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Marlborough Mirror

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Introducing Between the Boroughs: A New Series Exploring Marlborough's Neighborhoods

By Mike Lawton, Assistant Executive Director, WMCT-TV

WMCT-TV is excited to premiere a brand new series, *Between the Borough*, created by Mike Lawton and Jack Brzenk, who also hosts. Each episode, Jack explores one of Marlborough's distinct neighborhoods, talking to residents and business owners who give it character and digging into the history that shaped it.

Episode one takes us to French Hill, a neighborhood whose exact borders locals still argue about, but whose identity is unmistakable. The name traces back to the years after the Civil War, when Marlborough's booming shoe factories drew hundreds of French Canadian families to the area. By 1890, French Canadians made up the majority of both homeowners and residents there, and the name stuck. The Marlborough branch of the Fitchburg Railroad even ran straight through the neighborhood, moving shoes and goods in and out as the community grew.

What makes French Hill worth a visit today isn't just history, it's the people. Jack speaks with the owner of a Brazilian deli tucked inside a local gas station, whose pizza and pastels have built a devoted following, spends time with the family behind Bouvier Pharmacy, one of Marlborough's oldest continuously run businesses, and pulls up a stool at a neighborhood dive bar that has outlasted every other bar that once lined the same block. Along the way, he uncovers a few surprises about the old St. Mary's parish property and hears firsthand how wave after wave of new residents, from French Canadian shoe workers to today's Latino and Brazilian communities, has kept French Hill's character alive for well over a century.

We won't give away all the stops on Jack's walk, but between the food, the history, and the people, this episode captures exactly what *Between the Borough* is all about, getting to know Marlborough one neighborhood at a time.

Watch the premiere episode now on our website at wmct-tv.com.



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author • illustrator

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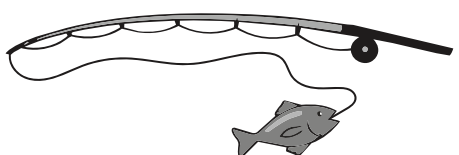


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Trivia Answers:
1. 1895 2. Hot Wheels 3. Comic and Grand 4. James K. Polk 5. Gale

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August City Events

Marlborough Police National Night Out

Tuesday, August 4th | 5PM - 8PM | Whitcomb Middle School

This free community event is a great opportunity to meet your local police officers, firefighters, public works employees, and community partners while enjoying an evening of fun for the whole family. Activities include police, fire, and DPW touch-a-truck, K9 and drone display, food trucks, muscle cars, live music, and more.

Summer Concert Series on Union Common

Thursday, August 6th & 7PM: Gold Star Blvd.

Thursday, August 13th & 7PM: Larry Bee & The Buzz

An incredible lineup of local talent, refreshing drinks served by Lost Shoe Brewing, and family fun lined up all season long presented by Mayor Christian and the Marlborough Recreation Department. Grab your lawn chairs, invite your neighbors, and make Summer 2026 one for the books!

Downtown Pop-Up Shops on the corner of Weed & Court Streets

August 8-9 and 22-23 | 10AM - 3PM

A temporary marketplace supporting local businesses and featuring online retailers, makers, and artists who give shoppers a chance to see their specialty products in-person on a rotating basis.

I Can't Hear You: A Story of Living with Trauma

Saturday, August 15th | 6PM | Marlborough Boys & Girls Club

A special event presented by Derek Robbins in support of the Marlborough Boys & Girls Club. A \$40 donation is encouraged, and 50/50 raffle tickets can be purchased (1 for \$10, 3 for \$20) via Venmo @Derek-Robbins-9

Carl Bertolino "A Legend in the World of Comedy"

Monday, August 24th | 2:30PM | New Horizons

Save the date for a hysterical afternoon of comedy with wine, cheese, and hors d'oeuvres, straight from the days of the Ed Sullivan Show and the Merv Griffin Show, followed by a formal photo op. Your night club best is encouraged!

Memorial Beach / Hixson Boat Launch

Open daily throughout August for swimming, kayaking, and canoe rentals. Visit mrd.recdesk.com for more information.

Recreation Department Summer of Fun 2026

Pickleball clinics, golf lessons, sports camps, splash pads, and wading pools. Register at mrd.recdesk.com.

Summer Reading Programs at the Marlborough Public Library

Programs for children, teens, and adults throughout August. Check marlborough.librarycalendar.com for specific dates and registration.

Greek Festival at Sts. Anargyroi Greek Orthodox Church

Friday, September 4th | 5PM - 11PM

Saturday, September 5th | 12PM - 11PM

Sunday, September 6th | 12PM - 11PM

Celebrate your Labor Day weekend with Greek food, pastries, live music, dancing, souvenirs, and more! Free admission, visit stsanargyroi.org for more information.

Drawing with Mark!

