



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 14 – NO. 40

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 4, 2016

## Fifty Years of Focused Squidging: Town to Host Tiddlywinks Bash

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

MONTAGUE – On the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of this month, Tiddlywinks players from around North America and Europe will gather at the Montague Common Hall in Montague Center. The occasion is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the North American Tiddlywinks Association, or NATWA.

The weekend will feature high-level Tiddlywinks matches, instruction for beginners, a panel discussion, and a historical exhibit. The public is encouraged to attend, and to try their hand at the game.

Tiddlywinks, on the surface, is easy to understand. Each player, using a plastic disk called a *squidger*, attempts to shoot smaller disks called *winks* into a centrally located pot, or, defensively, onto an opponent's winks. A wink that is underneath an opponent's wink cannot be played.

The game ends either when one player shoots all of their winks into the pot, or a time limit, typically 25 minutes, is reached. If the time limit is exceeded, points are awarded for winks that have not been covered, or *squopped*.

Tiddlywinks was invented in 1888 in England by Joseph Assheton Fincher, a man who on his application for the patent listed his occupation as 'gentleman'. While his other inventions, improved versions of cufflinks and candlesticks, had modest success, Tiddlywinks became a mania, sweeping England, North America and all the British colonies.

A glimpse back to this craze remains in the form of a letter from Emily Lytton, aged 17, writing in 1892 from British Guiana: "After dinner we all played the most exciting game that ever was invented, called Tiddlywinks. I assure you no words can picture either the intense excitement or the noise. I



Montague's own Ferd Wulkan, playing in a North American Tiddlywinks Association competition singles match last year.

almost scream in describing it."

After its first decade as a fad in parlors and smoking rooms, Tiddlywinks came to be considered a children's game. Following this demographic transition, its popularity declined. Many variations of the game, such as Mumbly Peg – not the older Mumbly Peg where you throw a knife at your foot – were produced and patented, despite its waning popularity.

### Tiddlywinks in England

Tiddlywinks' two-generation disappearance at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century prepared it for rebirth. Its initial life as an Age of Wonder craze lent it legitimacy as a real see TIDDLYWINKS page A6

## Sheffield's Summer Camp Goes Green

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Excited campers, volunteer counselors, teachers and families crowded into the Sheffield Elementary School cafeteria last Thursday to play, educate, eat dirt and worms, and celebrate the end of Green Adventure Camp.

The walls were lined with superheroes – life-sized cutouts the campers had made, with speech bubbles giving hot tips on recycling, composting and other environmentally conscious ways to deal with waste. The campers themselves bubbled with similar information, and showed off games they had made entirely from reused material.

Attendance at the Green Adventure Camp was free, thanks to a grant the school district

received through the 21st Century Community Learning Center program, which also funds after-school programming at Sheffield. Christine Bates, known to friends as Ms. C, led 32 rising second-through-sixth-graders through five weeks of ambitious, eco-themed activities.

"Almost all of this is made out of recycled stuff," explained rising third-grader Jack Leamy, looming over a cobbled-together cityscape. "Except the people." A tiny Wonder Woman figurine ziplined from building to cardboard building along a length of recycled yarn, as Ms. C ushered campers to the front of the cafeteria to present on what they had learned.

One of the summer's highlights was a field trip to the recycling facility in Springfield, see GREEN ADVENTURE page A4



JACKSON PHOTO

New to compost? Rising sixth-grader Kaylee Moore (center left) will break it down for you.

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Frank Abbondanzio Will Retire; Montague Now Seeks Administrator, Treasurer, and WPCF Superintendent

By JEFF SINGLETON

Longtime Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio officially announced his retirement at the July 25 meeting of the selectboard. Abbondanzio held the position from 1980 to 1992, worked in the town of Lee for five years, and returned in 1998 – a total of 30 years in Montague.

"During this time I have enjoyed a career in which I have been fortunate to witness and play a role in the growth and transformation of our community," he wrote in his resignation letter to the board. "Over the years many positive and dramatic events have taken place."

