

*Triathlon swimmers in Lake Terramuggus*

# **Annual Report**

## **Year Ending June 30, 2020**

**TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH**  
**P.O. BOX 29**  
**26 NORTH MAIN STREET**  
**MARLBOROUGH, CT 06447**  
[www.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.net)

<b>TOWN HALL HOURS</b>	Mon, Wed, Thurs. Tuesday Friday	8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. 8:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. 8:00 a.m. - Noon
<b>TRANSFER STATION</b> 76 Quinn Road	860- 295-6218	Tue 3 p.m. – 7 p.m. Sat 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
<b>Transfer Station/Park Stickers</b>	Available in Town Clerks Office	
<b>Probate</b> 9 Austin Drive	860-295-6239	Fax 860-295-6122
<b>Town Hall Main Number</b>	860-295-6200	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>First Selectman</b>	860-295-6204	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>Animal Control Officer</b>	Gerald Cloutier	860-455-8126
<b>Assessor</b> <i>Closed on Friday</i>	860-295-6201	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>Land Use</b>	860-295-6202	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>Treasurer</b>	860-295-6165	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>Parks &amp; Recreation</b>	860-295-6203	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>Registrar of Voters</b>	860-295-6166	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>Tax Collector</b> <i>Office opens 8:30 a.m. daily</i>	860-295-6205	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>Town Clerk</b>	860-295-6206	Fax 860-295-0317
<b>EDUCATION</b> Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall Elementary School 25 School Drive	860-295-6220	
<b>Superintendent of Schools</b>	860-295-6236	
<b>Nurses Office</b>	860-295-6225	
<b>RHAM High School</b>	860-228-9474	
<b>RHAM High School Guidance</b>	860-228-5301	
<b>RHAM Middle School</b>	860-228-9423	
<b>Superintendent RHAM</b>	860-228-2115	
<b>PUBLIC SAFETY</b>		
<b>Ambulance</b>	911	
<b>Fire Dept. – Report a fire</b>	911	
<b>Fire Department</b>	NON EMERGENCY	860-295-6219

<b>Police – Emergency</b>	<b>911</b>	
<b>Resident Trooper</b>	NON EMERGENCY	860-295-9098
<b>Troop K, Colchester</b>	NON EMERGENCY NUMBER	860-465-5400
<b>Emergency Operations Center</b>	<b>860-365-3111</b>	
<b>Public Library</b>		
Richmond Memorial Library 15 School Drive	860-295-6210	
<b>Youth &amp; Family Services</b>		
AHM Youth Services 25 Pendelton Drive Hebron, CT	860-228-9488	
<b>Public Works / Town Garage</b> 66 South Main Street	860-295-6229	Fax: 860-295-6230
<b>Public Works Admin</b>	860-295-6216	Fax:860-295-6217
<b>Transfer Station</b> 76 Quinn Road	860-295-6218	
<b>Social Services / Senior Center</b> 17 School Drive	860-295-6209	Fax 860-295-6101
<b>Program Line</b>	860-467-5570	
<b>Food Bank</b> 3 Wilhenger Drive	860-295-6008	
<b>Town of Marlborough Recreational Facilities</b>	<i>Park and Transfer Station stickers available in the Town Clerks Office</i>	
<b>Blish Park</b> 27 Park Road	Waterfront swimming, pavilion, tennis courts, playscape, tetherball, boat ramp, picnic area, grills, bathhouse	
<b>Blackledge Soccer Field</b>	<b>Park Road Baseball Field</b>	
<b>West Road Memorial Field</b>	<b>Farley Field</b>	
<b>Ridgewood Drive Tennis Court</b>	<b>Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School Field</b>	

## **Marlborough Board of Selectmen**

**July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020**

### **July 2019**

Marlborough had several projects out to bid with the following results:

Priority Landscaping was awarded the Williamsburg Road Drainage Improvement Project with the lowest bid of \$158,100.

Anelli Paving Company was awarded the School Paving Project with the lowest bid of \$254,855.

Tyler Technologies was awarded the Revaluation contract with the lowest bid of \$49,500 and an additional \$21,015 for V8 License.

There was also an RFQ for a Commercial Realtor to market the Marlborough Business Park on Hebron Road.

The Board of Selectmen began the process of reviewing the current Town Charter to identify areas to change or update with a goal to finish the review process by the end of July and possibly seat a commission in August.

### **August 2019**

Elmer Thienes/Mary Hall School parking lots were repaved.

Repairs / resurfacing took place on Finley Hill Road.

A \$5,000 Historic Preservation Grant was received.

### **September 2019**

Blish Park Fireplace was badly vandalized with estimated repair costs of \$25,000 to \$35,000.

Blackledge Field Irrigation System was found to be in major disrepair. An RFP for engineering design would be requested in the near future.

