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# Marlborough Mirror



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**More Than Bingo:  
The Marlborough Senior Center  
Has Something For Everyone**

From the desk of Ryan Malyar, Executive Director, WMCT-TV

On a recent episode of Community Connections, I sat down with Trish Pope, Director of Senior Services at the Marlborough Senior Center, for a conversation that I think will surprise a lot of residents. If your mental image of the senior center is a room full of bingo cards, prepare to update it. With 21 fitness classes a week, lectures, art workshops, card clubs, tech help, a working greenhouse, and a warm gas fireplace where the knitting club gathers, the center is one of the most active and welcoming spaces in the city - and it's open to any Marlborough resident age 60 and older.



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Trish also walked me through some services that many residents don't know exist. The center offers free Medicare counseling through the SHINE program - Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone on Medicare - and helped over 500 Marlborough seniors navigate their coverage during the most recent open enrollment period alone. Free AARP tax preparation is available on Mondays through April 6th, and appointments are filling fast. And through the SCRPT Program, qualifying homeowners age 60 and older can earn \$1,500 off their property taxes by volunteering 100 hours in a city department.

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Saturday & Sunday 8am-6pm

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For those facing tougher times, the center is also a quiet lifeline. A pop-up food pantry is stocked in the foyer - anonymous, no appointment needed, open whenever the center is. Outreach Coordinator Lisa Martino can connect residents with fuel assistance, SNAP benefits, home care referrals, and Meals on Wheels through Springwell, the regional Area Agency on Aging. "We do a lot more than play bingo," Trish told me, and that's an understatement.

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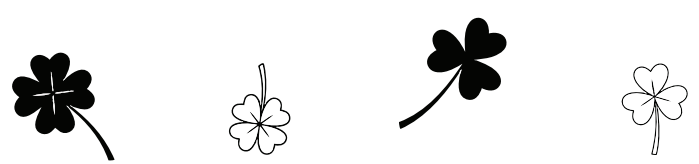
**Mark Marderosian**  
author · illustrator  
Host of TV's **DRAWING WITH MARK!**

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To watch the full interview, tune in to Community Connections on WMCT-TV or visit [wmct-tv.com](http://wmct-tv.com). To learn more about programs, pick up a copy of Seniors on the Go! - the center's monthly newsletter available at the front desk or by mail for \$10/year. The Marlborough Senior Center is located at 40 New Street and can be reached at 508-485-6492 during regular business hours.



**Spotlight on MHS Wrestling**  
By Matthew Besachio, Sports Director, WMCT-TV

On February 2nd, the MHS Wrestling squad held its Senior Night at the Fieldhouse. What made this Senior Night special was the unveiling of a new spotlight that had been installed just days prior to the end of the wrestling season.

Panther senior captain, Jack Cincotta, explained what went into the decision to get it and process of not only acquiring the light but getting it installed in time. "Seeing (the light) at other schools, I knew it was something I wanted to have for my own high school. For us, it was a pretty easy decision to make and we all truly wanted to have the light put up and wrestle under it. We raised money by hosting a pre-season tournament which raised enough money for the light and the cost of putting it up too. Us getting the light up was our biggest problem though. It was very difficult to find someone who could get it up before our season wrapped up and we had a bunch of different parents talking to the mayor, our AD Pete Jones, and our Coach Carrick Rogers, doing everything they could to try to do that for us".

Panthers went on to dominate Senior Night vs Algonquin, 54-12 ending the season on high note under the new spotlight.

## Quotes

"I fear not the man who has practiced 10,000 kicks once, but I fear the man who has practiced one kick 10,000 times."  
**Bruce Lee**

"Better to build a bridge than a wall."  
**Elton John**

"Do not dwell in the past, do not dream of the future, concentrate the mind on the present moment."  
**Gautama Buddha**

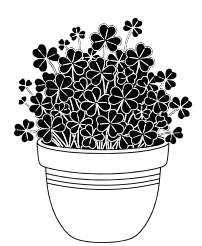


## Trivia

1. What is the given name of the famous German composer and pianist Beethoven?
2. Bronze is an alloy of what two metals?
3. What was Winnie the Pooh's original name?
4. What year did the Gran Turismo game series first debut?
5. What hinged surfaces on a plane's wingtips allow the aircraft to roll?

