrupt its vision for the future of the Marlboro School, nor has it kept us from seizing opportunities to provide quality education for our students at an expense the tax payers can bear.

Principal's Report

Wayne Kermenski, Marlboro School Principal

What a historic year, and one that pushed our abilities to be flexible, creative, and resilient. We started this year by utilizing what we learned from the previous school year's school dismissal to create a school schedule that focused on the well-being for both students and teachers. The two models we devised were a Hybrid Model consisting of four shorter days of in-person schooling with one day of remote learning per week and a Remote Model. It took almost two months to fully implement the Hybrid Model due to our school's ventilation systems needing to be assessed. We were one of the fortunate schools that passed this assessment and many classrooms exceeded the required air flow rates. During these transitions, staff and classrooms were reassigned multiple times to meet our students' needs and CDC building guidelines. It cannot be said enough that our dedicated, skillful educators were marvelous throughout this whole school year.

Fortunately, amidst the pandemic, there have been positives for Marlboro School. Teachers and students have diversified their technology skills, staff collaboration has increased, and students have become more independent learners. Also, we have come together as a community. Families became co-teachers with their children's classroom teachers, were prepared for remote days at any moment and adapted to four shorter days per week. Our families made sacrifices, which allowed us to remain in-person most of the year. Marlboro is a strong and caring community with reliance like no other.

The 20-21 school year has seen a shift in the number of students attending Marlboro School in-person. Due to the pandemic, about 20% of our students enrolled in homeschooling, 10% chose the Remote Schooling Model and 70% of our students participated in the Hybrid (in-person) Model. Enrollment for the 21-22 school year remains strong, and we project another student body that is just over 100 students PK-8.

Educators new to our school include Elizabeth Sisk (food program director), Nicole Del Bene (5/6 teacher assistant), Steve Turro (music/band teacher), Elizabeth Motta (school counselor) and Ani Scheaffer (JH Humanities long-term substitute). They have done a wonderful job, especially during these trying times.

Staff and Faculty professional development has focused on building a strong and healthy community. Our three main areas include Anti-Racism led by Jamie Schilling (art teacher), Liz Greco (5/6 teacher) and Taryn Colonesse (3/4 teacher). The whole staff started this very important work by reading and discussing the book *Me and White Supremacy* by Layla Saad. We also received Restorative Practices training from the Greater Falls Community Justice Center in Bellows Falls, Vermont. This is a multi-year commitment, and this year we gained an understanding of Restorative Practices principles and implemented systems amongst the staff. Lastly, the WCSU has undertaken Implicit Bias professional development through training modules and small group discussions. We have always made building community a goal at Marlboro School and these professional development trainings have increased our skills.

We are very proud of our student-led initiatives this year. Students in grades 3/4 undertook an assessment of our buildings accessibility. From the students' report: "...we got a wheelchair and did a wheelchair audit of the school. We wanted to learn what it would be like if somebody came in a wheelchair or with crutches. Then we would know what changes needed to be made so it's easy for them to get around." Students presented their recommendations to the School Board and they have been invited to participate in the renovation process. 5/6 grade students petitioned the School Board to raise the Black Lives Matter and Pride flags and commit to incorporating the core values these flags represent into our school community. Additionally, 5/6 grade students went through the process of identifying our school colors and mascot. We are now the Marlboro School Black Bears and our school colors are green and yellow.

Adjustments have been made to our programming starting in the 21-22 school year. Specials classes will look different for the 21-22 school year. Spanish, art, library and music class will continue, including band as an option for students in grades 5-8 who are interested in playing an instrument. What has changed is physical education will increase from one day to two days per week and there will no longer be a strings program or Rhythms in primary grades. We thank Kate Morgan, our Rhythms

teacher, for her dedication to our community, positive and collaborative frame of mind, and 13 years of service.

We are very excited to announce a change to our upper grades. Junior High and the 5/6 classroom will combine into a middle school with two teachers specializing in either humanities or math and the principal teaching science. In order to increase student achievement in math, we have added a math specialist to teach two math classes and provide specialized instruction to students who need additional math support. Changing to a middle school model and adding a math specialist will lead to every math class, in grades 1-8, being taught by grade level and in small groups. We believe this adjustment will lead to strong math instruction and interventions throughout the school and higher student achievement.