The letter stressed the "very talented staff" and "a succession of strong leaders on our Boards of Selectmen" who "made it fun to



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Montague is also seeking proposals for the reuse of 15 Power Street, known as the "Railroad Salvage Annex".

come to work everyday and made it possible to achieve what we have achieved over these many years," but said he wanted to spend time with his family, and at the ocean.

see MONTAGUE page A8

## TFFD To Swear In New Chief

By REPORTER STAFF



DERRICK ZELLMAN PHOTO  
Deputy Chief John Zellman

TURNERS FALLS – The public has been invited to attend the swearing-in of the district's new Fire Chief, John Zellman, on Thursday, August 18 at the firehouse.

Zellman, who has served for the last two years as Deputy Chief, has been with the department since 1984, joining it full-time in 1987 and earning a promotion to Cap-

tain in 2000.

He will replace Robert Escott, Jr., a 31-year veteran of the department who has served as chief since July 2011. Escott announced this year that he will be taking an early retirement.

Guests are encouraged to arrive before the formal ceremony, which will take place at 6:30 p.m. The firehouse is located at 180 Turnpike Road in Turners.

### WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Wendell Reconciles, Somewhat, to Having Two Broadband Committees

By JOSH HEINEMANN

A string of emails from former broadband committee members and citizens were sent to Wendell's town listserv following the July 13 selectboard meeting, at which the selectboard decided to divide the broadband project into two committees, one for construction and one for operations.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard responded on the list by inviting any interested citizens and especially members of the broadband committee to come to the July 27 meeting and discuss their reasons for discontent with the decision, and look for possible reme-

dies that might alleviate any bad feelings and help move the project along.

So many people came to the July 27 meeting that it was moved from the selectboard office to the larger meeting room. The discussion went for two hours.

When town treasurer Carolyn Manley came in at 8 p.m., the time she was scheduled to meet the selectboard, she left when she saw that discussion was far from over. Discussion went on past 9 p.m., and Manley did not get her opportunity to speak with the selectboard at this meeting.

Heard began by reviewing the history of see WENDELL page A4

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## For Working Families, State Childcare Assistance Can Be Hard to Access

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

FRANKLIN COUNTY – In Massachusetts, income inequality is staggering. The top fifth of residents makes 18.5 times as much money as the bottom fifth, according to an organization called Talk Poverty, which ranked all 50 states by how equally residents' income was distributed in 2015. Massachusetts ranked nearly at the bottom, at number 48. The difference between the haves and have-nots is incredible.

State-funded assistance programs like the childcare voucher program are aimed, in part,

at getting parents working so they can pull their families above the poverty threshold. Tom Miller, director of external affairs at the Department of Transitional Assistance, said the goal of his department's voucher assistance program is to get families on the right path.

"Our goal is to get people to a place where they have a successful career," Miller said.

But actually obtaining a childcare voucher to assist with the cost of daycare is difficult.

Kathleen Hart, director of communications and external affairs at the Department of Early Education and Care, said there are see CHILDCARE page A6

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Openings for Discussion

The *Reporter* sends its warmest wishes to Frank Abbondanzio and Patty Dion, two dedicated public servants who have put decades of work into keeping the wheels of Montague's town government spinning. By the end of this year, both will ride off into the sunset.

It might not be easy to find the right candidates to fill their desks. Good luck, too, to the teams who will find their replacements – in Dion's case, an interim appointee.

It may be more work than anyone is up for this year, but it would be a shame to let pass an opportunity for the town to take stock of the structure of its government, and consider whether it's time to make any modifications.

In an April 12, 2015 forum during the race for his current seat, selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he felt the next time it came up, Montague should consider whether it would be appropriate to have a town manager, a position that could make more decisions without the selectboard's approval.

We wonder if fifteen months on the job have changed Mr. Kuklewicz's opinion on that matter – and we think it's healthy to have some

public conversation, even if the consensus is to keep things as is.

By the same token, there are some solid arguments to be made for the town treasurer to be an appointed, rather than an elected, role. The people of Erving have been debating this recently, and Montague might want to explore the option.

