

**FEATURED POET:**  
**TRISH CRAPO**  
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**BIKING UP  
A BIG ONE**  
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**JUNE 27: MONTAGUE  
DEBT EXCLUSION VOTE**  
**JUNE 28: SPECIAL TOWN  
MEETINGS IN GILL & ERVING**



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 36

also serving Erving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 23, 2016

## STATE CHAMPIONS!



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

*Jenna Putala hits one to the outfield fence for a double, Turners Falls' sole hit during their state final victory.*

By MATT ROBINSON

**WORCESTER** – On Saturday, June 18, the Turners Falls Softball Indians won their second straight D3 State Championship, defeating the Austin Prep Green Cougars 2-0. It was the eighth state championship for Powertown, and their third in four years.

Unlike the regular season, Turners' bats were mostly silent in the final game, but through crisp defense, smart base running and sheer determination, Blue successfully defended their title.

The game was a pitchers' duel right from the get-go, as both hurlers

see **CHAMPIONS** page A8

## Whitewater Company Makes Offer on Historic Cumby's, Anticipating Deeper River

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Over 25 years after taking it by eminent domain, the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) may have found a buyer for the long-empty, single-story structure at 38 Avenue A known locally as the Cumby's building. The EDIC has accepted a proposal from Crab Apple Whitewater,

a Maine-based river recreation company with a facility in Charlemont, to purchase the property for \$30,000, and plans to negotiate a land development agreement (LDA) with the company in coming weeks.

"It's going to be a multi-year process," said town planner Walter see **WHITEWATER** page A3



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

*The long-empty structure could soon be put to use for adventure.*

## How's it Going, Honey Bees?

By AIDAN BELANGER

**GILL** – Beekeeping made its way into my life through school.

Seniors at Four Rivers, the charter public school I just graduated from in Greenfield, are required to do an independent study project called a Senior Expedition. I'm interested in environmental science, and recent publicity on colony collapse disorder had me thinking about bees: are they actually endangered? How difficult would it be to keep them?

A friend's dad is a beekeeper, and after talking with him and self-educating about the world of bees through reading beekeepers' guides, I started keeping two hives of Russian honey bees myself in Gill.

When I started my hives it was a grey, drizzly day in May. I drove to Warm Colors Apiary in Deerfield. In Dan Conlon's warm, yellow studio turned beekeepers' outlet, I picked up two packages of bees, boxed in wood and screen.



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

*Our reporter, properly suited up, checks in on one of his hives on Tuesday.*

I decided to drive with the packages in the footwell of the passenger seat as to not risk them sliding in the trunk, but risked a sting while driving since a couple had found their way out. I thought of this as an initial test of my beekeeping mettle, and I took the opportunity

to introduce myself and trust their complacency during the ride, as I knew this would be the beginning of a long-term relationship.

Over the next month and a half I have watched the bees grow, and developed a familiarity with their

see **HONEY BEES** page A6

## Montague Seeks Voter Approval for Repairs to Storm Drains, Hazmat Removal at Strathmore

By JEFF SINGLETON

This Monday, June 27, the polls will open in Montague so voters can weigh in on funding two key infrastructure projects. One will finance cleaning and repair of storm drains and siphons that carry storm water under the Turners Falls Canal and into the Connecticut River. The other will fund hazardous waste remediation at the town-owned Strathmore mill complex, which sits between the canal and the river. These votes are both Proposition 2-1/2 "debt exclusions."

What is a debt exclusion, and how does it differ from a property

tax override? Both are mechanisms that allow a city or town to exceed the annual property tax of so-called Proposition 2-1/2, a 1982 state law that limits total property taxes in a city or town to 2.5% of total assessed valuation. An individual homeowner's tax can exceed 2.5%, but the total "levy," comprised of the taxes of all homeowners, must stay within that limit unless local voters override it.

A "Proposition 2-1/2 override" simply raises the tax limit by a certain amount, often to fund a budget shortfall. The tax levy – the total amount collected – remains at the

see **DEBT VOTES** page A6

## A GRAND OPENING



*Skaters compete in last Saturday's Best Tricks competition at the Unity Skatepark grand opening. Above right: It takes a village to cut a ribbon. Below right: Joanne Ellis reacts to the unveiling of a memorial to Winter Clark, Chris Gallagher, and her son Greg Ellis.*



MIKE JACKSON PHOTOS

## How the Skatepark Memorial Came to Be

By BRYAN DOLAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – This is mostly a story about Dillon Rogers.

I first met Dillon at the adult dodgeball tournament at the High School in 2011. For some inexplicable reason, the skatepark committee fielded a team that year. Dillon would have been eleven years old at that time, but – again, for some inexplicable reason – he ended up on our team.

Now he's a 16-year-old machining student at Franklin County Tech and a rabid,

battle-hardened skatepark supporter. He did the lion's share of the fabrication, but it took many skilled hands to get it done.

John Kopera came up with the idea of three boards leaning against the fence at a committee meeting, and it was well received by all. Cool.

Now how do we make it? Could be a bronze casting... nope, too expensive and prone to theft. Okay, stainless steel powder, coated black to look like the grip tape on a skateboard, then engraved through the

see **MEMORIAL** page A2



## State Doubles Down on Support for Comcast

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – The Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC) weighed in this week on the controversy over extension of broadband cable to unserved parts of the towns of Montague and Hardwick. In a review published Monday, DTC commissioner Karen Charles Peterson said her department sided with the preference by the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) for a proposal by cable giant Comcast, despite heated lobbying by officials in both towns for the MBI to accept an alternate plan submitted by Matrix Design Group.

The DTC will host a public meeting at UMass-Amherst this Thursday to discuss its review. At stake is \$5 million the MBI is tasked to disburse to subsidize the buildout of

see **BROADBAND** page A4



# The Montague Reporter

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## Recreation, and Recreating



*"I don't really like feeling like a tourist, so I try not to spend much money here."*

It seems like it was only recently that "recreation" was a word tacked on, as an afterthought, to the kinds of vision statements, master plans and grant applications local officials pass around like screenplays. "Art" was always the main idea. After all, the loveliest out-of-the-way spots you run across seem to be just teeming with it.

Take Hudson, New York, a sleepy river town where seven thousand people live and where they used to gamble and make special wheels for trains. Hudson has managed to get enough antique stores and galleries to become a kind of tiny art moon in New York City's orbit, the kind of place certain world-famous performance artists want to build museums for durational works in. Couldn't any other little town?

When we build on artists, we're actually building on either the purchasing power of artists' patrons, or the patience and largesse of their parents. There's only so much of either to go around, and both depend on economic ups and downs; if your town has attracted a lot of artists during a prolonged recession, they may just have been looking for a quiet place to drink and play darts.

Back in 2003, a study of Erving's Usher Mill complex, built a century ago as a furniture factory, concluded it might be used as housing for seniors, a point of recreational access to the Millers River, restaurant and retail space, or "arts and crafts studios." Thirteen years later, with a state grant in hand, the "re-use committee" is gearing up to break ground for the property's first new use: a riverfront park.

Downstream in Millers Falls and Turners Falls, a quiet influx of middle-class new arrivals, some of whom appreciate or make art, may be shoring up the housing market, but large questions of the re-use of industrial space have gone unanswered. Montague voters are being

asked Monday to pitch in for clean-up at the old Keith Paper property, a bit of a museum of durational performance in its own right, but empty and publicly owned.

Downtown Turners now has six or seven places to eat hamburgers, shops that sell gemstones, up-cycled factory detritus, and stuffed slugs, its own "nonprofit, print-only newspaper," and a microbrewery. But the most exciting changes underway are squarely recreational.

The newly improved Unity Park is a gem, with playgrounds, ball fields, exercise stations, and an incredible skatepark that's already attracting athletes from far and wide. Montague should be very proud of what it has built.

Recreation connects with commerce: just as a store that sells specialty bicycles benefits from the bike path, Route 2 has spawned a third local motorcycle shop, this one focusing on vintage machines; next to it, another shop now sells skateboards and equipment, and gives lessons on its own half-pipe.

Now it may be the river's turn.

In the mid-1990s, relicensing of hydro plants along the Deerfield River allowed an expansion of rafting there. It also led to regulation that made the Deerfield the only river in Massachusetts to require commercial whitewater outfits to compete for special permits.

But the Connecticut is still a free-for-all. Should the terms of First-Light's relicensing make the river commercially viable for whitewater tours, we might see overcrowding if similar regulations are not put in place. Conservation and recreation are well aligned – until they're not.

In a similar manner, tourism can benefit locals, until it doesn't. Our towns can make a great gateway to natural habitat. But we should be deliberate, and make sure the impact of recreational tourism stays positive for all those who live here.

MADELINE LAPORTE ILLUSTRATION

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**MEMORIAL** from page A1  
powder coating so that the writing is shiny stainless on the black background. Perfect.

Who fabricates artful stainless steel skateboards, does powder coating, and also engraving? Nobody.

Looks like we're off the map and on our own. That's okay though, we're resourceful and we live in an incredibly generous community.

Deerfield Valley Re-Fab gets us some 1/4" stainless plate, but we need it rough cut before we bring it to the Tech School for the next step, but that's not in the budget. No problem. They cut it for free, and wish us luck on our worthy project. Nice.

Off to the tech school! Dillon and I talk to his machining teacher, Mr. Pomaineville, about our wacky idea. He says it's possible, which is a huge relief, but we'll have to talk to the welding shop about bending the boards at the nose and tail. Okay.

In the welding shop, Mr. Edwards points to a grey, semi-trailer-sized machine and assures us it won't be a problem. Dillon takes the rough cut stainless, mounts it on a CNC mill – not easy with odd shapes and dimensions that push the limits of the machine – and does something to do with G code and tool paths. The machine cuts out three skateboard silhouettes, along with one memorial plaque and two donor plaques.

Back in the welding shop, Isaac and a few other student fabricators use the giant iron machine to effortlessly bend up the noses and tails of the thick steel boards as if they were soft lead.

After a little light grinding, they're off to West Side Finishing for sandblasting and powder coating. Wow, what a facility! When we pick them up they are flawless, and they insist that it's on the house. Good dudes.

Now for the tricky part. The part that's measured in thousandths of an inch. We need to engrave the names in the boards, the text on the memorial plaque, and the list of donors that Anne Harding and David Detmold scoured eight years' worth of records to compile onto the donor plaques.

That's a lot of engraving, and any error puts us back to square one. To complicate matters, the steel isn't perfectly flat, so Dillon has to use .001" thick shims to position it so that the writing doesn't fade out at the low spots. To further complicate matters, the odd shapes are awkward to clamp to the machine, so Dillon and Mr. Pomaineville deploy some arcane subtleties of workholding incomprehensible to mere mortals like us.

Dillon writes programs, finds the right cutting tools, calculates the optimum feed spindle speeds, checks and double checks spelling and punctuation, fits the text to the piece, registers the piece in the machine, checks the



FCTS student Dillon Rogers, with the finished memorial.

spelling again, and we're off.

Many hours of CNC machining later, the boards and plaques are done. Perfectly. Every operation precise, all variables accounted for.

Now we need some stone for the plaques... Did I mention that it is now the Thursday before the Saturday when they are to be unveiled? Yeah. No time to mess around.

If you're looking for stone, Jack Nelson is your guy. He sets us up with some marble slabs that had served as the nonconductive interior wall surface of the old power station. He also loans us his awesome stone-cutting saw and rotary hammer. A class act, that Jack Nelson.

Stone is cut and beveled, old electric wire holes are matched symmetrically to become bolt holes, and the plaques and boards are mounted. So far, so good.

Friday evening, we stake the memorial into some of the literally thousand tons of tightly compacted red trap rock gravel that Mackin Construction donated to the park project, and attach the donor plaques to the 800+ pound antique granite foundation stones, courtesy of the aforementioned Jack Nelson, who found them and patiently stored them in his driveway for like a year, until Shana-han's Building Supply moved them into the place from which Tim DeChristopher would later move them again to a slightly different place.

Saturday afternoon, the memorial was unveiled. Now we have a fitting tribute to Chris, Winter, and Greg at a skatepark they would have been proud of.

Like the skatepark itself, the memorial is an example of our exceptional community coming together to produce something greater than we have any right to hope for.

*Bryan Dolan, the proprietor of Dolan Casework on Third Street in Turners, is a member of the Unity Skatepark committee.*



Letter to



the Editors

## Energy Discussion Was Contentious, But Officials Agree On Goals

We write in follow-up to the report of last week's meeting of the Leverett selectboard and energy committee.

While the reporter captured some of the tone of the meeting – what diplomats call a ‘frank exchange of views’ – he missed the amicable conclusion, in which the selectboard accepted the committee's recommendation for a three-option approach to green electricity aggregation for residents of Leverett.

The Leverett energy committee has been researching options for ‘greening’ and aggregating electricity supply, in accordance with a series of four town meeting votes on these topics. Last week's meeting was to present a near-final set of committee recommendations to the selectboard.

The board had questions about certain interim reports from the committee, and wanted to examine remaining ambiguities. The choice of aggregator involved questions of reliability, flexibility, local economy, and past record of advancing green energy. In the course of exploring these issues, discussion sometimes became contentious.

At no point were the energy committee and the selectboard at odds over the basic issue: the need to support development of new sources of renewable energy through a system of municipal aggregation. The only question was how to decide between two potential aggregators brought forward by the committee.

The meeting concluded with agreement on a plan to invite formal bids from the two aggregators. The town administrator has initiated that process. We look forward to a speedy resolution that will meet the concerns of town meeting by responding to environmental and cost impacts of electricity usage.

During its two years of research on these issues, the energy committee has given consistent scrutiny to the details of each aggregation proposal and to the track record of their promoters. The goal has always

been to ensure that the final selection – made in cooperation with the selectboard – actually and reliably produces results that will best serve Leverett's desire to save money for its citizens on their electric bills, while being responsible for making green energy choices that support the best climate crisis strategy.

We proudly remember that the broadband committee was cited for its “heroic” efforts. We are confident that the energy committee's long and careful process will provide another example of Leverett as “exceptional” in its ability to take on and solve difficult issues for the benefit of its residents.

After the aggregator decision is made, the energy committee will hold a series of informational meetings in town about the new options before us.

Regards,

**Peter d'Errico**  
*Chair, Leverett selectboard*

**Portia Weiskel**  
*Chair, Leverett energy committee*

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Great Falls Discovery Center** summer hours are now 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week.

Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street in Turners Falls, is having a **Giant Tag Sale**, rain or shine, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday, June 25. There will be furniture, housewares appliances, toys, books, old records and tapes and much more. You can fill a bag for \$1 between noon and 1 p.m.

There will be a **solar information session** at the Wendell Library on Saturday, June 25 from 10 a.m. to noon. Vendors will be present to talk about their offerings and current opportunities.

Learn about the Massachusetts Solar Loan Program, and why now is a great time to buy solar for your home or yard.

Learn how to stencil for free on Saturday, June 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Whitney Hill Antiques, 102 Main Street, Greenfield.

Certified Custom Stenciler Pamela J. Lester, trained in the Adele Bishop methods, will demonstrate how to stencil, discuss the tricks of the trade, and let you try it yourself.

The demonstration is the start of many events planned at Whitney Hill Antiques; watch for vintage costume and English Tea events soon. Saturday morning there is also a tag sale behind the store on Conway Street, with plenty of free parking.

The Great Falls Discovery Center continues to present **Kidleido-**

**scope**, a program to introduce you and your child or grandchild to the variety of wildlife that lives along the Connecticut River. Stop by the Great Hall in the Center on Saturday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 for an hour of stories, interactive games, and a critter-related craft that kids will be sure to enjoy.

The program is ideal for ages 3 to 6; siblings and friends are welcome to attend. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

The topic for Saturday, June 25 is "bees and flowers," in honor of Pollinator Week. Come learn more about this very important insect.



Yael Pachino PHOTO

Local artist John Landino will discuss his battle with esophageal cancer at Greenfield Savings Bank this Saturday morning.

Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls presents "Cancer: A Personal Trip" on Saturday, June 25 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Join John Landino, a cancer survivor, as he takes you on his three-year battle with cancer, a battle that he almost did not win! Landino

wants to share his powerful journey as a lifeline for anyone touched by cancer, other life-threatening illnesses or trauma in general.

Bring along someone who might need an injection of support from a wonderful man who has remained positive through his entire ordeal, often times with a spoonful of humor to help the medicine go down. Light refreshments provided by GSB. No reservations required.

And more on Saturday: Montague Congregational Church, in Montague Center, will be having a **Strawberry Supper** on June 25 at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy a dinner of baked stuffed chicken breast, gravy, rice, salad, veggies, breads, coffee, tea, and milk, and of course, strawberry shortcake.

Dinner will be \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Walk-ins will be seated as space allows. To make a reservation or order meals for take-out, please call 367-2184.

Rob Fletcher will lead a **hike of Poplar Mountain Trails** on Sunday, June 26 from 10 a.m. to noon to kick off the Erving Public Library summer reading program.

The hike is recommended for ages 6 and up. Bottled water and granola bars will be provided. Please call the library at (413) 423-3348 to sign up and get starting location directions.

A big fashion show is planned for the Shea Theater on September 24 – an outgrowth of the Lost and Found Fashion Shows at Suzee's Laundromat in years past.

**Sewing workshops** for budding fashionistas are planned throughout the summer in Turners Falls. Learn to alter clothes. Try a new sewing technique. Teach a workshop! All supplies and sewing machines are provided and every skill level is accepted. Just bring friends who like to have fun!

The first workshop is scheduled for this Sunday, June 26 from 2 to 5 p.m. at Cosa Rara, 111 Avenue A. Additional workshops will be held

on July 10, August 14 and September 11. For more information see [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org).

The Gill/Montague Regional School District **Summer Meals program** begins Monday, June 27 for students 18 years and younger. Breakfast and lunch will be served for free, Monday through Friday, at sites including the Sheffield School and Turners Falls High School cafeterias, Unity Park, Millers Falls' Highland Park and the Brick House.

See the listing on page B6 of this edition for more details.

Turners Falls' Carnegie Library presents "**Life Underground**" on Tuesday, June 28 at 10:30 a.m., as part of the Summer Reading program.

Many creatures call the underground their home for all or part of their lives. We see and admire trees, but we see only part of them. Underground, their roots interact in fascinating ways. Explore these many facets of the underground biosphere with nature and science educator Kevin Kopchynski.

The **Friends of the Montague Public Libraries** will hold their annual meeting at the Carnegie Library on Tuesday, July 28, from 6 to 6:30 p.m.

Immediately following the meeting, local historian Ed Gregory will offer an interactive visual program showing the **Upper Fall River Dam** and its environs.

The program is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served, courtesy of the Friends of the Libraries.

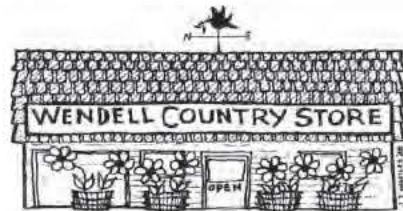
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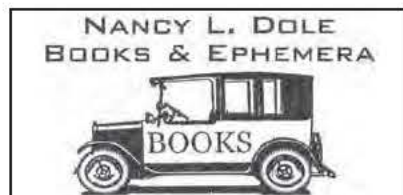


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**WHITEWATER** from page A1  
Ramsey. "It's going to take a partnership between the town and whitewater operation to make it work."

Crab Apple owners Frank and Jennifer Mooney met earlier this month with the EDIC to discuss their plan.

"We're looking at the possibility of being able to run raft trips here on a regular basis," Frank Mooney explained. The company, which usually leads expeditions on the Deerfield River, has been exploring operations in the "bypass reach" of the Connecticut – the section between the Turners Falls dam and Cabot Station – during windows of time that FirstLight Power Resources allows enough water in the river, such as the annual drawdown of the power canal for maintenance.

It has been leading tours of the stretch, putting in just below the dam and fish ladder, shooting Class II rapids near Rock Dam and rafting to the Poplar Street access in Montague City.

"The feedback is unbelievably positive," Mooney said. "You start in an urban setting, you go around one corner – they're blown away."

"It's a great, different perspective of your town," he added.

FirstLight is in the middle of a five-year federal relicensing process, and environmental and recreational

advocates are united in their hopes that a new license in 2018 would require the company to allow more water to flow through the river.

Crab Apple has proposed to purchase the 2,200 square foot "Cumby's" building outright, and put \$50,000 to \$60,000 worth of renovations into it over the next two years, including a new roof and facade.

If the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's decision on the hydro relicensing is favorable to whitewater rafting on the bypass stretch, the company plans to build a new addition and go into full-scale operations on the site. This second phase of renovations would require a site plan review.

"Is it practical for what you're proposing, for your first phase, to go ahead and make the investment?" asked EDIC member Don Valley. "You're saying it will change – you're that sure of it?"

"I think, environmentally – there's no way it's going to stay the status quo," answered Frank Mooney.

"We would be willing to take that risk now," added Jennifer.

"It's a big contingency, the details of which we would be working out as we negotiate the LDA," Ramsey told the *Reporter*.

"I think we've got a great proposal here," said EDIC member

Richard Ruth at the meeting. "We've got a great opportunity to enrich the town, and also for these people to get a move on. It all hinges on whether [the Department of Conservation and Recreation] wants to say yes or no."

Operating with a scant quorum of its seven members – Valley, Ruth, John Furbish and Moon Morgan – the EDIC voted 3-0, with Valley abstaining, to write a letter of support notifying DCR of the proposal.

The EDIC was formed in 1984 as a quasi-independent agent of the town's economic development strategy. It was instrumental in the land deals that led to the Great Falls Discovery Center, and took the land with the stated public purpose of creating a park dedicated to environmental and cultural education.

Cumberland Farms, the corner lot's former owner, fought the taking in court from 1990 to 1996. The building served for a time as offices for the EDIC and U.S. Fish and Wildlife, which later moved across Second Street into the Crocker building.

The Discovery Center, a museum dedicated to the Connecticut River watershed, opened to the public in 2004, but the parcel at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street has proved a persistent loose end, and is the last property the EDIC owns.

During the museum's develop-

ment, a deed restriction was placed on the lot specifying that it must be put to cultural or community use. In 2012, the town negotiated an amendment to its agreement with DCR to allow for commercial reuse, according to town planner Walter Ramsey, "as long as it's consistent with the goals and intent of the Discovery Center concept."

The site was identified in the town's 2013 Downtown Livability Plan as a "prime site at the gateway from Gill and Route 2," and a top redevelopment priority.

Popular proposals for the building in recent years have included a Native American cultural museum, headquarters for Montague Community Cable, and demolition. Its lawn is currently used for a weekly farmers' market, and this year the EDIC leased a section of it as seating for the Country Creemee.

Crab Apple Whitewater's proposal, according to Ramsey, is seen by the EDIC and the town as meeting the requirements of the DCR agreement. "It involves environmental education and tourism, one of the main drives behind the [Discovery Center] project," he said. "The proposed design is aesthetically compatible with the Discovery Center, which was another requirement."

"It should coordinate quite nicely with the Discovery Center – sup-

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porting tourists if they're going to use the river. They're going to go to the Discovery Center first, and then actually go out in the river and learn about the habitat."

Ramsey added that "in the meantime," the town "will be looking at recreational tourism impacts. There're some lessons to be learned from Charlemont, out on the Deerfield river – we want to make sure the town's prepared for it."



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## NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

# School Committee Supports Idea of Police Officer At High School, 7 to 1

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – “The mere presence of a police officer in a school prevents violence,” Montague police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge told the school committee at its June 14 meeting. Dodge presented a proposal to staff the Turners Falls High School with a resource officer, a position that has existed in the past, but has not for several years.

Dodge said he would like to apply for a federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) grant, which would cover 70% of the cost of a resource officer for the first three years of employment. In the fourth year, the district would be responsible for the entire salary. Members of the school committee had some concerns about this.

Dodge said he would need approval from the towns, and said the grant is very competitive, but that he wanted to be sure he had the support of the school district and the towns before moving ahead with the application.

Describing the duties of a resource officer, Dodge said he had seen the effectiveness of the resource officer at the Tech School, and felt that was a good model for Turners Falls High School. He assured committee members this would not be so much a law enforcement position, “They don’t look like a police officer,” he explained. “They dress down.” He said the position was more of a liaison between the police department and school administration, and a role model for students.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan provided the school committee with a copy of a draft job description prepared by the Greenfield Police Department as an example of the types of duties and responsibilities they could expect a resource officer to perform. Dodge emphasized that the school district would determine the role of the officer in the school. “There’s a lot of violence in our society,” he told committee members. “We want our teachers, and precious children, to feel safe.”

Leslie Cogswell asked if the officer would be available to other schools. Dodge said they could be if needed, but that the officer, who would be a police department employee, would mainly be in the high school.

The 25% of the officer’s sal-

ary not covered by the COPS grant would be approximately \$20,000. Dodge said he’d approached local government but they were not ready to commit, and asked that any shortfall come out of the police department budget. There was also concern over who would pay for benefits not covered by the grant.

Sullivan said accepting the grant would mean a cut in the 2017 budget. He added that by taking some money from various lines, such as computers or textbooks but not personnel, his administration would find the money.

“I think we should reinstate this position,” said Jane Oakes.

Christina Postera agreed, echoing Dodge’s concern over violence, adding that it shows “we care.”

Cogswell also spoke in support of hiring a resource officer, but Sandra Brown expressed concern over the fourth year, when the full amount of the officer’s salary would have to come from the district or towns.

## The department did not apply for the grant this year, as applications were due June 23.

Valeria “Timmie” Smith spoke in favor of a motion which gave support to Chief Dodge to go forward and pursue the grant. The vote was 7-1, with Brown voting against.

Since the June 14 meeting, Dodge told the *Reporter* that his department did not apply for the grant this year, as applications were due June 23, but that the discussion was worth it as he knows the department has the support of the school committee.

### Resignations and Retirements

Sullivan informed the school committee that Assistant Principal Earl McGraw resigned his position at the high school effective June 1, due to health reasons.

“I know our whole school community sends our thoughts, wishes and prayers out to Mr. McGraw and his family at this time,” Sullivan said, “and we are deeply saddened that his promising return to Turners Falls was cut short by his illness.”

He said Principal Leonard has

begun a search process for a new assistant principal, and they will keep the members informed as it moves forward.

Sullivan also reported the resignation of Sheffield Elementary principal Sharon Moberg, effective June 30. She has taken a position at a school in Hampden, in order to be closer to home so she can better care for a family member.

He thanked her for her four years of service, and expressed his appreciation for her hard work and all she contributed to the district. The search for her replacement is in process with meetings set on June 15 and 22, to meet with parents and community members to discuss their ideas and priorities. A plan for a search committee is in place and the public will be kept informed of their progress.

Sullivan also thanked school committee member Jane Oakes and his executive assistant Robin Hamlett for organizing an event earlier in the day recognizing retiring district faculty and staff “with no time to spare.”

The retirees were honored with a celebration that included food, gifts and flowers, and much gratitude and thanks. (*See sidebar.*)

“This is two centuries of expertise departing,” said Karl Dziura, teacher and president of the Gill-Montague Education Association, seated at a table as the party was ending.

### Preschool Tuition

Joanne Blier, business director for the school district, presented the information on tuition for preschool students for the next school year. She was joined by early childhood coordinator Sarah Burstein, who assisted in answering questions from the committee. Blier said in the 2015-2016 school year, there were 37 preschoolers enrolled at Hillcrest. Only a small number paid any tuition, with the rest qualifying to attend tuition-free.

She then explained how this is determined. Any student with an individual education plan (IEP), which is based on evaluations, is not charged tuition. Of the students enrolled this past year, there were 15 students with IEPs.

The rest paid tuition based on the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care’s sliding scale. This scale has twenty-eight fee levels. Because the majority of

## Gill-Montague 2016 Retirees

**Joan Currie** – 26 years  
April 1990 to January 2016

**Laurel Rollins** – 25 years  
August 1991 to June 2016

**Donna Klaiber** – 23 years  
September 1993 to Sept. 2016

**Amy Bernard** – 22 years  
November 1994 to Sept. 2016

**Jane McHale** – 21 years  
February 1995 to June 2016

**Sharon Girard** – 18 years  
September 1998 to June 2016

**David Weidenfeld** – 14 years  
October 2002 to June 2016

**Doreen Morin** – 11 years  
August 2005 to June 2016

**Margo Allen** – 10 years  
February 2006 to February 2016

**Barbara Fish** – 7 years  
September 2009 to June 2016

**Barbara Lozanski-Byrnes** – 3 yrs  
August 2013 to January 2016

students in the district qualified for either free or reduced tuition, Blier determined that it made sense to reduce the scale to five levels, which are based on a combination of family income and family size.