(Flip the bottom of the page for Trivia answers)

**Rise & Shine!  
Waking Up Your Garden in Spring**  
by the Marlborough Garden Club



It may be hard to believe at times, but spring WILL return to Marlborough! The urge to "spring clean" our gardens is strong, but many environmental experts strongly advise against removing leaves and other debris until temperatures are consistently above 50 degrees for a week. This organic material is essential for overwintering for pollinators, moths, butterflies, and beneficial insects. Plus, it can also improve soil health and suppress weeds naturally.

If you are aching to get your hands dirty after a long winter while waiting for temps to rise, there are many important activities you can tackle:

- Inspect: Carefully inspect your garden for winter damage, signs of critter activity, hardscape problems (walls, trellises, fences, etc) and other issues.
- Prune: Late winter/early spring is a great time to prune some shrubs and trees. Research the plants in your yard before you cut so you don't inadvertently cut off tiny flower buds.
- Clean: Using a mild bleach solution, scrub outdoor container to remove any lingering disease or insect eggs before planting this year's display.

For more tips, attend this free talk: **Rise & Shine: Waking Up Your Garden in Spring** on March 11th at 7pm in the Grice Community Room at the Marlborough Public Library, presented by the Marlborough Garden Club.

# March City Events

## Addiction Referral Center's 15th Annual Comedy Night Benefit

Friday, March 13th | 6:30 PM | Hudson Portugese Club

Tickets are selling fast, \$35 individual or \$350 per table (10 seats).

Can't attend? You can still support ARC by sponsoring, donating, or contributing a raffle prize.

Get tickets or donate today: <https://theadddictionreferralcenter.org/2026-comedy/>

## St. Patrick's Day Parties at Lost Shoe Brewing and Roasting Company

Sunday, March 15th 12PM - 6PM | Tuesday, March 17th 4 PM - 6 PM | Outside Lost Shoe

Sunday will have live Irish Music by Mike Gorgone from 1-4PM, Simmer & Spice Food Truck on-site from 12-6PM, The party will be outside, weather permitting (feel free to bring a chair!). No reservations - first come, first serve! Tuesday will have live traditional Irish music with Dan Meyers inside the taproom.

## Marlborough Historical Society Presentation: The Declaration of Independence

Tuesday, March 24th | 6 PM | Marlborough Public Library

The Honorable Dennis Curran will speak. This year, we celebrate the Sesquicentennial of our nation - the 250th anniversary of the founding of our country, with the Declaration of Independence issued on July 4, 1776. It is time to be inspired. We turn to our Founders whose vision turned the world upside-down. We learn some of the backstories behind our Founding, and reveal facts not before known.

## AARP Foundation Tax-Aide

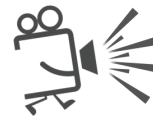
AARP Foundation Tax-Aide will again partner with the Marlborough Public Library to offer free income tax assistance and filing. Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS certified to prepare most personal income tax returns. Volunteers will offer in-person service at the Marlborough Library every other Saturday mornings from February 7 thru April 4th. **Appointments are required;** call the library at 508-624-6900 ext. 2.

## Marlborough Recreation

Sign ups are open for a variety of programs beginning in April including: Pre-K Tball & Mini Sports, Skyhawks Basketball, and Champions Martial Arts. Visit the Rec Dept website for more information: [mrd.recdesk.com](http://mrd.recdesk.com)

**HEY!** Can you find Cam?

They are hidden somewhere on this edition of Marlborough Mirror.



☘ Good luck! ☘

## Jokes!



Why did the leprechaun turn down a bowl of soup?  
**He already had a pot of gold.**

Why can't golfers end their game on St. Patrick's Day?  
**They refuse to leave the green.**

How are good friends like four-leaf clovers?  
**They're hard to find!**

What do you call a frog that jumps into a pot of gold?  
**A leap-rechaun.**

## The Irish Roots that Helped Shape Marlborough

By Mike Lawton, Assistant Executive Director, WMCT-TV

The story of the Irish in Marlborough is one of perseverance, faith, and community building, which is a legacy that continues to influence the city today.

Irish immigration to Marlborough increased significantly in the mid-19th century, particularly following Ireland's devastating Great Famine. Families fleeing poverty and hardship arrived in Massachusetts seeking stability and opportunity. While many initially found work in agriculture or domestic service, Marlborough's growing industrial base soon provided steadier employment.

