

# the marlboro mixer

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A FREE newsletter for the town of Marlboro, Vermont

Published by the Marlboro Alliance  
[sites.google.com/view/marlboroalliance/](https://sites.google.com/view/marlboroalliance/)

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### We're online, too.

See us at:  
[marlborovt.us](https://marlborovt.us) or  
<https://sites.google.com/view/marlboroalliance/>

Many thanks to our  
volunteer proofreader,  
Vanessa Redfield

## Town Meeting 2022

Legal voters of the Town of Marlboro: items relating to the upcoming 2022 Town and School Informational Meetings have been posted to the town website <https://marlborovt.us/2022-marlboro-town-school-meeting/> as well as on the bulletin boards in front of the Town Office and at Marlboro School.

**There will not be an in-person Town Meeting this year.** Marlboro voters decided on December 18, 2021 to hold the 2022 Town & School Meetings by Australian ballot due to the on-going pandemic. This means there will not be an in-person Town Meeting on March 1, 2022, and instead all active voters will be receiving their ballots in the mail with postage paid in both directions. Sample ballots were posted January 25, 2022 and all ballots will be mailed no later than February 9, 2022. The Town Report will be out in mid-February (by statute) and will be available for pickup or on the website. Notification will be given when it is ready.

Ask questions and get informed by attending the remote informational meetings by Zoom.

**School Informational Meeting** Tuesday 2/22/22 at 6 pm using this link <https://zoom.us/j/5201609340> Meeting ID: 520 160 9340. The link and additional information will also be posted on the School District's website: [www.marlboroschool.net](http://www.marlboroschool.net)

**Town Informational Meeting** Thursday 2/24/22 at 6 pm using this link: <https://Us02web.Zoom.U.S/J/89755939733> Meeting ID: 897 5593 9733 OR to join by phone: 1-646-558-8656 and use meeting ID above.

No amendments can be made to articles as warned, so each article remains AS IS, subject to your vote yes or no. Links to the informational meetings are on the meeting Warnings, on the town website <https://marlborovt.us/> and appear below. Voters may return ballots by mail, in the drop-box outside the Town Office, or hand deliver to the office by calling ahead to ensure an officer is there to receive the ballot. In-person voting will be available on March 1, 2022 from 9 AM until 7 PM in the Town House (13 Town Hill Road) adjacent to the Town Office. As with the last election, the space will be socially distanced and slow moving. Please wear a mask and bring your ballot with you. Extra ballots will be available if needed.

As always, contact the Town Office with any questions.  
802-254-2181 [townclerk@marlborovt.us](mailto:townclerk@marlborovt.us)

## from The Select Board

The Select Board meets at 6pm every second and fourth Thursday. With an upswing in the Covid-19 pandemic due to the Omicron variant, the Select Board decided to return to virtual only meeting via Zoom. The Zoom link appears on every agenda and is available on the Select Board page of the Town website <https://marlborovt.us> as well. If a resident does not have access to a computer and/or the internet, the Zoom meetings can be joined via regular phone. The phone number and meeting ID number (needed to log in on the phone) are also available on each online agenda or posted at the Town Office. If you have any questions regarding Zoom or phone-in issues, please contact the Select Board Assistant at [nickselectboard@gmail.com](mailto:nickselectboard@gmail.com).

In the relatively short time since the last Mixer, the Select Board has been mostly involved with preparing for Town Meeting 2022, generating the Warning and the Ballot, reviewing and approving the new Town Plan in advance of submitting it to the Windham Regional Commission and interacting with DVFiber as they continue to move towards wiring the Town of Marlboro for Fiber Internet.

### **Town Meeting 2022**

With the approval of the Town, this year's (2022) Town Meeting will again, as in 2021, be held via Australian Ballot. In January 2022, the Board finalized and approved the Town Meeting Warning (from which the Ballot is generated) and set the time and date for the **Town Meeting Informational Pre-Meeting** (Thursday, 2/24/22 @ 6pm via Zoom) at which the Board expects to entertain and answer questions from residents regarding the Warning and Ballot. See page 1 for link.

As the Warning and Ballot have already been finalized, the Informational Pre-Meeting is just that, an "informational" meeting, no changes to the ballot can be made at this time.