Of the 22 students without IEPs, 14 students qualified for free tuition, seven were charged reduced tuition based on the sliding scale, and one paid full tuition.

“We know enrollment in preschool is essential,” said Burstein. “We see a significant difference in students who come into the district without preschool experience.” She said parents are aware that the school has a sliding scale for tuition. She emphasized the importance of parents bringing their financial information with them at registration in order to qualify.

The preschool will continue to have both full-day and half-day programs in the 2016-2017 school year. Half days will run from 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., five days a week.

*The next regular school committee meeting will be held on June 28 at Turners Falls High School at 6:30 p.m.*

## BROADBAND from page A1

cable in the rural communities.

“[T]he easiest, safest choice is also the choice that comes as a result of common sense decision-making,” Peterson wrote. “MBI should not increase the risk associated with its distribution of these public funds.”

The review was met with outrage by the Montague broadband committee. Comcast has proposed to pass 65 unserved homes in the town with traditional coaxial cable, while Matrix planned to bring fiber-optic cable, generally regarded as a superior technology, past 173.

The department’s review “treat[s] the effort as a nicety, not as providing an essential utility,” said committee chair Rob Steinberg. “[I]n an effort to protect some

thousands of dollars of state funds, millions of dollars in housing value will disappear.... we want universal service, treating broadband as a utility, as the recent Supreme Court decision held.”

Peterson noted that “Matrix’s ability to communicate and coordinate with municipalities weighs in its favor,” but argued that its proposals to sell networks to the towns after 20 years should not be an important factor for MBI to consider given that “the majority of the network in the communities is already built out and owned by a private entity,” namely Comcast.

She recommended that MBI negotiate with the giant, which submitted a proposal aimed at satisfying MBI’s stated minimum “penetration” rate of 96% of households in each town but

also stated a willingness to expand “to every resident seeking service,” to increase the number of households it would pass.

Steinberg criticized this position, arguing that “[h]ope they will extend to more homes than originally proposed” or that “they will honor any contractual obligations” is “not just unrealistic, but contrary to experience” Montague residents have with Comcast.

The core of the DTC’s rejection of Matrix was its assessment of the company’s financial capacity. “Matrix has conceded that it would need to pass at least 1000 premises in order to sustain its proposed network,” Peterson wrote. “This is critically problematic because Matrix proposes to pass only 362 unserved households in Montague

and Hardwick.”

Matrix’s suggestion that it could include territory in Petersham as part of its network to solve this problem was “laudable,” Peterson wrote, but “outside the scope of this grant program.”

Chalking this dismissal up to a “badly designed grant structure that is years old, out of date, and... badly serves the communities,” Steinberg argued that the review “assumes that if Matrix failed, the towns couldn’t replace them with another company to operate the network.”

A public meeting will be held at 6 p.m. tonight, Thursday June 23, in Room 162-75 of the Murray D. Lincoln Campus Center at UMass-Amherst to discuss the report.



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Week of June 27  
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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Cutting Grass, Setting Up Tables: Not My Job

By KATIE NOLAN

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache reported that the recreation commission had approached the school committee about installing an outdoor stone-dust track at Erving Elementary School.

Bastarache said that the town owns the school property and that the selectboard, not the school committee, is responsible for the grounds. He said that EES principal James Trill got an informal quote of approximately \$10,000 for installation of the track.

Water department supervisor Peter Sanders, whose property abuts the elementary school, said that the grass at the school's field is not cut regularly. "If we can't maintain what we have now, don't go putting something else there," Sanders said. He added that more people might use the grounds outside of school hours if a track is constructed and the lack of sanitary facilities might present a problem.

Bastarache stressed that the proposed track is still in the idea stage, and no specific plans have been developed. Board members said that they would thoroughly review any track plan presented to them.

### Committee Appointments

The board reviewed librarian Barbara Friedman's detailed three-page description of the responsibilities of the library building committee, and began drafting a more concise mission statement. The board decided to think about the draft over the next week and complete the mission statement at its June 27 meeting.

After approving the mission statement, the board plans to publish it and advertise that seats are available for the seven-member committee. To date, the board has received three letters of interest from residents who want to join the committee.

Municipal clerk Betsy Sicard prepared a three-page spreadsheet containing the names of people up for re-appointment to various one-year town committee positions. The board briefly discussed staggering appointments, so that whole committees did not have to be re-appointed each year, but decided more information was needed before making such a change.

Each person listed on the spreadsheet was contacted about his or her interest in continued service on the committee, but some have not replied. The board decided to make "courtesy calls" to these committee members to find out before final appointments are made at the June 27 meeting.

### Riverside Park Groundbreaking

The Usher Plant re-use committee asked the selectboard who would be responsible for the Riverside Park groundbreaking celebration. The board agreed that the re-use committee is in charge.

The committee asked for folding tables and chairs and a public address system for the event, which it has tentatively scheduled for Saturday, August 20.

Board members commented that the town doesn't have outdoor tables and chairs, and that they did not want to pay highway workers Saturday overtime for setting up tables and chairs. The board recommended holding the ceremony on a weekday rather than a Saturday.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith noted that the committee will have \$1,500 for the groundbreaking and grand opening ceremonies, if approved at the June 28 special town meeting, and that overspending on the groundbreaking would limit the funds for the grand opening.

Bastarache said he would attend the committee's June 21 meeting and discuss the ceremony with its members.

### Other Business

The board decided that the maintenance at the town's property at 34 Northfield Road should be simplified by removing shrubbery, which has become overgrown. So far, maintenance at the former residential property has consisted of mowing the grass. The property, located near the senior/community center and the elementary school, has been proposed as the location of a new town library.

The board decided to have the brush and weeds removed from around the former Usher Plant fence, and around the remaining mill building.

The board reviewed a draft employee drug policy prepared by the personnel relations review board. The policy prohibits working for the town while under the influence of illegal drugs or alcohol, and provides procedures for situations where employees appear to be intoxicated on the job.

Among other comments, the board asked for a clarified definition of "employee". Board members stressed the need for employee and manager training. The board decided to continue review of the draft, and consider it again on June 27.

The board approved a contract with Tighe & Bond for \$18,600 for design, bidding and construction services for repairs to the Renovator's Supply sewage pump station.

The board signed a contract with ASNE of Marlborough for servicing the town's eight power generators.

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Unsure of Path Ahead, Wendell Takes First Steps Toward Building Town-Wide Broadband Network

By JOSH HEINEMANN

A large contingent from Wendell's broadband committee came to the June 15 selectboard meeting, the first held after town meeting approved spending \$70,000 on two first steps necessary for a fiber-optic cable network that would reach virtually every household in town. The meeting tapped into the town's stabilization funds for \$20,000 to pay for a pole survey, and another \$50,000 for an engineering design.

Robert Heller, co-chair of the broadband committee and technical contact for the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), started by saying that they saw no gain for Wendell in withdrawing from WiredWest, although the other co-chair, Ray DiDonato, said they were not endorsing WiredWest either.

The committee is leaning towards cooperating with a few nearby towns as a better choice for Wendell than WiredWest, if only because travel for meetings would be shorter, and the number of viewpoints to accommodate would be fewer.

Heller mentioned that he and Robbie Leppzer began twelve years ago to meet with people from Shutesbury to look at possibilities for getting internet coverage in both towns.

MBI was created in 2008, with a \$40,000,000 federal grant to extend internet connection to the unserved and underserved towns in western Massachusetts, but that amount of money is not enough for the whole project. MBI built a "middle mile" of fiber-optic cable to municipal buildings in town centers, and while that was being done, the MBI position was that work could be done simultaneously on the "last mile," a connection to each household.

But MBI did not arrange money to pay for that "last mile" in small, thinly-populated towns.

Wendell authorized borrowing for its "last mile" expenses at its 2015 annual town meeting, but it has become clear that the terms of any loan available are too expensive. DiDonato expressed some hope that the situation may change with the help of the state Division of Local Services (DLS). An ideal possibility would be a low-interest USDA loan that can be incorporated into the building loan Wendell is already paying.

Selectboard member Dan Keller was not happy with the idea of taking money from stabilization for the start of the work, before the loan can be arranged to pay for the whole project. The pole survey may start in August.

As with town building projects,

there should be a building committee, with a change in makeup from the present broadband committee, that meets and works closely with whatever entity actually builds the system. After that, Wendell's municipal light plant (MLP), which is currently the selectboard, would administer network operation, and work with the internet service provider. That MLP should by then be separate from the selectboard.

Plans are changing as work and finance start, and the landscape in which the project develops is also changing. Selectboard chair Christine Heard told the committee to keep thinking, and keep talking.

### More Cooperation

The town got a letter of congratulations from DLS for joining the community compact.

The selectboard set June 29 for a check on the water supply at Swift River School with both Wendell's and New Salem's boards of health, because sodium levels there have been elevated. Heard said the water is still drinkable, and with school almost over, there is time to deal with the issue.

New Salem has been clearing snow from the parking lot, and that town uses more salt than Wendell does in the mix they put on the roads for traction and melting. Heard suggested that having Wendell take over that job might help.

There was a complaint about electrical inspection that was delayed because the inspector was away, and the backup was gone. Aldrich suggested that New Salem's backup inspector might take on Wendell as well, and she will send a letter so that all the parties know

to tell people when they anticipate being unavailable, and a delay in inspection does not interfere with the rest of a project.

### Other Business

The selectboard got more information on the request to hold a tag sale on the town common that it got at its June 1 meeting. The person who wrote lives on Davis Turn Road, a short dead-end road that gets little traffic, so few potential customers.

Still, Heard said she was inclined to deny the request, mentioning the potential for more and more townspeople using the common that way. On Old Home Day there are many tag sale-type booths; the person could put a sign at the end of Davis Turn Road; or they could ask permission to set up at the Wendell Country Store, where there have been occasional tag sales.

Scott's Garage, owner of the town's only Class III automobile salvage yard, has applied for a Class II license to sell used cars. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich already told them that the first department they need to contact is the planning board.

Dan Mascroft came in briefly to report that the Sunnectivity engineer finished the redesign of the solar farm proposed near Wendell Depot Road, and has submitted it to DEP.

Aldrich reported that the town's voice-over internet (VOI) telephones have been installed, but so far can be used only for outgoing calls. Until the VOI telephones can take incoming calls, the town will maintain the land lines in the office building.

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HONEY BEES from page A1

stings. When I began I believed I could work my bees without any protection other than a veil as long as I remained calm, so the outfits I used were often haphazard and vulnerable. I was wrong, because I was not yet adept and subtle enough in my work.

The worst stings came when I got a bee in my veil, which I reactively pulled off while other bees were still pursuing me. They got entangled in my hair, which was long at the time, and left me with at least eight stings on my scalp, and two on my neck.

I've also had bees up my sleeves and in my pants, and now I tuck my pants into my socks and either tape or rubber band my sleeves closed. This process -- learning to take a sting, developing my bee suit, and beginning smoking the bees as they became established -- has made working with them, and the thought of working with them, more comfortable.

My beekeeping mentor Charlie Olchowski mentioned to me that the minimal snowfall we had this winter has weakened the water table, and subsequently reduced the nectar flow in plants, making bees less productive this spring. I thought this would be an interesting story to write about, so I contacted a few other experienced beekeepers I knew.

My first interview was with Clifford Hatch on his Gill farm, Uppingham. It was a Thursday, and we sat at a picnic table under the shade of a pine tree in front of his country store.

I was expecting to talk about how bad or slow the season was going. In actuality, it turns out Hatch's hives are doing very well, and he expects this season to be his first successful honey crop in a couple years.

He explained that with less snow and a couple winter thaws, his bees

had an easier time staying warm and more survived. He added that his bees were able to regularly void themselves of their waste, preventing dysentery.

He credited the success of his bees to the large number of sunny spring days, which have given them lots of time to work. Honey bees are much pickier about their working conditions than bumblebees, who will fly in light rain and colder weather.

This interview left me feeling unsure of the original story I was pursuing. I thought maybe my story will be about how good the lack of winter was for the bees.

On Friday, I drove back down to Deerfield to interview Dan Conlon at his apiary, Warm Colors. We sat in his studio store, with wood frames and hive components stacked all around us. Every once in a while, a fellow beekeeper would come in with a few questions, and a need for something.

Dan began by confirming my perception of the season being slow. He explained that the minimal snowfall, and subsequent minimal melt, have resulted in less saturated land, yielding poorly hydrated plants with weaker nectar production.

Since the plants need to be more conservative with their water this year, they are making less nectar to attract the bees. An early snow melt also elongated the flowering season, which has drawn out the honey flow over a longer period of time. These two factors have resulted in lighter honey flows this spring.

Some of Dan's bees swarmed as early as April 1, one month earlier than usual, which could be attributed to the early melt. In his bee yards in Deerfield, he has experienced a weaker nectar flow over the past couple of weeks, with the last large flow a month ago.

June has been particularly dry,

and the ground has not been retaining the water from the rainfalls long. A dry end of the month, and a dry beginning to July, could spell trouble for the goldenrod this fall, which would significantly weaken the fall honey flow as well.

Dan pointed out that the combination of the high survivability of the bees this year, and the lesser chances of a good honey crop, make this season a good one for expansion.

On the other hand, Dan also told me that he anticipated a rise in the population of small hive beetles in the area. The small hive beetle is a common pest in bee yards situated in warmer climates, where the ground is warm enough for them to overwinter. During our lighter winter the ground did not significantly freeze and these bugs may have survived in larger numbers this season.

Saturday, I traveled to Montague Center to interview Richard and Susan Sweitzer, who keep bees as a hobby. We began with Richard showing me a very aggressive swarm hive he had caught. There must have been at least four or five bees bouncing off my veil at all times, and I wasn't even the one working with them.

After checking their egg production, which looked healthy, we moved on to the main bee yard where Richard and his wife currently keep six hives of bees under a spattering of sumac trees.

Richard and Susan have noticed that their bees have been less vigorous, and slower to grow this season. They have gotten colder weather than normal recently, and the air has been very dry. Susan added that their bees have been frequenting wet spots, and the flowers have been less fragrant.

After talking to these beekeepers I returned to my bees and thought about whether I can draw any con-

clusions from my own hives. I have had completely different experiences with each of the two, one being much larger and more productive than the other, sitting only 20 feet away.

