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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 16

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

POWER AND WATER



DAWN MONTAGUE PHOTO

The transformers at the hydroelectric Cabot Station in Montague City reflect on the power canal.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

DPU Approves Montague As Intervenor In Berkshire Gas Pipeline Contract Review

By JEFF SINGLETON

At the Montague selectboard meeting on February 1, Ariel Elan, the board's "pipeline liaison," announced that the town has been granted full intervention status by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to challenge the "supply path" contract between Berkshire Gas Company and the Tennessee Gas Pipeline, LLC (TGP).

TGP is in the process of seeking federal approval for a proposed natural gas transmission pipeline, known as the Northeast Energy Direct (NED) project, that would run through Franklin County.

Contracts between local gas distribution companies like Berkshire and pipeline com-

panies are central to the federal criteria for determining the need for a pipeline. These contracts, or "precedent agreements," must be approved by state departments of public utilities (DPUs).

The Massachusetts DPU has already approved contracts for the so-called market path of the pipeline, which runs from Wright, NY to Dracut, MA. The supply path runs from the shale fields of Pennsylvania to Wright.

Elan has argued that a successful challenge to the Berkshire contract could undermine support for the pipeline from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Montague's request for full intervention status in the market path was rejected. Elan

see MONTAGUE page A5

Fed Up Health Director Promises Poop Tickets

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – "There will be no warnings given," read an edict issued Wednesday by Montague's board of health. "Tickets will be written on the first offense."

Fed up with a recent profusion of unattended pet turds, and responding to complaints aired by downtown Turners Falls residents at Monday's selectboard meeting, public health director Gina Mc-

Neely has announced that agents of her department will be "patrolling" the town and issuing tickets to pet owners they find in violation of the town's 2010 "Pooper scooper" regulations.

"I'm going to write as many tickets as I possibly can," said McNeely. "I'm going to be out there before the sun comes up, and after the sun goes down, writing tickets, because I'm done."

see FINES page A6

Montague Broadband Group Criticizes Comcast, MBI

By JEFF SINGLETON

GREENFIELD – Representatives of the Montague broadband committee met with the officials of the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) on Wednesday at the Olver Transit Center to discuss two proposals to extend broadband service to "unserved" homes in town (primarily in the Chestnut Hill and Taylor Hill neighborhoods).

The MBI is in charge of distributing approximately \$40 million in state bond funds to bring broadband to "unserved" communities and under-served neighborhoods in towns

like Montague.

Last spring the MBI put out a request for proposals to serve nine communities in the region. Comcast, which currently provides cable service to Montague residents, submitted a proposal for all the towns through their current coaxial cable network. A company called Matrix Design Inc. submitted proposals to provide fiber-optic cable to Montague and Hardwick.

Fiber has significantly faster download speeds than coaxial, and is said to be the technology of the future. The Montague

see BROADBAND page A6

Not Your Run-of-the-Mill Research Gig: Chasing Storms in Tornado Alley

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

LEVERETT – What Bethany Seeger actually did during her time as a storm chaser in Oklahoma, Texas, and Kansas is a lot more mundane than the dramatic, heart-stopping depictions of storm chasing in movies like "Twister."

As a computer programmer, Seeger was brought on to an Oklahoma University-sponsored tornado chasing crew to help work with the equipment. In this "tornado alley," storm chasers like Seeger put themselves in harm's way to collect data that will, hopefully, lead to life-saving advances for meteorologists.

"It's the most fun I've had in awhile," said Seeger on Sunday, January 31, speaking to an eager audience at the Leverett Library about her experience as a storm chaser during the Spring of 2015.

"It's been a really crazy year over all," said Seeger.

The goal of that trip was to learn more about tornado genesis. Seeger went on both daytime storm-chas-



BETHANY SEEGER PHOTO

Seeger's research vehicle encounters a storm on May 8, 2015.

ing missions and nighttime missions. Nighttime storms, she explained, are not well understood and extremely dangerous.

"These storms are called nighttime monsters," explained Seeger.

She explained that a tornado typically develops at the end of the storm, and a circular cloud can be seen prior to the formation

of the actual tornado. That cloud, called a funnel cloud, will suck up air and debris from the ground prior to forming a tornado. Debris typically falls out of the back of the storm with the rain. When the tornado does form, it can be misleading as to whether the tornado has touched down.

see STORMS page A4

TFHS Boys Basketball: Still in the Hunt

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Basketball Indians are still in the hunt for a playoff spot after winning two straight, and three of their last four, games.

Back in January, the Tribe was 3-7 and their post-season aspirations seemed doomed. But after losing a close game to Mohawk, they defeated Narragansett and Greenfield by a total of 30 points, and currently sit in the middle of the pack with a record of 6-8.

In order to make the playoffs, Turners needs to win at least ten games. With six games left, the team can only afford two more losses.

TFHS 78 – Narragansett 61

On Thursday, January 28, the Narragansett Blue Warriors came to town, and Turners scored more points than they had in any game this season.

In the opening period, both teams came out shooting and scoring and by the end of the quarter, Turners was on pace to score 88 points, leading the Warriors 22-15.

Defense took over in the second period. Shot clock violations, double dribbles, loose balls and forced throw-aways held both teams to 12 points each, and at the half the score was 34-26, Turners.

Narragansett desperately clawed back into the game in the third and pulled within 4 points, 51-47, by the end

see BASKETBALL page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls' Josh Obochowski (14) angles for his shot as the Turners Falls Indians defeat the Greenfield Green Wave 61-48 on the Indians' home court Monday night.

Frank Abbondanzio: Back On the Job

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE – After a five-month sick leave, town administrator Frank Abbondanzio was back at town hall this week, meeting with department heads, reviewing next year's budget, and catching up on lost time.

"I'm really impressed by how well the departments have kept up with everything," Abbondanzio told the *Montague Reporter* on Wednesday. "They've accomplished an awful lot."

Emphasizing that he had not yet

been able to look at the FY 2017 budget "in detail," and still had some department chiefs to meet with, Abbondanzio said he "won't make any judgment" about some of the proposals on the table for the coming year.

"I had my first talk with [town accountant] Carolyn [Olsen] this morning," he said. "We've got a shortfall to deal with, so any new programs or staffing is going to have to undergo a serious scrutiny."

Among the proposals currently on the table are three new positions

see FRANK page A5

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A Turn At the Wheel

Well, the sap is running, the geese are by now just flying back and forth in random directions, and town clerks are putting out nomination papers.

Will Christine Heard run for a seventh consecutive term on Wendell's selectboard? Will Gill's Randy Crochier run for a third? How about Montague's Chris Boutwell? Will Leverett's Peter d'Errico seek election, from the floor of town meeting, for a fourth term?

Art Johnson, who won a special election in October 2014 to fill an unexpectedly vacated seat on Erving's selectboard, is the only member in our five coverage towns whose term is expiring and who is *not* a multi-term incumbent.

There are several reasons for a general continuity in these offices – and in all the other boards and committees that make up town government. They aren't widely coveted positions, and if someone has learned the job, wants to keep it, and hasn't made too many enemies yet, they can usually expect a smooth reelection.

But national politics are dominated at present by rule-breaking outsiders, including presidential candidates Bernie Sanders on the left and Donald Trump and Ted Cruz on the right. These men have each found ways to galvanize support from those who feel left out of the establishment. This is because of something in the air/ water/economy/internet, depending on who you ask.

Can we expect to see a "Trump effect," or maybe a Sanders one, this year in local government?

Candidates at the town level who are elected on a reform platform often find there's not much leverage to alter the course of history from their chairs. While selectboards are the most visible concentration of authority in town, they're subordinate on the one hand to town meeting, and on the other, tend to defer on many practical matters to the advice of professional administrators.

The bigger question here may hinge on whether rural town governments themselves may be said to hold power. If success is simply avoiding mismanagement, it seems as if the job is more technical than political.

There are some recent exceptions we can think of in which groups of public servants have truly led our towns in new directions. Wendell's simple living zoning,

Leverett's municipal broadband network, Gill and Montague's reformed relationships with their school district, and parkland and streetscape improvements in Turners Falls have all required vision and public engagement.

What role do town governments have in truly improving the lives of their residents? Paring back taxes, as Erving did this year, is one thing. But can towns still bring in jobs and resources that drive income in the first place? They can help designate conservation land, but can they protect it when the real challenges come?

Recent years have seen a gradual erosion of local, public volunteerism. It's not that people are no longer good or giving, it's just that they are much less likely to put much focus on this particular layer of the social onion.

We see its impact everywhere from the struggle to recruit on-call firefighters to the way tasks as simple as maintaining flower planters, filming meetings for cable access, or editing a town newsletter can degenerate into personality politics. There are just not enough hands on deck to begin with, and those few who step up quickly find themselves taking on more than they can manage.

We're not going to make any sweeping calls for a renewal of local public life, or for more muscular town leadership. Our towns are all exceptionally lucky, compared with most in our country, when it comes to talented, committed, involved citizens.

But if a new generation ever brings energy into civic life, the conversation will have to include a vision for what could be different, rather than just a request to help with the muddling through. The modern world provides altruists with an infinite variety of ways to help out. Helping town government function isn't an obvious place for most to put their energy and spare time.

So to anyone out there who is thinking of throwing your hat into the ring this season, here are a few questions to mull over:

What calls you to town government? Does this set you apart from your neighbors? What do you bring that's unique? How will you measure success? When will you stop?

And, perhaps most important of all, how would you motivate other people to join you?



Letters to the Editor

Bears Leaving Ground Left Bare?

Why are bears showing up in people's back yards?

Montague residents seem to suspect that decimating their habitat as seen along Montague Road – right opposite the Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife enforcement offices – might have more than a little to do with it.

The Montague Plains are being virtually clear-cut, in the name of providing habitat for wildlife. Trees left to reseed the forest will provide habitat, they claim.

That's true – very true; but some people wonder if we, and wildlife, will ever live to see the pine cones and acorns sprout up to regrow the forest. What will wildlife feed on in the interim?

"There used to be a lot of deer – big bucks – on the Montague Plains," Big John, of Montague, said. "The deer that were scared off the Plains are probably up in New Hampshire, by now."

The Anderson Timber Harvesting Company virtually clear-cut over 209 acres of the Montague Plains, as previously reported in the *Reporter*.

And, the firm has recently cleared a lot more, now visible along Montague Road – right opposite the headquarters of Mass Division of Fisheries and Wildlife Enforcement offices!

"Enforcement!" Big John said, "They oughta look out the window."

The timber harvesting firm is leaving a few select trees to reseed the land so it can return to what it was prior to it being cleared by early settlers, according to Habitat Biologist Brian Holt Hawthorne of the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife.

"The Andersons do a great job," Biologist Hawthorne said during the previous decimation. "We're later going to have a firm come in with a flail brush mower to clean away the underbrush, but the Andersons clear most of the brush with their feller-buncher and chip it with their chipper."

"Their contract specifies that they take everything down to four inches, but they remove a lot of the brush, too. They do a fine job, and leave tree stumps just three or four inches high. We like them. They have a fine reputation, and do a lot of work on Fisheries and Wildlife land."

What isn't swept up to be chipped and sent to wood pellet manufacturers is chopped up and roto-tilled into the sandy soil to create a desert, grinding up salamanders, wood turtles and rodents.

That means no blueberries, or other berries, for the bears and birds, no feed for rabbits, no rabbits for food for the bears, and no browse for deer to feed upon.

The question on Montague citizens' minds is: what is wildlife going to do in the way of feed, if it's all gone?

The only trace of wildlife I found on the decimated site along Montague Road was a gray squirrel, left flattened in the tracks of a 40-ton log skidder.

Maybe the bears will come back from town to fatten up on the flattened squirrel when they read about it in the *MR*.

Joseph A. Parzych
Gill

Bailouts for Some...

The bodies of Syrian refugees are washing up on the beaches of the Aegean Sea.

All over Europe there is a fear that the resources of the various nation-states will be overwhelmed by the influx.

Ah, yes. We have the mechanisms to keep these desperate people out. We have the laws, the quotas, the protocols, the police blockades and concertina wire.

What we don't have is the will to save their lives. What we have lost is the capacity to give of ourselves so that others might live.

It may be that we have lost something vital to the very essence of being human.

In a moral society there would be no question about what must be done. We would include all these refugees. We would save their lives. We would come up with the money for food, housing, clothing, dignity and community like we came up with the money to bail out the banksters.

Do you remember? Many trillions of dollars miraculously appeared to reward the very people who in their avarice took the economies of the world into a tailspin. The vulnerable people fleeing war, displacement, poverty, street violence including rape, extreme exploitation – they get to float face-down in the ocean swells.

Such a contrast between cocaine-sniffing banksters in their gold cuff links and the little child's body sunk down into the sand depicts an economy, and a moral compass, way out of whack.

There is one proposition upon which a sane society bases all of its economic activity: every life form is precious, and must be protected and preserved. In this frame of mind much of the desperation that drives crime is alleviated.

It's the difference between a world at war and a world at peace.

Ralph J Dolan
Haydenville

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Thousands of used books will be for sale at the Carnegie Library, to benefit the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries, on Saturday, February 6. Hardcover, DVDs, CDs, and audio books \$1 each. Large paperbacks are 50 cents, and small paperbacks are a quarter. Doors open at 10 a.m.

Also at the library on Saturday, starting at 2 p.m., adults are invited to **come make valentine cards**. Refreshments will be served.

For more information on both events, call 863-3214.

Do you have your own story to tell? Join Gale Whitbeck for a discussion on **writing your own biography**. Held at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, February 6, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Also this Saturday, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., the **opening reception** for the annual "6 x 6" exhibit will be held at the Sawmill River Arts Gallery. Come support your friends and neighbors! Community artists of all ages are featured in this delightful exhibit of small art for sale.

The gallery is located next to the Bookmill in Montague Center. Gallery hours are Mondays and Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Thursdays through Sundays, noon to 6 p.m.; and closed Tuesdays.

For more information see www.sawmillriverarts.com or call (413) 367-2885.

Explore New Zealand with stories and photos of the geology, flora and fauna of New Zealand from Laurie Brown and Chris Condit's three trips down under. Co-spon-

sored by Rattlesnake Gutter Trust.

At the Leverett Library on Sunday, February 7, at 2 p.m.

Healthy seniors already know what scientific research shows: that moving, learning, socializing, and spending time outdoors promotes robust memory and health, while replenishing the spirit. **Enjoy a Senior Winter Ramble** on Thursday, February 11, from 1:30 to 4 p.m.

This walk along the lower trails at Northfield Mountain will include all four healthy habits while we search for signs of historical human uses and the animals that now make their homes on the Mountain. The camaraderie of other active seniors and a hot cup of tea or cocoa around the woodstove will add to the sweetness of this active afternoon.

If there is snow, an introduction to snowshoeing skills will be included; if not, this ramble will be a hike through the surrounding field edges and forests.

Call to pre-register and get starting location info at 1(800) 859-2960. For ages 55 and older. The walk is free; snowshoe rentals are \$16.

Baystate Franklin Medical Center's volunteers and members of the Baystate Franklin Auxiliary will hold their annual **Chocolate Fantasy** fundraiser on Friday, February 12, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the hospital's main conference rooms. This year, funds raised at the Chocolate Fantasy will support the hospital's Cardiopulmonary Department and Mental Health Unit.

The public is invited to help combat the winter blahs with chocolate, chocolate, chocolate. BFMCC Clinical Notes, the hospital's women's a cappella chorus, will present a mini-concert of love songs at 12:15 p.m. in the main lobby. The event also fea-

tures a raffle, with baskets of beautiful items from local businesses.

The Chocolate Fantasy is festive and is a great time to buy Valentine's Day gifts for loved ones – or to simply treat yourself.

The **RECOVER Project**, a community-driven, peer to peer center that aims to enhance the lives of people in recovery, will host a Sober Dance with DJ Chris H from Magic Moments Entertainment, on Saturday February 13, from 8 to 10:30 p.m.