Reminders and the Zoom information for this meeting will be published on the Select Board page of the Town's website, posted at the Town Office, and detailed on Front Page Forum. If you require more information about this meeting, please feel free to reach out to the Select Board via email at [marlboroselectboard@gmail.com](mailto:marlboroselectboard@gmail.com). To provide information for the voters of Marlboro

to inform their vote in the upcoming Town Meeting elections, the Town of Marlboro is happy to provide the following:

1) As decided by the town voters in a special Town Meeting in December 2021, this year's Town Meeting elections will be conducted as last year, by Australian Ballot due to the continuing Covid-19 pandemic. Ballots will be mailed to all active voters. Ballots may be returned via mail, the drop-box outside the Office, or in person at the Town Office during open hours. The polling place will also be open for in-person voting from 9am until 7pm in the Town House at 13 Town Hill Road on March 1, 2022, with social distancing and masks recommended. Please bring your ballot with you. If misplaced, you may request a new ballot in the polling place.

**As there will not be an in-person Town Meeting as in previous years**, the town urges anyone with questions or concerns to attend the Informational Meeting held by the Select Board on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 6 pm. This meeting will be held via Zoom with the link available on page one of this Mixer, the Select Board page of the Town's Website, and on the Warning on the Town Meeting page. The link will be published on Front Porch Forum and is posted at the Town Office bulletin board. For those who may not have internet or computer access, please note that the "phone-in" option is always available with the phone number and "meeting code" available as above for the Zoom link. (See page 1)

2) The Town would also like to take this opportunity to review what is, of course, a major component of the Town Meeting ballot, the Town General Fund & Highways Budgets and what components may be of general interest to the electorate. Please note the below information data:

### EXPLANATION FOR FUNDING IN ARTICLE 5 of TOWN BALLOT (TOWN GENERAL FUND)

- Increase from \$300,000 to \$420,000 for the General Fund
- 10% payroll increase for all municipal employees 5.9% COLA from Social Security Administration plus 4.1 % increase due to lagging pay scale versus other similar municipalities
- Adding two new positions: Town Administrator,

Assistant Treasurer trainee

- Cyber security & need for technology upgrades
- Small increase to help support recycling
- Increase of \$120,000 from prior year should mean \$0.07 on town tax rate, or \$70 per \$100,000 of owner real estate value

## EXPLANATIONS FOR FUNDING IN ARTICLE 6 of TOWN BALLOT (TOWN HIGHWAYS)

- Increase from \$380,000 to \$420,000 for the Highway Fund
- Additional 4th Road Crew member (pay & benefits)
- 10% payroll increase for all municipal employees 5.9% COLA from Social Security Administration plus 4.1 % increase due to lagging pay scale versus other similar municipalities
- Increase of \$40,000 from prior year should mean \$0.02 on town tax rate, or \$20 per \$100,000 of owner real estate value

The Town hopes that the above data will help you make an informed decision on your ballot, and again, the Town urges anyone with questions on any issue on the Warning to attend the Informational Meeting on February 24, 2022, at 6m (via Zoom or phone-in).

## Marlboro Town Plan

After much work and tireless effort, the Planning Commission has completed the Marlboro Town Plan and after a final open meeting with the public, the Select Board approved the plan and directed the Planning Commission to submit the plan in accordance to regulation to the Windham Regional Commission for their review and approval. Should you wish to review the plan, it is available on the Planning Commission page of the Town's website and, additionally, a printed copy is also available for review at the Town Office.

## DVFiber and Broadband

DVFiber is the non-profit organization set up by the state to handle the implementation of a plan to provide broadband Internet to a collection of 24 towns, including Marlboro, in such a manner as to be available to all residents at reasonable costs. DVFiber has kept the Select Board apprised of their activities as they move aggressively to get Marlboro "wired" as quickly as possible

and has advised the Board that a beginning rollout should commence in the Fourth Quarter of 2022. Along with DVFiber, the Board is evaluating plans to make broadband as affordable as possible and to provide assistance to ensure that every resident has the opportunity to take advantage of this technological infrastructure.

## Marlboro's Recycling Center

The Select Board continues to work with our contracted hauler, the Road Crew staff and interested residents on making the Marlboro Recycling Center work efficiently and without creating problems for Town employees tasked with maintaining this site. The Board continues to work on scheduling for the emptying of the containers in a timely manner with as little inconvenience to Marlboro residents; has commissioned new signage to help prevent contamination and hence lower costs charged by the hauler; and discussed various methods to curtail dumping of recyclables "next to and not in" the containers. This continues to be an issue as it creates more work for the Road Crew, and also creates a situation where materials can get blown around and degraded by the environment, generally creating a mess. The Board welcomes any suggestions on how to make our Recycling Center work more efficiently and with less problems.

## Staffing

As noted in earlier Mixer articles, the increase of workload on the Road Crew due to increasing population in town, has led the Board to the decision to hire a fourth Road Crew member. The hiring process is moving along, and this position should be filled shortly.