I suppose the conclusion I can draw is that there are so many variables going into the productivity of a bee season that a little more shade here, an extra week for a queen to lay eggs there, or a little extra sugar syrup or nectar can make a big difference.

It's hard to know when a season is good or bad, because each beekeeper mitigates the negative environmental factors to the best of their own ability, and provides a slightly different ecosystem for their bees. All of the beekeepers I interviewed remarked that there was little locust bloom this season, which suggests to me that everyone is experiencing the dryer weather. It also sounds like an easy winter has left lots and lots of bees, providing the bees with more manpower to find food and create new hives.

From talking with these local beekeepers about their seasons I can't conclude that this is a good or bad year for the bees. I can say that a trend of shorter, lighter winters with seasons as dry as this would not be good for the bees. Their populations will rise in the warmer weather as their food sources deplete from the dryness and we will see less honey production.

With the climate predicted to continue to change, I wonder more about the effects of warming on the survival of bees and beekeeping than colony collapse disorder, which has largely been attributed to Varroa mites and pesticides, two issues beekeepers have begun to address.

I hope the weather stays favorable, because I hope to continue beekeeping for the rest of my life!



DEBT VOTES from page A1

new level unless the town implements a tax cut.

A "debt exclusion," on the other hand, raises the levy in order to finance debt for a particular purpose. Once the borrowing is paid for, the levy is reduced by the amount of borrowing. In essence, an override is a permanent tax hike, while a debt exclusion is a temporary increase for a particular project.

Taxpayers in cities and towns tend to look more favorably on debt exclusions than overrides. In recent years, Montague voters have supported debt exclusions for a new police station, a high school renovation, and combined sewer overflow projects to reduce runoff into the Connecticut River. On the other hand, voters have soundly defeated at least three override attempts, two to fund school district assessments and one to address a town budget shortfall, in the past 15 years.

Voters entering the polls on June 27 will note that neither item on the ballot includes an actual number representing the amount of debt

to be financed or the tax levy increase. According to town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, this is because the actual borrowing will depend on debt service costs, which are not known when the exclusion vote will take place.

However the annual town meeting has appropriated funds for these projects, and the town has estimated the potential cost and tax impact. These estimates are discussed below and also appear on the town website.

Question 1: Main Drain Rehab  
and Siphon Cleaning Project

The "Main Drain," which was constructed in the late 19th century, and the siphons, constructed in 1914, carry storm water runoff from Turners Falls under the power canal and into the Connecticut River. The siphons are clogged with sand, and the main drain needs to be repaired to avoid a potentially catastrophic -- and costly -- collapse.

Article 22 on the annual town meeting warrant appropriated \$1,000,000 for this project. How-

ever, the town will be reimbursed by FirstLight Power Company for 40% of the cost of the project. Nineteenth of the remaining cost (54%) will fall on property tax bills, with the rest of the borrowing (6%) funded by sewer user fees.

The town has estimated that the project's annual impact on the tax bill for a home valued at \$200,000 will be \$16.65, for twenty years.

The town hopes to perform the main work between September 19 and 24 this year. The appropriation passed the annual town meeting by unanimous vote.

Question 2: Strathmore Asbestos  
and HazMat Abatement

The redevelopment of the Strathmore Mill complex remains a top priority of the town, which is currently hoping to find someone to create commercial and artist work spaces, similar to former mills in Easthampton and North Adams.

The town has received a \$350,000 MassWorks grant from the state to develop off-site parking, and has a commitment from a private devel-

oper to rehabilitate one structure, Building 11, with a potential investment of \$2.2 million.

Development of the site, however, will be contingent on the continued improvement of the regional economy, and the willingness of FirstLight to repair two bridges the company owns over the canal.

Whatever the ultimate outcome of the Strathmore project -- development, partial demolition, or total demolition -- the town will need to finance the removal of asbestos and hazardous materials. This was the argument that convinced the May annual town meeting to support this proposal.

The estimated cost of the project is \$385,000, the amount town meeting appropriated. The town has estimated that this will add \$10 a year to the tax bill of a home valued at \$200,000, for a ten-year period. The appropriation passed the May annual town meeting by a 2/3 majority vote.

The polls will open at noon on Monday, and close at 7 p.m.



Erving Seniors  
Encouraged to  
Take Housing Survey

On June 17, the Town of Erving Housing Committee mailed a 42-question survey about housing needs to Erving residents 55 and over.

If you or another senior resident did not receive one by mail, pick one up at the Senior Center (where you can also drop it off), or complete the survey online at [surveymonkey.com/r/QXZCCP5](http://surveymonkey.com/r/QXZCCP5).

Please return your survey by July 8. The survey will be administered by LDS Consulting Group, LLC of Newton, and individual survey results will be kept confidential. Only one survey per household, please.

If you have questions about the survey, please contact Lynne D. Sweet at (617) 454-1144 or [info@ldsconsultinggroup.com](mailto:info@ldsconsultinggroup.com), or Paula Betters, director of the Council on Aging/Senior Center, at (413) 423-3649.

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## ... AND BEST OF LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2016!



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



Left to right: Seniors Jenna Putala, Jordan Meattay,  
Jess Loynd, Hailey Whipple, and Mackenzie Phillips.



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Turners' pitching ace Mackenzie Phillips delivered another outstanding performance against Austin Prep: 13 strikeouts, no walks, and only two hits allowed.

**CHAMPIONS** from page A1

came out strong. In the top of the first inning, Turners ace Mackenzie Phillips scorched two quick-swinging strikeouts before giving up a line drive single. She then retired the side by whiffing the next batter on another swinging K.

In the bottom of the first, the AP pitcher shut down Powertown on 2 K's and an infield pop.

And on it went. In the top of the second, Alyson Murphy snagged a fly, which was sandwiched by two more strikeouts. In the Blue second, the Prep pitcher seemed to be getting rattled as she walked leadoff hitter Phillips, then advanced the courtesy runner on an illegal pitch. But she regained her composure, and got out of the inning on consecutive strikeouts.

In the third inning, both teams had chances to score. Green got runners on base when the lead-off batter hit a shot over the outstretched glove of the shortstop. Mac fanned the next batter, and a

fielder's choice got the second out but advanced the base runner.

Then a huge thud echoed through the park, as the next batter was hit by a pitch, putting her at first. A misthrow to first on a steal attempt advanced the runners to second and third, but there were already two outs, and Phillips retired the side on a 3-pitch strikeout.

In the Blue third, Alyson Murphy hit a grounder, hustled down the first base line, and rounded first as the throw went wild. Coach Eddie Marvell waved her on, and she slid under the throw to second, to calls of "Down!" by Coach Sully and the rest of the True Blue faithful.

Then Jenna Putala came up to bat. "A base hit scores a run," someone called from the stands. And it did. Jenna cracked a long leftfield double, and the crowd erupted as Turners drew first blood.

The roaring of the crowd was a little too much for the young Austin pitcher, who threw a pitch past Gabby Arzuaga and past her own

catcher. Gabby got out of the way and hand-signaled to Coach Sully who gave Jenna the green light to take third. Then Gabby shot a hard grounder which was mishandled and Jenna rushed home to put Turners up 2-0.

The last out came when courtesy runner Lexi Lacey was picked off on a steal attempt.

For the next three innings, both pitchers protected the circle, neither surrendering a single hit. The Prep batters were determined to solve the Mackenzie riddle. None of them choked up as they took full swings, trying desperately to get on base.

Likewise, the Tribe batters were unable to figure out Austin's pitcher. To the ladies who like fast pitches, she seemed to throw slow, and to the ladies who do better against slower pitchers, she seemed to speed up her throws.

And on it went, until the last inning of the game. In the top of the seventh, the leadoff Cougar kept fouling off Mac's pitches, and on the eighth pitch hit the ball fair. But the ball was miffed. So instead of an out, Prep had a runner at second base and the tying run at the plate with no outs.

The next batter also hit the ball fair, but Turners showcased their defensive acumen by fielding a grounder, checking the base runner, and shooting the ball to first for the out.

Then came a conference. I couldn't hear what Gary Mullins said to his team, but after eight more pitches, Mac had one more swinging K and the team needed just one more out to score the victory.

With the count 2 and 2, the AP batter let the next pitch land, and the ump called "Strike!" to the delayed screams of the fans and Blue Ladies alike.

The Turners Falls Softball Indians won another state championship, tying a record for most titles by any softball team in Massachusetts. But don't give Skipper Gary Mullins the credit.

After a fellow journalist con-

gratulated him on his back-to-back titles, Mullins said, "It's not me that won, it's them," pointing to the athletes getting their pictures taken at center field.

And Mullins says he's proud of the team's accomplishments, winning is not what gives him the most satisfaction. "Although the numbers are fun to look at," he told the *Reporter* the next day, "it is the relationships that are built between the players and coaches that truly hold the real value of coaching. Some day when this party comes to an end, I might spend a few hours looking back at the numbers."

Looking back on the 2016 season, Mullins reflected on the injuries the team has faced, and the younger girls who had to step in. He pointed out that Olivia Whittier, a seventh grader who played when Jenna Putala was injured, started in the first game of the tournament. And he spoke about Jordan Meattey, his starting shortstop and lead-off batter, who suffered a season-ending injury early on.

But even with these injuries, and despite the absence of graduates Amber Caouette, Mackenzie Salls, Nicole Thibeault, and Nicole John from the 2015 championship team, the "perennial softball champs," as the Lowell *Sun* called them, found a

way to win another state title.

So how are the 2017 Blue Ladies going to do next season after losing five more seniors – Meattey, Putala, Phillips, Hailey Whipple, and Jessica Loynd? According to Mullins, it's not just the coaches who help the younger players.

"The relationship between the older players and young puppies on this team was outstanding," he said. "The passing of the torch is part of this softball program, and a true credit to the kids. What you try to do is find players who will take their positions on the field, and hope that they aspire to do great things now that it is their turn."

For Mullins, the numbers aren't the most important part of his tenure. "I feel extremely lucky to spend a few months with some terrific kids, and some amazingly dedicated coaches, each spring season," he said. "I have met and worked with so many truly wonderful girls over the years that it is hard to fathom finding girls of similar talent, determination, passion, work ethic and dedication."

And reflecting on his years as softball coach, Mullins had this to say: "These kind of girls steal a bit of your heart, and after 37 years, I am running out of heart parts."



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



Head coach Gary Mullins presents a championship medal to Melissa Hersey as Sienna Dillensneider and Abby Loynd await their medals.

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## Being Alert to the Moment: Trish Crapo on Making Art



Trish Crapo

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

**GREENFIELD** – Trish Crapo, this month’s featured poet on the Poetry Page, has been writing poems since she was eight. “I loved reading,” she said. And although she lived in Florida until she was 15, it was a New England landscape that inspired her. “I hadn’t even seen snow but I was writing about Jack Frost.”

Among her early inspirations was Wordsworth’s “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud,” whose first stanza is this:

*I wandered lonely as a cloud*

*That floats on high o’er vales and hills,  
When all at once I saw a crowd,  
A host, of golden daffodils;  
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,  
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

The natural world still informs her poetry, but so does much else, particularly human relationships. Her poems – focused, exact, and exacting – are replete with images that chronicle what it means to be a wife, lover, child, mother.

In a stanza from a poem from her 2004 chapbook, *Walk Through Paradise Backwards*, she writes:

*Because communication is so difficult,  
from now on we will let the natural world  
speak for us in metaphors. When a tiger  
enters the house, this means, I am angry.  
A yellow jacket, slightly irritated.  
Infiltrations of ants mean our lives  
are being stolen away, piece by miniscule piece,  
a fly buzzing around inside a juice glass means  
I feel trapped, I feel trapped, I feel trapped.*

see CRAPO page B4

### BOOK REVIEW

## The Very Best of Garry Brown’s Great Hits

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

**MONTAGUE** – How does Garry Brown do it? Where does the imagination, insight, and analysis – not to mention the talent and discipline – come from? And what’s he got that keeps him turning journalism into literature several times weekly for more than sixty-five years, with no end in sight?

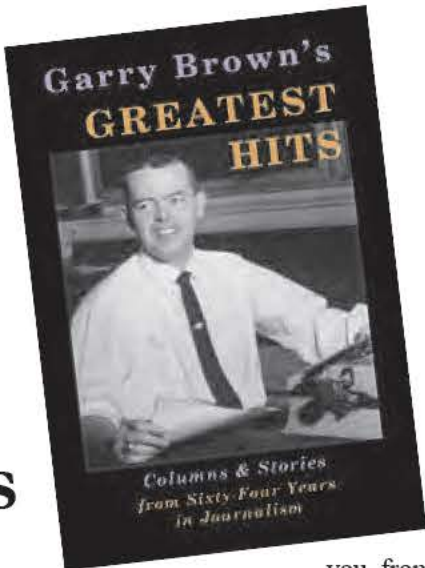
Garry started writing for the *Springfield Republican* in 1950. He was eighteen years old, and Joe DiMaggio was still roaming center field for the New York Yankees. Garry went from being a cub reporter in the sports department to its editor in 1969, a position he held for twelve years.

In 1973, he created his signature “Hitting to all Fields” column, for which he is still hitting today. Returning to writing full-time, he covered the Boston Red Sox from 1986 to 2009.

Along the way, he somehow managed to find the time to marry the former Mary Bukowski, earn a bachelor’s degree in journalism, help raise three kids, and dote on four grandchildren.

And that’s just the tip of the iceberg. The fuller story is between the covers of Garry Brown’s *Greatest Hits*. There are one hundred and ten of them, and each one is a gem.

Like those movies made up of seemingly disconnected fragments that come together in the end to form a coherent and meaningful collage, Garry’s word pictures fly at



you from the page so quickly your head would spin if they weren’t so carefully crafted and meticulously laid out.

In fact, the layout is so brilliantly conceived Garry Brown’s *Greatest Hits* may be the most unique collection of its kind ever written. The short stories all appear in columns like the kind you find in newspapers, and the feature stories all appear as if they were chapters in a book. Punctuating both are photos of many of the people Garry’s fans have been reading about for decades.

Many of the sports heroes in Garry’s book we’re familiar with – Jim Thorpe, Carl Yastrzemski, Pedro Martinez – but Garry always seems to come up with something about them we didn’t know.

There are also the heroes we may have forgotten but wish we had remembered: Angelo Bertelli, Springfield’s only Heisman Trophy winner, and Walter “Rabbit” Maranville, the city’s only representative in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Most important are the heroes who, in their performance of exemplary humanitarian feats, also serve as role models: Danny Keyes, Tony King, Romero Cyr, Archie Roberts, Rocky Snow, and Senda Berenson Abbott.