Either change could be seen as taking control from the hands of voters – the professionalization of public life.

On the other hand, recent town elections in Montague have tended to see low voter turnout, uncontested races, and an aging civic base. Such a system might not nominate competent leadership indefinitely, and as anyone involved will tell you, public administration is only getting more complex.

In the absence of scandalous corruption, or scandalous incompetence, any institution is likely to soldier on in fairly static form. Town hall has been in steady hands.

But changes are coming, and only time will tell if we have all grown too complacent with what we have.

*What do you think? We welcome your letters to the editor!*

## Good News At Last

On Wednesday, the International Olympic Committee made skateboarding, along with baseball, karate, climbing and surfing, an official Olympic sport. Four years from now, we'll be watch-

ing athletes shred ramps in Tokyo, provided we have not all been subsumed in a fiery nuclear holocaust.

We wonder if Unity Skatepark will end up producing an Olympian! Stranger things have happened...



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letter to the Editors

## The Wretched of the Earth?

It seems like the bloodletting never ends. Baton Rouge again. Nice, France. Men who offer their lives for something they believe in and, in the process, think that taking others along with them is a grand idea.

Including others takes the destructive act to a higher level, a level at which it might be spun as a reflection of a spiritually advanced state.

Imagine the state of mind of a man who would drive a truck down a busy thoroughfare, trying to hit as many people as he can before he is stopped.

This man had absolutely nothing to lose. Such folks are lethal.

It is natural that we in the West would focus on the idea that this man was deranged. Above all, we must maintain our utter devotion to capitalism, and loathe to see him as a victim of capitalism. But, truly, this man has become yet another symbol of the apartheid system

that has emerged in French society. He was one of many who are extremely alienated and enraged. And perhaps he had been pushed to the end of his tolerance.

These are the scum left by the march of capitalism around the world. They are the detritus. No room for them in the game of capitalism, and that's just how the game is played. It pushes the scum to the sidelines. It can't possibly please everyone. And those few whom it does please are eager for you to know that there's nothing finer than capitalism.

This underclass has been stripped to the bone: no place to call home, no education, no feed, no sanitation, no safety, no health care, no hope, no dignity. Their countries of origin have been ravaged by soldiers from the West, and by bankers from the West. The interventions of these intruders in the so-called developing countries have been merciless and cold-blooded in the pursuit of

filthy money, money that is tainted by the blood on the hands of those who exchange it.

The problem is – five hundred years of colonialism. These countries are now plundered. And so the people come to the West, to what must look to them like the Garden of Eden. Then they find themselves on the lowest rung of the socioeconomic ladder with no substantial effort by the host country to see that these refugees from unbearable hardship get integrated into the society, not alienated.

It is a terribly cruel world. What are we to do? It's so reminiscent of plantation slavery in America, now on a much grander scale. An underclass of slave laborers getting impatient of their chains.

And the world burns.

Ralph J. Dolan  
Haydenville

## August 20: Erving Breaks Ground for a New Park!

By JEANIE SCHERMESSE

The Erving Riverfront Park will formally break ground on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 2 p.m. A ceremony is planned to commemorate the event, with state and town officials present and "golden shovels" poised to turn over the soil to signal the start of construction in September.

The new park will eventually encompass approximately 14 acres along the Millers River for recreation and conservation, and is adjacent to already-protected land across the river in Wendell.

The ceremony will take place, rain or shine, at the former Usher Mill site on Arch Street, directly off of Route 2 in Erving Center.

Look for the balloons and white tent as you go under the railroad un-

derpass on Arch Street toward the river. Ample parking is available.

The Usher Mill Re-Use Committee, appointed by the Town of Erving, has been spearheading the project for the past five years.

This committee was instrumental in obtaining a PARC grant from the state Division of Conservation Services, a highly competitive grant program. The town received the maximum amount of \$400,000, with a required match from Erving residents of an additional \$400,000.