Regarding the Town Administrator position the Select Board approved and discussed in the previous Mixer, the process for this hire is progressing well, and with interviews held in early February, the Board expects to decide on a candidate in the near future. The Town Administrator will report to the Select Board and assist in coordinating the activities of the Select Board and the other town commissions and committees, The Town Administrator will also assist the Town Office staff in managing the town's business while providing coherence to the Town's overall management and coordination.

## Marlboro School Board Director's Report

*Douglas Korb, School Director*

### **Excerpt – for Full Report see Marlboro Town Report**

As Covid-19 variations continue to surge and abate, the Marlboro School has continued to operate with caution, resilience, and care. The Board of Directors, first and foremost, thanks the faculty, staff, and administration for their hard work during these challenging times. They have continued to provide a safe and nurturing learning atmosphere amidst ongoing restrictions to their normal learning environment and daily changes to staffing and student attendance. [...]

While Covid-19 is still a part of everyday life at the Marlboro School, our current school year has not been the same as 2020. This year we have welcomed new families to the school and boast an enrollment of 101 students. [...] As the Board planned for next year's budget with the administration, we first took stock of what lay in front of us. It should be no surprise that the current educational landscape is a challenging one. [...] It is in this landscape that the Board decided to build a budget that planned for a third year of Covid-19 hampering the school's procedures. The budget this year ensures that the academic, social and emotional needs of students are met, as stated by our principal at an October meeting, "We have children entering the school system that have not learned how to share due to social distancing and the shutdown." Our administration, along with the full WCSU staff, is working to ensure that those needs are met. Our focus in this budget, as always, is the whole child, and the socio-emotional component is extremely important for future academic success. [...]

As we look to the future of our school, the Board not only focused on next year being a "Covid" year (operating similar to this year), but also a 5-year strategy to advance class space needs, make important capital improvements, and abate rising costs. This year we saw large increases to our high school tuition, increasing transportation costs, and ongoing capital improvement needs due to delayed maintenance over the last many years. We are aiming to ensure these costs are managed through reserves so we do not see larger jumps in the tax rate from year-to-year. It is best to look at this year's proposed budget from the standpoint of the graph [in the Town Report] (produced by the WCSU business office). The chart shows a year-over-

year outlook for Equalized Pupils (Pre-K – High School) alongside the tax rate – in short, we are seeing rising costs and within the chart you will see the year of 2020 (aka the shutdown/COVID-19 pandemic). This year is the only anomaly in the trajectory with a lesser tax rate since 1) many Federal dollars were infused into the education system, providing funds that were initially budgeted for (giving the school a surplus) and 2) the Common Level of Appraisal was extremely artificial (Note: the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) is the average house site value and a key factor in producing the tax rate – a high CLA means a lower tax rate. 105 in 2020 was the highest Marlboro had ever seen, with many families leaving the cities during the pandemic. This number is back down again to 100).

One addition to this year's Articles to be voted on is an article concerning how to handle surpluses in school budgets. In 2020, to combat Covid debt we used excess funds to cover costs. Therefore, this year we are asking the town through this special article to give the School Board the ability to choose whether to spend or reserve surplus funds in future years to make this clearer for future boards (see Article 6).

Our proposed budget for the 2022-2023 school year is up 27% in overall spending from the previous year. The Board anticipates that this budget will increase the education tax rate this coming year from \$1.63 to \$1.97 (or 18%). As mentioned above, this is similar, if not equal, to our pre-Covid tax rate and is more in line with what we expect tax rates to be in the future.

Next year, or the year after, the Board will be coming to the voters of Marlboro with a proposal to pass a bond to fund major capital improvements to the school. Our aging building and growing student numbers across all grade levels, pre-k – 8th, is providing many challenges ranging from accessibility access, food service, to the deterioration of the overall building envelope. [...]

The Board will continue to lobby at the State level and work with our administration to ensure that Marlboro School continues to be a safe and healthy learning environment for our students. If you have questions on legislative issues or upcoming capital improvements, please reach out to us, [dkorb@windhamcentralboard.org](mailto:dkorb@windhamcentralboard.org)

## from the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company

With the Marlboro Town Meeting coming up on March 1st, this will be the second time we come together for a town meeting through the internet instead of face-to-face interactions and conversations.

Because we are having a virtual meeting, the Board of Directors of the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company would like to provide the citizens of Marlboro with a description of the two Articles we have submitted that will be voted on at the Zoom Town Meeting and explain why we are asking for support from the town.