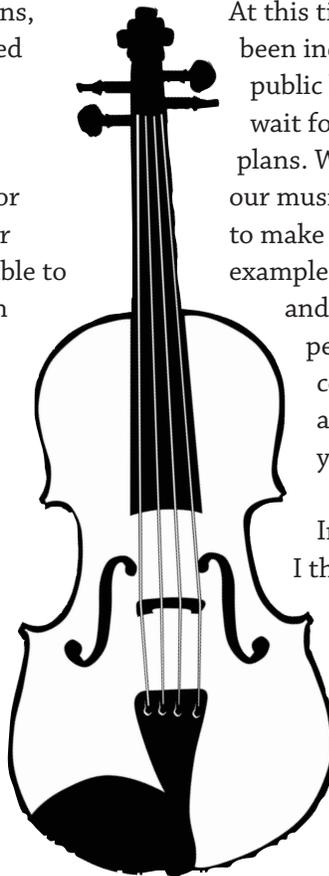
Marlboro School Association (MSA) has been very generous over the years and has supported projects that are outside the school's general budget. This year MSA provided funds for forestry supplies for citizen scientist projects, JH science equipment, outdoor clothing for all students PK-4, lockers for the 5/6 classroom, lean-to for Preschool, building materials for classroom projects and fire pits for the outdoor classrooms.

This has been a challenging year and I would like to thank the Marlboro community members, school board, staff, faculty, families and students for coming together to make Marlboro School the wonderful school that it is.

From Marlboro Music

Christopher Serkin, President & Board Chair

To the Marlboro Community: Our musicians, staff and their families all very much missed not being at our summer home last year. It was the first time since 1950 without a Marlboro Music season on Potash Hill. As challenging as this past year has been for everyone, it has been especially difficult for performing musicians, who have been unable to continue their life's work and passion. I am writing to update everyone on our plans for this summer. We are actively planning for our new 70th season, and we hope and expect to be able to come together once again for a summer of music-making in Marlboro. Of course, our highest priority is the health and safety of everyone in our musical community, in town, and in the wider region. We are consulting regularly with a leading expert in infectious disease on protocols for living safely on campus, we are speaking with other arts communities, and we are working to coordinate our plans with the State Department of Health.



At this time, however, the feedback we have received has been inconclusive. It is not yet possible to anticipate the public health situation this summer, and so we must wait for more information before we can confirm our plans. We are optimistic that we will be able to provide our musicians with the opportunity to come together to make music again, but exactly how that looks—for example, whether we will be able to invite our friends and neighbors to the campus for open rehearsals and performances as usual—remains to be seen. We will continue to update you as our planning progresses, and we look forward to being back in residence as your neighbors as soon as possible.

In the meantime, for all of us at the music school, I thank you for your patience, encouragement, and help. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions or comments. You can contact any of our staff members through our website at marlboromusic.org.

from Marlboro Cares

Jennifer Masur

At this extraordinary time, Marlboro Cares is unable to offer its normal services to the community due to the coronavirus; however, we look forward to being able to serve you again more fully when it's over.

Covid Vaccine Information

Marlboro Cares strongly recommends everyone getting the Covid vaccine, so that we can all be more protected and can get back to a more normal life. At the time of this writing, Vermont is vaccinating people 75 years and older, with the over 70's turn coming soon. In order to make an appointment, you can go onto the website at: www.healthvermont.gov/myvaccine or call the Vaccine Call Center at 855-722-7878. You will need to give your name, date of birth, address, and email, if you have one. You will also be asked for your insurance information, but this is optional. The vaccine is free to everyone. You will get the date of your second shot at your first appointment.

People who are homebound will receive the vaccine from their home health agency. There's no need to make an appointment. For those homebound who are not connected to a home health agency, the health department will work with primary care health providers to identify and vaccinate them. Again, no need to make a phone call.