The dance will take place in the RPX, at 1 Osgood Street in Greenfield. Come out and dance the night away in a safe, sober environment. Coffee will be available and light refreshments will be sold.

Admission is by donation; kids under 12 are free, and no one will be turned away if unable to make a donation. The project hosts an event on the first Saturday of every month.

The Great Falls Discovery Center, in downtown Turners Falls, will be open every day during **school vacation week**, February 13 to 21, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Center is expanding its winter hours that week. Stop by for valentines for wildlife on 2/13, investigation stations on planting seeds on 2/15, making your own nature journal on 2/16, exploring mammal adaptations to winter on 2/17, indoor birding on 2/18, and bobcats on 2/19.

Saturday the 20th is the annual **Full Snow Moon Gathering**, from noon to 3 p.m. Guest speaker Jennifer Lee (Metis/Narragansett) will share her personal journey as a Native American descendant, "Indigenous History and Heritage." The free event is cosponsored by the Nolumbeka Project and Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Visit www.greatfallsdiscovery-center.org or call 413-863-3221 for info on these programs and a complete listing of the events scheduled for February.

The staff of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter is excited to

offer the community the opportunity to take the comprehensive **Pet First Aid & CPR Class**, with Jim Helms of Jim Helms' Dog Pals, at a deeply discounted rate. Upon successful completion each participant will receive a 2-year certification in CPR and First Aid for Pets.

The class takes place Sunday, February 21, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Sheriff's Office, 160 Elm Street in Greenfield. To register, visit franklincountypetfirstaid.eventbrite.com.

A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter in Turners Falls.

Wendell resident Mara Bright will lead a free two-part workshop on Sundays, February 21 and February 28 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Wendell Free Library on **how to make traditional American braided rugs**.

Beginners and those who want to refresh their skills are welcome. Participants will learn how to select and prepare materials, how to braid and how to stitch braids together to make an oval or circular rug.

Basic tools will be provided. Participants should bring old woolen clothing or wool yardage that can be made into strips as well as sharp fabric scissors.

Bright is a long-time rug braider who enjoys making beautiful and functional rugs out of recycled materials. Space is limited, so please call the library at (978) 544-3559 to register. This program is funded in part by the Wendell Cultural Council and the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.

Turners Falls RiverCulture is looking for board members. The group will meet once a month to discuss event themes, fundraising ideas, how to support art and culture in Turners Falls, cooperative marketing efforts, and ways to promote our natural and cultural resources.

Contact Suzanne LoManto if you are interested: (413) 835-1390 or riverculture@gmail.com. Spring events are getting underway!

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

BY MIKE LANGKNECHT

I'm writing on behalf of Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI) to provide *Reporter* readers with important facts about the public access capital funding, provided to MCCI in order to fulfill our contractual obligations to the town of Montague, and about the oversight process for MCCI.

The author of a guest editorial in the January 21 edition of the *Reporter* correctly described the funding mechanism for both the operating and capital expenses for public access (the subscribers pay for it all).

But the access provider does not have a say in the total amount of, or the schedule of payments for, the capital funds that will be paid over the full term of the license agreement between the town and Comcast.

The town does solicit input from the access provider on both counts, but then negotiates, through the cable advisory committee (CAC), the best deal with the cable provid-

er (in this case, Comcast) it thinks it can get.

MCCI had no involvement in those negotiation processes – though some access providers are charged with that responsibility – and certainly wasn't asked to "agree" to the ultimate funding in the 2003 license agreement, since Greenfield Community Television (GCTV) was the public access provider at that time.

GCTV received \$70,000 of capital monies from that ten-year agreement in the 3 years it ran MCTV, and MCCI received the \$30,000 stipulated for the remaining 7 years of the agreement, after returning to the management of the station.

The 2015 license renewal, signed in September by the Montague selectboard, stipulates total payments of capital funds for public access of \$159,000, the first payment of which was due in the amount of \$34,000 upon the execution of the agreement (September, 2015).

That payment was released to MCCI, the access provider for Montague, only after the plan for

expenditure of those funds was approved by the CAC and the selectboard – unanimously, in both cases.

Furthermore, all equipment purchased by MCCI with these capital funds (or operating funds, for that matter) is the property of the town of Montague, and remains so even if MCCI ceases to be the town's access provider.

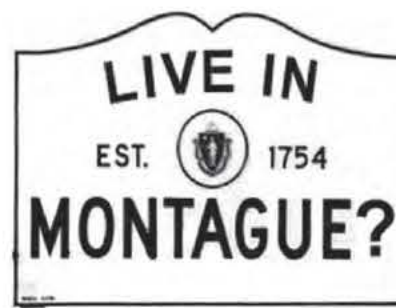
In addition, the CAC is contractually obligated to exercise regular, ongoing oversight over the access provider. MCCI is required to report all its financial activities – including equipment purchases – to the CAC in quarterly and annual reports, which are then used as the basis for an annual review by the CAC.

If it were determined that MCCI had misrepresented the use of capital funds, the town has the right to terminate our contract.

From 2006 to 2009, these reviews were performed as prescribed, and MCCI got particularly good grades for our financial management.

From 2010 to 2013, these reviews were not performed by the

Cable Access: Setting Some Facts Straight



www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings



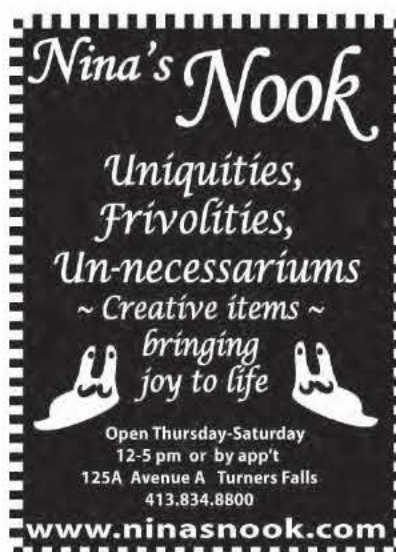
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EYE ON TOWN FINANCES

Part II: An Additional Million Dollars Somewhere

By MICHAEL NAUGHTON

Montague's finance committee has begun our consideration of the FY 2017 budget, and the first thing that we've done is to try to get a sense of the big picture.

As of this writing, we are estimating that we'll have about \$18,665,000 in available revenues, which is a roughly 2.34% increase over the past year. That figure includes about \$15,404,000 from property taxes, \$1,542,000 from state aid, \$1,280,000 from local receipts, \$35,000 from airport user fees, \$154,000 from other sources, and \$250,000 from free cash.

As you can see, the vast majority – roughly 83% – of our funds come from property taxes, with the bulk of the rest divided roughly evenly between state aid and local receipts. Property tax receipts are projected to go up by about 3.3%, but right now we're projecting state aid to stay the same and local receipts to go up by less than 1%, so overall we're only projecting revenues to go up by about 2.3%.

On the expense side, we're looking at roughly \$18,307,000 in operating budget requests, of which \$8,710,000 comes from town departments, \$50,000 comes from the airport, and \$9,547,000 comes from the regional school districts (Gill Montague and Franklin Coun-



ty Tech). As you can see, education assessments account for roughly 52% of the total, with everything else coming to 48%.

With the town budgets, roughly 22% is for public safety (police, dispatch, etc.), 22% for public works (DPW, snow removal, and trash collection), and 24% for employee benefits and insurance. The rest is divided among town hall departments (18%), debt service (8%), culture and recreation (libraries, parks and recreation, etc. – 6%), and the other departments.

If that's all there was, we'd be in pretty good shape, with a roughly \$360,000 surplus. But there's more – we're also looking at roughly \$1.34 million in additional requests, so if we want to meet them all we'll have to find an additional \$1M somewhere.

This isn't unusual. We generally face a shortfall at this stage in the process, and our job over the com-

ing weeks will be to make the decisions that end up with a balanced budget.

It's worth noting that our projections right now don't show any use of stabilization funds, but historically we have used funds from those accounts for a number of purposes, and I expect that we'll do so again next year. Also, we haven't assumed the need for any new borrowing, but it's very possible that we'll decide to recommend funding some requests from borrowing.

And, last but not least, it's pretty common for us to either decline to recommend some of the requests that we've received or to recommend them at a lower amount than originally requested. If we're lucky, using those tools this year will allow us to find a good balance.

We are certainly facing some challenges, though. Perhaps the biggest one is that the DPW is requesting three additional employees: one for building maintenance and two for grounds maintenance.

The needs, I think are obvious: most town meeting members are familiar with the town's historical "when it breaks, we fix it" approach to building maintenance, which arguably has cost us more over the years than a regular maintenance program. An additional person would double Tom Bergeron's building maintenance crew, and he

has told us that should be enough to get us on a better course.

Similarly, the additional grounds maintenance personnel have been justified by the additional needs of Unity Park and the new skate park, along with other needs around town. My personal opinion is that some increase is necessary, but it is critical that we fund it in a way that allows us to keep funding it in future years.

We're also facing a number of building and grounds maintenance requests, chiefly from the libraries and from the Gill Montague school district, along with a request for an additional vehicle (beyond the normal cruiser) from the police chief, a request for a new police radio tower, a big jump in funding for computer equipment and software, and requests for new computer software from the health agent and the town planner.

It's quite a list, and we've certainly got our work cut out for us in the weeks ahead!

Mike Naughton has been a Montague resident since 1974 and a finance committee member most years since fiscal 2001. He can be reached at mjnaught@crocker.com or by looking in the phone book. The opinions expressed here are his own and are not necessarily shared by anyone else in town government.

STORMS from page A1

"You can't see whether a tornado has touched down until it sucks up debris," explained Seeger.

Using a radar, meteorologists can determine which storms are likely to develop tornadoes by looking for a hook echo. According to the National Weather Service, a hook echo is a "radar reflectivity pattern characterized by a hook-shaped extension of a thunderstorm echo." This part of the storm typically appears at the right, rear part of the storm.

During her time chasing storms, Seeger was lucky enough to avoid being hit directly. However, she saw the damage a large tornado can inflict when a tornado swept through Oklahoma and parts of Texas one day after she and her crew were out chasing. The crew was able to avoid that storm, but Seeger said it was an EF3, with EF5 being the highest rating for a tornado.

With buildings and houses completely flattened, Seeger explained that typically in this part of the country towns will have one large storm shelter for people to flee to, but houses don't typically have a basement.

"More and more homes are starting to have storm shelters," she explained. "Those are separate from the house."

EF stands for the Enhanced Fujita scale, which uses a rating of one through five to rate the severity and strength of a storm. An EF5 tornado touched down in El Reno, Oklahoma May 31, 2013, which was the largest tornado on record with a width of 2.6 miles and winds over 265 miles per hour.

Seeger said school children in that area often hide from tornado weather in the hallways of the schools.

"Schools don't have basements, either. Children really are in the halls with their backs against the wall trying to protect themselves."

An EF5 tornado did hit schools in Moore, Oklahoma on May 20, 2013. Briarwood Elementary and Plaza Towers Elementary were among the hardest hit by the storm. As many as 75 students and staff were in Plaza Towers when the storm hit, and seven children were killed.

Storm chasers like Seeger are lucky to have the technology to predict the location of a possible tornado, and thus to avoid putting themselves in harm's way. However, Seeger was unable to avoid severe flooding when an extremely bad storm hit her crew's home base in Norman, Oklahoma.

"There were people in the streets using rowboats. That's when I thought, 'I want to go home.'"

Pointing out that more people die from flooding than from severe winds, Seeger explained that she had taken a friend home only to regret her decision. With running water on several streets, she had to make the hard choice and choose the only path available.

"I looked one way and there was running water on that street. I looked the other way and there was running water. So I had to make a hard choice and I chose a path with standing water only."

Seeger said she hopes to be invited back next spring for more storm chasing.



FACES & PLACES



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

On Wednesday night, the board of directors of the Shea Theater Arts Center, the new nonprofit operator of the town-owned theater on Avenue A, showed off the building, which is under renovations in anticipation of a reopening in early March.

The STAC board, from left to right: Mary Lou Emond, Penny Burke, Chris "Monte" Belmonte, Liz Gardner, Josh Goldman, and Leigh Rae.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

stated that she believed the town had been successful this time because it had applied for intervention status as an individual town affected by the decision, rather than as part of a broader coalition with other towns not directly impacted.

Intervention status in the DPU proceedings will allow the town’s lawyer, after signing a non-disclosure statement, to review publicly redacted material from Berkshire’s application. It also allows the town to appeal a DPU decision.

Elan stated that intervention status could also allow the town to investigate the basis for the moratorium Berkshire declared last March on new gas customers pending the construction of the pipeline. Pipeline opponents have argued the moratorium was a pressure tactic to win local support for the project.

The board also voted to establish a so-called “revolving fund” for contributions to legal work against the pipeline. Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz said the fund could receive both private and public contributions, including from other towns.

Last fall, a special Montague town meeting voted to appropriate \$10,000 for legal representation before the DPU. Town meeting also voted to appropriate \$12,500 for intervention in the federal review process organized by the Franklin Regional Council on Governments (FRCOG). FRCOG has not taken an official position against the pipeline, but is assisting towns in the federal environmental review of the pipeline known as “scoping.”

The Planters Again

Monday night’s meeting began with a highly contentious “public comment” discussion of the selectboard’s actions, the previous week, to effectively end the life of the town planter committee and appoint Avenue A antique store owner Gary Konvelski as planter coordinator.

The committee was created last spring, in the selectboard’s view, to write policies for the town-owned, volunteer-maintained planters on Avenue A, and had completed its mission. Konvelski, who has expressed strong opinions about planter policies, was the only person to apply for the coordinator position. It was not clear, however, that the opening had been publicized in an open appointment process.

Downtown resident Rodney Madison complained that he was under the impression that the planter committee, which he had chaired, was a “standing committee,” which

the selectboard should not have dismantled without informing its members. He also complained the committee should have had input into the appointment of Konvelski, which he said he took as a personal affront, given their frequent conflicts and confrontations (one of which had led to Madison’s arrest last summer).

Selectboard chair Michael Nelson responded that he had always supported the planter committee, which he had initially proposed. When it came time to appoint a planter coordinator, he approached building inspector David Jensen about involving the committee.

Jensen said that the planter committee had been charged with writing the planter guidelines, and had effectively disbanded upon completing its mission. He noted that there was no role for the planter committee in the guidelines, but rather for a group of “active participants” who would recommend a planter coordinator.

No active participants had, however, recommended Konvelski to be coordinator, in part because the participants were supposed to be called together for the task by the coordinator. The selectboard, faced with a “Catch-22,” had appointed Konvelski without involving the participants.

The discussion degenerated into a shouting match between Nelson and Madison. “I’ve got no reason to trust anything you say right now, Mike,” said Madison.

“Well I’m offended by that,” responded Nelson, who then tried to end the debate.

Madison interjected, “This smells of cronyism, good old boyism and all the other isms you can think of.” He then argued that “everyone wanted that planter committee dismantled, and you found a way to do it.”

“No,” replied Nelson. “There was no reason to continue it.”

Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz and audience member David Detmold both advocated that the topic be put on a future agenda. But Nelson rejected this option, stating that this would only result in a repeat of the debate that had been going on. Instead, he suggested that he and Madison meet to discuss the issue.

Toward the end of the discussion Madison appeared to agree to this option, although he also continued to advocate for more public discussion.

An Active Public Sphere

There were a number of other comments, in what turned out to be

the longest “public comment” period in recent memory.

Mike Langknecht of Montague Community Cable Incorporated said his organization was still interested in the old Cumberland Farms Building for its local access television studio. He said he understood that the future of the building was not a “given,” and was “going through a process.”

Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) advocate Betty Tegel asked the selectboard if she should continue submitting her concerns to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, since he has been out on sick leave. “As of today, it’s back to business as normal,” responded Nelson, noting that Abbondanzio had returned to his job.