Moody's Report was received with no change in the Towns rating from last year and remains an Aa3.

### **October 2019**

The Economic Development Commission held a Regional Manufacturing Event at the Senior Center to provide information about state and local training. It was also an opportunity to make manufacturing companies aware of the possibility of having their business in Marlborough.

Charter Revision Facilitator, Bob Santy, attended a Board of Selectmen meeting to share his experience in Charter Reform.

NJR Construction was awarded the contract for the South Main Street over Fawn Brook Bridge Project in the amount of \$1,333,921.30. Construction timeframe is April 2020 to November 2020.

Dayton Construction was awarded the contract for the Jones Hollow Road Bridge Project in the amount of \$1,521,412.50.

The Planning Commission sent out a community survey for recommendations for the Plan of Conservation and Development and the results were posted on the town website.

Ernie Burby was awarded the contract to repair the Blish Park fireplace in the amount of \$26,350.00.

### **November 2019**

Marlborough received a grant for an AED (Automated External Defibrillator) for the Town Hall from the Michael Vincent Sage Dragonheart Foundation.

5 out of 8 culverts were replaced on South Main Street.

A handicapped parking spot was constructed at the boat launch.

The town took delivery of a new senior van.

Election Day, November 5, 2019 resulted in a new First Selectman, Republican, Greg Lowrey. The remaining two Selectmen positions were filled by Fire Marshal, Republican, Joe Asklar and, Democrat, Amy Traversa.

### **December 2019**

Marlborough was awarded a \$2,500 Cemetery Grant.

December 7, 2019 marked the Annual Tree Lighting and Fireworks Display in partnership with the MVFD and Parks and Recreation. We were honored to have Sadler's Ordinary owner, Kevin Haggerty and his family on hand to do the ceremonial lighting of the Christmas tree. Kevin had recently been paralyzed in a surfing accident over the summer. He braved the cold, snowy conditions and made a very moving speech to thank everyone for their support during his recovery and rehabilitation.

Rich Antonelli was appointed Emergency Management Director.

### **January 2020**

Charter Revision Commission was formed on January 21<sup>st</sup> a charge was issued and they were assigned a due date for a draft.

### **February 2020**

Town employees received AED training from Emergency Management Director, Rich Antonelli.

The Board of Selectmen approved \$12,512 in funds to explore library renovation.

2019 Grand List increased 2% or \$11, 855, 835.00 due to Big Y Supermarket building in town.

### **March 2020**

The Town of Marlborough declared a Health Emergency due to the COVID-19 Pandemic restricting access to the public indefinitely to Town Hall, Public Works, Library and Senior Center. The Town Hall purchased teleconferencing capabilities for meetings to be done remotely, keeping business moving.

\$50,000 was transferred from CNR Marlborough Municipal Water System to CNR Blackledge Soccer Field Irrigation System Upgrade.

The law firm of Halloran and Sage was engaged as legal counsel for the Charter Revision Commission.

#### **April 2020**

An Assistant Senior Services Coordinator, Holly Marrero, was hired for the Senior Center, duties to include assisting the Sexton.

The Governor issued Executive Orders regarding changes in the budget approval process due to the pandemic. In person voting was suspended. The Board of Finance would be the determining body to approve the budget. Another Executive Order offered economic relief for those experiencing economic hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Marlborough adopted a deferment Program extending the grace period in which to pay taxes without penalty from 30 days to 90 days.

CERT Team members, Mark Merritt, Constable Jay Kehoe and other volunteers, began a campaign of well-being checks for members of the community who might need assistance during quarantine.

DiCioccio Brothers Inc. were awarded the bid for the Blish Park Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$48,275. The project was to improve ADA access to the park facilities to include the beach, basketball court, pavilion, Playscape, restrooms and volleyball court.

#### **May 2020**

Big Y and Schwartz Realty filed an application with ZBA for a gas station to be located in the old Dunkin Donuts location.

The Memorial Day Parade was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Safety precautions continued in Town Hall, Public Works, Senior Center and Probate Offices in anticipation of reopening. A dropbox was installed outside the entrance of Town Hall, Plexiglass barriers and supplies of personal protective equipment were made available for employees.

#### **June 2020**

Blish Park and baseball field saw several improvements. The ballfield was expanded to allow the hosting of championship games. The Park had a second kayak rack installed with assistance of Troop 39, to increase the number of rental spaces to 42. A sidewalk was poured in the park enhancing handicapped accessibility to the lake.