By the late 1800s, Marlborough had emerged as a center of shoe manufacturing. Irish men and women became an essential part of the factory workforce, contributing to the city's economic growth. Their labor helped transform Marlborough from a small farming town into a thriving industrial community. Over time, steady wages allowed Irish families to purchase homes, establish neighborhoods, and lay down permanent roots.

Central to Irish life in Marlborough was the Immaculate Conception Church, founded in 1854, to serve the expanding Catholic population. The parish became more than a place of worship. It was a social, cultural, and educational hub at a time when Irish Catholics often faced discrimination throughout New England. The Immaculate Conception School, which opened in 1910, further strengthened the parish's role in shaping generations of local families. Church gatherings, parochial education, and community events helped preserve Irish traditions while guiding younger generations into American civic life.

Irish immigrants and their descendants also rose to positions of civic leadership. Marlborough's third mayor, John O'Connell, was born in Ireland and owned a shoe factory in the city. The city's first clerk, Peter Murphy, was also Irish and served in that role for forty-seven years, helping guide the municipality through decades of growth and change.

Like many immigrant groups, the Irish initially faced prejudice. Yet through hard work, military service, and civic engagement, they steadily gained acceptance and influence. Today, Irish heritage remains woven into the fabric of Marlborough, visible not only in family names, restaurants, and parish records, but in the very foundations of the city's neighborhoods and institutions.

## From Ninja Warriors to State Representatives

By Zachary Benton, Youth Coordinator/Producer, WMCT-TV

This winter, the Marlborough Junior Reporters have gone from interviewing Paul, owner at USA Ninja Challenge Marlborough, to Marlborough firefighter Madison Quinn, to State Representative Danielle Gregoire!

USA Ninja Challenge Marlborough's Paul took the Junior Reporters through the paces. Our Reporters ran up the Warp Wall and attempted to balance on the Slack Line, both showing the physical and psychological strength necessary for those exercises. The Reporters also learned about how you can change your career path at any time, after Paul explained that he only started the gym after decades in corporate desk jobs.

Firefighter Madison Quinn conversed with the Junior Reporters about the ins-and-outs of being a Marlborough firefighter. Quinn caught the "bug" in college after working as a Cadet firefighter. The Reporters learned that being a firefighter takes a lot of camaraderie, teamwork, and training. Quinn also elucidated on the importance of networking, especially for women that would like to be firefighters.

The Reporters' most recent interview was with State Representative Danielle Gregoire, a Marlborough resident. Gregoire explained that State Reps really have two-jobs-in-one: policy and politics. The political side includes campaigning, fundraising, and nomination papers. The policy side involves legislation, connecting with constituents, and advocacy. Gregoire had always wanted to be in federal law enforcement, but after attending law school, Gregoire ran and won in her representative seat in 2008.

'Til next time!

## Drawing with Mark!

LET'S PRACTICE DRAWING TYRANNOSAURUS REX! Start with "foundation" shapes like circles:



Start creating the form of the T-Rex using connecting lines and stick figure.



Use tubes to start creating the "outside" forms of legs and arms.



Now we can start rounding the lines out so they look like muscles and add detail too!



Color it in too if you wish!

Drawing with Mark Now Showing on WMCT-TV, Marlborough Community Television



## ST. PATRICK'S DAY WORD SEARCH

R O P Y E N K M A G I C K I X L T R  
B F N L S M U D L O G R E E N P N K  
L G U I N N E S S E K I D Y D A A C  
A B F U S N I L B U D R P Z M R P O  
R S A I N T K M X H Y E A F D A R R  
N W C L O V E R L J K L T I L D A M  
E C E L T I C U J T C A R D A E I A  
Y H W I S H C V K K U N I D R W N H  
W M A U M K P K P C L D C L E P B S  
B C T R E A S U R E V R K E M L O U  
J S R B P R N U A H C E R P E L W T

- SHAMROCK
- CLOVER
- LEPRECHAUN
- IRELAND
- DUBLIN
- CELTIC
- EMERALD
- RAINBOW
- GOLD
- LUCKY
- GREEN
- PARADE
- BLARNEY
- PATRICK
- SAINT
- HARP
- WISH
- TREASURE
- POT
- MAGIC
- FIDDLE
- GUINNESS
- LUCK



Answers:  
1. Ludwig 2. Tin and copper 3. Winniepeg 4. 1997 5. Allierons