Edite Cunha rose to complain of the large amount of dog feces on the sidewalks and alleys of downtown Turners Falls. In one area, there is “literally 100 feet or more where there is not one inch [without] dog poop,” she estimated. She also said that there was a roof in the downtown area “covered with it.” Selectboard members noted that there is an official “pooper scooper” bylaw, and urged her to contact health director Gina McNeely for guidance.

David Detmold stood up to announce that this Friday marks the fortieth anniversary of the imprisonment of Indian activist Leonard Peltier. Peltier was convicted of murdering two FBI agents at a confrontation at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota in 1975. Detmold said that international organizations supporting Peltier had declared two days of solidarity, this Friday and Saturday.

He stated that he will be standing out at Peskeomskut Park on Saturday with a sign, and urged local residents to write to President Obama asking him to commute Peltier’s sentence.

Regular Business

Tom Bergeron, superintendent of the town’s public works department, requested the board approve a task order between the town and the consulting firm CDM Smith for design work to clean out the flumes, or siphons, that bring stormwater under the power canal to the Connecticut River. Bergeron also requested that the board award a bid to the company Insituform for sewer lining. The board approved both requests.

Bruce Hunter of Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority requested and received approval to disburse \$1,995 to Berkshire Design Group

town to decide where to go.”

Another is the construction of Unity Skatepark.

“I was down there over the weekend, and it is absolutely beautiful,” he said. “I got to see some major competition happening there – I was just envisioning an Olympic skateboarder coming out of that park.

“Back in the ‘90s, when a few skateboarders came into a selectboard meeting and made a pitch. They did a really good job. And it’s come this far. A lot of people deserve a lot of credit – you can’t name them without forgetting someone.”

As for himself, Abbondanzio said he is “taking it one day at a time. I’m glad to be back.”

for consulting services on the Avenue A Streetscape Project. He withdrew a request to extend the contract date for the Unity Park project, because in fact the extension was also meant for the Avenue A project. The Unity Park Project has been completed.

There was a lengthy discussion of a request by homeowner Susan Cousinou to allow a handicapped ramp from her house to enter the public right of way on Millers Falls Road. Building inspector David Jensen said he felt the ramp was too near the street, and to potential snow being plowed by the DPU. Former DPU resident Joe Janikas, who lives near the site, also raised objections.

The board expressed a willingness to allow some of the ramp in the right of way, but declined to support the project as proposed.

The board voted to move reserve police officer James Waitkus from step 1 to step 3, which would produce a pay increase of \$2.38 an hour.

It approved the warrant for the May 1 presidential primary election.

Finally, the board voted to approve a request from the new organization operating the town-owned Shea Theater to be exempt from building permits.

At the end of the meeting, the board voted to go into executive session to discuss the DPU pipeline contract intervention.

Pipeline Opponents Plan Picket at Berkshire

By REPORTER STAFF

GREENFIELD – Local activists opposed to the Tennessee Gas Pipeline have announced a march and picket on President’s Day, Monday February 15, to call on Berkshire Gas to call off its moratorium on new customers.

According to organizers, the march will gather at Greenfield Community College’s east building at 9:30 a.m. and walk to the company’s local facilities at 40 Mill Street.

After noon, the picket will retire to the First Congregational Church on Silver Street for lunch.

Interested parties are asked to contact Hattie Nestel, the Athol activist who recently organized a three-day walk along the TGP pipeline’s proposed route. Further information is available at hattienestel.com.

BASKETBALL from page A1

of the period. The Warriors also scored the first points of the fourth, and with seven and a half minutes left, it was suddenly a 2-point game.

After leading the entire game, Turners now found themselves up by just 1 basket. And with their post-season life on the line, they could give up or dig in.

And they chose to dig in. They went on a 14-2 run which was capped off by Jalen Sanders stealing an inbound pass and putting it in the basket. Narragansett tried to get the points back by shooting threes, but Turners maintained a double-digit lead. With 2 minutes left, and a 75-57 lead, Coach Gary Mullins sent in his subs.

Jalen Sanders led the Tribe with 28 points. Josh Obochowski scored 15, Jeremy Wolfram added 14, and Tyler Lavin put up 9 points.

Tionne Brown had 7, Colby Dobias hit a 3-pointer and Nick Croteau popped in a field goal.

TFHS 61 – Greenfield 48

Turners Falls extended their winning streak to 2 games by defeating the Green Wave of Greenfield on Monday, February 1. Neither team could buy a hoop for more than 2 minutes of the opening period as shots bounced harmlessly off hoops.

Josh Obochowski scored the first field goal of the game, putting the Tribe up 2-1 with 2:09 played. Turners finally got into rhythm and scored 15 points by period’s end, but more importantly, they held Green to just 5 points in the quarter, 3 of which came from the foul line.

In the second quarter, Turners began to rack up fouls, and within a minute and a half of the buzzer, Greenfield was in the Bonus and

had pulled within 3 points, 15-12. Trailing by 4 points at the end of the second, Greenfield missed two free throws, keeping the margin at 4 points, 24-20.

The half ended as Jalen tried a full-court Hail Mary which got stuck in the rafters. The ball remained lodged there for the rest of the game.

The margin remained at 4 points, and the score was 28-24 midway through the third. It was anybody’s game. But with the game and the season again on the line, Powertown took over.

In that period, they held Green to a total of 6 points while scoring 18 of their own, leaving the score at 42-26 after three.

Turners increased their lead to 19 points in the final period, but with a 1:25 left in the game, Mullins again sent in his subs. Blue coasted to a 13-point victory, 61-48.

Four Turners players hit double figures: Josh Obochowski (16), Tyler Lavin (13), Kyle Bergman (10), and Jalen Sanders (10). Tionne Brown scored 6 points, Rick Craver and Jeremy Wolfram both hit 2-pointers and Colby Dobias sunk 2 free throws.

With six games left in the regular season, Turners will have to dig deep and continue to play the way they have been playing if they want to make it into the playoffs. Beat the teams they should beat, surprise the front runners and squeeze out victories in close games.

On Thursday, February 4, they travel to Hadley to play the undefeated Hopkins Golden Hawks; on Monday February 8, they go to Hatfield as they try for the sweep against Smith Academy; and on Thursday, the 11th, they try to avenge their 2-point loss to the 5-8 Frontier Red Hawks.

FRANK from page A1

at the highway department, reorganizations at the police department and water pollution control facility, last-mile broadband buildout, and possible progress toward a new highway garage, senior center, and library.

Police chief Chip Dodge has requested the introduction of a lieutenant position in his department, and wastewater superintendent Bob Trombley has recommended that, after his retirement, the department is reorganized under two heads.

“I need to get up to speed real quick on the budget,” he said Wednesday, “including the capital improvement process.”

According to Abbondanzio, the extent of the current gap between

revenues and requested expenses changes “depending on how you look at it,” especially given different ways the town can finance projects with debt, but he cited a figure of about \$921,000.

“When it really gets into it,” he said, “you’re able to sort of carve away and realize the things that contribute to that ‘million dollar shortfall’ may not be that desperate, or imminent.”

One positive development made in his absence, Abbondanzio said, was the progress toward the town’s last-mile broadband buildout. “We have a couple of proposals that are able to meet the 98% coverage, Comcast and Matrix – so, that’s great,” he said. “It’ll be up to the

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Application deadline is **February 8, 2016**.
Town of Erving is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

Motor Vehicles; Alarms

Monday, 1/11

5:50 p.m. Arrested [redacted] on a default court warrant.

Tuesday, 1/12

8:33 a.m. Report of child locked in a motor vehicle on Old State Road. Assisted same, vehicle unlocked.
1:13 p.m. Motor vehicle crash, Route 2 near French King Bridge. No injuries.
5:55 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with closing down roadway in area of Hillcrest due to motor vehicle crashes.

7:45 p.m. One-car crash on North Street. No injuries.
Wednesday, 1/13
4:50 p.m. Motor vehicle crash reported on North Street. Found to be in Northfield, handled by Northfield PD.

Friday, 1/15
10:15 a.m. Erving Paper mill requesting assistance with abandoned motor vehicle. Same will be removed by tonight. Paper mill advised.

Saturday, 1/16

9:50 a.m. Took report of hit-and-run accident on Pleasant Street.

11 a.m. Officer at French King Entertainment Center to take report of hit-and-run accident.

1:25 p.m. Report of motor vehicle driving erratically in the parking lot of Weatherhead's convenience store. Criminal application issued to [redacted]

for operation of a motor vehicle without a license or insurance.
6:50 p.m. Alarm at senior center due to power outage.

8:50 p.m. Carbon monoxide detector sounding at High Street residence. Handled by Erving FD.

Tuesday, 1/19

5:12 p.m. Report of chimney fire at Maple Avenue residence. Assisted Erving FD on scene.

Wednesday, 1/20
3:05 p.m. Stood by to

assist a disabled motor vehicle on Moore Street.

Thursday, 1/21

8:50 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle lockout at Weatherhead's. Access gained.

3:30 p.m. Took report of annoying telephone calls.

9:52 p.m. Assisted with disabled motor vehicle on Route 2, eastbound at Prospect Street.

Friday, 1/22

6:53 p.m. Assisted with disabled motor vehicle on Route 2, westbound near the French King Restaurant.

11:09 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle after revocation of a license or registration and operating without insurance.

Sunday, 1/24

3:30 p.m. Loose dog picked up by passing motorist on Route 2 in Erving Center. Animal control officer handled same.

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard and finance committee began their joint meeting Monday night by inserting revised budget spreadsheets into their fiscal year 2017 binders, and discarding the drafts changed since the previous week's meeting.

At the end of the January 25 meeting, where the board and fincom considered the general operating budget, the FY2017 expenses had appeared to be approximately \$400,000 greater than revenue. This week, the selectboard and fincom took up capital improvement requests (\$911,400) and other capital requests (\$36,460).

The board and fincom prioritized the capital requests from town departments and commissions, deleted specific items, moved items forward to FY2018, and funded other items from unused FY2016 account balances.

By the end of Monday's meeting, finance committee member Daniel Hammock commented, "We may have solved the issue of being out of balance."

Finance committee member Eugene Klepadlo added, "We're not in bad shape."

Fire Department

Fire chief Philip Wonkka agreed to cutting \$5,000 for fire department radios, and moving fire station door and window replacement (\$100,000) forward to FY2018. Wonkka, the board and fincom decided that unspent money in the FY2016 "pumper truck" line item could be used to fund the purchase of a brush truck (\$60,000), a fire department command and support vehicle (\$40,000), and one police cruiser (\$44,000).

These transfers would require town meeting approval, and will be considered at a special town meeting, set for March 7.

BROADBAND from page A1

broadband committee, which has been designated by the town selectboard to take the lead on the issue, has generally been more favorable to fiber.

They have requested that the state fund so-called "make ready" costs for the new system, which involves a costly "pole survey" prior to the cable build-out. They have also called on the state to extend Montague's current limited fiber capacity from the Turners Falls public safety complex to the Montague Center fire station.

The meeting on Wednesday afternoon in Greenfield was called by MBI, and according to its director Eric Nakajima, was designed to "listen to feedback" from Montague. He certainly got a good deal of feedback, particularly from Rob Steinberg who did most of the talking for the committee.

Montague Criticism

Steinberg was extremely critical of the Comcast proposal, which he said was "not accurate" about the number of unserved homes in town. The Comcast proposal claims it will serve 65 of 158 unserved homes, to reach the state target of 96% total homes served. The Matrix proposal counts 204 unserved homes, and says it will provide access to 173 of them.

The Matrix proposal, according

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Budget: "Not In Bad Shape"

ing, set for March 7.

Elementary School

School committee chair Scott Bastarache presented Erving Elementary School's capital requests, including upgrading wiring in the building, server and network upgrades, new computers for the computer lab, repair or replacement of a walk-in freezer, replacement of classroom furniture, repair of six doors, and work on the building's heating/ventilation/air conditioning system.

Bastarache, the board and fincom agreed that much of the funding could come from the school's "renovation" line item, if approved at the March special town meeting. They decided that a \$5,000 repair to the walk-in freezer was preferable to a \$30,000 to \$60,000 replacement cost. Bastarache agreed that the annual computer replacement funding should be increased, but agreed that increases could start gradually in FY2018 rather than FY2017.

Senior Center

Selectboard member Jacob Smith recommended that the \$23,400 in capital requests for the senior/community center be funded from the "senior center capital project" line item, which has over \$183,000 remaining.

Senior/community center requests include exercise equipment, a floor buffer, shed roofs for two exit doors, an ice machine, surround sound system and screen, planters, and a vinyl shed.

Other Requests

The board and fincom wanted more information about several requests, including \$25,000 for library roof repairs and \$135,000 for a new highway department backhoe.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said that it would be foolish to repair the current library roof if a new library is constructed and the old building is demolished. Selectboard chair William Bembury said he would inspect the roof with highway foreman Glen McCrory to determine whether the repair was needed.

Klepadlo said that the backhoe "is used only two months a year," and that the town should look into the cost of repairing the current backhoe. He suggested waiting until next fall when the town's free cash is certified to consider whether to buy a new one.

Former Usher Plant

Bembury reported that the state Division of Conservation Services (DCS) agreed that the \$32,600 cost for the owner's project manager could be funded from the \$775,000 Park Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC) grant for a portion of the former Usher Mill.

He said that DCS required replacing about 200 feet of overhead power line at the site with underground lines, which was not in the scope of the original project. The board decided to ask National Grid for a cost estimate for burying those power lines, and to fund the work from the grant.

Pipeline Technical Services

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) sent a draft scope of services for technical aid in assessing possible contamination and effects on public water and sewer infrastructure associated with the proposed Northeast Energy Direct natural gas pipeline.

Erving, Conway, Montague and Northfield each paid into a fund for FRCOG's consulting services regarding the proposed pipeline.

about that proposal's "viability".

He pointed out that Matrix had said it required 1,000 homes to make a buildout in the region viable. This would require agreements not only with Montague, but also with Hardwick and Petersham. Hardwick has applied to MBI for funds, and Petersham is currently in negotiations with Matrix. Nakajima asked what would happen if significant numbers of homes did not sign up for the service, even if the state funded "make ready" costs.

Under the Matrix proposal, Montague or its municipal light plant could purchase the fiber network after twenty years for \$10. Comcast would presumably continue to own its network under its current lease agreement with the town.

Nakajima also noted that the Governor's office had raised the issue of the financial viability of broadband proposals for smaller towns in the state. The Baker administration has asked for a "brief pause" in the program while his office reviews the program. The impact of this pause on the timeline for the Montague decision was not clear.

There was some discussion of the tone of Steinberg's emails to Nakajima in recent months, and the fact that these emails had also been sent to representative Kulik and state senator Stan Rosenberg. "It ends up coming off like burgeoning see BROADBAND page A7

FINES from page A1

McNeely said she had received "numerous complaints" about the fecal situation in downtown Turners Falls of late. She cited a section of the Fourth Street alley as a particularly dire location, as well as the canal-side bike path, G Street, and "most of the tree belts."

Owners caught not cleaning up after their dogs or cats will face fines of \$25, \$50, and \$100 for first, second, and third offenses. These non-criminal dispositions can be appealed at the district court.

Regular offenders, according to the 2010 regulation, may be called before the health board for a hearing, and face fines of up to \$1,000.

"People who pick up after their dogs are having their own dogs infected with worms and parasites," McNeely explained. "A dog who's just been vaccinated and dewormed can pick up hookworms from the person who didn't pick up after their dog, so it's a vicious cycle."

McNeely added that "older fe-

ces are more infected than newer, fresh ones. As the feces dry out the cysts and eggs, they actually become more mobile," washing into the surrounding environment with rain, and threatening non-infected children and animals.

She said that her office has received training in how to issue tickets, but that she anticipates resistance. "I expect a lot of flak," she said. "I don't have anything but a jacket that says 'Public Health' on it."

But, she said, her department will be able to identify animals, and their owners, through their licenses.