**Respectfully submitted by,**

**The Board of Selectmen**

TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

VITAL STATISTICS:

Recorded:	20	Marriages
	53	Births
	90	Deaths

Land Records: Recorded and Indexed	1125 Documents
	16 Veterans Discharges
	11 Trade Names

Licensed 644 dogs 5 Kennels

Money collected and submitted to the Town Treasurer is as follows:

Dog Licenses	\$ 6057.50
Liquor Permits	\$ 160.00
Notary Public Fees	\$ 495.00
Trade Name Fees	\$ 110.00
Recording/Conveyance Fees	\$ 203,486.54
Vital Statistics Fees	\$ 8107.00
Marriage Licenses	\$ 1,000.00
Map Recording Fees	\$ 410.00
Vending Permit Fees	\$ 900.00
Photo Copy Fees	\$ 2,531.00
Foreclosure Registration	\$ 1,320.00

TOTAL COLLECTED \$224,577.04

TOTAL TO GENERAL FUND:	\$218519.54
TOTAL TO DOG FUND:	<u>\$ 6057.50</u>
TOTAL	\$224,577.04

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TOWN OF MARLBOROUGH

TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The Town Clerk's Office is the center for public records and the Town Clerk is the official Record Keeper for the Town of Marlborough. The Clerk's office is responsible for the upkeep of land records, vital statistics, elections, minutes, maps and various licenses. The office is comprised of two people, part-time Assistant Town Clerk, Nancy W. Dickson, and myself, Lauren A. Griffin, your full time Town Clerk. The Town Clerk's Office issues and files various licenses and the deadline for some of these should be noted.

Dog licenses must be purchased when the dog becomes 6 months old and renewed annually during the month of June. The fee for a non-neutered male or non-spayed female is \$19. The fee for a neutered male or spayed female is \$8. When licensing a dog, you must present a rabies certificate stating the date of the expiration of rabies shots. A \$1 late fee per month is charged on all dogs not registered by June 30<sup>th</sup> of the current year.

Marriage licenses must be obtained from the Town in which you plan to be married. Both parties must appear before the Town Clerk to apply for the license. A marriage license application can be found online at [marlboroughct.net](http://marlboroughct.net). The fee is \$50, and a certified copy of a marriage license is \$20.

Death certificates are filed in the town of occurrence and the town of the deceased persons domicile. The fee for a certified copy of a Death Certificate is \$20.

Birth certificates are also filed in the town of occurrence as well as in the town of the residence of the mother. The fee for a certified copy of the Birth Certificate is \$20.

Veterans Discharges must be filed with the Town Clerk's Office by September 30<sup>th</sup> to qualify for a tax exemption for real or personal property. A copy of your DD214 (separation papers) certificate should be submitted to the Town Clerk for recording.

Residents can register to vote daily during regular business hours in the Town Clerk's Office. Absentee Ballots are issued by the Town Clerk's Office. Applications for an Absentee Ballot are available in the Town Clerk's Office as well as on line through the Secretary of the States Office at [www.sots.ct.gov](http://www.sots.ct.gov).

Any person conducting a business under a designation other than his own name must file a Trade Name Certificate. The forms are available in the Town Clerk's Office and the filing fee is \$10.



Liquor Permits must be filed in the Town Clerk's Office. The fee for filing a Liquor Permit is \$20.

Applications to become a Notary Public are available in the Town Clerk's Office or the Secretary of the States office. Upon receipt of a Notary Public's commission, they must appear in the Town Clerk's office of residence within 30 days to be sworn in. Optionally, the notary may record his or her commission in the town of business. The Town Clerk's office offers notary services as well for a fee of \$5.

Our Historical Grant for the past year has been completed, we applied for and received 5,500 from the state, which we used to redact personal information from our online land records.

This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there was special legislation enacted by the State of Connecticut to allow the towns to approve their own budgets without a public vote. On April 27 2020 at a Special RHAM Board of Education meeting, the BOE voted to approve the RHAM operating budget of \$29,805,488 for 2020-21. They then voted to adopt a capital budget of \$343,362 for 2020-21. On May 13, 2020 the Board of Finance approved the proposed budget of \$25,829,862 dollars for the Town of Marlborough fiscal year July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Nancy and I are here to help you. Please feel free to call on us for information concerning Town Government, Public Records and licensing requirements at 295-6206.

Lauren A. Griffin  
Town Clerk

## **ANNUAL TOWN REPORT 2020-2021**

The 2020-2021 Annual Report for the Marlborough School District is more of a story than a report. It is a story about how a school community came together in the worst worldwide pandemic in our history, and it demonstrated courage, strength, and unwavering commitment to the children of Marlborough. It would test every aspect of educating our children during a pandemic and keeping them and their teachers safe from COVID-19. We had to create our new normal and be ready for reopening in September 2020. We understood that this would not be easy and the timing was critical, but we knew we could do it. This new normal was grounded in the strong belief and commitment that together as a community of educators and families, we could and would open school in person on day one on September 8th, 2020. That is how this story begins.