Garry doesn’t include himself in this list, but he should have. Did you know that when the Basketball Hall of Fame was first created, it

see BROWN page B3

## On Thoreau's Trail: Part One



CREATIVE COMMONS PHOTO BY ERIC SHAW WHITE

By DAVID DETMOLD

**ADAMS** – I woke up before dawn, as the night sky began to pale. I had unrolled my sleeping bag by the North Branch of the Hoosic River in North Adams, at the fork where River Road branches off to Clarksburg. Now I was heading home.

No lights were on in the houses across the street as I packed my panniers and got back on my bike.

It was Sunday morning. At 4 a.m. there was no traffic on Route 2 as I began to pedal up the Hoosic Range. In a little over four miles, I would climb more than a thousand feet to the Western Summit.

At my age, just south of 60, biking over mountains is a feat of psychology as much as physiology. The idea of using full force to power my way up and over steep terrain has long since fallen out of favor. But

you have to keep pedaling, or you fall over. Even if there are no motorists passing by to witness it, that is an embarrassment I wanted to avoid if I was going to maintain the self image and focus I needed to make it to the top.

On a twenty-one-speed bike, it can take an hour or more to climb a mountain like the one between North Adams and Savoy. On climbs like these, I try to stop and rest as seldom as possible – three times was the maximum I allowed myself this time across – because the gain in wind is too offset by the deflation in mental stamina each time I stop.

Never rest for more than a few minutes on a steep mountain. It is a challenge to climb; the going is slow; I have to pit myself against the grade and make it up by force of will as much as strength of sinew.

Here’s my secret. When the going gets tough – count the guardrail

posts as you pass them by.

Modern guardrails, made of lengths of galvanized steel formed in the shape of a W to deflect collisions, and bolted to seven-foot posts driven four feet in the ground, are hardly things of beauty. Compared to the vistas that open up on the side of a mountain range when you begin to rise above the tree line, staring at the guardrail is hardly the preferred option for sightseeing.

But the regularity of the posts, placed every six and a quarter feet, a distance that takes only two or three pumps of your legs on the pedals to traverse even on a 12 percent grade, can be a tonic guide to the reality of forward motion.

Whatever I do, I never look ahead at the distance still to be covered. If I have to, for safety’s sake, to make sure I’m not heading straight into a pothole or an object lying on the

see TRAIL page B6

### CONCERT REVIEW

## Dolly Parton at Tanglewood

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

The civility of the Berkshires did not wait for Tanglewood – it first assaulted me a mile up the road, in Lenox.

As I waited to cross the street to the Farmers Market, a young, thin police officer stopped the traffic flowing through the monument-impaled intersection and graciously waved me across. In fact, there were three officers of the law engaged in directing traffic and looking like they were checked out of the nearby Norman Rockwell Museum.

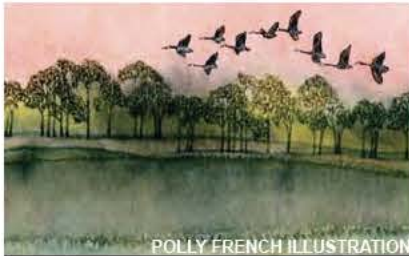
I bought a surprisingly cheap loaf of sourdough bread – four dollars – and strolled through the town library, located in an old courthouse. It was spacious and airy, and there was a two-story room with a domed ceiling and plenty of nice chairs and couches. The

seating options were not the bulk institutional type I expect to see in places like libraries and dorm common rooms; they were more like valuable antiques.

Basically, Lenox, whose high school sports teams are called the Millionaires, gave me the kind of premonition I needed to steel myself against the civility that I knew would come once I arrived at the Dolly Parton concert at Tanglewood.

Before the Tanglewood Music Center existed, the land was an estate owned by the Brooks and Tappan families. Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote his collection of stories “Tanglewood Tales” in a red cottage on the site, and the estate took its name from this work. At the time there were many similar country manors nearby that people actually inhabited (now they are mostly used for a variety of other purposes). Some

see DOLLY page B4



### LAZING KNEE-DEEP IN JUNE

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – In the deep parts of June we are indeed! The roses *Othello*, *Marie-rose*, and *Reine des Violettes* ornament the deck’s edge just beyond our summer Adirondack chairs. Out in the woods and along the edge of the river, wild roses and multiflora rose bloom and perfume the shore.

The multiflora is an invasive, detested by hikers and horseback riders, but it plays a significant role protecting the wild places with their impregnable thorny branches, yet all the while floating their fragrance far and wide.

*Tell you what I like the best —  
'Long about knee-deep in June...  
Like to jes' git out and rest  
And not work at nothin' else!*

The Sunday morning sky is the perfect azure, like the sky you can imagine over the south of France. But in fact it is our Old New England sky-blue that only June can

conjure up.

We don’t yet have the rock-cracking burning dryness or the Deep South Spanish moss kind of humidity that will likely come in the dog days of August, just a warming bright sun shining over cool green- ing grass and busy bird nests.

*Ever 'thing you hear and see  
Got some sort o' interest—  
Maybe find a bluebird's nest  
Tucked up there convenently...*

The cherry tree casts dapples over this notebook page, its branches full of ripening fruit and bird racket. Catbirds, robins, wood thrush, waxwing, oriole all come and go, squabbling and chugging down cherries like this is the only cherry tree in town.

Probably it is too. Not many people bother with fruit trees these days, going more for the manicured landscaping ornamentals. Our Montm-orency variety is good for preserving its fruit in whiskey or vodka for a winter-time dessert near the fire in

deep December. However, the birds have other plans for our fruit, and unless we move fast, we may not have but a handful left.

This Sunday morning, June is bursting out all over. Nests everywhere in the neighborhood are full of caterwauling young birds crying for food. The orioles are high up in the oak this year, the catbird in the lilac bush drives jays from her territory, robins and kingbirds defend spots in the maples and oak, attacking marauding crows looking for protein in the form of yummy nestlings.

A pair of eastern phoebes has chosen a nesting shelf I put up long ago, right near the front door. They began building in earnest in mid-May, and disappeared for a while until I noticed the female incubating around the 25<sup>th</sup> of May. The young hatched somewhere around the 15<sup>th</sup> of June,

see WEST ALONG page B8



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

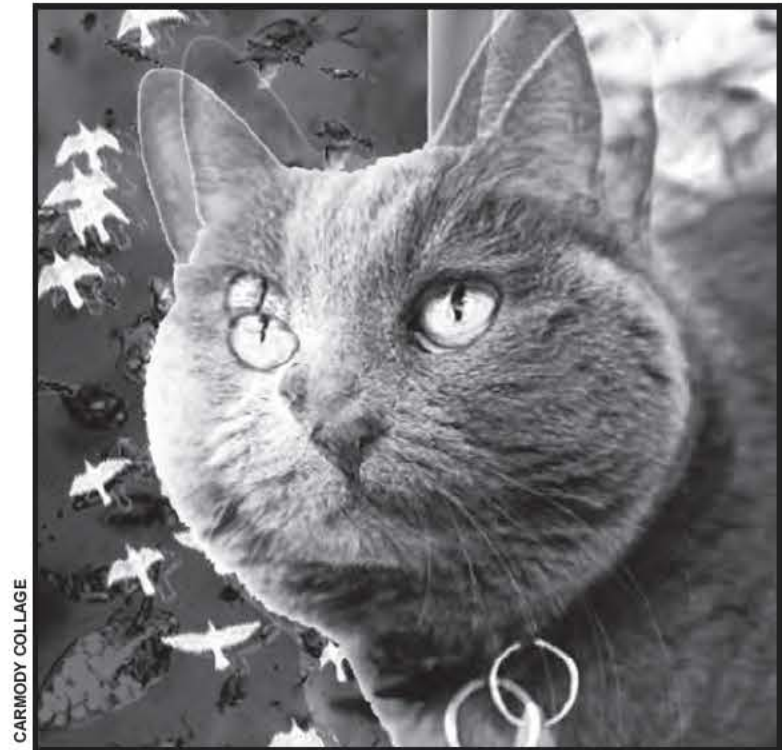
*Eastern Phoebe* – Sayornis phoebe



# Pet of the Week

Hi there, my name is Alexis. I am a friendly girl who is at Dakin because my person was moving and could not take me with them! I am talkative at times, but I am quiet too. I am affectionate and would love to hang out on your lap while you pet me. I have peacefully lived with a small dog and another

cat in the past. I enjoy playing with a variety of toys. If you would like to meet me, stop on in and ask an adoption counselor for more information! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



CARMODY COLLAGE

## “ALEXIS”

### Senior Center Activities JUNE 27 to JULY 1

**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 6/27**  
Aerobics and Chair Exercise 11:30 a.m. **Closed**, Town Election  
**Tuesday 6/28**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Sing America  
**Wednesday 6/29**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach 12:45 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 6/30**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi 1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 7/1**  
Aerobics and Chair Exercise

**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 congregate 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 6/27**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi 10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles  
**Tuesday 6/28**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. Stretch & Balance 12:30 p.m. Friends Business Mtg.  
**Wednesday 6/29**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 6/30**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast moving) 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring  
**Friday 7/1**  
9 a.m. Quilting 9:30 a.m. Bowling; Walking Club 11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert 12:30 p.m. Painting Class  
**LEVERETT**  
For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto: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.

By **ABIGAIL TATARIAN**  
Greetings from Montague Community TV! We hope you were able to enjoy the Unity Skate Park Unveiling last Saturday. Every month the Great Falls Discovery Center hosts a coffeehouse evening of music. Footage from the June coffeehouse is now available at [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org) and in the TV schedule, featuring over an hour of



Jim Matus

Jim Matus’s melodic improvisation. The next event in the series will

be July 8, from 7 to 9 p.m., at 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Something going on you think others would like to see? Get in touch to learn how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [in-fomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:in-fomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

## Sunday: “Caribbean Summer Lounge”

By **REPORTER STAFF**  
**TURNERS FALLS** – June is Caribbean American Heritage Month. Turners Falls will mark the occasion with “Caribbean Summer Lounge” at The Great Falls Harvest Restaurant, 50 Third Street this Sunday, June 26 from noon until 8 p.m. The event is a culinary collaboration between Turners Falls resident Richie Richardson and Great Falls Harvest chef Chris Menegoni. The menu is centered around the food and flavors of the Caribbean Islands with special recipes from Richie’s native Trinidad. “We have quite a vibrant and delicious cuisine. The palette of spices, the way we cook, has many influences: Africa, India, France, Portuguese, Syrian, Chinese...I cook that way, of course, and so I think it is a great idea to do something in this community,” said Richie.

Richie has collaborated with the Harvest for other community events, but the “Summer Lounge” idea originated with Richie’s girlfriend, who is French and very enthusiastic about Richie’s cooking. It was a natural impulse to bring this new idea to Chris and Bridgett at the Great Falls Harvest. “Chris is an amazing, creative, and spontaneous chef who is enthusiastic about trying new ideas.” Richie is an artist, creator, and producer who was raised in a family of artists who were engaged in

graphic design, sign making, screen printing, and fashion and fabric design. In turn, his own children are making a livelihood in music, theater, and design in New York. Art is Richie’s life, and life is his art. He is introducing a new t-shirt line called Richie Richardson FAB (fashion and boutique) at the event. His designs may contain social and political commentary, and draw inspiration from contemporary life, music, nature, and other things – “They run the gamut!” “T-shirts are something that allows a work to be promoted widely and provide an avenue for sales revenue. In the fashion business, t-shirts and jeans are a necessary part of livelihood,” explained Richie. “T-shirts are a human billboard bearing an artist’s style statement and a platform from which to speak on a wide

variety of issues.” Formerly based in NYC, he at one point owned a Brooklyn boutique which sold his designs. His new line will be produced in Greenfield and he hopes to sell them in several local outlets. The exotic cuisine will be complemented by flavored tropical drinks and island music including folk, zouk, ska, kaiso, and reggae. The music will be curated by Simon Cummings and Dwight Morgan to impart Caribbean sensibilities to the dining experience. “It has been a delightful conspiracy!” said Richie of his latest collaboration. “Food is a great way to bring the community together.” There is no cover charge for the event. For more information, contact Richie Richardson, (347) 495-3935 or [richierichardsondesigns@gmail.com](mailto:richierichardsondesigns@gmail.com).



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Richardson displays some of the wearable art he has produced over the years.

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Warmer Than Normal

to light, stiff neck, chest pain, extreme listlessness or irritability, and abdominal pain. A fever usually means your body is fighting an infection from bacteria or a virus. In older adults, the immune system doesn’t function as efficiently as it does in younger people. The body’s fever response to infection is not always automatic in elderly people. More than 20 percent of adults over age 65 who have serious bacterial infections do not have fevers. Body temperature fluctuates during the day between 97 F and 99 F. When you wake up, your temperature is at the low end of the range; it increases as the day progresses. The common standard for a “normal” temperature is 98.6 F. However, the range of normal is about a degree above or below 98.6. Use a high-quality thermometer to check your temperature. Thermometers today are high-tech electronic gizmos with beeps and digital readouts. Those mercury-filled glass thermometers are out because they are environmental hazards. Tympanic thermometers that get a

quick read from the ear are good for older adults. Symptoms that can accompany fever include: headache, perspiration, shivering, aches, diminished appetite, dehydration and malaise. A fever higher than 103 F can cause seizures and hallucinations. If you get a fever, it’s important to take in enough liquids to prevent dehydration. Physicians often recommend ibuprofen, acetaminophen or aspirin to lower a high fever. Taking medicine to lower a fever is especially important for older adults with heart conditions that might be affected by the stress of fever. But don’t take any drugs without medical supervision. Over-the-counter medicines can be harmful if you take too much of them. If you have a fever below 102 F, medicine isn’t usually recommended to lower your temperature. Low-grade fevers may be your body’s way of fighting an infection. Take a tepid bath. Wear lightweight clothes. If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeezers.com](mailto:fred@healthygeezers.com).