McNeely also discussed the possibility, which would have to be run by her "bosses" (the town's board of health), of deputizing additional residents to issue tickets on the department's behalf.

"There are two of us in the office, and we can't do dog duty all day," she admitted. "But we do need more sets of eyes - we may need surveillance cameras on some of those hot spots."



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Thank You to Election Workers

The Town Clerk thanks all of the dedicated election workers who put in long hours on Election Day to help our democratic process go smoothly.

Ideally, election workers are equally divided among the major political parties. This can be a challenge in a small town like Wendell

with 238 registered Democrats, 27 registered Republicans, 408 registered Unenrolled, 6 registered Green Rainbow, and one each registered as Natural Law Party and Libertarian.

If you are a registered voter in one of the less dominant parties, please consider working at the polls. We could use your help.

Dog License Reminder

It is time to renew your dog or kennel license. Licenses and tags are available between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and noon on Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, and 6 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday evenings. In bad weather, please call first to make sure the office is open.

The fee is \$4 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$8 for an intact dog. Every dog must have a valid rabies vaccination certificate presented to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing. If we have your certificate on record from last year, and it is still valid, you do not need to bring in the paperwork again this year. Dog owners age 70 and up, and owners with a service dog do not pay a fee, but must still

license their dogs.

If 4 or fewer dogs are under one ownership, the owner has the option to buy individual licenses or a kennel license for \$10. Five or more dogs constitute a kennel, and the owner must pay for a kennel license and be subject to the state inspection regulation. The kennel fee is \$25 if more than 4, but not more than 10 dogs are kept.

The dog license deadline is April 1. After that date, dog owners will incur a fine determined by the Dog Officer in consultation with the Selectboard, and only after an effort has been made to reach the dog owner directly for a ‘last chance’ reminder or explanation.

Annual Census – Street Listing

Please return by mail or in person your Annual Street Listing form to the Town Clerk. Don’t forget to have the head of household sign and date the form before returning it. Please correct mistakes, provide forwarding addresses for anyone who has moved away, and add the names and birth dates for any new family members including children of all ages.

If you used to get your mail delivered to your mailbox and are now using a post office box (or visa-versa), make sure the Town Clerk knows that. We are required by state law to verify and update the name, address, age, and occupation of all town residents.

Census responses are used as proof of residency to protect voter rights and veteran status, and to assist the Council of Aging with service projections, and the Swift River School with enrollment information and projections. Population figures are also used by the State to calculate state and federal aid monies to the Town.

Census data is also used to update the annual street list which is, in turn, made available to our police chief, fire chief, and our emergency management director to aid them in the daily performance of their duties. Census information about children under the age of 17 is not made available to the public.

If you are a registered voter and do not respond to the census, the Board of Registrars is required by law to move you to the “Inactive Voter” list which can put you at risk of being removed from the voter registration rolls altogether.

Please help us make the Annual Town Census as complete and accurate as possible. If you did not receive a form, please call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x102, leave your name and number, and we will mail you a blank form to complete. Mail all completed forms to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 41, Wendell, MA 01379, or drop them off in the black box in the town office driveway.

Presidential Primary – March 1

Your enrollment as a voter will affect the party primary in which you can vote at the March 1, 2016 Presidential Primary. There are 4 political parties in Massachusetts: D=Democratic Party; R=Republican Party; J=Green-Rainbow; and CC=United Independent Party. If you are enrolled in one of these political parties, you can only vote on the ballot for that party.

Voters who are U=Unenrolled in a party, and voters who are members of Political Designations (such as L=Libertarian) can choose which party’s ballot they would like to re-

ceive. In other words, everybody votes!

The last day to register to vote in the March 1 election, or change your party enrollment is February 10, and the Town Clerk Office is open that day from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Absentee voter applications are available and voter registration is possible in person, by mail, or online at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com.

On March 1, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Any questions about voting, please call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x102.

Town Election – May 2

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election on Monday, May 2 are available now at the Town Clerk’s Office. The last day to obtain nomination papers is Thursday, March 10, and the last day to submit nomination papers to the Board of Registrars for certification is Monday, March 14. Papers must be signed by candidates for re-election as well as new candidates.

The list of offices that will be on the May 2016 ballot include: Selectboard, Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Cemetery Commissioner, Road Commissioner, Constable, and School Committee all have one position open for a 3-year term; Planning Board has one position open for a 5-year term; Library Trustees has two positions open for a 3-year

term; and Moderator and Tree Warden each have one position open for a 1-year term.

Willing candidates are needed for the Board of Assessors, Road Commissioner, and School Committee.

There are also several vacancies on our Town Boards and Committees. Please consider submitting your name to the Selectboard for consideration of an appointment to the Community Garden Committee, Council on Aging, Energy Committee, Finance Committee, Hazardous Waste Coordinator, or Historical Commission.

For more information on elected and appointed positions, call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x102.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Wendell to Plant Flag in Boston

By JOSH HEINEMANN

As the Wendell selectboard was starting its January 27 meeting, board member Dan Keller announced that he had photographed the town flag as it hangs in the selectboard office. That high-quality image can be used to make reproductions, one of which will be sent full size, 4’ x 6’, to hang in the state house. Another could be hung in the town hall.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich did some checking and found several options of fabrics and prices. The town can choose whether or not grommets are included for hanging.

For the state house flag, she found a price of \$153, and the board members decided to get just one first and send that to the state house. More copies and other sizes can be made later, as needed, from the digital image, which will last and can be used again and again.

Town flags can be hung with the American flags that are put up for Memorial Day and stay up for the summer. Smaller flags for individuals are possible, as is stationery bearing the image.

Dead Phones

The Verizon switch box in Wendell has a battery that can maintain telephone service in town when electric service is cut off. That battery is dead, so when electric service is cut off, telephone service is cut off as well.

Verizon has not responded to a town request to get it replaced. Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that highway commissioner Harry Williston talked with a Verizon engineer who said he would be back, but so far the engineer has not been back.

Board member Jeoffrey Pooser said that situation is potentially a public health issue, and should be addressed more quickly. He suggested that Wendell’s public safety officers, police chief Ed Chase and fire chief Joe Cuneo, can open the box and connect a battery and not wait for Verizon. But the real solution, he said, is for Verizon to maintain their own equipment.

Infrastructure

In anticipation of setting the FY 2017 budget, the board discussed capital projects that the town might consider.

The first suggestion was the highway garage and fire station roof, which is ready for replacement, but that project should not start until there is a structural analysis of the truss system that supports the roof, a project that has been given to facilities engineer Jim Slavas.

Pooser said that each fiber-optic internet connection to a town building costs \$70 a month from Crocker Communications, and that there are four town buildings that are connected. He said that the police station gets its internet service with a signal sent through the air by Access Plus, at a cost of \$100 a month. That service is configured for police use, and Pooser thought the extra cost is worth paying. It is still a better deal than HughesNet, which cost the police station \$240 a month and gave worse service.

More Decoration

Carolyn Manley, town treasurer, had a scheduled meeting with the selectboard, and she was joined by Sylvia Wetherby, library trustee, and Rosie Heidkamp, the librarian.

The subject was not finances but four paintings by Wendell’s artist, Bob Ellis, which now belong to the town.

Wetherby said the library already has one Bob Ellis painting in rotation, and suggested that the four could be put in rotation. There are two blank walls in the selectboard office, and Manley said she could find appropriate places to hang them in the office building. She suggested reconvening the decorating committee that chose and located the pictures currently on display in the building.

Mea Kulp-a

Since the January 13 meeting, Keller responded to an email from David Kulp of WiredWest, and copied his fellow selectboard members on that response.

In that email he stated his concerns about the WiredWest organization and process, concerns that he has held for some time: namely, that the WiredWest proposal has Wendell and other member towns owning shares of the network, but not the hardware itself, for which Wendell would borrow and have to repay close to \$2 million. Meanwhile WiredWest, as an LLC, can borrow against those assets and put a lien on the entire network if its financial model turns out to be over-optimistic. The financial model, he said, is on a difficult and expensive program that has been a challenge for member towns to penetrate.

Keller said that in retrospect, he worried he might have acted contrary to the open meeting law by copying the other board members on that email. He said that he only wrote his own feeling, and there was no back-and-forth between him and other board members, only him expressing his opinion which he thought might be a starting place for discussion of broadband issues at a regular posted meeting.

Aldrich said that the legislature has passed three open meeting laws, and the result is “murky,” but that his actions did not seem to go against the open meeting law in her opinion.

Keller said he would like more clarity as to what the law allows, as in Wendell it is easy to run into other town officials just in passing.

Other Business

Board members signed a warrant for the Massachusetts presidential primary election, and constable Dan Keller posted it. The primary election will be held through the day on March 1.

As its nominal owner, Heard signed the Franklin County Solid Waste District’s inspection for Wendell’s Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS). The report calls for two signs to be installed, which the town will do after the solid waste district provides them.

Moonlight and Morningstar are holding two Monday evenings of Gospel singing, January 26, and February 1, in the town hall. A contribution is asked of participants. They did not ask to have the rental fee waived, and board members agreed to charge them the minimum fee.

FRCOG is attempting to form a five-member citizens’ advisory committee for the community development block grant (CDBG) aimed at improving houses up to codes. They prefer one person from a town.

Keller suggested that Nan Riebschlaeger has an interest in housing, and Aldrich agreed to send her an email request.

BROADBAND from page A6

open warfare,” Nakajima complained.

Kevin Hart suggested that this was done “in the spirit of transparency,” an explanation which did not appear to convince Nakajima.

“It’s a perverse position that [the MBI is] not going to act in the interests of the town,” he said.

In the end, Nakajima seemed open to the suggestion that the broadband committee move more quickly toward negotiations

with Matrix. However, he urged the committee to gather more information about the viability of the company’s business plan, and obtain stronger support from the Montague selectboard.

“If you guys are really set on this thing, get a selectboard vote,” he said. He also noted that he would have to report back to his own board, a public-private partnership called the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative.



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Downtown Sculpture Proposals Sought



TURNERS FALLS RIVERCULTURE COLLAGE

A flat greenish wedge is currently saving space for the public sculpture.

TURNERS FALLS – Turners Falls RiverCulture and the town of Montague released a request for proposals (RFP) for a public sculpture to be installed in the new pedestrian park on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street. The sculpture will be a permanent feature of the park, fitting in the planter, between the back rests of the benches, as shown in the photo.

A 10" round concrete footing will serve as a base. The amelanchier trees will be relocated from the planter to elsewhere, with future landscaping of the planter to be determined after selection of the sculptural installation.

The work must be able to withstand the weather, be very low or no maintenance, and not pose any safety hazard or obstruction. Criteria for selection include consideration for the creativity of the approach and how well the design might establish an identity for the park, which seeks

to overcome its local reputation as "the bump-out." Designers are urged to pay attention to the context of this sculpture in terms of the architecture, history, geography and culture of the immediate area.

The total award for the project is now \$6,000, thanks to Freedom Credit Union, which recently donated \$1,000 to increase the award from the original \$5,000. This amount is to cover design, fabrication, delivery and installation. An installment date of August/October 2016 is desired.

For deadlines, guidelines, review criteria, and information about the selection process, download the RFP from the Town of Montague website (www.montague.net). Click "Request for Proposals (RFP)" under Quick Links on the home page. Direction will also be on the RiverCulture website.

Proposals are due April 28.

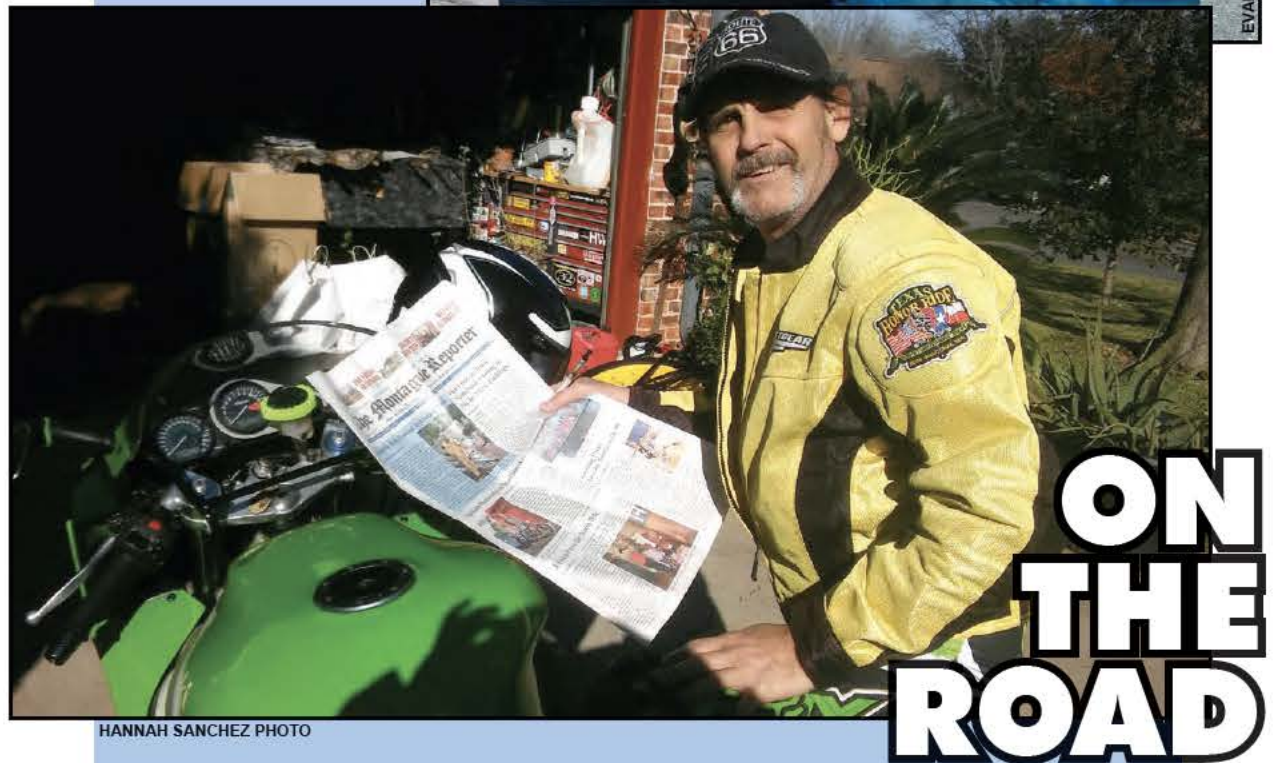
MONTAGUE REPORTER

At right:
Gill residents Juna and Oscar Gradick review the Reporter at the Pike Place Market in Seattle.

Below:
Andy Willingham of Austin, Texas checks out the news from Western Mass.



EVAN DICK PHOTO



HANNAH SANCHEZ PHOTO

ON THE ROAD

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YEAR 14 – NO. 16

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

FEBRUARY 4, 2016

B1

Concert and Art Show Honor the Roots of Jazz and Blues

By JOE KWIECINSKI

TURNERS FALLS – Two events of extraordinary significance will take place next Wednesday, February 10 at Great Falls Harvest Restaurant at 50 Third St. At 7 p.m. the multi-talented vocalist Vienna Carroll and actor-guitarist Keith Johnston will present *Folk First: Black Roots Music*.

The audience will be guided by Carroll on a tour of early African American folk music through Negro spirituals, traditional work songs, and prison blues mixed with verse from modern strains. “My music and stories,” said Carroll in press release materials, “challenge deeply held stereotypes of enslaved African Americans and explore how we freed ourselves. We present songs, lyrics, and rhythms that

show the direct relationships with popular rap music of today. Audiences, encouraged by our unique perspective and very fine groove, enthusiastically sing along.”

“Negro spirituals,” said Carroll, “used to express one’s deepest feelings of the heart, are less well-known to have served as warning and escape songs. We tell a story of escape using the spiritual *Singin’ Wid a Sword in Ma Han* and mix in the modern spiritual *Happy* by rapper and fashion designer Pharrell Williams.”