These funds will help to build Phase 1 of the Erving Riverfront Park, which will serve not only Erving, but the entire region and state. The UMRC hopes to apply for another PARC grant in two years to complete Phase 2 of the park. Phase 3 is anticipated to fol-

low with the re-development of the mill itself. It is an exciting project and after years of work the vision is becoming a reality!

Senator Stan Rosenberg and state representative Suzannah Whipples Lee will be in attendance to say a few words. Other invited guests and dignitaries may also be on hand as well as representatives from area conservation and recreation organizations.

Free refreshments will be served, with Friendly's Ice Cream donating sundae cups for the event. Come see displays highlighting the final design for the park, including a "natural playscape" area, bandshell, and picnic pavilions.

UMRC envisions the new park will host future farmers markets, and has even designated an area for a

community garden space.

Concerts and other events will be planned for the new park. Providing access for people to the Millers River was one of the primary goals of the UMRC and the town.

The new "Erving Riverfront Park" is expected to become a major resource that will help to foster community involvement and future economic development.

Please plan to attend to share in the celebration! The event is free and open to the public. Erving residents and their families are especially invited to come out and support this momentous occasion.

*Jeanie Schermesser is chair of the Usher Mill Re-use Committee.*

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Published weekly on Thursdays.  
Every other week in July and August.  
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

A moose is loose on Avenue A in Turners Falls! Andy the moose represents the Montague Public Libraries' Summer Reading Program.

Andy can be found at various Avenue A locations up to the start of the school year. Students who report his location to any Montague Library will receive a prize.

Where Andy is presently hanging out may soon change, but it is in the same location as another downtown moose. Students will be able to tell them apart. Andy is wearing a Boston Red Sox cap and jersey.

Celebrate summer and the river with a **children's cruise** on board the Quinnetukut II Riverboat on Friday, August 5, from 11 a.m. until noon, and again on Saturday, August 20 from 11 a.m. to noon.

These cruises are the perfect length for children to get a taste of the river as they head downstream through the scenic French King Gorge. Travel beneath the French King Bridge, towering 140 feet above the boat, cruise alongside rocky cliffs, meet the Captain, and enjoy an outing on the beautiful Connecticut River.

Register online [www.bookeo.com/northfield](http://www.bookeo.com/northfield) or by calling 1 (800) 859-2960.

From August 12 through 14, the **New England Canoe and Kayak Racing Association (NECKRA)** is hosting the United States Canoe Association National Marathon Championships on the Connecticut River

at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center.

This event includes three days of marathon racing with competition for canoe, kayak, surfski, and stand-up paddleboard. For schedules and registration, information visit [www.newenglandnationals.org](http://www.newenglandnationals.org).

**The Country Players** are proud to present **Mystery Mania!** Their summer youth theater offerings will take place August 12, 13, and 14 at Frontier Regional School in South Deerfield.

There will be two one-act plays included in the presentation. The first, "The Mystery of the Gumdrops Dragon", directed by Susan Dresser, will be performed by the elementary players. This magical fairy tale sees the Princess of Candyland mourning the loss of her pet dragon and the colorful characters she seeks out to help her find him.

The second presentation will be "And Then There Was One," directed by David Peck, a spoof of Agatha Christie's seminal work "And Then There Were None." Ten strangers arrive at a house, only to be offed one by one.

Ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$8 for children and seniors. Show times are at 7 p.m. on Friday, August 12 and Saturday, August 13, and 2 p.m. on Sunday, August 14. Please come and join us for what promises to be a fun show!

There will also be an encore performance of "The Mystery of the Gumdrops Dragon" in Mon-

tagne Center on Saturday, August 20 at 7 p.m. as part of Montague Old Home Days.

Oh, and save the dates of August 19 through August 21, because those are **Montague Old Home Days!**

Do you enjoy putting together puzzles? Have a collection of used puzzle boxes? Looking for a new challenge? Then come to the puzzle swap at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank on Saturday, August 13, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Saturday, August 20 will be **Wendell Old Home Day**. Come to the Common for fantastic live music all day, crafts, kids' games, food and much more! The parade starts at 11 a.m.