LET'S DRAW A POLAR BEAR!
Start with stick shape:



Add circles and ovals to this stick figure for the shape of our bear, its face and feet:



Add the outer lines for the bear including its nose:

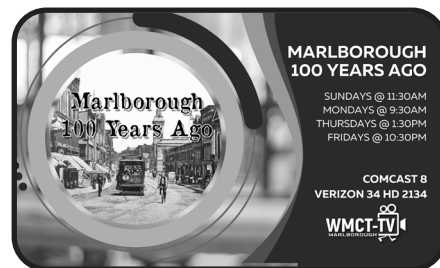
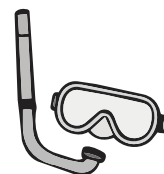
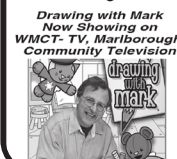


Now erase some of the lines as shown. Smooth and curve the outer lines as you wish.



Add fur, toes, and details to the face.

Keep practicing and having fun!



MARLBOROUGH
100 YEARS AGO

SUNDAYS @ 11:30AM
MONDAYS @ 9:30AM
THURSDAYS @ 1:30PM
FRIDAYS @ 10:30PM

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Trivia

1. In what year was Gettysburg National Military Park founded?
2. What popular toy brand did McDonald's start offering as a prize with their Happy Meal in 1983?
3. What two kinds of opera do the Arts recognize?
4. Which serving president was the first to have his photograph taken inside the White House?
5. What is Dorothy's last name in "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz"?

(Flip the bottom of the page for Trivia answers)



HOMEBUYING 101
WITH
SEBASTIÁN CORDOBA

SUNDAYS @ 1:30PM
TUESDAYS @ 5:30PM
THURSDAYS @ 3:30PM
SATURDAYS @ 5:30PM

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FROM THE
WRECKAGE

MONDAYS @ 12AM
THURSDAYS @ 12AM
SATURDAYS @ 11PM

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Meet the Neighbors Word Search

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

1. Marlborough
2. Ashland
3. Framingham
4. Holliston
5. Hopkinton
6. Hudson
7. Natick
8. Northborough
9. Shrewsbury
10. Southborough
11. Sudbury
12. Wayland
13. Westborough
14. Weston

Meet Your Neighbors: The World-Class Voices Next Door

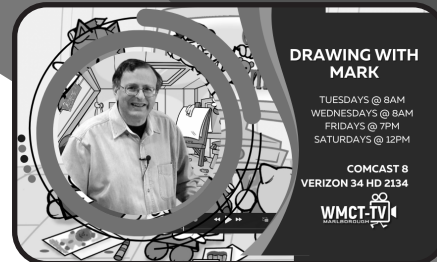
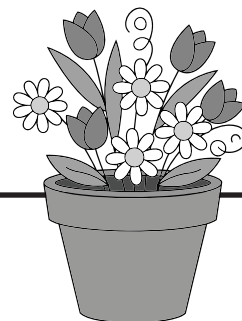
By Ryan Malyar, Executive Director, WMCT-TV

You never quite know who's living next door to you in Marlborough. Maybe it's a retired teacher, a small business owner, a family just getting settled in. Or maybe - as it turns out - it's a Grammy-nominated baritone who's sung with San Francisco Opera and Boston Lyric Opera, married to a soprano trained in Moscow's conservatory system who has performed across Europe. That's exactly who I found myself sitting across from a few weeks ago, ahead of their concert "Memory Lane" at the Marlborough Public Library.

Ron Williams and Maria Kotova aren't just two of the most accomplished classical singers I've had the pleasure of interviewing for Community Connections - they're our neighbors. And after their concert in the library's Grice Community Room, packed with residents who came out for an afternoon of Broadway's golden age, I thought it was worth introducing them properly to anyone who missed it. Williams found his way into classical music as a child in Detroit and went on to build a career performing with major opera companies across the country. Kotova entered a dedicated music school in Moscow around age six, part of a rigorous European musical education system, and didn't learn English until her late thirties, when she moved to the United States.

The two now run the Kotova-Williams International Vocal Studio together, teaching students as young as 6 and as old as 88. They're also married - not just professional collaborators, but life partners navigating the particular pressures of performance together, each with their own way of preparing a role at home.

Their concert traced nearly a century of American musical theater, from Gershwin's Porgy and Bess to Bernstein's West Side Story, with a few surprises along the way. For an afternoon, the Grice Community Room felt less like a library meeting space and more like a small concert hall, filled with neighbors discovering just how much talent lives among us. I'm grateful Ron and Maria took the time to share their story with WMCT-TV and with Marlborough - I have a feeling we haven't seen the last of them.



Jokes!

Why are pirates called pirates?
They just ARRR!

Why can't you trust the king of the
jungle?
Because he's always lion.

What do you call an angry carrot?
A steamed veggie.

Where do polar bears keep their
money?
In a snowbank.