Just to clarify, the Marlboro Volunteer Fire Company is not a part of the town. It is a private, 501(C)(4) non-profit organization. We do not have any paid employees on the Board or officers or any of the firefighter or EMS teams. Everyone is a volunteer, giving their time, their talent and their passion to the welfare of the Town of Marlboro and its citizens.

We have an annual expense budget of \$58,000 which we make from the annual appeal, grants, donations, T-shirt sales and a request to the members of the town for funding.

We have two Articles that are very different. Our first Article is asking for \$37,500 for general operations of the Company. This includes maintaining and repairing the firehouse; maintenance, registration and inspection two fire truck, and an EMS rescue vehicle; firefighter training; firefighter gear and supplies, firehouse and truck

insurance; worker's compensation; gas; equipment testing; etc. The Board is committed to keeping the volunteers safe in the firehouse, on the trucks, and at the fire scenes. We are also committed to making sure all vehicles are inspected, tested and maintained every month to ensure they are safe and reliable.

The second Article is asking for \$50,000 to go to the capital fund for replacing the 1968 Engine1. This truck has been in operation longer than any fire truck we know of in Vermont. It has served the town diligently and provided excellent service for over 55 years. It is now time to let this truck retire with dignity and do a lease-to-purchase arrangement for a new truck this year.

The Board and volunteers are committed to maintaining a top-notch fire and rescue company to service the Town of Marlboro. We thank you for your support and generosity this year and, we welcome any questions or comments by email ([williamshakespeare70@gmail.com](mailto:williamshakespeare70@gmail.com)) , regular mail (PO Box 77, Marlboro, VT) , or phone 802-236-7916.

*Will Shakespeare, President*

*Michael Schneider, Treasurer*

*Carol Ann Johnson, Clerk*

*Ann Bartlett*

*Tim Smith*

*Andrew Richardson, Acting Fire Chief*

### Talk About Our Democracy

Monday, February 28th

Monday, March 28th

Monday, April 25th

6:30pm on Zoom

Contact Woody 802 464 3154

## Winter Sports at Hogback

Late January finally presented some nice conditions for snowshoeing, and maybe poking around on cross country skis at Hogback this year. There are also four ski runs permitted for backcountry downhill skiing – Sugar Slope, Ripperoo, Razorback, and Meadow. However, there is no formal maintenance program to keep those four trails clear on a regular basis in the winter and no work at all has been done on them for two years. A word of caution is in order.

We encourage you to use the trail maps available online at <https://www.hogbackvt.org> and at the kiosks to ensure that you are on the correct trails and within the Hogback Conservation Area boundaries.

## from the Marlboro Community Center

You can keep up with the Community Center and *sign up for our newsletter* via our website: [www.MarlboroCommunity.Center](http://www.MarlboroCommunity.Center).

### **Open Hours:**

Wednesday 10-2:00

Thursday 10-5:00

Friday 10-12:00

Saturday 10-12:00

**The Events Committee** will be meeting this spring to plan more fun community events. Last year we had a free chili supper, a chicken BBQ in support of the fire department, a garden tour, an outdoor concert and a bike event. If you would like to join the committee or just help with specific events, we'd love to hear from you. Please contact Gail MacArthur at [macarthur.gail@gmail.com](mailto:macarthur.gail@gmail.com).

**Baked items** We have been featuring items from Starfire Bakery of Marlboro. Other local bakers have also shared their home baked goodies. If you would like to participate, please email us at [Marlborocommunitycenter@gmail.com](mailto:Marlborocommunitycenter@gmail.com). Currently we are only offering food with a take-out option. We hope to resume inside service soon. Updates will be announced in the weekly newsletter and on Facebook.

## from Marlboro Cares

*Jennifer Masur*

### **Please Get Vaccinated and Boosted**

Covid vaccines and booster shots save lives — your own and those with whom you are in contact. Marlboro Cares strongly encourages everyone to get fully vaccinated, including getting a booster shot. The sooner that all of us are fully vaccinated, the sooner life can return to normal.

### **Rides and other services offered again**

We are happy to announce that our vaccinated drivers are once again volunteering to drive residents to medical appointments, food shopping, etc. Residents must be fully vaccinated and be willing to wear a mask in the car. To request a ride call 802-258-3030. Other services still offered are errands and referrals for services.

### **Everyone Eats**

Everyone Eats is a statewide program that supports both local restaurants and farmers by providing free meals to anyone affected by Covid in any way. Everyone Eats

### **Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange**

Borrow a puzzle and return it when you are finished.

### **Bonvue Farm**

Eggs & beef are available for self-serve purchase.