In addition, Vienna notes that traditional work songs kept the rhythm during repetitive, monotonous labor or announced one’s wares or services. “*Strawberries and Glory* links the work songs of Davy, an actual Underground

see **CARROLL** page B5



Men at work above the dam, harvesting New England's largest agricultural product of the time: ice.

By LEE WICKS

TURNERS FALLS – Some of the people who came to the Discovery Center last Saturday for a presentation on ice harvesting remembered ice boxes that were used to store food long ago, and came to the talk with devices that homeowners once put on their doors to indicate how much ice they needed delivered.

For younger readers wondering what an ice box looked like, they looked like pieces of furniture. They were usually made of oak and they had shelves and a metal lined container inside that held a block of ice.

Ice, harvested in January and February from local ponds and rivers, was stored in icehouses insulated with sawdust or hay. The remnants of one can be found at Unity Park.

By weight, ice was once the largest agricultural product of New England, according to Janel Nockleby, the visitors’ services supervisor at the Discovery Center. She said the earliest mention of ice harvesting in our area was in 1874 and the practice lasted until 1946. “Turners Falls was highly representative of

what was happening in rural New England and the rest of the country,” she added.

In planning the presentation, Ms. Nockleby found an artifact of ice harvesting at Rubin’s Auto when she went to have her car inspected. On the wall of the garage hung an old poster announcing the ice harvest and proclaiming “Men for Hire.”

Ed Gregory from the Montague Historical Society supplied photos of some of those men cutting ice from Green Pond and from the Connecticut River. It was cold and dangerous work first done with horse drawn wagons and later with machinery. Either way, the task required men to walk out on the ice, clear the snow, saw through the frozen surface and guide the floating ice chunks to a waiting sled that would carry them to the ice house, where another set of daunting tasks awaited.

Ms. Nockleby told the audience of about 25 people that sometimes sleds were overloaded, and at least one horse drawn team went through the ice and drowned.

In a short video we were able to

see how men (and at that time only men did this kind of work) guided the heavy ice blocks onto conveyor belts and then into the ice house where they were carefully arranged. The blocks had to be stacked closely but not touching, or melting would eventually turn the entire harvest into a single unusable block of ice. In one segment filmed near the end of ice harvesting’s history, two men worked side by side, both smoking cigarettes, a reminder of how times have changed.

“No OSHA laws back then,” Ms.

see **ICE** page B5



Jerome Howard delivers ice in the 1941 film “An Ache In Every Stake”

RECORD REVIEW

Bunwinkies’ Map of an Inner World

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Bunwinkies’ *Map of Our New Constellations* is a delicately contrived psych-pop journey through the Mystical States of America.

The album, which was released on Feeding Tube Records in 2011, feels like when you suddenly remember that great thing that happened way back. Or when you run into a forgotten old friend on the street. Or having overwhelming clinical nostalgia, but feeling unsure if it’s based in true personal history or just *déjà vu*.

Bunwinkies’ mainly acoustic instrumentation gives their songs the warmth of your favorite lamp. The songs often sound delicate, but with enough depth and earthiness to not be too precious.

The band’s glazed strumming on guitar, ukelele, autoharp, and the single-stringed Afghani rababa create a bead-curtain of sound, like a rhythmic aurora borealis.

A keyboard and squeeze box add a level of wholesome fun-times, reminding me of nothing more than playing “Contact” on Thanksgiving with seven competitive cousins.

Bunwinkies is Sita Magnuson, Jim Bliss, Mark Hanson, and Beverly and Shannon Ketch. The Ketches are married and live with their teenaged son in a small brick house overlooking Food City.

The band started playing together in 2003 when they all lived in Northampton. Beverly chose the name Bunwinkies, the title of a Victorian children’s story about rebellious youthful rabbits. The runner-up was Toy Potty, which Shannon has already called for his next band.

Bunwinkies is a lyrical band. Shannon and Beverly write all the lyrics, and their words are poetry. While Shannon has played with several other bands, including Crowbar Massage, the Supreme Dicks and Meathawk, Bunwinkies is Beverly’s first.

Beverly says she was interested in being a musician as an alternative to being a poet. “I quit writing poetry because I didn’t want to identify as one,” she says. “It’s psychologically crippling to say that I’m a poet.”

On the album, Beverly’s voice comes plainly through, without effects, like Mama Cass spaced out after minor dental surgery. It’s intimate, with long phrasing that binds the songs together, giving them a stream-like flow.

Many of the songs on the album are like still lifes – still lifes involved in glitter accidents, or those huge pictures at Vietnamese restaurants that feature lumines-

cent flowing waterfalls.

“Brilliant Winter,” with its icicle-y sounding autoharp, is a snowglobe of a family home. “William Cullen Bryant” is a postcard from summer, a snapshot of lying soporific under a great spreading tree. It’s the kind of chill dance song that makes one want to walk in a weird way.

In the song “Goshen,” Beverly captures the moment in which winter gives in to spring’s quietly hopeful phase. The lilting, expectant keyboard line that meanders through the song makes me think of slightly bewildered mammals, just woken up from their hibernation.

These songs are seasonal, reminding me of the longing and hope that I often feel for the next season. Other songs on the album are existential inquiries into our world and our lives.

Spiritual exploration and discovery is another theme. Seeking this type of knowledge has been an ongoing part of Shannon and Beverly’s lives, as they were both raised in very religious, Christian families. Shannon explains, “We’re both in conflict with religion, from different places.”

The upbeat waltz “Fool Clock” discusses the meaning of work, or more accurately, wage labor. Shannon describes the relationship we have with labor and

see **BUNWINKIES** pg B5



Bunwinkies, clockwise from top left: Shannon Ketch, Beverly Ketch, Jim Bliss, Sita Magnuson, Mark Hanson.



Vienna Carroll will headline the February 10 show.



By LESLIE BROWN

FLORIDA – Saturday, January 23. Even this far south all the talk is of the monster storm. Just to our North, Georgia has declared a state of emergency owing to an ice storm and considerable power outage.

Our local version was a big rain and thunderstorm on Friday, which cleared out in the late afternoon tumbling the seventy degree temperatures in a rapid manner. What had been warm, humid air became brisk and frisky, in the low forties when we awoke.

Now we are cloudy but dry. Tomorrow, however, will bring a return to warmer temperatures and sunshine while the rest of the East coast remains buried.

After regrouping from our trip down, we’re getting into hiking the state parks again. Tuesday we walk on the St. John’s River trail, and following our noses, find the Sulphur Springs. The water bubbles up beautifully clear if odorous. The plant growth and any random sticks or leaves are covered with a luminous blue growth.

Still, the water is populated with two kinds of minnows. The bottom feeders distinguish themselves with fluorescent blue/green near the tails.

The minnows darting just under the surface are striped. Both clearly survive, sulphur and all. Later we also see two deer and realize that they too must drink these odorous waters. Apparently we are the only fussy ones.

Fall foliage is not something we think of in connection with Florida, but indeed here it is. As we walk through woodlands primarily populated with palm, Loblolly pines whose twelve-inch needles cushion our path, and eucalyptus, we also see the red and yellow leaves of the Florida sugar maple and the sweet gum. These turned in November but still drape the trees although they are a bit tattered.

Monday, January 25. Warm and sunny at 67 degrees. We hike on eucalyptus leaves and pine needles in Dunn’s Creek to the Blue Pond, a lovely, calm pool in the middle of the woods. Dunn’s Creek itself is a large body we’d call a river, but one of that size is usually called a creek here. Rivers are very wide by comparison. Apparently there are no firm definitions for rivers, creeks or streams and may be so called by those who know them.

We are in an area filled with water in the form of lakes, ponds and bays. The Saint John’s River is eleven miles long and at its widest, six

see **GARDENERS** pg B3

Going South, Part 2

Pet of the Week

Why hello, my name is Lexi!
I came all the way from a shelter in Kentucky to meet you. I want an adult only home. Look at my smile!

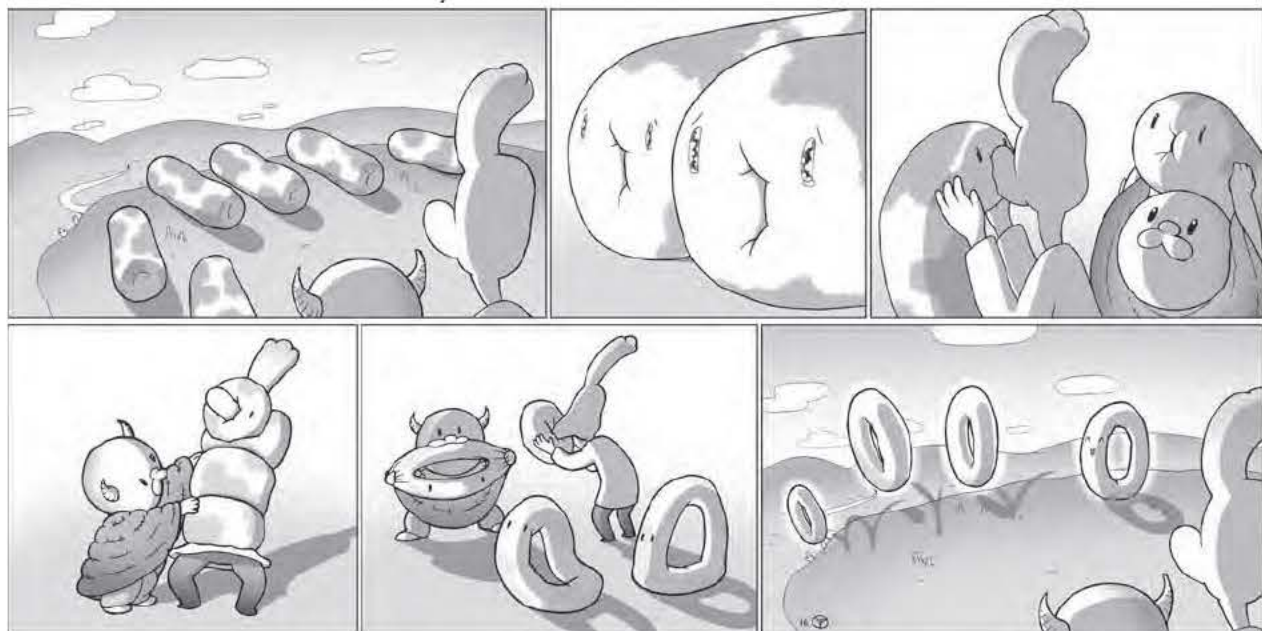


“LEXI”

I would like active and energetic dog friends. A staff member can check to see how I feel about cats. I am working on my housetraining. I would do best with a family that has some dog experience. A very active family would be best for me. I would like to do: snuggling, dog classes, hiking, and swimming. If I sound like a good match for you, come visit me today!

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at info@dpvhs.org.

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out overture.org.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Meetings, Stone & Song

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

MCTV staff have been very busy this week bringing you a full program of new videos. Tune in Monday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. for a live broadcast of the Montague select-board meeting – then Wednesday the 10th at 6 p.m. for the finance committee meeting.

Plus, check for the following clips on our website and in the TV schedule:

- *Circles in Stone: Art & Geometry of the Stone People 2016:* A presentation by Sarah Kohler on rich artistic traditions, nuanced earthworks, and sacred places of the Adena and Hopewell cultures, which can be seen in our own backyard. With an introduction by Loril Moonbeam.
- *Perception: Raymond Sebold 2015:* An hour filled with song. The last few minutes of the program give more background on

this musical theater production, put on in honor of Tony Barrand in Brattleboro, VT.

Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch and learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment!

Contact (413) 863-9200, info-montaguety@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

THE HEALTHY GEEZER

Heart Attacks: Part I



By FRED CICETTI

Q. If you think you're having a heart attack, should you take aspirin?

[Heart attack is a subject too vast for one column. We'll need three. This is the first installment.]

A blood clot in a coronary artery narrowed by cholesterol and other substances is the usual cause of a heart attack. Aspirin keeps blood moving through constricted arteries. Therefore, paramedics may give aspirin when they respond to an emergency to treat a heart-attack victim.

Aspirin reduces mortality from heart attacks. But taking aspirin is a subject you should discuss with your doctor. Aspirin could hurt you if your symptoms are caused by a different health problem.

Doctors call a heart attack a “myocardial infarction.” Loosely translated, the term means heart-muscle death. The clogged artery prevents oxygenated blood from

nourishing the heart. This can lead to pain, the death of heart cells, scar tissue and fatal arrhythmias.

About 1.1 million Americans have a heart attack every year. About 460,000 of those heart attacks are fatal. About half the fatalities happen within an hour after symptoms begin and before the victim gets to a hospital.

How do you know if you're having a heart attack? Here are six common warning signs:

1. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. It may pause for a while and then restart. The discomfort can be in the form of pain or pressure. Some experience a squeezing or feeling of fullness.
2. Pain in shoulders, arms, back, upper abdomen, neck and jaw
3. Shortness of breath
4. Cold sweat
5. Nausea
6. Lightheadedness
7. Anxiety

Angina pectoris is the medical term for chest pain or discomfort usually caused by coronary artery disease. Angina (pronounced “an-JI-nuh” or “AN-juh-nuh”) is not a heart attack. However, there's a higher risk of a heart attack if you have angina.

It is often difficult to tell the difference between a heart attack and angina. If you get angina, you

should get medical attention immediately. Exertion brings on angina. It's usually relieved by resting or taking angina medicine.

A heart attack can happen anytime—during exertion or at rest. Some heart attacks are like the ones you see in films and on stage; they're sudden and dramatic. However, most heart attacks build gradually over several hours. Many heart-attack victims have symptoms days or weeks in advance.

If you think you're having a heart attack, call 9-1-1 immediately. There are drugs that break up clots and open arteries; they work best when given within the first hour after the onset of an attack.

If emergency medical services are not available, ask someone to drive you to the hospital. You shouldn't drive yourself, unless you have no other choice.

While it may seem macabre, planning for a heart attack is intelligent. Having a basic plan in place could save time and a life. Map out your steps if an attack happened at home or at work. For example, decide who would care for any dependents. And discussing aspirin with your doctor in advance will give you a clear course of action if you have a heart attack.

If you want to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezee.com

Senior Center Activities FEBRUARY 8 to 12

GILL and MONTAGUE

Gill / Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m.

All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the Center is closed.

Tues, Wed & Thurs Noon Lunch
M, W, F 10:10 a.m. Aerobics, 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 2/8

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 2/9

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Valentine's Day Party

Wednesday 2/10

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

11:15 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 2/11

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Coffee & Conversation

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 2/12

8 a.m. Reflexology Appointments

1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free). Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and upcoming programs. Call the Center for a ride.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for activities and congregational meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

Monday 2/8

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

Tuesday 2/9

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

Wednesday 2/10

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks

Thursday 2/11

8:45 Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Cards; Creative Coloring

Friday 2/12

Market Trip (call for time)

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza, & Movie

12:30 p.m. Painting Class

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Sharon Cottrell
Property Manager

GARDENERS from page B1

miles across. It runs into the ocean at Saint Augustine and spreads into the broad lake called George or Welaka as the Timucua Indians named it, “chain of lakes”.

Tuesday, January 26. Many mornings begin at the forty degree mark. The heron hunch like academes in their robes and step judiciously. The pelican settles himself into an improbable ball and wraps his neck like a scarf.

In a couple of hours both spread their wings in the sun and await the return of the fishermen who will give them the leavings after filleting their catch. Similarly, the fishermen gather in the early morning and huddle in their jackets under the roof of the pier discussing the day ahead; then late in the afternoon gather over a beer to chat about the day.

Wednesday, January 27. We drive toward Bunnell until we find the hidden dirt road that leads to Haw Creek Preserve. There is an elevated walkway there about six feet above the swamp floor with outlooks to the creek itself.