Marlborough Garden Club Celebrates 2026 Beautification Award Winners

By the Marlborough Garden Club

Have you ever driven through Marlborough and spotted a garden that made you stop and take notice? Each year, the Marlborough Garden Club's **Beautification Awards** recognize residents whose gardening efforts add beauty and character to their neighborhoods and our community.

Gardens don't have to be grand to be recognized. From colorful containers and small spaces to beautifully maintained landscapes, the awards celebrate the effort, creativity, and care that residents put into their properties.

Nominations are open each year from **May 1 through the second week of June** and can be submitted by any Marlborough resident or Garden Club member. Simply email the property address—no gardener's name needed—to **MarlboroughGardenClub@gmail.com**. Garden Club members cannot be nominated, and previous winners are eligible again after five years. A committee visits nominated properties and selects approximately six to ten winners based on what is visible from the street.

Congratulations to our 2026 residential winners:

34 Andrews Road
62 Curtis Avenue
140 DeSimone Road
59 Hutchinson Street
73 Russell Street
117 Spoonhill Avenue

Thank you to these residents for helping make Marlborough bloom! See a garden that catches your eye? Remember the address—it could be one of next year's Beautification Award winners.

Get Ready Marlborough: Labor Day Weekend Returns September 6-7

Marlborough is gearing up for two full days of festival fun, food, and hometown tradition.

Sunday, September 6: Labor Day Festival, 12PM - 5PM

Main Street will be closed from Florence Street to South Bolton Street, with **60+ vendors and food trucks, live music all day** on a stage across from City Hall, and a family-friendly zone behind City Hall in Gold Star Family Plaza featuring bounce houses, a US Ninja Challenge course, touch-a-truck, and more kids' activities.

Monday, September 7: The 74th Annual Labor Day Parade, 12PM

Grand Marshal nominations are open now through mid-August, with the honoree announced at a special ceremony at City Hall. Organizers are hoping to welcome back longtime favorites like the Aleppo Shriners and the Quaker City String Band, pending fundraising.

Get Involved

Vendor applications are open through August 15, and performer/parade participant applications through August 1. Volunteers are also needed — CSL credit and scholarship eligibility available for students. Businesses and organizations interested in sponsoring can reach the Labor Day Event Advisory Committee at laborday@marlborough-ma.gov.

Stay the Loop

For the latest updates, visit marlboroughlaborday.org or follow Marlborough Labor Day on Facebook and Instagram.



Marlborough Junior Reporters at: The Butterfly Place and Hanover Theatre

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

The Junior Reporters recently visited two vastly different regional wonders in July: the Butterfly Place in Westford, and the Hanover Theatre in Worcester.

At the Butterfly Place, Junior Reporters Amelia and Emery interviewed educator Lynne in the Atrium. Inside the Atrium are, on average, 300 butterflies, representing about 50 species.

At the Hanover Theatre, we were led on a tour by Andrew Darcey, Senior Director of Marketing at the theatre. The Hanover Theatre, as we now know it, was only renovated and opened as recently as 2008, while the building it resides in was opened in 1904.

The Junior Reporters also interviewed Hanover Conservatory VP Sharon Hart, who oversees the Conservatory's educational programs, and Jennifer Agbay, dance instructor, choreographer, and director of the Conservatory's Youth Ballet Company! Sharon described how the Hanover has classes for all ages and skill sets, as well as all aspects of the Performing Arts. When asked about her choreography process, Jennifer said that especially with composer Tchaikovsky, his music tells such a story that she finds the inspiration comes easily.

Until next time,
Zach



HEY!

Can you find Cam?

They are hidden somewhere
on this edition of
Marlborough Mirror.



Good luck!



Quotes

"Love all, trust a few, do wrong to none."
Shakespeare

"Music is the mediator between the spiritual and
the sensual life."
Beethoven

"You can't cross the sea merely by standing
and staring at the water."
Rabindranath Tagore

Local Author Spotlight: Lilian Roque

Marlborough is home to all kinds of talent, and this month we want to introduce you to one of our own: Lilian Roque, a local author whose new children's book is already resonating with families in our community. Here's a bit about her book, in her own words:



Maria Doesn't Speak English tells the story of Maria, a young Brazilian girl who moves to the United States without speaking English. On her first day of school, she feels lost, nervous, and afraid that she won't be able to make friends or keep up with her classmates.

With the support of caring teachers, kind classmates, and her own determination, Maria discovers that learning a new language takes patience, practice, and confidence. Little by little, she realizes that a smile, an act of kindness, and a willingness to learn can bring people together, even when they speak different languages.

This heartwarming story encourages immigrant children to believe in themselves as they face new challenges. It celebrates courage, friendship, inclusion, and the life-changing power of education, reminding young readers that they are capable of finding their place in a new home. *Maria Doesn't Speak English* is available on Amazon - and if you happen to run into Lilian around town, be sure to say hello and congratulate her on the book.