**Dinner To-Go** available every Thursday. Delicious comfort food made with organic and local ingredients for suggested donation to support the MCC. See weekly menu option and updates in the newsletter

### **Library Book Pick-up & Return**

**Zoom Coffee Hour** Saturdays 9am - 10am, Connect and chat with your neighbors while staying home and staying safe. Information about guest speakers and the link to join are available in the newsletter. If you have something interesting you would like to share as a guest, please contact us.

### **Community Food Share**

Free pantry items available to anyone who could use an extra bag of groceries.

will continue through April 1st. To receive weekly meals from Everyone Eats, it is necessary to sign up through Marlboro Cares by calling 802-258-3030. Marlboro Cares collaborates with the Marlboro Community Center to bring you these meals Thursday afternoons, with pick up at the Community Center. If you would like the meals but don't drive, our volunteers will deliver them to you.

### **Senior Lunches**

Senior Lunches continue to be on hold until Covid is under control. We are looking forward to resuming the lunches as soon as possible, perhaps this spring.

### **Information and Referral Services**

For information about anything mentioned above, to request a ride, other non-emergency assistance, or for referrals for assistance and services, call 802-258-3030. Someone will return your call within 48 hours.

## from the Town Clerk

*Forrest Holzapfel*

### Dear Marlboro Dog

**Owners:** please license your dog by Thursday March 31, 2022 to avoid the late fees that will be incurred after April 1st. All you need to provide is a valid rabies certificate with your veterinarian's signature. Fees are \$9 for a dog that is fixed and \$13 for an intact dog.



**Marlboro Taxpayers,** Don't forget to file your annual Homestead Declaration (Vermont tax form HS-122) if you are a full-time resident of Marlboro. This is required every year! In addition, fill out the Property Tax Adjustment Claim (part B), to help defray the cost of the education tax portion of your property tax bill should you qualify. Detailed explanations are here <https://tax.vermont.gov/property-owners/homestead-declaration>

Free e-filing can be done at <https://myvtax.vermont.gov/>  
Contact the Town Clerk with any questions, 254-2181 or [townclerk@marlborovt.us](mailto:townclerk@marlborovt.us)

Additionally, the Vermont Department of Taxes wants to provide you with information about obtaining the printed 2021 Vermont Income Tax Return Booklet and individual tax forms for those taxpayers who prefer them. The Vermont Department of Taxes has forms and instructions online at <https://tax.vermont.gov/tax-forms-and-publications/individuals> which can be downloaded and printed.

If you do not have access to a computer, you may order paper copies by calling Toll Free: (855) 297-5600

Forrest Holzapfel, Marlboro Town Clerk (802) 254-2181  
or [townclerk@marlborovt.us](mailto:townclerk@marlborovt.us)

## 16th Annual Marlboro Alliance Scholarship Appeal

We are deeply grateful for last year's extraordinary scholarship fund donations. In May of 2021, we distributed \$6300 directly to twenty of our town's students. Awards of \$100 went to seven K-8 students, and \$200 each to three high school students. Ten college students each received \$500 to help meet the costs of their continuing education. The remaining \$1200 was donated to the Marlboro Elementary School to help defray the costs of its 2021 free morning summer camp.

Please make your donation soon—of any amount—to continue the investment in our future. It will be deeply appreciated by these deserving students, their grateful families and our entire community.

Please send your tax-deductible donation to:  
Marlboro Alliance Scholarship Fund  
P.O. Box 165 Marlboro, VT 05344

OR donate online with PayPal at:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/marlboroalliance/donate>  
Please specify that your donation is for the Scholarship Fund.

The Marlboro Alliance is a 501(c)3 non-profit. EIN: 87-0766177.

Please note: 2022 Scholarship Guidelines and Applications will be posted on the Alliance website in April and available in the May / June Mixer.

With sincere thanks, and best wishes for a bright future,  
The Marlboro Alliance Scholarship Committee:  
Sylvia Johnson, Augusta Bartlett, Francie Marbury,  
Felicia Tober, Peggy Tiffany.  
Michelle Holzapfel, Coordinator  
[mholzapfel1979@gmail.com](mailto:mholzapfel1979@gmail.com) 802-254-2908



## Paws for Thought: Caring for Your Aging Pets

Peggy Tiffany, Animal Control Officer

For those of us lucky enough to have loving companions in animal form, we all have to deal with the health of our fur babies as they reach their senior years. Last issue we talked about care for aging dogs. Today's article is a summary of the research on how to care for our aging cats.