That strong commitment and promise to our children, teachers and staff, and families brought us together by putting those words into actions. It all began with a comprehensive school reopening plan required by the Connecticut State Department of Education. The plan was developed by a broad-based representation of school leaders, town officials, health experts, educators, parents, and community leaders. Every stakeholder in our school and town was represented in the reopening committee that developed and unanimously endorsed and pledged their support for the implementation of the plan. A thorough plan was based on reopening school in person while simultaneously offering a remote learning option for families with health concerns. We knew from the onset that this challenge would not be easy, but the rewards would be enormous for our children.

Our ambitious plan would not be without various costly expenses that were not included in the previously adopted 2020-21 school budget. We began the implementation of Marlborough's reopening plan, confident regarding the assurance of financial support from the federal and state governments. Each step was cautiously implemented with the belief that children needed to be in school for their academic achievement as well as for their social and emotional well-being. We could and would provide all health and safety measures needed to keep our children well educated and safe during this pandemic. This new normal would look different but at its core would remain sound educational standards and safety measures for our children who deserved no less.

On September 8th, 2020, the school reopened and on June 17th, 2021, the school year concluded with Marlborough living up to its commitment to be in school the entire school year, educating all 446 students (30 of which remained distance learners).

Highlights of factors that impacted this successful school-based and community supported commitment to Marlborough Elementary School's reopening plan were:

- \* Strong leadership and support from the Board of Education and school-based leadership of Principal and Assistant Principal.
- \* Unwavering commitment demonstrated by teachers, para-educators and support staff was the single most important factor leading to the enormous success we had achieved.
- \* Support from town officials in expediting purchases was critically essential in preparing the school facility for social distancing, as well as health and safety precautions. This provided confidence that our plans for state and federal economic COVID relief would be realized.
- \* Maintaining a close working relationship with Russell Melmed, Director of Health at the Chatham Health District, regarding contact tracing, data analysis as well as as our CDC advisory.
- \* Implementing a contact tracing plan that went immediately and efficiently into action when needed, day or night.
- \* Providing protective equipment for every staff member and proper sanitation throughout the building at all times.
- \* Exploring all additional funding sources to provide financial support needed for additional staffing and safety equipment.
- \* Immediate hiring of additional teachers, para-educators, and long term substitutes to reduce class size to ensure proper social distancing and remote teaching options. The additional human resources for a successful and safe reopening would be our most expensive and best investment.
- \* Frequent and ongoing personal contact and communications with families.

The reopening plan was met with enormous success as measured by the minimal COVID-related incidences identified, and none were identified to be through direct in-school contact, which was a remarkable statement of school health safety in a pandemic.

The pandemic had tested each member of the Marlborough Elementary School district. We have come together with one commonly shared mission; to open our school safely for our children and our staff. Our belief was that our children belonged in school more than ever and we had the strength and the will to fulfill this promise. It was costly in the short run, but the other options were more costly in the educational and emotional impact children would have experienced this year and beyond.. There are few if any school districts in Connecticut that have successfully remained open for the entire school year and have ended with a balanced budget during his pandemic year. This was more than a plan on paper; it was a remarkable story of the fortitude and commitment of everyone who is part of the Marlborough Elementary School District. I am sure all of the residents of Marlborough would share with me that enormous gratitude they deserve. Thank you to the entire community for the support and encouragement during this past year.

Coming together as a school community in a time of crisis and emerging with success, we are all strong as individuals but stronger together as a school family. There is nothing we cannot accomplish together for our children and the future is brighter than ever. This report brings to closure a school year with unimaginable challenges and it also brings to closure my 12 years as Superintendent of the Marlborough School

District. It has been my honor and privilege to serve this amazing school district and community.



<b>2019-2020 Marlborough Data Summary</b>				
<b>During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the residents of your community utilized the services and programs of AHM Youth and Family Services as listed below:</b>				
<b>Family Resource Center</b>				
<b>Program</b>	<b>Youth Served</b>	<b>Adults Served</b>	<b>Youth All Towns</b>	<b>Adults All Towns</b>
Play & Learn Groups	30	21	113	73
KinderRHAMa Preschool	5	n/a	22	n/a
Home Visits	2	2	5	5
Developmental Screenings	4		28	
Lanterns Mentoring	5	4	17	14
Lanterns Mentoring Events	5	9	17	27
FRC Field Trips	13	14	47	56
FRC: Music, Movement Programs	10	5	36	44
KinderRHAMa Preschool Family Events	17	17	132	122
FRC Workshops	3	2	11	8
<b>Total:</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>74</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>349</b>

### Marlborough Elementary School

Program	Youth Served	Adults Served		
In School Counseling/Case Management/Crisis Intervention	48	n/a		
Esteem Day	62	55		
Empower	68	n/a		
Personal Space Lesson	69	n/a		
Social Skills/Friendship Groups	35	n/a		
Changing Families Group	7	n/a		
Classroom behavior/respect lesson	25	n/a		
Friendship Lesson	47	n/a		
Kindness Lesson	121	n/a		
Impulse Control Group	5	n/a		
Personal Safety Lessons	53	n/a		
Tattling Class Lessons	69	n/a		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>55</b>		