Paws for Thought

By Peggy Tiffany – Marlboro Animal Control Officer

Animal Control Officer Report 2020

In 2020, the ACO had 46 calls which took approximately 29 hours. The majority of calls were about dogs running at large, but we also had 5 dog bites. The statistics are below:

- 28 dogs Running at Large (two chasing chickens, two chasing horses)
- 11 calls for general help about animals (vets, dog training, bear in yard, found cat, etc.)
- 2 calls about dogs barking
- 5 dog bites (3 dog-on-dog, 2 humans)

I want to thank all the people who help reunite dogs with their owners. You save me a lot of work! Also thank you to people I needed to call for being understanding about the issues and working to make sure the issues do not recur. If everyone has their dogs wear collars with tags, it would be so much easier to quickly return dogs to their owners.

Pick ups and Deliveries

Marlboro Cares volunteers will pick up and deliver your prepaid curbside grocery orders. We will also pick up your medicine at your pharmacy, as long as you have called in the refill, paid for it, and have informed the pharmacy that a Marlboro Cares volunteer will pick it up. We also will deliver meals from Everyone Eats and bags of food from the Marlboro Community Center's food giveaway every Thursday afternoon. You must reserve the meals by calling Marlboro Cares or the Community Center in advance.

For these delivery services, call Marlboro Cares at 258-3030 and please allow at least 48 hours for delivery.

Marlboro Alliance Emergency Fund

The Marlboro Alliance Emergency Fund can be accessed by calling Marlboro Cares at 258-3030. This Fund is to assist residents who have been hurt financially by Covid.

Information and Referral Services

For information about anything mentioned above, to request a delivery of any of the above products, or for referrals for assistance and services, please call Marlboro Cares at 258-3030. Someone will return your call within 24 hours.

If you do have a dog and it is not registered in Marlboro, please be sure to contact the Town Clerk to get your dog registered. I use the license list to find owners. It is also a public safety issue. If the dog wears current tags, I know it is up-to-date on rabies and do not have to worry about handling a dog.

My stipend goes to the Animal Resource Fund (ARF). If you need help with medical costs for your animals, please be sure to contact me at acomarlboro@gmail.com or call my home phone at 802-348-7479. You can also text me at 802-579-7109. If you need help with food, be sure to join the Pet Care Assistance Program at Windham County Humane Society. They can also help with low cost vaccines and spay/neuter services. Even if you use the Pet Care Assistance Program, if you need help with covering costs, please reach out. That is why I created ARF.

from the Marlboro Committee for Universal Broadband (MCUB)

Steven John, Vice Chair and DVFiber Vice-Chair

DVFiber and MCUB*

DVFiber was established because:

- Expanding high-speed broadband to all of rural Vermont will be one of the biggest drivers of an improved economy for our state;
- For-profit Internet Service Providers (ISPs) will not connect sparsely populated areas;
- Vermont authorized a communications union district (CUD) to conduct and oversee the business necessary to fulfill its mission: strategic finances, planning, construction, management, customer service, and negotiations to contract for all services to provide high-speed access to the Internet not just for some, but for everyone.

What's happening?

- Consolidated Communications, Inc. (CCI) is installing Internet fiber in Brattleboro to compete with Comcast Cable, but this work is unlikely to connect Marlboro anytime soon;
- On February 3, following two months of demanding committee work including a consultant and legal counsel, the DVFiber board issued a Request for Proposal (RFP). The RFP process will determine which vendors will be contracted partners to do all the work required to achieve universal fiber to the premises (FTTP);
- The House Committee on Energy and Technology is drafting a bill to support all of Vermont's nine communications union districts. The bill gives CUDs some priorities in policy and funding; improves our access to state loan programs; encourages public utilities and CUDs to collaborate; and strengthens CUD leadership and planning capacities. Committee hearings are posted every week and are available on YouTube as recordings or live streams;
- A liaison group is exploring ways that DVFiber and the Southern Vermont Communications Union District (SoVT CUD), in Bennington County, may collaborate and coordinate workplans to benefit all member towns.

What can you do to help?

1. DVFiber has a new website (dvfiber.net), published its first two quarterly newsletters, and set up a Facebook profile. To stay connected with developments and news, go to the website and sign up to receive *Connecting to our Future*, our quarterly newsletter. If you use Facebook, search for DVFiber and "Like" us.
2. Attend DVFiber and MCUB monthly meetings; agendas and remote links are posted online and at Town Offices.
3. There is an enormous amount of work required to secure broadband for and win customers to DVFiber. You can learn more by visiting dvfiber.net. Contact me if you have specific skills and would like to get involved. The district is powered solely by volunteers and you do not have to serve on the governing board to help out. I can be reached at vice-chair@dvfiber.net or by phone 802.257.0810.