### Cat Care

Indoor cats can live a long life, but are considered senior when they are 12–14 years old. Many of our feline friends have no issues, but there are a few concerns that may arise. Vet Dr. Levine at Cornell University, says, "Older cats tend to be less active and playful, they may sleep more, gain or lose weight, and have trouble reaching their favorite places. Don't chalk up health or behavior changes – often gradual – to old age, however. Such changes can be signs of common diseases or dental problems that should be addressed by your veterinarian." She

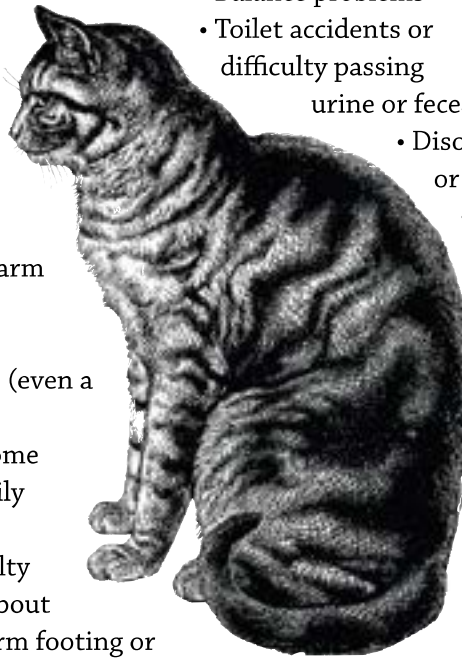
goes on to say that most people are aware of "big" changes in health or are good at giving medications, but there are some simple things to help your cat as it ages:

- Get a yearly physical exam for your cat that includes bloodwork
- Make sure your cat has access to a comfy, warm place that is away from drafts
- Provide easy access to their basic needs
  - o Low-sided litter boxes help arthritic cats (even a cookie sheet if necessary)
  - o Put litter boxes on every floor of your home
  - o Place food and water where they can easily reach it
  - o Get ramps or steps if your cat has difficulty getting up on its favorite places. Think about making small steps or a ramp that has firm footing or put carpet strips on stairs to prevent slippage

- o Gently groom if they have stopped grooming themselves (especially important for long-haired cats)
- o Gently brush
- o Be sure to trim their nails
- o Provide clean, fresh water – this is especially important for cats since they tend to be prone to kidney issues
- Provide a predictable routine

### Signs your cat may need a vet visit

- Loss of appetite
- Weight loss
- Drinking more often or drinking a larger amount per day
- Stiffness, lameness or difficulty in jumping up
- Lethargy
- Lumps or bumps anywhere on the body
- Balance problems
- Toilet accidents or difficulty passing urine or feces
- Disorientation or distress
- Uncharacteristic behavior, such as hiding, aggression, excessive vocalization



**Reference:** Loving Care for Older cats: <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/feline-health-topics/loving-care-older-cats>



## from the Town Library

The Marlboro Town Library is committed to spending \$250 per month between now and July on brand new books for our shelves, courtesy of the \$2000 ARPA grant we received. Along with recently purchased books for adults, we have been working to upgrade our selection of children's books, soon to include some of the newest Caldecott and Newbery award winners. If you have any suggestions of books you would like us to buy please let us know.

Meanwhile, we continue to be open during the open hours of the Community Center. Except for Saturdays, check out is self-service by writing down book info on a sheet by the computer. Please make sure you include your full name, the title, AND the barcode number (found on the Marlboro Town Library label pasted to the back cover) for each book you check out. If you do not have a "library card", please sign up for one on the door to the library. All we need is your name, your phone number, and your email. You can check out a book immediately.

We continue to play catch-up with books that were checked out in the old system that do not show up in the new one. As books are returned to us this will be gradually corrected. You can help us by returning any books you have had out for a while, especially if you are done reading

## from the Marlboro School

The School Board finalized the 2022-23 school budget and it will be presented at Town Meeting for approval. Highlights include:

- Robust specials programming that includes: PE, Health, Spanish, Music, Band, Art and Library.
- Fully supporting the L'after after school program, which will be led by classroom and specials teachers. Programming includes seasonal sports such as soccer and basketball, K-8 art classes, the Marlboro Chronicle, disc golf and band practice.
- Hiring a full time math specialist.
- Hiring a middle school science teacher.

I am very excited about the programming we will be able to provide students. Please read my town report for more information.

them. If you are not done and would like to keep them longer that is also fine, but please tell us you have these books and we will put them on your card. Thank you for your help!

As ever, we thank all of our generous donors for helping us provide the town with good reading material, and the Marlboro Community Center and The Alliance for their continued support.