### RHAM Middle School

Program	Youth Served	Adults Served	Youth All Towns	Adults All Towns
Individual In School Counseling / Case Management	11	n/a	36	n/a
Power of Words Middle School	92	n/a	249	n/a
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade Team Building	82	n/a	200	n/a
Parent Conferences at RHAM M.S.	n/a	8	n/a	25
Girl Power Camp	1	n/a	4	n/a
<b>Total:</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>25</b>

### RHAM High School

Program	Youth Served	Adults Served	Youth All Towns	Adults All Towns
Individual In School Counseling / Case Management/Crisis Intervention	17	n/a	61	n/a
Peer Helpers Retreat	10	n/a	31	n/a
Freshmen Orientation	76	n/a	186	n/a
Power of Words Training	17	n/a	42	n/a
Power of Words High School	56	n/a	207	n/a
Athletic Nights Education	25	78	225	256
RALLY Meetings	5	78	14	n/a
Parent Conferences at RHAM H.S.	n/a	7	n/a	23
Child Development Lab Students	14	n/a	43	n/a
Project Graduation**				
<b>Total:</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>163</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>279</b>

## Outpatient Individual and Family Therapy

Program	Youth Served	Adults Served	Youth All Towns	Adults All Towns
Individual Therapy/Crisis Intervention	8		56	
Family Therapy	3	3	27	27
Summer Therapeutic Group			1	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>27</b>

## Community

Program	Youth Served	Adults Served	Youth All Towns	Adults All Towns
Mentor meetings	n/a	2	n/a	9
Community Forum on Underage Drinking	n/a	3	n/a	11
SMART Recovery Family and Friends Support Group	n/a	0	n/a	6
Smart Recovery-Teens	2	n/a	6	n/a
CHEC Coalition	n/a	3	n/a	13
ADHD Support Support Group	n/a	3	n/a	6
Chores Employment Program	3	4	26	27
Juvenile Review Board	7	n/a	30	n/a
Family Fest	28	32	104	121
Summer Youth Theater Participants	12	n/a	36	n/a
Summer Youth Theater Audience	21	25	147	170
Playhouse on Park Winter Theater	7	n/a	35	n/a
Nature and Adventure Day**				
Breakfast for Senior Citizens	n/a	4	n/a	27
QPR Training	n/a	2	n/a	30
Young Adult Services Kickoff Breakfast	n/a	8	n/a	48
Take Back Events	n/a	13	n/a	52
<b>Total:</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>520</b>

<b>GRAND TOTALS</b>	<b>1200</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>2194</b>	<b>1200</b>
<b>Total Marlborough residents served</b>	<b>1602</b>			

**In total, Marlborough residents accessed the services provided by AHM 1602 times in individual and/or large group settings. Families often receive multiple services from our agency.**

# The Richmond Memorial Library

Annual Report  
2019/2020

Aubrey L. Muscaro, MLS and MA  
Library Director  
July 2020



This past fiscal year has been one of the most unusual years the Richmond Memorial Library and its staff have seen. Long-term Library Director Nancy Wood retired on May 1, 2020, after twenty-seven years with the library. Much of the late fall and winter months were spent preparing for Nancy's retirement and the transition to a new Library Director. The library board spent a lot of time conducting a thorough and exhaustive search for Nancy's replacement. Aubrey Muscaro, who had previously been working both part time at the Richmond Memorial Library and full time as the Head of Adult Services at the New Britain Public Library, was hired and began as Library Director on April 6, 2020.

Statistics show a strong start to the fiscal year 2020, with the number of items circulated in July 2019 increasing by 660 from July of 2018 and the number of library users increasing in July 2019 by 319 from July 2018. In fact, the number of people using the Richmond Memorial Library showed an increase each month from the previous year through the end of October and remained steady through the late fall and winter, until the library was impacted by the coronavirus.

The library building closed to the public due to Covid-19 on Monday, March 16, and remained closed through the end of the 2020 fiscal year. During this time, the library continued to provide service in other ways. Video tutorials were posted on the library's website and social media pages to help library users make the most use of our online resources, explaining when and demonstrating how to use each resource. In late April, a temporary registration feature was added to the library card section of the website. Between late April and June, 19 town residents who had not previously had library cards in the past three years signed up for one. By obtaining a library card, town residents were able to access the library's online resources, from ebooks and eaudiobooks to digital resources and databases.