There is an almost eerie silence there which is interrupted only by the sound of dead leaves dropping or the occasional song of crickets. We see the “knees” of many trees. The bald cypress sends these knobby protrusions up at intervals. Scientists are unclear as to whether these serve as oxygenators for the water bound trees or are grown to provide additional support for the tree. In any case, they are distinctive and curious.

Many trees in the swamp, palm and eucalyptus share space with ferns, grasses and Spanish moss with no apparent harm to their own growth. The whole picture is a bit phantasmagoric and made all the more so by thoughts of hanging snakes and alligators. Of course, we see neither and must be content with the jumping of fish in the creek.

We return to town ready for the Bantam Chef’s specialty: huge fish sandwiches of lightly fried whitefish, more than one can eat; one shared would have been more than enough. It has been a mild and slightly humid day. On the return drive to the cabin, we hear peeper frogs in the swamp, a sound we would have to wait for mid-March to hear at home.

Sunday, January 31. It’s all a bit unreal; I wake up every morning with that “pinch me” feeling. Yesterday, as we took our late afternoon walk we saw a dead copperhead snake on the road. That’s as close as we want to get. We are told they are rare around here, but we did see one.

The temperature will be around 70 degrees today. The blackbirds, starlings and robins who left us at home are here now mixing with the pelicans, egrets and cranes. The latter are so tame they walk through the yards of homes and along the roadside without fear.

The other day we watched a cormorant carrying a sunfish above its head as he moved through the water. When the pelicans showed an interest, he simply went underwater for several yards. When he surfaced, he did so at the end of a party boat, climbed aboard and slapped his fish around until he could line it up head-first and stuck it in his mouth. There were a few breathless moments, but the fish, after creating a huge throat bulge, went down the gullet.

At night I am dreaming scenes of my former work days. It seems my Puritan New England soul is finding this long vacation too lacking in employment. Of course, even at home the garden would still be on hold, as would the yard work.

Guess I’ll just have to work on my drawl a bit more and slow down gracefully into one facet of retirement. There’ll be plenty to do by the time we get home in March.



Entries Wanted: Poetry Contest

GREENFIELD – The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library are seeking poems for the 25th annual Poet’s Seat Poetry Contest, which is open to all Franklin County residents and students. Submit up to three poems. The deadline is March 7.

This contest has been sponsored by the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library annually since 1991. The competition is held in honor of Frederick Goddard Tuckerman who lived in Greenfield from 1847 until his death in 1873 and was considered by his contemporaries – Emerson, Thoreau, and Tennyson – to be a gifted poet. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he shunned law in favor of botany and writing poetry. Although he never achieved wide public acclaim, his poems are often included in anthologies of noted American poets.

Awards will be given in three categories: first, second, and third place in the adult division and the four top poems in the youth division – ages 12 to 18 (divided into 12 to 14 and 15 to 18 for judging).

In honor of National Poetry Month, the Poet’s Seat awards ceremony and poetry reading will take place Thursday, April 28, at 7 p.m. in the Capen room at Stoneleigh-Burnham School.

The adult first prize winner will receive stewardship of the Poet’s Seat chair, with their name on a

plaque listing all the previous winners, as well as a handcrafted Poet’s Platter, a gift certificate to a local bookstore and a night at the Poetry Ridge Bed and Breakfast. All other winners will receive a handcrafted mug along with a gift certificate to a local bookstore.

Here are the submission rules: Submit up to three poems. Number pages of multi-page poems. Indicate “Adult” or “Young Poet.” Young Poets should write their age on the front of the sheet where the poem appears, lower right-hand corner, circled. No identifying information on front of sheet, and no staples.

All poets, on reverse side of poem write name, address, telephone number and email address. Poems will not be returned. Submit on white paper, printed clearly in ink or typed in plain typeface. Include SASE for notification of receipt of entry; otherwise notification will be via email.

Only unpublished poems may be submitted. Previous first-place winners may not submit poems, though top-placing youth poets may re-submit when they enter a new age category.

Entries must be received by March 7, 2016 (postmarked). Mail to: Poet’s Seat Poetry Contest, Greenfield Public Library, 402 Main St., Greenfield, MA 01301.

For more information, contact Hope Schneider at 772-0257.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Drama Roils Family Dollar; Pugs Defecate On Roof; Neighbors Agree to “Work It Out”; Skaters Trespass

Monday, 1/25

1:22 p.m. Report of a road rage incident on Montague City Road. Caller advises that a vehicle passed her while she was driving the speed limit and appeared to try to intentionally run her off the road. Officers spoke with caller and with other operator, who gave a different account of events. Original caller advised of findings and satisfied with the outcome.
1:47 p.m. Caller from Randall Road advises that recently a sick-looking coyote has been coming into his backyard. The coyote is not there now. Caller advised to call if/when the coyote returns.
2:07 p.m. Report of 3-4 youths inside the skate park, which is still under construction. Subjects advised and left without incident.
8:06 p.m. Single vehicle accident on Old Northfield Road; caller believes she hit an icy patch in the road, causing her to lose control. Report taken.
8:22 p.m. Detail officer requesting an additional unit for crowd control at TFHS, where the game will be dispersing shortly. The crowd is getting “rowdy.” Units advised.

Tuesday, 1/26

10:04 a.m. Caller reporting a large outside fire on Country Club Lane that may be out of control. TFFD advised and on scene. Permitted burn; fire is under control and safe.
12:39 p.m. Officer checking the area of the transfer station for the coyote/coydog that has been frequenting the area. Area search negative.
1:04 p.m. Caller requesting to speak with the animal control officer re: a dead rabbit he found. ACO advised. ACO retrieved rabbit and will be disposing of it for the caller.
6:39 p.m. 911 hangup. On callback, spoke to a female party who stated it was a mistake; she was not sure what happened.

Wednesday, 1/27

12:09 p.m. Caller reports that she was running in the wooded area off East Chestnut Hill Road and heard what she believed were two dozen or more gunshots. Officer checked area and spoke to a nearby resident; nothing found.
1:03 p.m. Caller reports that there is a “beeping” sound coming from a trash can located near the bus shelter at Avenue A and Third Street. TFFD en route. Found to be a discarded smoke detector.

1:14 p.m. Officer reports that four parties were removed from the skate park still under construction. They all advised that they “accidentally missed” the “under construction” signs. Parks & Rec director notified that the fence on the First Street side is unsecured.
3:20 p.m. Party into lobby concerned for animal safety at a Third Street apartment building, where the second floor apartment has access to the roof. It appears that 2 small pugs or similar are being allowed to go out onto the roof at will, as fecal matter can be seen. Caller spoke to landlord of property, who advised that the tenants have been spoken to before about this after one of the dogs fell off the roof. Copy of call left for animal control officer.
6:43 p.m. Caller advises that a female party just came to his house, threatened him, and then punched him in the face multiple times. Caller stated he did not fight back and that this female was just a friend. Caller advises that friendship ended in September, and female was not invited into his residence. Female has left the area, possibly back to her residence in Gill. Caller declined medical attention. Report taken.
6:57 p.m. Caller advises that she was driving southbound on Route 63 almost to the crossover when she was passed illegally by a vehicle which then stopped in the middle of the road. Caller flashed her high beams. Vehicle then continued and turned onto the crossover, which the caller was also doing, pulled over, and put its hazard lights on. When caller stopped at the stop sign, the operator of the vehicle got out and came up to the caller’s window, knocked, and asked “Why were you high beaming me, ma’am?” Caller felt threatened and thought she could smell alcohol on

the male. Report taken; officers advised.
9:25 p.m. Caller from Randall Road advising that a male party on a four wheeler who has been asked before not to ride on this property just rode through to the trail. Caller requests that an officer respond to “catch him when he comes back.” Officer advised; caller advised to call back when the male is back in the area.

Thursday, 1/28

9:53 a.m. K9 unit requested to assist with locating an elderly female dementia patient who has wandered off in Deerfield. Cancelled en route; party was located.
1:38 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant and a default warrant.
6:50 p.m. General fire alarm at Southworth Paper Mill. TFFD found sprinkler problem and confirmed no fire.

Friday, 1/29

10:03 a.m. Caller from Oak Street reporting her year-and-a-half-old kitten missing. “Bailey” is white and grey; possibly got out yesterday afternoon. Caller advised this would be on record.
12:01 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road advising of raccoon curled up on his mulch leaf pile by the tree line. Animal is alive but not moving; caller found this to be odd. Animal control officer responded and advised that the raccoon was big and healthy; he was scared away. No problems.
12:11 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street advising that a male party pulled a knife on him this morning. Both parties spoken to and agreed to work it out as neighbors.
7:29 p.m. Caller advising of a possible structure fire near the White Bridge. TFFD and Greenfield dispatch advised. Greenfield FD found outdoor cooking fire at the last house on their side of the bridge.

Saturday, 1/30

10:39 p.m. Two officers almost struck by vehicle while walking along Avenue A; will have vehicle stopped. Units clear; party was spoken to about attentiveness in the roadway.
11:15 p.m. Passerby reported to officer that there is an irate customer at F.L. Roberts. All quiet on arrival.

Sunday, 1/31

12:42 a.m. Caller from L Street reports that he heard his car alarm go off, went outside and noticed the interior light is on and the inside of the car has an odor of cigarette smoke (caller doesn’t smoke). Officers checked area and found that several vehicles had been entered; nothing missing, no damage. Investigated.
6:37 p.m. Officer out with approximately 20 individuals at the skate park. Parties advised that park is closed at night.
6:42 p.m. Caller reports that she is attempting to quit her job at Family Dollar and cash out her register, and is being screamed at by her co-worker. Caller advises that there has been harassment and “drama” going on in the store among the employees. Advised of options.
7 p.m. Caller from Eagle Automotive requested to have on file that since the skate park has opened, he has had continual issues with people parking on his property and trespassing across his property to go to the skate park. Caller has been in contact with Parks & Rec department and with MPD officers, who have been helpful in attempting to keep trespassers out of the area after hours and off his property. Caller requesting that complaint be passed along to Chief Dodge; he will also contact Parks & Rec again. Caller advised to contact selectboard office if he felt that was appropriate.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was February 2, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Mass Highway “Not Inclined” to Rebuild Greenfield Road Bridge

On April 1, 1999, Jon Carlisle, spokesman for the Massachusetts Highway Department, said of the Greenfield Road overpass, “We certainly don’t want it to be closed for a year.” In retrospect that was one of Mass Highway’s more humorous comments about the demolished bridge.

The fact that Carlisle made the statement on April Fools Day, nearly seven years ago, has not escaped attention, now that his colleagues Albert Stegemann and Rich Masse have formally told the public Mass Highway would prefer not to rebuild the bridge at all.

On Monday, Stegemann and Masse addressed a crowd at the Great Hall of the Discovery Center, with the selectboard and heads of various town departments present. They looked uncomfortable.

“Mass Highway is not inclined to move forward with the bridge,” Stegemann said. “Mass Highway is unwilling to undertake the liability associated with the project.”

An extensive conversation about the site and other potential options followed.

Landfill Proposal Rejected

The town of Montague’s landfill committee has unanimously recommended rejecting the bid of Coventa Haverhill, the only vendor being considered for develop-

ing the town-owned landfill off Turnpike Road.

At its regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday evening, the selectboard voted 2-0 to accept the committee’s recommendation. The board will assess the feasibility of reopening the bidding at a later date.

According to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, Coventa Haverhill’s bid did not meet the minimal technical requirements of the RFP. However, neither he nor the landfill committee chair Emily Monosson would comment on the reasons underlying that decision.

“I am not prepared to discuss that tonight,” said Abbondanzio, who said the details would be related in due time, once the separate evaluations of each committee member had been collated.

Grand Opening At Gill Store

The Gill Store Grand Opening on Saturday, January 28, had it all. There were coloring contests for the kids, a contest to guess the number of candies in a jar, and a drawing for a gift certificate to the Gill Store. Around noon, people came in for soups, sandwiches, and tempting desserts. Wine tasting was from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Former owner Susie Maddern still works at the store, part time. On Saturday she zipped around as waitress and factotum.

Store manager Vicki Van Zee took time from her busy sandwich making to offer this reporter a cup of beef stew made with grass-fed local beef. It was delicious.

OYSTERGIRL's guide to REAL LIVING by Vanessa Query

By VANESSA QUERY

In my last lesson on the history of hygiene, I discussed the origins of soap and shampoo, which date back roughly to the dawn of recorded civilization.

Today, I’m jumping ahead a few thousand years to our relatively recent past to look at how our contemporary cultural approach to hygiene and personal care was formed.

A little over a hundred years ago several factors simultaneously emerged which made possible a truly dominant belief about cleanliness.

These factors were: the increased availability of indoor plumbing and hot water; the increased availability of soap; germ theory; and advertising.

Prior to this, being “clean” or “dirty” wasn’t necessarily a big deal either way. There were a certain amount of personal and subcultural preferences, but it wasn’t something that people gave all that much thought or discussion to. There was no “one right way” to approach hygiene practices, largely because having “good” or “bad” hygiene was not unequivocally linked with health or social status.

It had been, prior to this, but it changed every few centuries and was not always linked in the ways you may think. For example, after the first wave of the Black Plague, it was thought that washing with water caused the disease, so people avoided water like the plague – *rimshot* – for the next few hundred years. But that’s a story for another day!

Germ Theory

Before the discovery of disease-causing microbes, the reigning idea was “miasma theory,” which said that communicable diseases such as cholera, chlamydia, tuberculosis, and the aforementioned Black Plague, were caused by bad smells, stuffy air, and rotting material. Rather than hygiene and hand-washing, miasma theory caused public health administrators and health practitioners to concentrate on garbage, drains, and ventilation.

In the mid-1800s, Viennese doctor Ignaz Semmelweis suggested that delivery room doctors and medical students wash their hands before attending their patients. He was ridiculed.

But a generation later, “germ

theory” or “contagionism theory” was finally taken seriously.

Germ theory postulated that invisible-to-the-naked-eye microorganisms -- certain bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi, known collectively as “germs” -- caused disease. But before antibiotics were developed in the 1930’s and ’40’s, almost the only way to fight microbes was to wash them off with water and soap.

Dissemination of Germ Theory

Once this was learned, it trickled down to the masses through health care professionals, parents and teachers, and advertising.

Between the 1880s and 1920s, public health campaigns taught Americans about germ theory: that invisible particles were the causes of disease, and that sick people spread the germs that made them sick by things like coughing, sneezing, and failing to wash their hands.

The insidiousness and invisibility of germs terrified people, and heightened anxieties about hygiene. Those who’d only washed with water were now using soap regularly; those who’d been using soap discovered a new world of harsh pharmaceutical disinfectants, to acquire a surgical level of cleanliness.

Advertising

Soap; disinfectants: People came to need products to quell their newly-found fears. And, as a whole, Americans were becoming more prosperous, and could afford to buy them. And manufacturers were becoming innovative in developing products cheaply. This led to an increase in product availability and profit.

Advertising both benefited and was benefited by this surge in consumerism. Advertising – especially national advertising – was a whole new world. It had existed in some small form for centuries, but by the end of the 19th century, it was big business.

Originally, all soaps were essentially the same, so a particular brand’s advertising was mostly claims about general superiority. Brand awareness was drilled into consumers by celebrity endorsements, prizes, and catchy slogans and jingles.

As more and more people were getting clean for health-promoting purposes (and staying clean with frequent daily washing, an idea previously unheard of), the social aspects of hygiene became more apparent.

It became most obviously a class issue: if you were well-informed, had some disposable income, you were shiny and clean; so, any sign of dirtiness – either by sight or by smell – pointed to your being ignorant and poor. Good hygiene also meant you were a good citizen – doing your part to not spread those germs!

Product advertisement capitalized on these developing social customs, and cemented them. According to such new marketing campaigns, soap had the ability to make its users youthful, beautiful, and above all, sweet-smelling.

The Cleanliness Institute

In 1927, the Cleanliness Institute was founded.