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By **FRED CICETTI**  
*Q. If I have a fever, at what temperature should I go to the doctor?*

An oral temperature above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, or a rectal or ear temperature above 101 F, is considered a fever in the majority of adults. If your temperature reaches 103 F, you should contact a physician. Another alarm bell is a fever that lasts more than three days. In addition, get to a doctor immediately if you have a fever with any of the following: Unrelenting vomiting, trouble breathing, a strong headache, confusion, pain when urinating, swollen throat, skin rash, sensitivity

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## INVITATION FOR BIDS

**Exterior Repairs and Structural Roof Repairs to Historic Cement Block Highway Garage**

The Town of Leverett is seeking bids for the repairs to the historic cement block highway garage located at 95 Montague Road in Leverett.

A copy of the IFB is available from the Administrator at: (413) 548-9699  
townadministrator@leverett.ma.us  
or for pick-up at 9 Montague Road in Leverett.

Sealed bids are to be submitted no later than August 5, 2016 at 10 a.m.

The contract will be awarded by the Selectboard to lowest responsible and eligible bidder.

Bids should be accompanied by a bid deposit of not less than 5% of the greatest possible bid amount, made payable to the Town of Leverett.

A site visit is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

The Town of Leverett reserves the right to reject any and all bids in whole or in part, and to waive irregularities and informalities, when at its sole discretion it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town and to the extent permitted by law.

**BROWN** from page B1

didn't include women? By the time it moved to downtown Springfield in 1984, it had 143 men, and not a single woman.

Garry, along with Springfield College professor Mimi Murray and about two dozen others, began pounding the pavement in protest. They were frequently heckled by men who told them they couldn't dribble, needed to wear their bras tighter, and should build their own Hall of Fame.

After each demonstration, Garry would write about it in the next day's newspaper. It took five months for the Hall to come around, but it finally announced that Senda Berenson Abbott, Margaret Wade, and Bertha Teague would be inducted with the Class of 1985.

Later that year, Garry was named a National Organization for Women's "Woman of the Year."

Lest you think this collection of articles is all about sports, it's not. Like motifs in an opera, we come across frequent tales of Garry's family, his dogs, his issues with electronics, his work as a journalist, and more. We feel like we know him personally, as if we'd have so much to talk about if we ever met him.

Not surprisingly, when people do meet Garry, they do talk as if they have known him all their lives. And most have. What he doesn't tell us, and this is only one measure of the kind of person he is, is his being awarded an honorary doctorate from American International College in 2015.

In short, he's exactly the same in person as he seems as he might be from the stories he writes: kind, gentle, intelligent, sensitive, funny, caring, humble, and genu-

inely concerned about improving the human condition.

Now for the best part: the totally useless information that enriches our lives to immeasurable extents.

Many of Garry's readers would feel culturally impoverished if we didn't know about the first Action Comic Book, the Underwood typewriter, the frequency of Mell Ott's name in crossword puzzles, the advantages of wearing plaid, the Haydenville Kid, the art of decluttering, the sport of marbles, the importance of names, the correct pronunciation of m tier, the fact that "catchphrase" has six consonants in a row, and the feeling that comes with discovering you're not French but Irish – the only ethnic group that, according to Freud, could not benefit from psychological analysis.

Garry Brown's *Greatest Hits* is nothing less than a veritable history of the City of Springfield. Only this history, as is obvious from the review, is no dry telling of important events and significant personages. It's a people's history, seen through the discerning eyes of an accomplished writer who reveals the special magic that is in everyday life.

The stories may have been written at certain times and in certain places, but they transcend these locations to bring joy, pride, and hope to people everywhere in the world and for all time.

All Montague Reporter readers are invited to attend a celebration launch of Garry's book on Thursday, June 30, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the American International College Hall of Fame. The Hall is next to the Butova Gym on Roosevelt Avenue, Springfield.



### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Hairdo A Civil Matter; Scooter Not Free; Visitor From Past Asks Police What He Can Do Every Time He Smells Marijuana

**Monday, 6/13**  
12:02 p.m. Caller reports that approximately one week ago she brought her daughter to a downtown salon to have a perm done. She states that the daughter's hair did not take the perm and she contacted the salon to request her money back. Caller states that the stylist requested that she bring the daughter back so she could evaluate her hair. Caller further states that the stylist is requesting that she pay \$20 for a missed haircut appointment. Per officer, caller advised that this would be a civil matter.  
6:12 p.m. Report of a loose golden retriever that wandered into the caller's yard on Hillside Road. Officer picked up dog. Owner eventually called and came to station; advises that dog is not registered with the town and not up to date on her vaccinations. Officer advises dog will not be released due to vaccination status; owner advised to call vet tomorrow to set up an appointment for her dog.  
7:25 p.m. Caller concerned because she has not seen or heard from a friend who lives in her building since 3 p.m. yesterday, and they typically talk every few hours. Officer responded to friend's residence for welfare check and was advised that the friend is in Greenfield this evening.  
9:25 p.m. Officer moved along several subjects from the skate park after hours.

**Tuesday, 6/14**  
12:09 p.m. Report of past assault at Millers Falls Library. Advised of options.  
4:38 p.m. Caller reports having several baby skunks in her yard by the chicken coop; advises that animal control officer recently trapped and removed the mother because it was a nuisance in her yard. Caller requesting that an officer or the ACO respond and shoot the baby skunks that are still there. Advised caller that skunks would not be put down at her residence but that the ACO would be contacted. ACO advises that he can come out tomorrow morning to help trap the skunks, but not tonight. Caller not satisfied with this option and stated she would call a neighbor or friend to shoot the skunks for her. Caller advised against this due to proximity of her property to neighboring house(s). Officer contacted caller, advised her of laws regarding this issue, and gave several suggestions that might help with moving the skunks along until ACO can respond. ACO did later put out traps for skunks and was en route to the residence to follow up.  
9:55 p.m. Caller states that a male party who resides in his building on Avenue A was yelling at him in the hallway about being too loud. Caller believes that party may be on drugs because the whole building has substance abuse problems. Officers had a difficult time determining the problem based on the information the caller had given them. Subject who had been yelling did not answer door to speak to officers.  
10:26 p.m. Caller from Avenue A looking for information on what he can do every time he smells someone smoking marijuana in the apartment building. Same is concerned about his safety because of people using drugs in a place where he lives and should feel safe. Advised of options.

**Wednesday, 6/15**  
12:36 p.m. Caller from skate park states that a youth just tried to steal her son's scooter. Caller was able to get the scooter back but reports that the youth is now harassing her. Officer spoke with youth, who was under the impression that he could use/take anything he saw lying around at the skate park. Youth was advised he cannot do that and that officer will be contacting his mother to advise of the incident. Officer spoke with mother, who advised she would address the situation with her son.  
1:54 p.m. Walk-in report of a youth on a scooter pulling another youth on a sheet of plywood in the middle of the road on Montague Street. Area checked; negative contact.  
2:45 p.m. Caller reports that a female just called her a "junkie" in Peske Park; requests that an officer respond and advise the female to cease all contact with the caller. Advised of options.  
7:22 p.m. Shelburne Control advising they took a call from a party in Erving who reported seeing a plane that is possibly in trouble; sounded like its engine cut out and it was stalling, then disappeared over the tree line. Officer checked area; no planes in distress were found.

**Thursday, 6/16**  
2:08 a.m. Officer out on Migratory Way with suspicious vehicle; occupied x1 plus dog. Clear; male is fishing in area.  
4:07 a.m. Caller reporting loose horse in road on Dry Hill Road. Officer located open gate in fence nearby; horse was walked back to same and secured.  
12:13 p.m. Caller calling on behalf of her brother-in-law's girlfriend, who advised her that she suffered a flat tire after driving through the construction zone on Montague City Road. Contacted MA DOT engineer on site, who advised anyone claiming damage to their vehicle should call the company performing the work; phone number and job number provided. Caller advised.  
7:36 p.m. Fire department, while en route to a call, reports three parties in dark clothing who appear to have jumped the fence next to Jarvis Pools and are wading in the pool that is set up there. One party on scene advises that his mother works at this location and had given him permission to be here. Mother contacted; advises that she had given her son and his girlfriend permission to be here, but no other parties. Mom is en route. Crowd has dispersed; mom advised everyone to leave for the evening and has locked the gate.

**Saturday, 6/18**  
12:44 a.m. Caller from Crescent Street reports a loud party at her neighbor's. When she asked them to quiet down, she reports they came to her yard and set off fireworks. Officers monitored area; nothing located. Caller will call back if issue continues.

9:03 a.m. Caller advises there is a fawn in the woods off South Prospect Street that is sitting/lying down and appears to be injured. Caller given number for environmental police dispatch.  
10:15 a.m. Caller reports that she was just involved in a verbal altercation with two women on Fourth Street (mother and daughter). Caller advises both of the women threatened to "fuck her up" and then the daughter threw a drink in the caller's face. Both women last seen walking over bridge by PaperLogic into Greenfield. Officer checked area for subjects; negative contact.  
10:38 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (4th offense); reckless operation of a motor vehicle; and marked lanes violation.

**Sunday, 6/19**  
1:45 p.m. Officers on Mutton and Mead detail were requested to remove a male party who used to be an actor for previous events. Subject caused a disturbance at the festival yesterday; today, subject went to MF Rod & Gun club in medieval attire and ended up going over to the festival and causing a disturbance. Subject escorted off premises.  
1:56 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that a drug dealer who has been coming to her building has been harassing several of the elderly residents there. Advised of options.  
2:41 p.m. Report of vulgar graffiti on building next to Rod Shop in Turners Falls. Officer observed several areas with graffiti, much of which has been there for a while. Owner of building has not called to report the vandalism.  
8:22 p.m. Caller from Brattleboro reports that her mother smokes pot with her friends sometimes and would like to speak with an officer about it. Advised of options and referred to Brattleboro PD.

## MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!


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John D. Brown, Jr.

DOLLY from page B1

of the most sickeningly grand include the adjacent “Highwood” (now part of Tanglewood), the Vanderbilts’ “Holmwood,” Washington Monument sculptor Daniel French’s “Chesterwood,” the Morgans’ “Ventfort Hall,” and Melville’s “Arrowhead.”

The Kripalu Center is next door, on the site of a different estate which was first owned by Transcendentalist poet Samuel Gray Ward and later by the Carnegie family.

The star of every Tanglewood event is actually the grass. It is lush, and soft, and thick. On Google Earth it’s easy to see that the Tanglewood lawn is a psychedelic emerald. Compared to its shining luster, the parking grasslands have a yellow hue, and the nearby farm fields are pale greenish. Neighboring Kripalu’s actually look almost as good, probably to allow yoga to happen.

The grass is either a sedative, or is just extremely comfortable, because many visitors feel compelled to publicly lie down and nap. The grass seems to make displays of affection appropriate, and many were using it as a surface for heavy horizontal cuddling. Many, many, people of apparently different generations and socio-economic backgrounds crawled, walked, and ran barefoot.

If the luxuriant grass is the playing field, then the sport is picnic, and it’s no holds barred. Picnicking at Tanglewood could be called The Hunger Games. Some people bring blankets; others Persian rugs. Some use their phones for a light source; others dripping, medieval candelabras. Some brought their own dinner tables.

I witnessed picnic baskets that were like the Leatherman multi-tool of food carriers. One wicker victual vessel was cylindrical, and had two full-length doors that opened on the top side revealing a soft patterned-fabric interior, leather belt-straps for holding knives and things, and a brand new, unopened package of silverware. I’d never seen a new package of silverware.

The gift stores, referred to as Glass House I and II, sold neat picnic gadgets that were vaguely insulting in their frivolity. For example, there’s the \$12 paper bag alternative, the Fred Wine’O. Its

package explains that “It may look like a run-of-the-mill paper bag, but it’s really super-strong non-woven fabric that’s quilted and insulated to keep the chill in your chardonnay.” The store also carried another innovative Fred brand product called a “Wet My Whistle Slide Whistle Straw.”

The Tanglewood grounds are park-like. Trees are strewn about the lawn, most standing by themselves, allowing them to take on enormous, oversized proportions. A center point for me was an enormous old oak tree, the kind where a couple of the branches run out so far from the trunk horizontally that people have installed metal pillars to hold them up.

I quickly realized that from under the boughs of this tree was one of the few places where you can actually see the stage, which is sunk far down inside an amphitheater. From most places on the lawn, one can only see the act simulcast on huge screens.

There’s a visitor center in an old house. The volunteer guide didn’t know, but I’m pretty sure that this former residence is Gothic Revival, in its non-scary mood. Below the house there’s a sloping lawn that terminates in a 12-foot hedge. Looking over the hedge one can see a beautiful lake surrounded by mountains. In this field people played Frisbee, catch, and net-less badminton. People walked around wearing Dolly Parton wigs.

A group of lounging young men wearing very bright plaids and who laughed in that self-consciously successful way kept repeating, “Its like throwing up without throwing up,” over and over. Somehow – maybe because of the effort and thought that went into creating this space – no behavior seemed annoying.

Parton’s performance was riveting, when I could actually see her. I think that maybe she’s meant to be seen from a great distance anyway, under high-powered stage lights. She is 70, and when she danced creakily, her dress, which seemed like it was made of hundreds of Air Force signal mirrors, danced like sunlight on a lake.

According to Wednesday Knudsen, whom I was sitting next to, “I don’t think I’ve ever seen anything

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Canines; Body; Possible Kidnapping

Wednesday, 6/1

1:10 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with an arrest on French King Highway.

1:50 p.m. Motor vehicle vs. deer accident on French King Highway.

Thursday, 6/2

4:05 p.m. Firearms issue for resident on Center Road. Lost or stolen permit.

4:30 p.m. Firearms issue for resident on North Cross Road.

10:55 p.m. Motor vehicle vs. deer accident on Main Road.

Monday, 6/6

6:10 a.m. Bear complaint on Main Road. Moved along.

1:10 p.m. Reported pack of wild dogs attacked livestock in pasture on Main Road.

3:15 p.m. Hit-and-run accident reported at intersection of Route 2 and Main Road. Under investigation.

Tuesday, 6/7

8:12 a.m. Reported body floating in river. Located same and retrieved by Turners Falls fire department.

8:50 a.m. Complaint of large snapping turtle in roadway on Route 2.

1:30 p.m. Complaint of “coy dogs” running thru the yard of resident on Boyle Road.

Wednesday, 6/8

3:40 p.m. Reported possible animal abuse at Main Road residence.

Thursday, 6/9

3:20 p.m. Resident on Mountain Road reports

3:45 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with arson investigation.

Friday, 6/10

8:30 p.m. Found wallet at Mobil station, returned to owner.

9:10 p.m. Resident on Center Road reports howling “coy dogs” in the area.