The library board can be contacted at [marlborotownlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:marlborotownlibrary@gmail.com)

Directions for accessing the new card catalog for browsing can be found on our webpage at <https://www.marlbocommunity.center/library>

### **Your Library Board:**

*Andra Horton - Chair*  
*Gemma Ollis - Treasurer*  
*Felicia Tober - Secretary*  
*Dianna Noyes*  
*Carol Hendrickson*  
*Cathy Osman*  
*Kate Purdie*

As I write this note, Omicron variant cases are decreasing after a very challenging January. During January, we had over 20 students test positive for COVID and up to 40 students testing before school each day. It was an all hands on deck situation guided by nurse Sara. In response to this very contagious variant we improved the fresh air in the building, provided all staff and students with improved masks and have increased our cleaning practices. Let's hope there are better days ahead of us.

On a positive note, Winter Sports is back this year with skiing and BEEC-led groups as our two options. Many students are skiing, and staff have been encouraged to get out on the slopes as well. The weather has been great and it has been a nice way for all of us to have some fun together.

Best, Wayne, Principal

## from the Marlboro Committee for Universal Broadband (MCUB)

*Steven John, Marlboro Rep. on the DVFiber Board*

### DVFiber's latest construction grants update

DVFiber, the local communications union district (CUD) working to bring high-speed, fiber optic broadband Internet to Windham County communities, is preparing to apply for a construction grant from the Vermont Community Broadband Board (VCBB) with the hope of beginning construction on our fiber network by this summer.

The VCBB is soliciting grant applications following a previous round of "pre-construction and capacity building" grants, from which DVFiber received \$4.1million in federal funds.

If we are successful, construction could begin on the first phase of our project as early as this summer and we would anticipate connecting our first customers in Marlboro and other towns with the highest percentage of unserved and underserved premises in the fourth quarter of the year, continuing into 2023.

Our engineering team at Great Works Internet (GWI) has completed the high-level design of the network to connect all 27,638 premises in our district, which comprises 24 member towns. When completed, the DVFiber network will own more than 900 miles of fiber to reach all of the more than 7,000 unserved and underserved premises in our district.

"The funding that has been available to CUDs so far has been enough to rapidly accelerate the CUDs march towards the goal of universal service, but it will not be enough to complete the job," according to Will Anderson, executive director of the Vermont Communications Union Districts Association (VCUDA) in a 2022 update.

"Roughly speaking, the VCBB has been able to distribute sufficient funds to complete pre-construction activities, such as design engineering and business planning. When it comes to construction itself, however, there is a large deficit between what is currently available for grants and the predicted cost to complete their networks," Anderson added.

He noted that DVFiber has prepared itself well by partnering with a regional telecommunications company to design and build the network and by already purchasing 300 of the 900 miles of fiber optic cable that will be needed.

Later this year, DVFiber will apply for a second construction grant to complete the second phase of our network, which will reach all the remaining unserved and underserved locations in the district, with the goal of completing Phase 2 in 2024. This will require a little over 600 miles of fiber, in addition to the 300 miles planned for Phase 1.

Our Operations Committee is drafting a Customer Connection Policy for the governing board's consideration and approval. This policy will be a key piece of our planned pre-subscription campaign for potential customers in Phase 1 of our network's construction. We'll be looking for a favorable response to our pre-subscription campaign this spring.

To follow the latest developments and learn more about this project, sign up for the DVFiber newsletter at [DVFiber.net](http://DVFiber.net). You can also contact Steven John, Marlboro's representative, if you have any questions or concerns, by email at [steven.john@dvfiber.net](mailto:steven.john@dvfiber.net) or by phone at 802-257-0810.

*Steven John, Marlboro Representative on the DVFiber Board*  
*Bob Anderson, Marlboro Alternate Rep.*  
*Jean Boardman, Marlboro Alternate Rep.*  
*Fred Kopacz, Marlboro Alternate Rep.*

**Note:** Marlboro is a founding member town of the Deerfield Valley Communications Union District (DVCUD, dba DVFiber), a municipal corporation created in April of 2020 to provide universal high-speed broadband.