While the library building was closed, staff worked to expand the library's digital offerings. The library added three new databases, or online resources, to our collection. CreativeBug, an arts and crafts resource that includes video tutorials and workshops led by award-winning expert instructors was viewed 74 times in its first month (May) and jumped to 149 views the second month (June). The Friends of the Richmond Memorial Library helped to sponsor the addition of AtoZ Food America, an online resource that provides access to thousands of recipes, articles relating to food, and cooking videos, and AtoZ World Travel, an online resource that provides access to hundreds of travel guides and resources.

Puzzles became extremely popular during quarantine. Since the library could not provide people access to puzzles in the traditional sense, digital puzzles for adults and kids were added to the library's website. New puzzles were posted every week and, based on comments made from library users, they have become very popular.

Since the library building's closure in March, all programming has been done virtually. Just as the whole world has had to adapt to Covid-19, so did our paid library performers. Library staff hosted some of their own programs, including Storytime and Lunch Bunch, over Zoom, and worked with library performers to rethink and redesign programs that had traditionally been done in person. Virtual programming will continue through the fiscal year 2021, when we have some really exciting programs planned. One plus about hosting virtual programs is that they give you

flexibility and the library can look beyond what is offered in Connecticut for programming. The library also offered a Grab & Grow Garden Program for adults that was popular and will be exploring Make & Take Kits for all age groups during the next fiscal year.

Staff took advantage of our beautiful windows during the pandemic to first decorate them with hearts in support of our first responders and healthcare workers and then to create Seek and Find displays in spring and early summer. Families stopped by when they had time and searched for items from a list they could download and print at home. Children that found all the items could have their parents email the library for a chance to be entered to win a prize. Families enjoyed this so much that the library plans to do it again in the future.

Our Library2Go Curbside Pickup Program began on June 1, 2019. It was available Monday-Friday 10 am to 4 pm with the intention of extending its hours after the summer. Given temporary Covid restrictions, patrons were only able to select items that were available at the Richmond Memorial Library (neither the library consortium nor the State Library would fill holds at this time). During the month of June, 442 patrons checked out 4,026 items. The library spent the month trying to publicize and promote Library2Go Curbside Pickup in hopes of increasing these statistics.

Given Covid-19, summer 2020 has been off to a slower start than in past years. The library redesigned its summer reading programs to make it easier for adults, teens, and kids to do remotely. Registration was not required and, instead, participants submitted book review tickets online through a Google Form. Initial feedback from library users has been positive so we are hoping people still choose to participate in our summer reading programming, but we certainly anticipate lower participation than usual.

Library staff have been busy working to prepare the library building to eventually reopen the building to the public, with no date determined to do this. Our Library Director has attended a plethora of meetings with libraries in the Library Connection, Inc. (LCI) Consortium and other meetings open to all libraries within the State of Connecticut to discuss best practices and how to safely reopen. As a new Library Director during an unusually challenging time, Aubrey has joined multiple roundtables, including the New Library Directors Roundtable, the Eastern Connecticut Library Directors Roundtable, and the Small Libraries Roundtable, in order to ensure that the Richmond Memorial Library remains up-to-speed with how other libraries across the state are handling their building closures and reopening guidelines. The libraries within the Chatham Health District have also worked together to follow similar safety policies and procedures. Staff have been trained on how to keep work areas safe and how to quarantine library materials. While many things are still up in the air, it is definitely evident that the library of this upcoming year is going to be very different from the library of the past.

## Richmond Memorial Library Annual Statistics

	<b>FY 19/20</b>	<b>FY 18/19</b>	<b>FY 17/18</b>	<b>FY 16/17</b>	<b>FY 15/16</b>	<b>FY 14/15</b>
<b>Days Open</b>	231	296	292	296	296	294
<b>Customers</b>	28880	39633	42365	42769	49049	49163
<b>Juv. Prog. Att.</b>	723	315	419	741	887	1312
<b>Adult Prog. Att.</b>	307	389	344	473	421	419
<b>YA Prog. Att.</b>	99	35	134	122	95	114
<b>All Ages Prog.</b>	279	956	1107	683	943	523
<b>Story Time</b>	678	973	884	800	1072	733
<b>Juv. Sum. Read.</b>		423	388	247	236	525
<b>Circulation</b>	71914	91696	86685	90289	94235	102663
<b>DVD Circ.</b>		18161	15923	19384	19806	21696
<b>Ref. Questions</b>	4531	4604	5121	5202	5293	5771
<b>ILL Requests</b>	2827	3688	2931	2771	5320	6855
<b>ILL Sent</b>	3090	3954	3362	3616	7343	10331
<b>Items Added</b>	395	3116	2804	3880	4344	4598
<b>Items Discarded</b>	3105	4924	2832	5293	3244	4700
<b>Mtg. room use</b>	130	243	155	191	199	144
<b>Download total</b>	8767	10633	11460	16042	13003	8665
<b>ebook</b>	2516	2257	2692	3586	3148	2959
<b>emagazine</b>	356	331	51	663	3480	790
<b>Download film</b>	209	150	12	105	26	29
<b>Download music</b>	123	211	160	4474	6349	4887

## Nature Trails and Sidewalk Commission

July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020

**The Nature Trails and Sidewalk Commission** is an advisory commission to the Board of Selectmen, created in January 2006. In the broadest sense, the Commission's function is to assist in the development of a more pedestrian friendly Marlborough. As the name of the Commission implies, two of its specific purposes are to provide input and guidance regarding the development of a trail and sidewalk network in Marlborough.