**DVFiber is the business name of DVCUD. DVFiber is the public face of DVCUD. DVFiber now represents 20 member towns in three counties.*

MCUB is the Marlboro Committee for Universal Broadband, your local link to DVFiber.



from the Marlboro Town Library

The Marlboro Town Library continues to provide curbside delivery every Friday between 1 and 5 and Saturday mornings from 10 to 12 in the vestibule of the Community Center. To browse the collection and order a book go to <https://www.marlborrowcommunity.center/library>. All the directions are there for you. We also try to post reviews and suggestions regularly on the Marlboro Community and Town Library facebook pages. If you have a suggestion of a book you would like us to buy, please let us know. We hope to be open again to Saturday browsing in the spring and are keeping an eager watch on the governor's guidelines as well as adhering to what other libraries in the area are doing. Stay tuned for more information.

This spring, the library will be hosting a town-wide read of this year's Vermont Reads Book *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas, a Young Adult title. It is both disturbing and inspiring and offers a vivid picture of inner city life in the Black community. It is about police violence and racial profiling and the choices one girl has to make when she is the only witness to her friend's murder by a police officer. The library has received multiple copies of this book as part of a grant and there will be plenty to lend. You can request it on the curbside pickup order sheet. The discussion will be an online Zoom event with a moderator. More info to come.

Selectboard Candidate

James Agate



As I pursue a position as Selectman for our town of Marlboro, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is James Agate and I have resided in our unique town since 1988. That was the year my realtor brought me on what, at the time, felt like a long drive from Brattleboro to

a small house on the top of Hamilton road. Marlboro became the place where most of my greatest memories happened. Buying a home on that narrow dirt road, raising my children, bringing them to South Pond all those summers, and watching them grow as they progressed through grades at Marlboro Elementary School are some of the ways this town became special to me. Recently, I retired from my career with the state of Vermont after 31

Meanwhile, here are a few new titles, some of which were reviewed by the Library Board in our CC Coffee Zoom session:

A Children's Bible (novel), Lydia Millet

Entangled Life: How Fungi Make Our Worlds, Change Our Minds, and Shape Our Futures by Merlin Sheldrake

Hamnet and *I Am, I Am, I Am: Seventeen Brushes with Death*, both by Maggie O'Farrell

What It's Like to Be a Bird: From Flying to Nesting, Eating to Singing—What Birds Are Doing and Why by David Sibley

Wintering: The Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times by Katherine May

The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro

The Not Good Enough Mother by Sharon Lamb

The Convert by Stefan Hertmans

Just Us: An American Conversation by Claudia Rankine

Supernova (Amulet #8) by Kazu Kibuishi

Class Act (graphic novel) by Jerry Craft

Erebus: The Story of a Ship by Michael Palin

The Liar's Dictionary by Eley Williams

If You're Going to a March by Martha Freeman and Violet Kim

years of service. This major milestone has given me some more time to spend on other interests. That is why I'd like to have a role in the community with the position of Selectman.

Vision for the future:

For the town of Marlboro to remain vibrant and sustainable to its community, as well as a place residents like myself see themselves staying through retirement.

Role in the community:

My role in the community has been a devout tax payer and homeowner over the last 33 years. I believe having watched this town evolve over the years, I could share an honest perspective through the lens of a long-time resident.

from the Community Center

Jamie Schilling

With a brand new HVAC system, the Marlboro Community Center is able to expand its offerings while continuing to take covid safety precautions. We have welcomed Rachel Boyden to head up the Study Hall, providing remote learning support to junior high and high school students. The Community Food Share is now permanently installed in the main space of the Center, and is open three times per week. We are once again accepting reservations for community group meetings, as well as individuals needing access to the wi-fi. More information can be found on our updated website: www.MarlboroCommunityCenter.com. Please direct any questions or reservation requests to our interim-coordinator, Jamie Schilling, at MarlboroCommunityCenter@gmail.com.

Ongoing offerings:

Study Hall

Monday 8am - 12pm - Junior High, Thursday 8am - 12pm - High School. Advance registration required.