#12: Hygiene History: The Shaping of our Current Hygiene Standards

The Cleanliness Institute was a trade organization devoted to instilling in Americans a belief in the supreme value of hygiene – and that there was no such thing as being clean enough.

It was supported by 80% of the country’s soap manufacturers.

The Institute used traditional advertising like magazine and radio ads and also “public service announcements” and classroom teaching aids.



“What do the neighbors think of her children? To every mother her own are the ideal children. But what do the neighbors think? Do they smile at happy, grimy faces acquired in wholesome play? For people have a way of associating unclean clothes and faces with other questionable characteristics. Fortunately, however, there’s soap and water. Bright, shining faces and freshly laundered clothes seem to make children welcome anywhere... and, in addition, to speak volumes concerning their parents’ personal habits as well.” This Cleanliness Institute (1927–1932) advertisement was addressed to “all members of women’s organizations in America.”

The focus of its teachings for doctors, nurses, health workers, and teachers was on germ theory. But for the general public, health issues were more or less ignored in favor of the social aspects of hygiene: soap would allow you to acquire status and money; in fact, it was essential for success. It would also help you find love.

Slogans included: “There’s self-respect in SOAP & WATER” and “What do the neighbors think of HER children?”

The Cleanliness Institute ended its tirade in 1932 due to the Great Depression. However, I think we can all agree that its teachings, and those found in the advertisements of the time, live on in our cultural conditioning today.

My sources for this piece were: *The Dirt on Clean: An Unsanitized History* by Katherine Ashenburg (North Point Press, 2007) and *The Gospel of Germs: Men, Women, and the Microbe in American Life* by Nancy Tomes (Harvard University Press, 1998).

Vanessa Query, aka Oystergirl, digs all things local and sustainable, and identifies mostly with the ancestral/paleo movement. She writes about food, movement, and more at theycallmeoystergirl.com. She welcomes responses and questions at oystergirl@montaguereporter.org.

FILM REVIEW

It Was “The Finest Hours”

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

I first found myself to be interested in seeing *The Finest Hours* because of a preview shown before another movie. It looked like an interesting drama about a Coast Guard rescue that happened a long time ago.

Then, when I went to see the movie *The 33* at the Hampshire Mall, I saw a movie poster for *The Finest Hours* that had a tagline which said “32 Survivors, Room for 12.” That made me even more interested in seeing it. I wondered if it was as incredible as the story that the 33 movie was based on – to me, that means people surviving when they shouldn’t have.

I was right. I won’t say how many people got off the tanker called the Pendleton alive. But let me at least state that locals in the seaside town where it happened found it to be incredible as well.

The Coast Guard crew were amazing throughout the movie. They had to deal with waves that took the roof off their boat and made them lose their compass. They kept going out there to help that crew of the tanker, which had literally split in half somehow.

I knew that this happened to the tanker from reading something online about this incredible rescue. But how it looked on screen was a sight to be seen. One crewman of the tanker had a reaction like “holy crap!”

The remaining crew of the tanker were incredible as well. They came up with a plan to buy themselves some time to be rescued. With much hard work, they managed to make what they wanted to happen work, so they could have time to be rescued.

We are also given a bit of a portrait of one Coast Guard member who was a part of the rescue, and his future wife. She asks him to marry her and he seems a little reluctant about it. He clearly likes her, and they are together a year later when the incident occurs. He is concerned about leaving her a widow. But she is there on the dock when he makes it back from the rescue, and they are married not long after that.

I saw a movie called *The Guardian*, which also featured the Coast Guard and gave me a decent opinion about them. But this movie leaves me very impressed.

What made this rescue more incredible was that it happened in 1952, as well as the whole “32 survivors, room for 12” thing mentioned in the ad. The boat that was used in the rescue has been restored, and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

The title for the movie, *The Finest Hours*, was well chosen, and I believe it describes the whole rescue very well. The Coast Guard in fact called the incident “the greatest small boat rescue in Coast Guard history.” I agree with that too.



Pears' Soap advertisement, c. 1880s

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Saturday, February 20: LuxDeluxe Returns to Full Moon Coffeehouse

WENDELL – Rising stars Lux Deluxe bring a new zest to classic Rock N Roll! Catch ‘em while you can!

The *Springfield Republican* calls Lux Deluxe “a near-perfect sound for just about anyone with ears.” Fun for a good cause.

Proceeds will help The Community Network for Children support local families by offering information and programs. It takes a village to raise a child!

The Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse is located in Old Town Hall in the center of Wendell, offering a lively night out for music, fun and dance; always in support of a good cause.

Come experience the Valley’s only Dessert-O-Rama in an affordable family-friendly venue.

Open mic begins at 7:30. Admission \$7 to \$15 at the door, sliding scale.

For open mic sign-up, directions and further information please visit our website: www.wendellfullmoon.org

CARROLL from page B1

Railroad conductor and fruit seller, to the patter of young men selling candy on the subways in New York City.”

“Our *Prison Blues* spoke about injustice, despair and bravado; they share lyrical purpose and rhythm with modern gangsta rap. *Parchman Prison Blues Medley* interweaves tunes from the Women’s Penitentiary of Parchman, MS with verse from (the late) hip hop icon Biggie Smalls.”

Keith Johnston served as Artistic Director of the American Theatre of Harlem for more than two decades as an art educator and in the development of its community arts program. He’s the musical director for this performance and serves as a Program Director for the CUNY Creative Arts Team.

Johnston is a musician who plays guitar, keyboard, percussion, and also sings. He plays with New York City bands and recording artists. Keith is also a stage actor who has appeared in “A View from a Bridge” and “Julius Caesar.”

Meanwhile, Vienna Carroll electrifies her audience with her sparkling rhythms and dazzling energy as a vocalist. She graduated from Yale University in 1976 with a bachelor’s degree in African American Studies and political science. Vienna is also a wonderful storyteller, playwright, and actress.

Although she has won many awards and earned much recognition, Carroll has continued her training over the years: jazz yodeling and rhythms with drummer Leon Thomas, vocalist for Count

Basie; blues harmonica and guitar with the late Olu Dara Jones (his son was, for a time, a perennial contender for top rapper on the East Coast); and African percussion with Edwina Lee Taylor, who is credited with opening the doors for women drummers for several decades.

Wednesday evening promises to live on in area people’s memories for a second reason. At 6 p.m. a gala opening reception will be held. It’s being entitled “Call and Response: Portraits of Influential African American Blues and Jazz Musicians.” Asked to paint a series of portraits of African American musicians fundamental to the evolutions of the blues and jazz, more than 30 local artists answered the call.

After being shown at The Rendezvous and the Great Falls Restaurant through February, the series will be shown in Brooklyn, NY at the Caribbean Literary Cultural Center. The Gill-Montague Regional School District will be the lasting home of the portraits, which will become a part of the local black history education curriculum.

Both the concert and art exhibit are part of a month long celebration of Black History Month sponsored by Turners Falls RiverCulture. Additional portraits of blues and jazz artists may be seen at the Rendezvous, which will host an opening and concert with Kim Kalesti on February 27. Keep an eye on these pages and on the turnersfallsriverculture.org website for news of upcoming events during the month.

The February events have a \$5 to \$10 suggested donation that includes appetizers.



Mysteries and Signs

Photography of the late 1800’s contained a process of making photos on lacquered iron called tintypes. This method was used to capture a wide variety of settings and subjects, as it required minimal drying time. It documented time both mysterious and mundane, from civil war battles to carnival souvenirs. All had an eerie other world feeling, as the final photographs seemed to appear and disappear in puckered and cracked black and white.

Using her Itouch, artist Ruth West set about creating a modern series that had the feel of historic tintypes while taking the process deep into her personal mythology. Printed on aluminum, in intimate sizes 6”X6”, these pieces contain West’s fascination for showing only part of a story. Gathered into a



collection called “17 Mysteries and Signs,” they are on view at Nina’s Nook in Turners Falls from February 4 through March 12.

In these pieces, subjects often have their backs turned to the viewer, or exist only in shadow. Locations are otherworldly. Words and signs appear as the focus of some

pieces, dreamlike in their format.

Says West: “These art pieces touch the non-verbal part that comes with seeing. Each piece hovers on the edge of a full story. Linear time is suspended by mysterious, dreamlike elements offering glimpses of a story that is just out of reach.”

Ruth West is an internationally recognized artist who has been working with digital art for the last 30 years. One of the first two graduates of the University of Massachusetts with a Masters of Fine Arts degree in Computer Graphics, Ruth West’s art has grown steadily along with her chosen medium, digital art. She works with digital collage, flash interactivity, and web design.

BUNWINKIES from page B1

religion, and how they create tension in our lives. “Either people go completely to sleep,” he says, “or they go crazy.”

“Ooo Wee” is a song about America, comparing our lives to wind-borne seeds. I imagined this being like the seed of the milkweed, or like that huge cottonwood by the bike bridge.

Shannon explains that in Buddhism, and many other traditions, it is believed that we all have a seed, the last part of our spirit to leave our bodies, which we carry into our next life. On this track, the shimmering brushwork on the cymbals, and the mourning whale song of the rababa, give me the feeling of being lonely on the Greyhound bus, after riding

for 24 hours in tornado alley.

Shannon says this song was written after “a premonition that my spiritual death will be in New England.” He reassures me that this doesn’t necessarily mean death-certificate dead. “It’s not a negative thing,” he says. “It’s the next thing coming.”

I’m living in a heightened state of nostalgia as I prepare to leave town for five weeks. I experience *Map of Our New Constellations*, with its camp-y, weird family-folk sound, as like a montage of Montague, in the two summers and winters I’ve lived here.

I always experience these edges of life with a feeling of waking up, of having one’s vision cleared and sharpened, and that’s the same feeling that I get from the sense of

wonder in Beverly Ketch’s voice, and in her words.

Some say the world is sick, mean, and sad. Bunwinkies says there’s wonder in the seasons, and in natural objects, and that’s a way that we can choose to experience the world – in cultivating our perception of beauty and notions of what human life is, we can change our own experience.

Map of Our New Constellations is an emotional audio atlas to the roadside wonders of our everyday.

You can buy the album at Feeding Tube Records, or at bunwinkies.bandcamp.com/album/map-of-our-new-constellations, or stream it on Grooveshark or Bandcamp. The band has been slowly recording its second record, which it hopes to release by the end of the year.



DINING FOR A CAUSE

The Ninety Nine Restaurants
Invites You to a
Fundraiser to Benefit:

The Montague Reporter

Date: Wednesday February 17, 2016

Time: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Ninety Nine Restaurants
17 Colrain Road
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Come and enjoy a night out with friends – gifts and a great raffle!

Present the voucher below at this fundraiser and the Ninety Nine Restaurants will donate 15%* of your Guest check to the organization.

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DINING FOR A CAUSE

BENEFITING:

DATE:

TIME: 5:00pm - 8:00pm

LOCATION:

Ninety Nine Restaurants, Greenfield
17 Colrain Road



Coupons, discounts and promotions including “Kids Eat Free” will not be accepted during the fundraiser. Present this voucher to your server when seated as this is required for the organization to receive credit for the sale. *Donation is 15% of sales (excludes tax and gratuity). Only valid on date, time and location stated above.

ICE from page B1

Nockleby said, as we viewed men guiding tons of ice down slippery chutes using iron poles. No helmets. No protective clothing. In fact some men in the icehouse stripped down to tee shirts because the work was so arduous.

Ice harvesting changed the way people lived in the early 1800’s when Frederic Tudor of Boston, who became known as the “Ice King,” vowed to supply ice around the world. He started with shipping ice to London, and ultimately sent ice all the way to South America, where an industry developed to then store the ice in giant icehouses. Sawdust and hay were used for insulation.

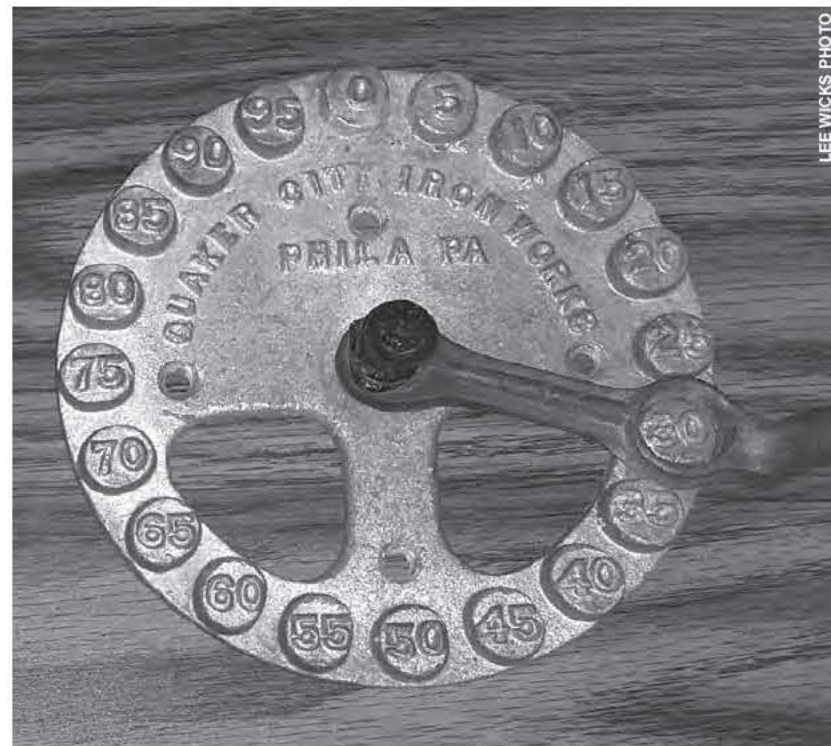
In combination with the rise of the railroads, ice made it possible to transport food from distant locations without spoilage. What was called the “cold chain of world-wide food distribution” marked the end of eat-

ing only what could be produced and harvested locally and consuming those products in season.

In its time the harvesting and distribution of ice was what we now call a “growth industry.” According to the website, www.iceharvesting-usa.com, in 1879 the total consumption of ice in the United States was estimated at 5,000,000 to 5,250,000 tons. By 1900, over 10,000,000 tons of ice was used annually.

The industry was also a testament to human ingenuity. Tools and machines were invented and produced in response to the need; some might have been manufactured nearby, and a few were on display at the Discovery Center on Saturday.

Some local winter festivals include demonstrations of ice harvesting, depending on the weather. Those who are interested should check out winter carnival schedules for additional details.



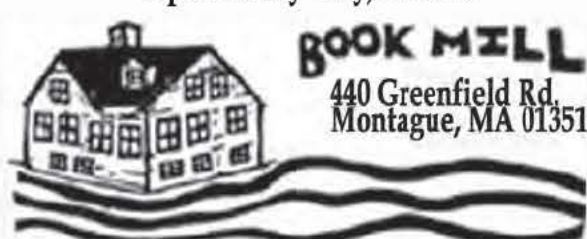
LEE WICKS PHOTO

This strange object, on view during the talk, was a tool used by households to place their ice order.

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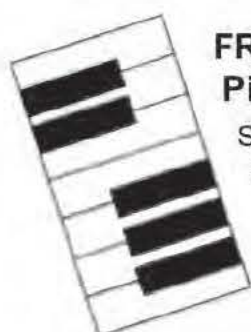
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Solving Mysteries in the Snow



Track patterns reveal behavior. Here in thin snow on a frozen pond the trail of a trotting gray fox paralleled by that of a loping fisher. The two events did not occur at the same time.

By DAVID BROWN

Who hasn't wondered what animal made those tracks that cross our own on a crisp winter morning's walk in the woods with a fresh cover of dry snow? Was it a dog, or was it a coyote? A fox? And since there are two in our part of the country, which one, a gray or a red? Such curiosity can lead the nature lover into the newly rediscovered and increasingly popular art and science of animal tracking.