### Commission Members:

E. Russell Johnston III, Chair  
Sherry Newman  
Louise Concodello  
Marc Muldoon  
Jason Close

### Alternates:

Anna Holden  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

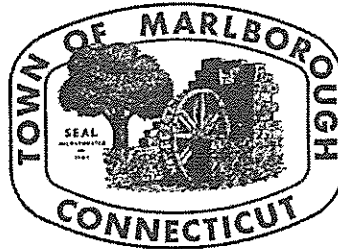
### Year Re-Cap:

- The Town was awarded a \$600,000 State LOTCIP grant to further extend the Blackledge River Greenway Trail about 0.7 mile to North Parker Road. The proposed trail path was marked out by the Commission and land surveying has been completed. Design work is on hold pending receipt of preliminary review comments from the ConnDOT.
- Several of the 20 interpretive sign features along the "Panther Path" trail in back of the Elementary School were updated by Commission volunteers to reflect current conditions.
- Trail mowing and trail upkeep was done on both trails by Commission volunteers.
- Trail maps are available for the Town trails on the Parks and Recreation website.
- The Town was awarded a ConnDOT Connectivity Grant to extend the existing sidewalk along Jones Hollow Road to the Saint John Fisher church, along the stone wall in front of the Town Hall out to a mid-block pedestrian crossing of North Main Street, and potentially about 150 feet down Cheney Road. Design is about 70 percent complete and a fall 2020 construction is anticipated.
- Construction of the new Blish Park sidewalks to comply with the ADA requirements.

# Town of Marlborough

## **Parks and Recreation Commission**

Ray Bull, Director  
Barbara Lazzari, Chair  
Louise Concedello, Vice Chair  
Dave LeJeune  
Kendra Montstream  
Sara Stock



26 North Main Street  
P.O. Box 29  
Marlborough, CT 06447  
Phone (860) 295-6203  
parkandrec@marlboroughct.net

Annual Report (July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020)

### **Mission Statement**

Marlborough Parks & Recreation strives to improve the quality of life for residents of Marlborough by providing a wide variety of cultural and leisure activities, special events, facilities, and services encouraging health, relaxation, enjoyment, learning and community involvement.

### **Parks and Recreation Office**

The Parks and Recreation Department office is located in the Marlborough Town Hall at 26 North Main Street, Marlborough, CT 06447.

Phone: 860-295-6203  
Fax: 860-295-0317  
Email: [parkandrec@marlboroughct.net](mailto:parkandrec@marlboroughct.net)  
Web Site: <http://marlboroughct.recdesk.com/recdeskportal>  
Town Web Site: [www.marlboroughct.net](http://www.marlboroughct.net)

### **General Information**

The purpose of Parks and Recreation is to provide safe and enriching facilities and programs to the Community as we fulfill our mission of improving the quality of life in Marlborough. The Park and Recreation Director is responsible for comprehensive planning, development, and supervision of programs, activities and special events. Through public relations, promotions, and partnerships, we provide a variety of such programs and events, as well as cultural and social activities in order to meet the diverse needs and interests within the community. Additional responsibilities of the Director include hiring, training and supervision of seasonal staff, and the development of operating and capital budgets.

### **The Benefits of Parks and Recreation**

\*Build family unity\*Feel great\*Lose weight\*Diminish chance of disease\*Reduce stress\*Provide safe places to play\*Generate revenue\*Lower healthcare costs\*Meet friends\*Educate children and adults \*Relax \*Keep businesses from leaving\*Elevate Personal Growth \*Strengthen neighborhood involvement\*Boost local economy \*Increase property value \*Preserve plant and animal wildlife\*Clean air and water\*Teach vital life skills \*Provide space to enjoy nature

### **Year Re-cap and Programs**

The Park & Recreation Department offered approximately 250 programs that had over 1,600 participants. Some of the programs offered included; After-school Acrylic Art, Artventures for Kids, Drawing, Watercolor, Dog Obedience Classes, Youth Indoor Soccer, Soccer Shots Youth Programs, Adult Volleyball and Basketball, Netto Summer Camp, Skyhawk's Sport Camps, Music Lessons, Acrylic Paint Camp, Kayak Rentals, Kid's Sewing Class, Family Sewing Class, Swim Lessons, Mad Science, Legos, CPR/First Aid, Lifeguard Certification Course, Town Wide Tag Sale, Safe Babysitting, Summer Concerts, Zumba, Barre & Pilates Fitness Classes, Aqua Size Fitness Classes, Yoga, 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Dance, Adult & Child Dance Classes, Stand Up Paddleboard Classes, Horseback Riding Lessons

### **Facilities**

Blackledge Field – Located on West Road. Includes a soccer field and bleachers.