Saturday, 6/11

7:25 p.m. Arrest of subject at Mobil station for motor vehicle violations.

8:30 p.m. Reported Factory Hollow rest area, attempted kidnapping... no one located.

Monday, 6/13

12:20 p.m. Reported possible jumper at the French King Bridge, located in Greenfield.

so bright. It was brighter than the moon. Brighter than the sun.”

Parton’s second dress was a bit less blinding, but did have rhinestoned tassles and a luminous, hip-hugging chevron. Parton discussed rhinestones several times over the course of the night. She fired her drummer, she said, for questioning whether wigs and rhinestones were in keeping with the name of the tour, *Pure and Simple*. “He’s back in Nashville with a 5” rhinestone heel in his ass,” she clarified.

Referring to God, she said, “You put the food on my table, and the rhinestones on my back.”

Almost half the show was stage banter. Parton discussed the family she grew up in (she was fourth of 12 kids), their one-room cabin in the Smoky Mountains, love (in the human family sense), and God. She talked about walking through the woods as a youth, finding pokeberries to smash into make-up.

This desire to get made-up produced conflict in her Pentecostal family, and she often had to defend her actions. She explained that her oft-repeated response to her preacher grandfather was, “I want to go to Heaven, but do I have to look like Hell to get there?”

Parton also tentatively broached current political topics, hypothesizing that God looked down with displeasure at the events of “last week,” meaning, I assume, the Orlando club shooting.

Despite Parton’s penchant for plastic surgery and other pop-star image enhancements, she is an incredible musician. During her set she played guitars, saxophone, flute, piano, and autoharp. She also played many of her hits, including “Nine to Five,” “Islands in the Stream,” and “I Will Always Love You.” Her final and best song of the

night, “He’s Alive,” illuminated the central role religion plays in her life, and her belief in God’s existence.

Tanglewood is a charmingly anachronistic place. It’s an experience that is more than just entertainment, it’s social recreation. It continues to promote Romantic Era ideas, like the benevolent combination of high culture (in the form of orchestra music) and aestheticized nature. During classical performances, it probably feels like the trees, lakes, and mountains are singing in a real-life version of Fantasia.

I personally find comfort and well-being in sense-of-place recreation like this. Even though I spent quite a while scouting places to sneak through the hedge, I’m prepared to take advantage of their anti-senior discount, \$20 tickets to anyone under 40. (Like Parton’s belief in God, orchestra music will never die, but maybe its audience will.)

If I had seen Parton perform in the usual spaces musicians of her celebrity play, I would probably have felt uncomfortable and disconnected, with a nagging desire to leave. But Tanglewood allowed me to appreciate the experience. The venue is an idiosyncratic remnant from a different century, reminding us that when built and natural landscapes are designed to work together, they can heighten human enjoyment of both.

Creating such good spaces creates a good culture, by lending people a sense of togetherness, comfort, and safety. When I think about music, the symphony doesn’t usually top my list. But when I try to see like a Romantic – which isn’t hard to do, in the Southern Berkshires – nothing seems better than an evening picnic at Tanglewood.

CRAPO from page B1

At the age of 15 she moved to Lexington, Massachusetts with her sisters and mother. A few years later she enrolled at Hampshire College. She says she thrived at Hampshire, and took advantage of the open curriculum to study a variety of subjects including creative writing, photography and even economics. It was there that she also met her future husband. She graduated in 1980.

In the mid-’80s she entered the MFA Program at UMass-Amherst, where she concentrated on writing fiction. “I learned how to construct a story,” she says of her time there. “I learned to have a long mind.”

After graduation that “long mind” produced a novel that came close to being published by Houghton-Mifflin. But in the end, the publisher decided not to take a chance on this first-time novelist.

Undeterred, she continued writing both prose and poetry. While both art forms involve words, Trish noted that writing a poem is quite different from writing fiction. “Writing a novel requires a long mind, a sense of something that’s there and where it’s going. Poetry is something different; it’s about being alert to the moment.”

Trish also honed her skills as a writer by editing, over many years, a variety of manuscripts by local writers at her office in Greenfield. But this work, while rewarding, was also taxing. She recalled that around 2006 she came into the office one day and looked at the mountain of papers on her desk and felt overwhelmed by the job: “What about me?” she said to herself.

This inquiry set her on a new course: in 2007 she enrolled at Hallmark Institute of Photography in Turners Falls. While she had always had an interest in photography, at Hallmark, she said, she learned her craft.

She began to take photos for *The Recorder*. This in turn led to her writing for the newspaper. Her column “Poets of Franklin County” has been running as a regular feature of that paper for years.

Photography is still important. Last month her “Dune Shack” series of photos was displayed at the Avenue A Storefront Galleries in Turners. Loot has 5x7 prints of some of her new photos taken in Havana, Cuba this February. And more collage and photography are in the works.

Writing, though, is still a major focus. She’s currently completing her first full-length collection of poems, tentatively entitled *Wait*, which will be published by Open Field Press in Northampton. She’s also working on a new novel. Surprises and treasures await readers and viewers.



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the poetry page

It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt  
Readers are invited to send  
poems to the Montague Reporter  
at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

# June Poetry Page

## featuring work by

### Trish Crapo

#### Too Many Kinds of Love

I held the blueberries, warm from the field,  
in their green carton, said, *I'm going to heal her with fruit.*  
It was true I had picked each one for my sister  
with brute reverence, true that she smiled then, timid,  
her new baldness hidden under a knit cap. But I was showing off  
for you. You lifted your young daughter toward me,  
toward the berries. It had been more than twenty years  
since we'd kissed. *They're not for her,* your wife said.  
*Don't let her have them.* My husband said nothing.  
From the porch railing, my daughters watched as I pulled  
the berries away too slowly, saw the little girl's hands stain blue.

#### Me & My Girlfriend

—for M.

Driving through town, eating take-out tacos  
with the top down, talkin' 'bout men we'd loved,  
men we'd lost, men we didn't want to think about  
but couldn't help but — I said I'd thought my heart  
would never mend back then, lovin' that man,  
lovin' him with my whole life, then, lovin' the hole  
in my life, the man-shaped hole, lovin' it.  
From the radio, Diana Ross hollered,  
*Baby, baby, baby* — and my girlfriend said,  
*Can I have a sip of your soda?*  
She was already drinking it — she drank it right down  
to the noisy emptiness at the bottom,  
said, *I am done with love! Done!*  
and we laughed because in fact  
there is no end to love and because  
we'd been hungry but now we were full.

#### Tasks

We let the yellow jackets have the raspberries.  
The pears drop. I mean to prune the bushes.  
You mean to cut the grass. Maybe the years  
have carried us past effort. Maybe we're lazy.  
I want to lie down.  
You pinch a nerve in your back,  
spend an hour on the floor before you call me.  
You don't ask me to come home. I stay on at my seminar  
but then leave early. You cook dinner because it hurts to sit down.  
I entertain the guests in the next room. Some things go on  
the way they have always gone on. I try to notice them.  
Who remembers to water the plants, who breaks down  
and vacuums. How unremarkable love is on a Saturday.  
How many things there still are to be done.

#### The Fig Itself

from a placard at the Montreal Botanical Garden

The fig itself is an inflorescence formed by a pear-shaped  
receptacle in which we find the flowers. And later,  
while we wait for our steaks to be cooked *medium sanguielle*—  
medium bloody—a young woman in a short black dress  
stands on the balcony above the lime-green restaurant,  
smokes a cigarette with one hand while with the other,  
she paints a fence dove gray. Not a drop spatters as,  
nonchalant, she strokes each slat, stops to smoke, look,  
stoop to the bucket, her auburn hair slipping from the clip  
in which it had been carelessly gathered,  
and a man stops at our table.  
You buy me a rose.

#### Love in the Garden

Pink-edged tutus riding the green foliage through June,  
soft bombs releasing an embarrassment of petals  
tantalizing the ants, dizzying the bees.

Dizzy myself with prowess,  
I said to my mother, *Look at my peonies!*  
*So beautiful! So many! So full!*

My mother dragged on her cigarette, held the smoke in her  
lungs  
with something almost like love as she considered.  
Then exhaled.

*I never did like peonies,* she said.

I laughed at first, stung. My mother,  
so expert at silence, couldn't have held her tongue?

But now I think, my mother dead, the peonies  
overcome by weeds, maybe my mother didn't think  
I needed her to like my peonies.

I loved them so much on my own.

#### Your hands,

chapped and dark with work.  
The day turned inside out.  
Is it five pm, quarter of ten,  
six in the morning? A rooster —  
late or lost behind the forest —  
sends up his false alarm.  
Wind stirring leaves as if stirring leaves  
could make rain happen.  
First drops.  
I run into them, unclothed,  
and you at the slider, laughing.  
Your hands, unclapsed.

#### Sieve

Wherever you touch me  
is the core of me —  
small of my back,  
thigh, breastbone,  
top of my head. Each place  
the portal  
to you.

This skin, which we love  
for containing us, strains  
each other through each other.

We pour through.

Trish Crapo is a writer and photographer who lives in Leyden. She freelances for the *Recorder* in Greenfield, and writes a fiction review column for the *Women's Review of Books*. Her chapbook *Walk through Paradise Backwards* was published by Slate Roof Press in 2004. Crapo's poems have appeared in anthologies and journals, including *Southern Poetry Review*, *Osiris*, the medical journal *CHEST*, and former U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser's nationally syndicated column, "American Life in Poetry." Poetry's where she goes when things get hard.

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Meals will be provided at the sites and times as follows:  
June 27, 2016 through August 19, 2016

• **Turners Falls High School Cafeteria:**

Breakfast, 8 to 9 a.m.; Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• **Sheffield Elementary School Cafeteria:**

Breakfast, 8 to 9 a.m.; Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• **Unity Park Field House:**

Breakfast, 8 to 9 a.m.; Lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

• **Highland Park, Millers Falls:**

Lunch Only, noon to 12:30 p.m.

• **Brick House Community Resource Center, Turners Falls:**

Lunch Only, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form (AD-3027), found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form.

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Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail:

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(2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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# Turners Falls Goes to War: Part VII



Photograph of the company, from then-Major Pierce's 1900 memoir "Reminiscences of the Experiences of Company L."

## By REPORTER STAFF

This year, the Montague Reporter is periodically revisiting the Spanish-American War of 1898, particularly the story of Company L of the Second Regiment of the Massachusetts infantry, Franklin County's unit in what was then the Volunteer Army of the United States.

We are updating readers on the news of the men and boys of Co. L in real time (well, we're behind by a week at this point). We have so far published three letters written by a young Turners Falls man named J.J. Sullivan, printed by our predecessor, the Turners Falls Reporter.

The June 15, 1898 edition of the Reporter ran Sullivan's fourth letter, followed on June 22 by one from Harry Hall. We reprint both in full.

On Board the Transport Seneca,  
Bound for Santiago de Cuba,  
Tampa Bay, June 11.

## To the Editor of the Reporter:

Since I wrote to you last, the 2d Mass. Regt. has experienced a great change. Sunday night at 6.30 the order came in to strike camp, get through supper as soon as possible and hold ourselves in readiness to march out at 8.30 fully equipped with arms, ammunition and shelter tents.

Hastily donning our canvas uniforms, we levelled our tents in quick order and packing up our few belongings in our yoke or roll, which we now carry, as it is Gen. Shafter's orders to leave our blue uniforms and knapsacks behind, we stood at attention to await further orders.

Fifty-five rounds of ammunition were then dealt out to each man. We carry forty-five rounds in our belts which is all each belt can hold, and ten rounds in our pockets. The remaining 345 rounds are being cared for by our commissary sergeant.

The boys tore up their wooden floors from out of the tents and gathered all the wood and rubbish in sight and built huge bonfires all over the camp. It was a weird sight to witness the determined faces of the men as the fire flared up now and then, and cast a glow of light over the assembled groups and through the trees.

It was too bad that every sectarian or believer in sectarianism was not present, as about a hundred men gathered together, the picked singers of the regiment and sang that grand old patriotic song,

"We'll stand shoulder to shoulder for Old Glory." In that group of singers were men of various nationalities, and of different religions, beliefs, and with the smoke of the battle almost in their nostrils they vied with each other in showing their loyalty to our flag and country.

At 11 p.m., seeing that we were not apt to move for several hours, we posted guards over the fires and regimental property and went to sleep.

The following day, a few hours

before we moved, the box containing stamps, writing paper and other useful articles arrived. The boys were delighted with the gift and authorized me through your paper to thank the donors, who contributed so generously at this opportune moment, when several of the Falls boys were sadly in need of the aforesaid articles.

At 6 p.m. we left our camp grounds and marched for the line of cars awaiting on a side track outside of Ybor. Owing to some mismanagement we did not get in to Tampa before eleven o'clock that night, and went to sleep on the floor of a large freight house.

Hardtack was all we had for supper, not even a drop of coffee being given to us. Let me say right here that the commissary department of a volunteer regiment is deplorably "on the hog." It would be a good idea if they tried to engage the services of experienced commissariats even if they had to search all over Europe and America for them. A green commissary even with the best intentions cannot be expected to come up with a man with experience.

I do not think much of our medical department either. It's the same pill and an injection of morphine for everything from a toothache to a cold. If a soldier does not know enough to doctor himself then it's a case of "may God pity him."

Waking up in the morning we went on board the transport Seneca, and were consigned to the quarters in the hold of the ship. The steerage department of an ocean liner is heaven compared to the place we sleep in, and if the Second was not an exceptionally healthy regiment we would suffer severely.

The water we drink is a mixture of red paint, oil, tar and very little aqua pura. It is a regular custom of our first sergeant after morning roll call to appear with a bottle of medicine and a spoon and offer a dose to any one affected with diarrhoea or cramps, and he always finds patients too.

Still, taken all and all, there is not a serious case of sickness aboard to my knowledge, and if called into battle in an hour we should show up in good shape. But you can bet we will heave a sigh of relief when the shores of Cuba or Porto Rico come in sight.

The rest of our transport is occupied by the 8th Inf. U.S. Reg. from Wyoming. They are a very fine looking crowd of men, and look hardy enough to stand any kind of hardship.

After embarking, we weighed anchor and pulled out in the bay beside the other transports, but later went into dock again to take on more rations. We are now anchored beside the side-wheeler, "The Gussie," which landed that ill-fated expedition some time ago.

Being the first transport out to sea, we are surrounded by the gun-

boats Bancroft, Helena and Annapolis and the little Hornet. The battleship Texas is expected to arrive most any minute.