Local historian Ed Gregory will present on "**The History of the Construction of Cabot Station**" at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls on Saturday, August 20, from 1 to 2 p.m.

This is an interactive historical review of the construction of Cabot Station at Montague City. Learn about the evolution of one of the largest electric power producers in western Mass. through vintage photos. The program is in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of hydroelectricity at Cabot Station.

**Mutts in Need:** A Fundraiser to benefit the Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter will be held on Saturday, August 20, from 3 to 10 p.m. at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. There will be a live band, raffles (win a trip to Napa Valley!), door prizes, and a catered meal.

Tickets are available at the Shelter, located at the end of Sandy Lane in Turners Falls. For more information, please contact the shelter at

(413) 676-9182, or go to their website [fcrdogkennel.org](http://fcrdogkennel.org).

**The Friends of the New Salem Public Library** have an "ongoing" used book sale at the New Salem Public Library, where good hardcover and paperback books can be purchased for very reasonable prices – \$1 to \$2 for adult titles, and 50 cents to \$1 for children's books.

The sale books are located in both entrances to the library as well as the "Book Closet" in the back right of the children's section. It's a great place to find books to bring with you on a summer vacation!

The "Friends" also seeks small donations of books throughout the year in order to replenish their ongoing sale, or to be used by the library. Any books not kept will be donated to Big Hearted Books.

One more date to save toward the end of the month: on August 28, from noon to 8 p.m., all are invited to the first annual **5 Town Festival** at the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club on Turners Falls Road.

This family-friendly event will feature live music by Trailer Park, Ruby's Complaint, The Cooper Jones Band, The Staff and The Equalites, and entertainment by street acrobats the Red Trouser Show, magician Fran Ferry, hoops by Alotta Hoopla, face painting, vendors and more.

Tickets are \$15, kids ages 12 to 18 are \$5, and those under 12 get in free. They're available at the World Eye Bookshop, Tangible Bliss and Magical Child.

See [5townfestival.com](http://5townfestival.com) for more information, or search on Facebook for 5 Town festival.

Best of all, the event is a benefit for the local nonprofit community newspaper you have in your hands, the *Montague Reporter*.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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Emergency food needs increase in August.

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## Notes from the Gill-Montague School Committee!

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – With several members absent from the mid-summer school committee meeting held on July 26, chair Michael Langknecht said he expected a quick meeting. The board had planned to discuss an effort to join other districts in opposing an increase in the charter school cap championed by Governor Charlie Baker, but after a brief discussion, Langknecht concluded there were not enough members in attendance and tabled the item.

School districts throughout the state, finding funds redirected whenever students choose to attend charter schools, are considering their position on the issue. Superintendent Michael Sullivan said that he hoped for consideration of the resolution by the school committee limiting the growth of charter schools in the state.

Langknecht told the *Reporter* the committee would discuss the issue at its August 23 meeting.

### Filtration Extension

Sullivan discussed the issue of the drinking water at Gill. He said there has been a problem of elevated levels of coliform bacteria in the water at the school since the fall of 2014. Clean drinking water is provided in the form of bottled water for use by all students, faculty and staff.

Clarifying the situation, Sullivan said, "Large hallway water bottles

are used instead of drinking fountains since sometime in that school year, and parents have been kept up to date with notices as the state monitored the situation. The Town of Gill has been investigating solutions."

Sullivan said the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) informed the town on July 8 that it must install a disinfection system before the beginning of the school year. Sullivan shared an email from Gill administrative assistant Ray Purington. The town has decided to go ahead with a system that will also deal with manganese, iron and arsenic in the water, and while the selectboard was not able to state a clear date to complete the system, the DEP has granted an extension and will now require completion of the project before December 31.

### District in the Black

Joanne Blier presented her end-of-year business report to the school committee on a positive note. She said as they close the books on FY'16, "we are hopeful that we will have a surplus of close to \$200,000."

Blier explained that this was due to a circuit breaker, extraordinary relief payment they received at the end of the year for \$100,000 – reimbursement from the Department of Education for an out-of-district special education placement expense – and a transfer of \$120,000 from the transportation revolving account. These two items allowed the district

to reduce general fund expenditures.