Community Food Share (expanded hours)

Thursdays 4:30 - 5:30pm, Fridays 1 - 5pm, Saturdays 10am - 12pm. Free pantry items available to anyone who could use an extra bag of groceries.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Francie Marbury

Looking for a way to make a very positive impact during these challenging times? Sign up to donate blood with the American Red Cross in Marlboro on March 16th from 11am-5pm! The short amount of time it takes to donate can mean a lifetime to a patient with a serious medical condition. We would love to see Marlboro come together to join us in the selfless act of giving blood!

The Marlboro Alliance and Degrees of Freedom program are partnering with the American Red Cross to host a blood drive in the Dining Hall on the former Marlboro College campus (2582 South Rd) from 11am-5pm on March 16th. Register to donate blood at www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=DOF.

As the Covid-19 pandemic continues, the Red Cross is more desperate than ever for blood to meet critical patient

Zoom Coffee Hour

Saturdays 9am - 10am. Connect and chat with your neighbors while staying home & staying safe.

Rant

Last Wednesday of each month, 7pm - 8pm Creative & performing arts share via Zoom. Join as a participant or audience member.

Contactless Pick-up in the Entryway

Fridays 1pm - 5pm, Saturdays 10am -12pm

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Stop by and borrow a puzzle. Return it when you are finished.

Bonvue Farm

Eggs & beef are available for self-serve purchase.

Dinner To-Go

Delicious comfort food made with organic & local ingredients for suggested donation to support the MCC

Library Book Pick-up & Return

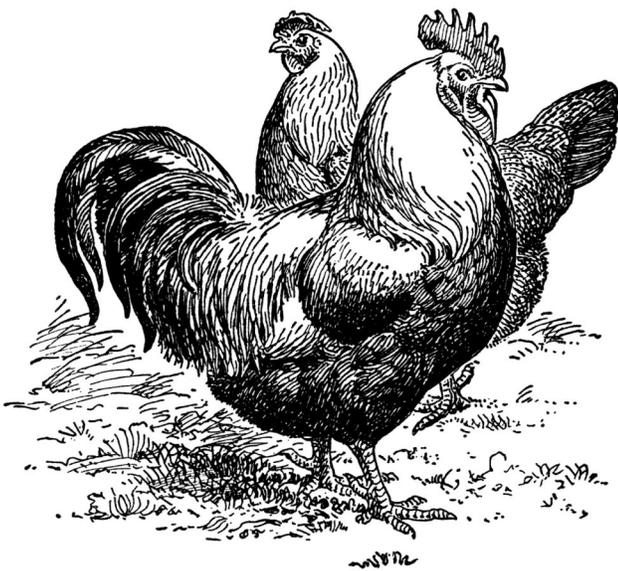
Submit your book request by noon on Thursdays to pick up on Friday or Saturday. Request books at: www.marlorocommunity.center/library

needs as thousands of blood drives have been canceled. While nothing is completely without risk, the Red Cross takes the highest standards of safety and infection control precautions to ensure that blood donation sites are safe, including social distancing throughout the process, temperature screening, and disinfecting procedures. The Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Food and Drug Administration have all issued statements encouraging blood donation for those who are healthy. Blood drives are also not considered "mass gatherings" as they are controlled events with trained medical staff and safety measures to protect donors and recipients.

For more info, help registering, or if you have any questions please email jkohn@degreesoffreedom.org or francie.marbury@gmail.com or call the Red Cross at 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

MARLBORO MIXER
The Marlboro Alliance
PO Box 165
Marlboro, Vermont 05344

Next Deadline
April 15 for
the May / June Mixer



Feb / March / April Events

Monday, February 22, 6pm

Town Meeting Informational Meeting
online, see page 1

Tuesday, February 23, 6pm

Town Meeting Informational Meeting
online, see page 1

Tuesday, March 2, 9am-7pm

In-Person Voting
at the Town House, see page 2

Monday, March 29, 6:30pm

Community Meeting: Talk About Our Democracy
The Origins of White Supremacy
online, contact woodybernhard48@gmail.com

Monday, April 26, 6:30pm

Community Meeting: Talk About Our Democracy
The Answer to Tyranny
online, contact woodybernhard48@gmail.com