**Marlboro Town Services** Want to list your business or skills here? Email meg@megmccarthy.com

## Artisans

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

**Lucy Gratwick Fine Handweaving**  
257-0181 Functional hand-woven apparel

**Green Mtn. Floral Arts;** weddings & special events. Carie Kowalski, 802-380-2823

**Photography, Pet Portraiture & Animal REIKI** 860-716-1049, rebeccawhitney8@yahoo.com.

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

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

**Jess Weitz** Photography/Web Design jessweitz.com, jessweitz72@gmail.com

## Carpentry, Furniture, House Painting, Landscaping

**Apple Tree Builders, LLC**  
Jason MacArthur and Crew 802-380-2871, appletreebuildersvt@gmail.com

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

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

**Mark Littlehales** Boat building, repair, maintenance & woodwork for the home. jmark@whetstoneboats.com, 254-6955

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

## Food and Beverages

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

**Pork, seasonal produce, firewood** 258-0409, Rob@RamblingBrookFarmVermont.com

**Shakespeare's Folly Side Farm** 258-2517 free-range, pasture raised eggs sold every Saturday morning at the Marlboro Post Office at 10:00am

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

## General Services

**Alcan Power Equipment** lawn equipment, chain-saws, generators, sales & service 348-7898

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

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

**The Colonel Williams Inn: Events and Event Planning** 257-1093 www.thecolonelwilliamsinn.com on Facebook at www.facebook.com/colonelwilliams/

**Jerry Lundsted** 802-464-3982. Earthwork, excavating

**Professional Property Maintenance**  
Jon May, 380-2023 Excavation, Drainage, Driveways, Tree Removal / Pruning, Landscaping, Stonewalls, Field & Lawn

**Racine House Cleaning & Caretaking**  
Madonna & Jane Racine, 20+ years of experience. Call 802.257.4467

**Thorin MacArthur** mini-excavator and tractor services, tree work. thorinmacarthur@gmail.com

**Tim Racine** Logging & Excavating: For a free estimate, call 802.257.4467

**Andrew Richardson** Brush hogging and field mowing. 802-254-6512 (home) or 802-522-8758 (cell)

**Ride to the Airport** Kyle Oliver, 802-380-8777, Bradley Airport \$120, Logan Airport \$220, NYC/NJ \$320 and Montreal \$400, other destinations possible

**Seth Powers Tractor Services** driveway repair, field mowing, trail building / maintenance and more 802-380-9822

**Theo's Handyman Services** (802) 254-4738

**Tim Whitney** 464-3216, DBA as Another Pair of Hands, property maintenance, handyman, laborer

## Health and Wellness

**Lady Moon Healing Hands** Megan MacArthur Littlehales; Reiki for all beings: People, Horses, Dogs; 254-6955 mml.wellness@gmail.com

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

**The Nurtured Way** Meg Smith, Classical Homeopathy Consultations, 267-252-2347 www.thenurturedway.com

**Yoga & Yoga Dance** 254-7724 kel@sover.net Kripalu Instructors Casey Deane & Kelly Salasin

## Heating, Firewood

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

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

**Dave Matt** Firewood, hay, maple syrup 464-9788

## Music & Music Repairs

**Greg Burnell** 257-0796 Guitar Lessons. All ages all styles. gregblues18@yahoo.com

**Russell Horton** Drum lessons, private & groups, Drum-set and/or Hand Drums, Drum sales and repair, mrmmbira@gmail.com 802-254-2651

## Professional Services

**Joslyn Haineswood/Owl's Nest**  
Registered home preschool / childcare. After school & vacation care 258-7837 or Owlsnestpreschool@gmail.com

**Mudpie Mountain Playschool/Erika Korb**  
Nature based registered home childcare. 251-0772 or erikakorb@gmail.com

**Russell Horton** audio & small appliance repair, computer repairs & upgrades, software, & operating tutoring, the.computa.buddha@gmail.com 254-2651

**Maple Hill Horseshoeing** Blacksmithing + farrier service for equines including horses, donkeys, mules, drafts. 802-579-8212 or 802-254-6512.

**Meg McCarthy Design** 689-2711, graphic design, web design in Wordpress

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

**Lance C. Shader** 464-5676, Att at Law

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

## Organizations

**We Celebrate Democracy/Civil Rights For All** 802-464-3154. Positive nonviolent public action for democracy and civil rights for all people.

*Area codes are 802 unless otherwise noted.*

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

Next Deadline  
April 15 for  
the May / June Mixer

## Upcoming Events

*Tuesday, February 22, 6pm*  
**School Informational Meeting**  
online, see page 1

*Thursday, February 24, 6pm*  
**Town Informational Meeting**  
online, see page 1

*Monday, February 28, 6:30pm*  
**Talk About Our Democracy**  
See page 5

*Tuesday, March 1, 9am–7pm*  
**In-Person Voting**  
At the Town House, See page 1–3

*Monday, March 28, 6:30pm*  
**Talk About Our Democracy**  
See page 5

*Monday, April 25, 6:30pm*  
**Talk About Our Democracy**  
See page 5