The principal amusement aboard is gambling. Monte, crap, stud, draw, chuckle luck, roulette, poker and various other styles of gambling are going on all day. Men are continually winning and dropping money. A regular drops fifty dollars in an hour and calmly rolls himself a cigarette at the finish as though nothing happens. A few minutes later a recruit from Turners Falls informs me he has just won eighteen dollars.

A man started at roulette yesterday with five dollars and wound up that night with sixteen hundred dollars. Monte Carlo has got to take a back seat in comparison with this transport. I wonder why it is allowed by the officers in demand.

Whilst I am writing, a very innocent looking regular (a Hebrew) has just taken from a volunteer all the money he has got. He started to explain the game to me; he thinks he has an easy victim. I am giving him plenty of rope. When he raises his eyes from off the board he will find me dead asleep to all the world.

It is a case of a pair of good jollies of different schools clashing together. It is hard to find two more innocent looking men; it is a wonder we are not growing angel wings. Hell's half-acre is simply outdone.

Now you see a volunteer sporting a revolver and belt or a Spanish dirk. The next time you see him he is bare of his arms. The chances are the gambler has them.

Whilst staying in Ybor a craze started amongst the volunteers to possess themselves of revolvers and daggers. It is safe to say that two-thirds of our regiment carry one weapon or another, although it is contrary to orders. When we land in Cuba they will find themselves denuded of side arms.

The boys from the Falls are in fair shape. No serious sickness amongst them. I must now close, the ship being too overcrowded to find space to write an interesting letter.

Yours truly, **J.J. Sullivan**

**Dear Sir**—Will you kindly allow me a small space in your valuable paper, to thank the friends in Turners Falls for the valuable box sent to the boys of Co. L. Words cannot express the gratitude of all of us, to think so many should express their sympathy to us in such a substantial way. To say we all had a good smoke at once, would feebly express it. Again we would say a thousand thanks, and may the value of the box be returned to all fourfold.

We are at present on transport in Tampa Bay, ready and willing to go we know not when, or where. Boys are all well at present writing. Heat is something terrible.

Respectfully,  
**Harry C. Hall**  
Co. L.

## TRAIL from page B1

road, I make it a brief glance, and then I keep my eyes on the immediate prize — the next guardrail post, coming right up. When I get particularly desperate, I count them: "One... two... three... four..." like galvanized sheep, in a mnemonic rote that soothes my aching will into another quarter mile of effort.

But when I reached the hairpin turn, I did get off my bike for a minute. The clouds caught fire with crimson in the dawn, and I took in the panoramic view of the Hoosic Valley, the city of North Adams in its muscular brick glory, the spruce green Taconic Range across the way in New York State, and thought of bike rides I had taken in younger days, and the trail I was riding now, heading home from Mt. Greylock in the footsteps of Thoreau.

"I had come over the hills on foot and alone in serene summer days, plucking the raspberries by the wayside, and occasionally buying a loaf of bread at a farmer's house, with a knapsack on my back which held a few traveler's books and a change of clothing, and a staff in my hand. I had that morning looked down from the Hoosack Mountain, where the road crosses it, on the village of North Adams in the valley three miles away under my feet, showing how uneven the earth may sometimes be, and making it seem an accident that it should ever be level and convenient for the feet of man."

— Henry David Thoreau,  
*A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* (1849)

Yes, I could have walked, with a knapsack, a few books, and a tin cup of rice and sugar, like Thoreau. But you can cover a surprising amount of ground on a bicycle, a gentle mode of transportation if ever there was one, and given the constraints of time I chose to ride.

I left Greenfield on Friday at

about 2:30 in the afternoon, after stopping by the library for a copy of Thoreau's book, which I carried with me all the way.

The friends I planned to meet at the visitor's lodge on Mt. Greylock all had cell phones with GPS apps and instant text messaging capability. Unlike me, they were able to locate each other even as they traveled to our rendezvous. They could estimate within seconds how soon each would arrive.

I told them I would try to meet them Saturday morning at 9:30, but not to wait for me if I was late.

Flat tires happen. So do wrong turns, if some satellite is not guiding you.

And though I encountered the latter on my way, I made it 60 miles and met them within five minutes of the appointed time.

As I made my way up Greenfield Mountain, I could see trucks belching black smoke in front of me, and I thought about inhaling all that carbon monoxide, cadmium, benzene, and other toxins as I filled my lungs with each pump of the pedals.

I thought of Thoreau, waking up on the top of Greylock 172 summers ago, to a world covered in mist in which he saw "not the substance of impurity, no spot nor stain..."

As a younger bike rider my credo had been, "Never stop 'til you reach the top." But I pulled over at the rest area looking out over Greenfield and drank most of my water, figuring I could get more in Shelburne Falls. I readjusted my gear, and thought Thoreau would not have packed so much.

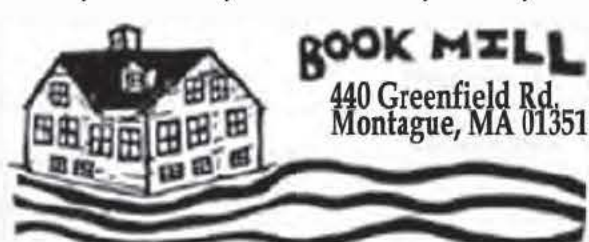
When he climbed up Greylock, he wrote, "... I came to where the water stood in the tracks of the horses which had carried travelers up, I lay down flat, and drank these dry, one after another, a pure cold, spring-like water, but yet I could not fill my dipper, though I contrived little siphons of grass-stems, and ingenious aqueducts on a small scale..."

I felt overweight. And I felt, "I'm late."



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## EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, 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 Monday each month, is off for the summer. Check here in the fall for announcement when it begins again.

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

## EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Crafts and activities for children of all ages. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

## 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children. 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.

## 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *OpenMic*. 6 p.m.

## 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 THIRD FRIDAY

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*.



"Bladefish," by Andy Rothschild is part of the exhibit at Artspace in Greenfield called *Found Object Art*. Through July 8.

Food carts supplement the local beer. 6 p.m.

## EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

## EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *Found Object Art - An Exhibition by Andy Rothschild & Students*. Opening reception, Friday, June 24, 5-7 p.m. Through 7/8.

Leverett Arts & Crafts, Leverett: Barnes Gallery presents: *The Horse Show by Bella Halsted*. Show runs through 6/25.

Memorial Hall, Deerfield: *Relics and Curiosities in Memorial Hall*. "Interesting" objects such as wreaths made of human hair and weapons made from shark's teeth are in this exhibit which runs until 10/30. \$

Sawmill River Arts Gallery at The Montague Mill, Montague: *Summer Celebration*. Featured artists: Louise Minks, Roy Mansur, Christine Mero, Christine Pellerin, Patricia Czepiel Hayes. Artists' reception, Saturday, June 25, 1-4 p.m. Exhibit runs through 8/29.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Thrones*. "A ubiquitous household item becomes objet d'art at the Nook" as artists transform the common toilet seat into new art forms. Through 6/25.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Along the River: pastels by Rebecca Clark*. Through 6/27. Also *Cheryl Rezendes' Interludes*, A collection of new works, wall hung mixed media on fiber. Through 6/26.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"The Nature of Things" Mixed Media by Nancy Baker*. Through 6/27.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Silverthorne Theater, Greenfield: Sponsoring a competition to select a new play by a local playwright of color for possible production during the 2017 season. Deadline for submissions is 10/1. Complete information at [www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html](http://www.silverthornetheater.org/new-play-competition2.html)

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, JUNE 23

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: *Katie Clarke, Austin & Elliott, Sue Kranz & Ben Tousley*. 6 p.m.

Sloan Theater at GCC, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Company presents: *Molière's The Miser*. Classic French farce in a contemporary (but respectful) translation. Through July 2. 7:30 p.m. Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Juggler Meadow String Band*. Americana. 8 p.m.

Book Mill, Montague Center: *The Bandshees and Mama's Marmalade*. 8 p.m. \$

## FRIDAY, JUNE 24

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Chinatown*. Classic neo noir Polanski film with Jack Nicholson losing part of his nose, and an early fight about water rights in CA. *Beach Honey* provide live music at 7 p.m. Film starts at 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*. Uptown blues. 8 p.m.

Book Mill, Montague Center: *Ensoleil Album Release*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Kevin Connolly*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Baxter Brewing Co. presents: Community Smokes*. Montague band plays reggae-rock, blues, soul, and more. 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, JUNE 25

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: Pioneer Taverns pairs with the Oak Ridge Golf Club for the 1st

Annual P.T. Golf Tournament. BBQ and jam session at the P.T. following golf. Fun starts at 10 a.m. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kiddleidoscope*. This week is Bees and Flowers. For ages 3-6 accompanied by adults. 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.

Sloan Theater at GCC, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Company presents: *Molière's The Miser*. Classic French farce in a contemporary (but respectful) translation. Through July 2. Nightly 7:30 p.m. Saturday matinees at 2 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Roger Salloom Band with Charles Neville & John Joelson*. 7 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Chinatown*. Classic neo noir Polanski film. Live music by *Small Change* at 7 p.m. Film at 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars*. Evening of live music and dance from West Africa to support the Light Up the Shea Campaign. 7:30 p.m. \$

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Pangeans*. Reggae, Funk & World Music. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shadow Twisters*. Classic '60s & '70s rock. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Small Town Reunion*. Roots rock. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *What Happens Now*, featuring locals John Moore & Glenn Armitage. R&B, blues, folk, & roots rock. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Groove Night (birthday party edition) w/DJ Drew*. Hip-hop/funk/r&b. 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, JUNE 26

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Boondock Rebels*. Pop country and classic rock. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

## MONDAY, JUNE 27

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic Cabaret*. 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, JUNE 30

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: *Jennie McAvoy and Ellen Redman, Strawberry Afternoon*. 6 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Twangbusters*. Boogie, Blues, Bop & Twang. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Hill & Friends*. Original Americana w/ Jen Spingla. 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, JULY 1

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mya Holmes*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

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

Memorial Hall Theater

POTHOLE PICTURES

Friday & Saturday  
June 24 and 25, 7:30 p.m.  
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**WEST ALONG** from page B1  
and now the harried parents wing in back and forth to the nest, and luckily for us, are making a dint in the mosquito and bug pest population.

These are modestly-clad New England birds, teetering and tail-wagging on the front porch railing, hardly musical but a welcome presence around our dwellings generation after generation. They love nesting in eaves and are great company in their quiet way.

*Plague! If they ain't somepin in Work 'at kindo goes ag'in My convictions — 'long about Here in June especially!..*

Sunday morning classics on public radio float out on the calm air from the distant transistor in the kitchen, small birds call. We have it pretty good: the Red Sox are in second place, battling for first with the Orioles; our girls' softball team is once again State Champion, and we can forget about the bad news and dysfunction in DC and elsewhere around the globe. Sunday morning is a truce time, a ceasefire time, and a chance to dwell on the bounty of the season. A chance to let some peace back into your thoughts.

Deep in the woods, the mountain laurel blooms a porcelain white like during no other season in memory. Perhaps the mild winter helped the flowers this year. Elderberry, maple-leaf viburnum, high bush blueberry all are swelling with the promise of ripening wild fruit.

Along the river shore, the blooms

of our wild rose recall the days in the dunes off Provincetown where the dusty beach rose flowers near the doorways of dune shacks, which were still legal in the '50s and '60s. In those days you could hike out and over high sand cliffs to reach the empty, booming Atlantic shore. Back here in the Valley, the roses bloom in the deep damp soils of our river terrace garden.

What peace of mind of a morning in June like this one, after a week packed with turbulent meetings, stressful news on the television. The past week held some good times too: a long acoustic jam session with friends at the Element Brewery in Millers, and an all-day conference on Lake Hitchcock over in Deerfield.

After a week of adventures and misadventures, it's something of a small reward to now find myself high and dry on the figurative shore of the back porch, with nothing but the roses and the noisy fledglings to contemplate. The Sunday morning respite leads into the heart of the labyrinth where peace of mind can be found.

The new Siberian pup Nicky is stretched out at my feet on the porch in the early morning sun, gnawing contentedly on a massive soup bone. What more could man and dog desire?

*June wants me, and I'm to spare!*

(excerpts from James Whitcomb Riley, 1849-1916)



## Mail Art Comes in Many Forms to GCC



By ALICE THOMAS

**GREENFIELD** – The *Mail Art* exhibition at Greenfield Community College held its community reception on June 14. This intimate exhibition covered the walls and spilled over onto four pedestals that will show thru July 12 at the GCC South Gallery on campus.

The GCC Art Club, made possible by the Student Life office and Student Senate, led by Jen Simms, Art Department Faculty, began with the philosophy of the Art Club: to create a creative community in which everyone can participate regardless of the art experience. "Initially," she reported, "we mailed art to ourselves and then posted a call on various online venues...Each month, more and more entries arrived and each Mon-

day during Art Club, we would open envelopes, study the postcards and talk over the definition of mail art... An all-inclusive exhibition was organized to celebrate over 500 pieces of mail art received from 17 states and 13 countries. Our zine represents selected mail art from the project."

Hope Schneider, GCC Librarian, was also integral in the coordination and thrust of this unique and colorful endeavor. She attended every Art Club meeting! Her ideas were key to the development of and continued interest in this cutting-edge exhibition of mail art.

Then, in preparation of the exhibition, she created special faux-artist stamps and mail cards for display and for the zines that were available along with buttons that feature some of the featured art.

Diana Roberts, Campus Mailroom Staff, was recognized as integral to the success of this exhibition in that she contributed key services from her post at the college by receiving, directing all the mail (in all forms and sizes), sorting and delivering all items, even when the envelopes were non-standard...No small accomplishment!!!

Art took the forms of bottles, cans, shoebox scenes, stamps, paintings, embossed paper, photographs and prints, mixed media as well as a 'quilt' sent by West Springfield High School. Additionally, a wall of work was made by artists at Riverside Community in eastern Massachusetts.

Compliments were heard from the wide range of viewers, such as "I think it's fantastic!" "I love it!" and "That's awesome. I never would have thought of mail art in that way!" The reception was attended by members of the Franklin County community that included GCC faculty and student families, regional authors, independent artists, graduates, students, friends, artists who collaborated with the Art Club such as Janice Sorensen, and special guests.

This exhibition may be viewed through July 12 at the GCC Campus South Gallery.

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