Blish Park – Located on Park Road. Includes beachfront lake, pavilion, benches, bathrooms, grills, playscape, basketball court, sand volleyball court, climbing wall, trails, and 2 regulation tennis courts.

Farley Field - Located on Kristi Lane. Includes a soccer field and bleachers.

Marlborough Elementary School Field – Located on School Drive. Includes a multipurpose field, exercise equipment, and playscape.

West Road Memorial Field – Located on West Road. Facility includes a full-size baseball field, softball field, multipurpose field, batting cages, concessions, and bathrooms.

Park Road Field – Located on Park Road. Includes a baseball field, batting cage, picnic tables, bleachers.

Rolling Ridge – Located on Ridgewood Drive. Includes one regulation tennis court.

### **Budgetary Review**

All operations/line items of the Parks and Recreation Department were kept within the parameters set forth in the appropriated budget amounts.

Prepared by  
Ray Bull, Recreation Director

## Annual Report

The members of the BOF need to make sure that the Town is run efficiently, that money is there for emergencies, that dollars spent are spent wisely, that revenues are projected carefully, and that the needs of the town are met. The six members who sit on the board and the two alternates must weigh each piece of information, look at the whole picture, determine the ramifications of the data, and try as best they can to provide budgets that accomplish a list of goals.

During fiscal year 2019-2020, the Town experienced a long awaited decrease in debt service and expansion of the commercial tax base, both of which positioned the Town to help taxpayers by reducing the mill rate. On the downside, Covid-19 negatively impacted the economy, and will continue to do so in the months ahead.

While economic uncertainties made the Fiscal Year 2020/2021 budget process difficult, it was further complicated by Governor Lamont's Executive order authorizing the budget making authority in each municipality to approve a budget. The Marlborough Board of Finance provided residents with a dedicated email account, as well as a virtual Public Hearing, to receive public comments and questions regarding the budget. The emails were shared with every Board of Finance member, and serious consideration was given to each comment.

The budget the Board of Finance voted to approve reduces the mill rate by 0.98, making the new mill rate 36.27. The operating budget for the Marlborough Board of Education increased 2.5%. The budget for Town operations increased 2.41%. Marlborough's share of the RHAM operating budget increased 3.77%. Capital expenditures overall were down.

Regards,

Susan Leser, Chairman  
Board of Finance

Marie P. Hall, Assessor  
Town of Marlborough, CT 06447  
26 No. Main St.  
860-295-6201

The primary function of the Assessor's Office is the discovery, valuation and listing of all taxable property, such as real estate, personal property and motor vehicles, and to assure that all assessments are property and uniformly made so that each owner bears his appropriate share of the tax burden. Other functions include the administration of tax relief programs for the elderly homeowners, elderly renters, veteran's exemptions for individuals who have served during war time, blind and disabled exemptions, upkeep of the Town maps and GIS system, budgeting process, and transmits all necessary reports to the Office of Policy and Management. All monthly transfers, which include sales of property, splits and subdivisions of property, foreclosures and Probate are processed in the Assessor's Office as well.

The 2019 Grand List shows a net 599,518,045. This is an increase of \$11,855,835 over the previous 2018 Grand List of 587,662,210 or an increase of 2.02%.

The increase was largely due to the construction of the Big Y, including the personal property in the Big Y building, and an increase in personal property from Eversource/Conn. Light and Power. This also includes the five (5) lot subdivision on Saner Road and the construction of the building on 370 Jones Hollow Road.

#### **2019 NET GRAND LIST**

REAL ESTATE	528,279,865
PERSONAL PROPERTY	15,984,180
MOTOR VEHICLE	<u>55,254,000</u>
<b>TOTAL NET GRAND LIST</b>	<b>599,518,045</b>

#### **TOP TEN TAXPAYERS**

M3-5/OM Village LLC/MV Green LLC	11,112,430
Conn. Light & Power Company	6,053,790
Both LLC	3,214,610
Big Y Foods	3,011,340
Milborough Health Care Realty Co	2,791,810
Bridle Brook Estates LLC	2,017,830
Knes, Leandra	1,820,890
C & B Marlborough Assoc. LLC	1,166,550
Country Barn Properties	1,152,970
Jones Hollow Estates	932,540
TKS Holdings LLC	880,390

Respectfully Submitted,  
Marie P. Hall, Assessor