Animal tracking can be a non-invasive way of learning about the lives of wild animals that hide from us in foliage and in the night. There are three parts: finding, then identifying what was found, and finally, interpreting for behavior what was found and identified.

In snow, the finding part is easy. Tracks in the snow are obvious dark spots contrasting with white. We may be surprised at how often they are found on a walk in the woods when, without them, the forest in the winter seems silent and vacant.

In non-snow seasons, finding can be trickier and more artful, since animal signs blend with the background. Sooner or later every beginning tracker has the learning experience of looking at a patch of ground that seemed void of animal evidence and suddenly having something – an obscure print, a scat, a strand of fur, a porcupine quill – suddenly materialize like magic before his or her eyes.

The habit of close observation is an ac-

quired talent, requiring only that the tracker spend the time to build up a mental catalogue of search images with which new evidence can be matched.

Identification used to be more difficult, mainly because the images in the early books on animal tracking tended to be highly imaginative. It was not until Olaus Murie, a biologist for what would later become the US Fish & Wildlife Service, set himself the task of carefully recording with pen and ink the tracks and scat of wild animals he encountered, that the task became easier.

Recent books by Paul Rezendes, Mark Elbroch, myself and a few others, continue this tradition of accuracy so that today the novice tracker has an array of trustworthy guides to help him or her get started.

The payoff for the tracker at the end of the process is learning how to interpret what he or she has first found and then identified. This may be a matter of looking at a pattern of tracks in the snow and recognizing the gait the animal was using.

Various species tend to use particular gaits for certain purposes and knowing what these gaits look like allows the tracker to set the still image of the animal which was presented by the identification stage, into motion in the mind's eye. Thus the tracker can recreate with fair accuracy the event that he or she encounters after the fact.

This requires no intrusiveness: no darting with powerful drugs and no mechanical attachments to the animal. A little skill at interpreting can save a lot of time, technology and expense.

If you have a scientific idea you'd like to write about, a science-related book to review, an activity to advertise, or would like to share your experiences with science or any related field, please be in touch: science@montaguereporter.org.

Lisa McLoughlin, editor

The re-created event then helps to answer the ultimate ecological questions: What was the animal doing and why was it here?

Ecology is one of those buzzwords that has been used so liberally that at times it seems to mean little more than 'concern for nature.' Properly used, however, it is the study of the relationship between an organism and its environment. For the tracker's purposes this means studying how a wild animal interacts with its habitat.

Discoveries about the hidden life of wild animals that such study reveals are the ultimate goal of "eco-tracking" or "ecological wildlife tracking." This process is much like that of a forensic specialist on CSI. Like a detective, the tracker uses his or her observational skills, intellect and imagination to reconstruct an event from often scant evidence.

So get a good book or take a program with an experienced tracker-naturalist this winter and see what you can find, identify, and interpret.

David Brown of Warwick is the author of several publications on wildlife tracking including his latest book: *The Next Step: Interpreting Animal Tracks, Trails and Sign*. He offers year-round tracking programs in the Quabbin region through his website: www.dbwildlife.com.

APP REVIEW

iHike (for iPad)

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

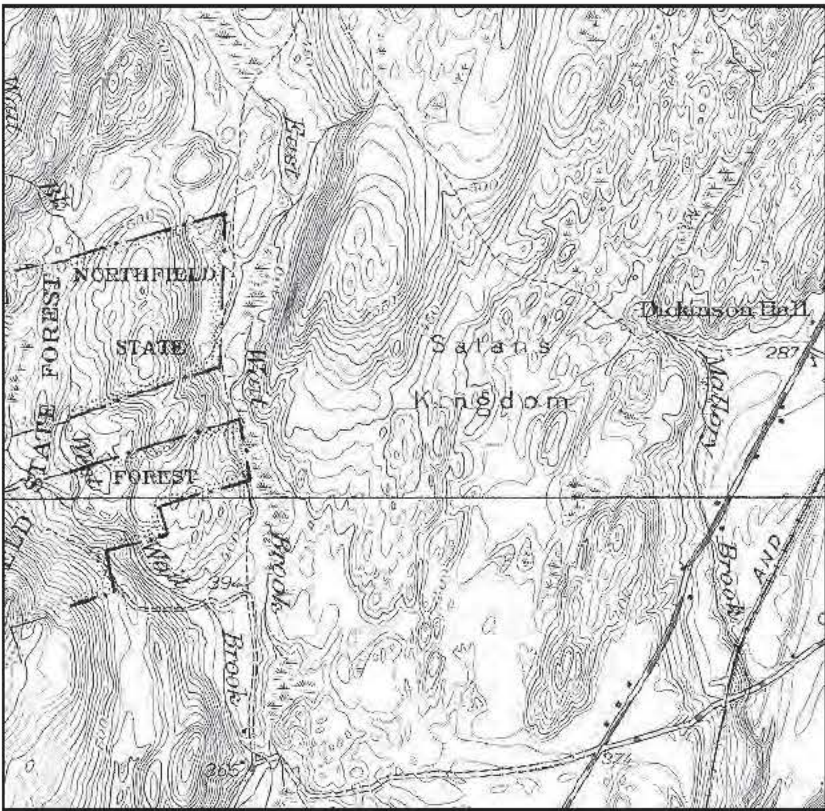
I spend a lot of time in the woods, and would really rather not take tech with me except when I'd like to head for a certain spot on the map. Then there's nothing like having a good topo along. The iHike app (from www.ihikegps.com) tracks my location on free, downloadable US topo maps.

I can save the track, and add waypoints to the map. I can also view my track showing distance and altitude changes.

A feature I especially like is that my location is shown by a dot with a gray line indicating the direction in which I'm pointing the iPad. I am embarrassed to say how often that comes in handy.

While there are many good free GPS hiking apps out there, this one was recommended to me by a veteran trail blazer, and I think it's well worth the \$20.

If you have a great science/nature-related app, please share: science@montaguereporter.org



Moon Calendar for February 2016:

Note how many Mondays are Moondays this month!

Monday, February 8: New Moon
Monday, February 15: First Quarter
Monday, February 22: Full Moon

On February 4, the earth will be half way between winter solstice (the day with the least sunlight in our hemisphere) and vernal equinox (the day with equal amounts of light and dark).



Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC).

BOOK REVIEW

Braiding Sweetgrass

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants, by Robin Wall Kimmerer. (Milkweed Editions, Minneapolis, 2013).

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Dr. Kimmerer is both an academic biologist and a Native American who studies plants and their traditional uses within her culture. The weaving together of these two viewpoints provides a unique, trans-cultural perspective on natureculture.

Braiding Sweetgrass explores the strengths and weaknesses of a "purely scientific" viewpoint as we traditionally understand that term in the West, and how science could become more effective and stronger as a discipline by incorporating other ways of knowing.

Kimmerer writes beautifully, and this science book reads like a series of short stories. She visits wastelands that are re-generating, which leads her to question the definition of native and invasive.

She speaks from personal experience of rejuvenating a pond, and planting native crops. Throughout the book, grounding it, are the themes of cultivation, gardening, and our responsibility to the earth and to each other. This is a very enjoyable read, and as many of the examples are local to the Northeast, it could change how you see our corner of the world and beyond.

NatureCulture Events

Women in Nature: Tracking and Animal Signs

Sunday, March 6 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: High Ledges in Shelburne, Massachusetts

Activity level will be moderate, but not strenuous. Participants should be prepared to spend the day outdoors. A clothing list and directions to the meeting spot will be sent upon registration. Program Cost and Registration: \$75

This program is offered through the Community Education department at Greenfield Community College. To register for the program, please go to the following link:

greenfieldcc.3dcartstores.com/Women-in-Nature-Tracks-and-Animal-Signs_p_1049.html

Quabbin Tracking with David Brown

Saturday, February 20 at 9:45 a.m.

Quabbin tracking programs meet in the country store at the Petersham common.

Quabbin Reservoir is surrounded by a huge protected watershed of forest, field and beaver ponds where human intrusion is light and wildlife abounds. Even in marginal tracking or birding conditions, a day spent in this "accidental wilderness" refreshes the soul.

Register by February 16 at: www.dbwildlife.com. Program cost is \$35 per person.

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ONGOING EVENTS:

EVERY SUNDAY

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music, 10:30 a.m.

ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

Wagon Wheel, Gill: *Wagon Wheel Word*. First week of each month. Monthly poetry reading, often with special guest poets. 6 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Outside the Lines!* Last Monday of each month. Adult Coloring Group. Supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

EVERY TUESDAY

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 - 4:45 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children with Mez, 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. For ages 0 to 5 and their caregivers. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 a.m.

The People's Pint, Greenfield: *Derek Bridges*. Live acoustic guitar. 7 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls:

Watchdog Open Mic. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories and hands-on arts & crafts. 10 a.m. to noon.



On Friday, February 12, at 7 p.m., David Fersh will perform in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery Center. David Fersh presents a concert version of his recent album "Songs of Peace, Protest & Spirit." The coffeehouse takes place in the historic Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee, baked goods are available. The museum and museum store are open during intermission. Suggested sliding scale donation \$6-\$12, free for children. Donations help the Friends of the Discovery Center provide free nature programming for the public.

CeCe's Chinese Restaurant, Turners Falls: Traditional Native American and improvised Asian flute music featuring *Eric Wolf Song*. 6 to 6:30 p.m. Free.

The Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present*. Louise Minks and Belinda Lyons Zucker presents large paintings by Minks and sculpture by Zucker. Opens 2/2 - 3/31. Reception 2/7 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. Part of the *Black History Month: Music and Diversity II* series of February programs. Winter hours, Wed-Sunday 10 to 4 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *17 Mysteries and Signs* by Ruth West. Tintypes for the Digital Age. February 4 - March 12.

Salmon Falls Artisans Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Life After Life* by

Ken Kipen. Images depicting the forces in nature. Until 2/15.

Shelburne Falls Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *The Red Show* Plus special Valentine's gifts from our jewelers. Group show, 1/27 through 2/22.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh-Burnham School. The 2016 Winter Art Exhibition will feature the artwork of Turners Falls artist Fafnir Adamites, who works in feltmaking, papermaking and other traditional craft processes to create large paper sculptures and installations. Through 2/17. For more information, please visit sbschool.org or call (413) 774-2711.

Leverett Library. Take a photo, draw a picture, write a poem, riddle or paragraph about a place in Leverett. Challenge others to figure out where it is through your work. Deadline 3/15. Info at www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Eric Love* 60's and 70's gold. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*, 8 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne: *Poetry Reading* by Abbot Cutler and Penelope Scambly Schott. 7 p.m.

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Night* to benefit the Opioid Task Force. Free popcorn, discounts, \$5 to plat. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, Americana-ana. 6:30 p.m.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Rebecca Hartke*, Cellist. Elegance and rhythm in Bach and Tango. 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Belle of the Ball*: Tracy Walton and Julia Autumn Ford. Bad Ass Indie Folk Duo. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*. Reggae Fantastico! 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Kristen Ford*. "Murf"-funk, punk, folk, gold. 9:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *"Odd Thomas."* Film. Fry cook with paranormal secrets. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Annual 6x6 Exhibit*. Reception, 11-2:30 p.m. See exhibits listing.

The Arts Block, Greenfield: *Tracy Grammer and Jim Henry*. "Pristine alto vocals, spirited fiddle, entertaining stories, and guitar work that is both punchy and intricate." 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hillary Chase* CD release party. Original Indie/Folk. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Jimmy Just Quit*, 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *From the Woods*. Groove based Americana. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits of African Americans, Past and Present*. Louise Minks and Belinda Lyons Zucker presents large paintings by Minks and sculpture by Zucker. Opens 2/2 - 3/31. Reception 2/7 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic Caba-*

ref. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, Turners Falls: *Call and Response Art Exhibit* opening and concert with *Vienna Carroll and Keith Johnston*. Art, music, story telling from 6 to 9 p.m. Portraits of important African American blues and jazz musicians done by area artists on view. Part of a month long celebration in honor of Black History Month sponsored by RiverCulture called Music and Diversity II. See feature article in this issue. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*, Southern string band. 8 p.m.



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Thursday, 2/4 - 8 p.m.
Eric Love

Friday, 2/5 - 9:30 p.m.
The Equalites

Saturday, 2/6 - 9 p.m.
Hillary Chase

Sunday, 2/7
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Mon. Open Mic!

THURS. 2/4 8pm FREE
Falltown String Band

FRI. 2/5 FREE
6:30 Uncle Hal's C-G Band
9:30 Kristen Ford - Murk (funk/punk/folk - GOLD!)

SAT 2/6 9:30 \$3
From The Woods (groove-based Americana)

SUN 2/7 FREE
TNT Karaoke 9pm

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The Skatepark is Open



ED GREGORY PHOTO

Ed Gregory sent in this photo he took Sunday of an unidentified skateboarder practicing a backside grind at Unity Skatepark. There will be a grand opening later this spring, but the park is open for anyone to ride during the day. Be safe!

SUCCESSFUL RECOVERY

Joe was a worldly kind of guy, living the night life. He was introduced to crack cocaine. A few years later he could no longer manage his addiction, cleaning out the family bank account, arriving at a hotel with the intent to end it all. In a very few short years he had reduced his life to ruin, misery, addicted to drugs. He felt suicide was the answer.

What would be the answer?
How would you stop the madness?

The Bible says:
“Call to Me and I will answer you,
and show you great and mighty things,
which you do not know.”
(Jer. 33:3)

Let’s set aside everything, take a moment, find a safe quiet spot. Ask Jesus Christ to save you, grant you a new life, remove the addiction from you.

Today Joe enjoys a relationship with Jesus Christ. He is still married, works, and serves in his church. God saved his life, how about you?

This is as written.
We are Calvary Baptist Church in Turners Falls.
God’s blessings are yours.

Winter Also a Spectacle and Art Show

By EDITE CUNHA

SHELBURNE FALLS – The Winter Art Show and Celebration opened on Saturday, January 30 at the Art Garden in Shelburne Falls, a community-supported art making space. The indoor/outdoor event was a collaborative community effort co-directed by artist and Art Garden director, Jane Wegscheider with board member Laura Iveson. But, as Jane says, “many people helped make both the inside and outside happen. [It was a] huge labor of love.”

The outdoor part of the event was the village’s first ever winter celebration, held on the Trolley Museum’s expansive rail yard. There was a bonfire, and luminaries lit the way through the darkness towards the indoor exhibit. Along the way, the night was transformed here and there by light and imagery created on or within the Trolley Museum architecture and the historical treasures there.

On the side of one building floated a huge and



JAMES SMITH PHOTO

Some of the many works of art focusing on the theme of “Winter” currently on view at the Art Garden in Shelburne Falls.



PHYLLIS LABANOWSKY PHOTO

Persephone holding the Spring, a life-sized shadow puppet made by Laura Iveson, Jane Wegscheider, Samantha Crawford and Jumi Sbois for the “Winter” art celebration at the Art Garden in Shelburne Falls.

colorful shadow image of Persephone holding the Spring. And one ancient trolley was lit up from within, revealing through its windows, a tableau of life-sized passengers in silhouette, many of them recognizable as actual members of the community. A tunnel of colored lights on winter trees arched over the access ramp into the building, bringing the night’s visitors in to the light and warmth of the indoor exhibit.

Inside was the art show depicting many ways of seeing or expressing winter: 54 pieces of work created by over 30 local artists of all ages.

Also inside were musical performances by Arif Leninger and board member James Smith; poetry reading by Jean Varda and poetry by Janice Sorenson read by board member John Hoffman. Crowning the performance line-up was the story of Persephone as told by Greenfield storyteller Jay Goldspinner, in the voice of Hecate.

While the outdoor spectacle was for opening night only, the inside exhibit of artwork remains on display through March 21, and may be viewed during the Art Garden’s regular open hours, Monday through Saturday, from 1 to 5 p.m. The Art Garden is located at 14 Depot Road in Shelburne Falls. For information, contact (413) 625-2782. or CSArtgarden@gmail.com.

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