Blier added that the budget was "very tight" this year, and that her department worked on finding other sources of funding all year. She pointed out that the surplus amount was just 1% of the district's total budget.

Blier also reported that the Sheffield window project is nearing completion. She said they expect a substantial completion of the window replacement to be achieved by August 25, with the windows in the gym currently nearing completion and the scaffolding going up in the auditorium for the large upper windows. She said they expect the entire project to be finished by October.

### Cooking Matters

Food services manager Mistelle Hannah spoke to the school committee, offering her report following an audit. She had several positive things to report, and offered a lot of praise for their programs.

Project Bread's Chefs in Schools program seems to have been very successful, with surveys showing students eating significantly more of their meals when Chef Sam Icklan prepared them.

The sad news she had to report was that he would not be returning, as the project was moving on to another school district. But the effort had demonstrated the willingness of students to eat more nutritious meals when offered. Hannah said

she felt the experience will help students make better food choices in the future.

While the Chef in Schools program is ending, for the summer the work of Chef Sam continued with a "Cooking Matters" program for GFMS/TFHS students with two 3-day workshops, part of the Share Our Strengths' "No Kid Hungry" campaign, designed to teach individuals how to plan and cook healthy meals.

Held in June and again in July, students learned "fairly extravagant menus and healthy meal planning." At the end of each session, students sat down with Chef Sam to enjoy the meals they'd prepared. The program was entirely funded through Project Bread.

The summer meals program has continued at Unity Park and other sites. Hannah said it is feeding 300 kids a day breakfast and lunch. She said a visit by Congressman Jim McGovern was very exciting. Hannah spoke about the possible changes ahead with the food programs in terms of eligibility, but no specific details have been announced.

Hannah also discussed changes recommended for how her department tracks finances. Program funds cannot be used to pay for adult meals, so those need to be tracked separately.

In general, her report was positive and upbeat, with a lot of enthusiasm for what has transpired this past year.

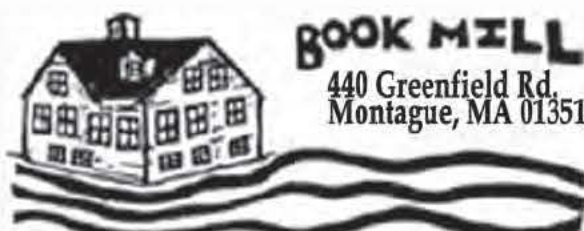
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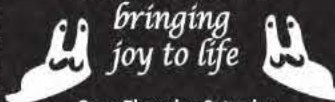
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**BOTTLES & CANS**  
Week of August 15  
in Montague



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**WENDELL** from page A1

the broadband committee from her perspective. She began by emphasizing how much selectboard members appreciated the work that the committee had done. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser echoed that sentiment.

Heard said she wanted to correct some of the misinformation that was on the town listserv and in the press. The broadband committee had been appointed for a term that ended at the end of the 2016 fiscal year, on June 30. Its task was to make recommendations.

Members of that committee who chose not to continue working on the town's broadband effort did not "resign," but declined nomination to either of two new committees that the selectboard created July 1, at the beginning of FY'17.

Heard said the selectboard had accepted three of the committee's four recommendations.

The first recommendation was to provide a fiber-optic connection to every household. A signal sent through the air has limited capacity, and degrades with distance, especially in a town with hills and woods; a hybrid fiber/wireless network would have first- and second-class users.

The second recommendation was that Wendell pursue its internet capability alone now, but keep the option of cooperating with other towns open. The WiredWest cooperative model had proved unwieldy, and was rejected by the state for other reasons. As WiredWest was losing its allure, the selectboard hosted meetings to explore forming a smaller cluster of cooperating towns. So far, no regional consensus has emerged on the details of such a collaboration, so the committee recommended Wendell begin to act alone.

The third recommendation gave a list of network operators and internet service providers (ISPs), with pros and cons attached to each one, and concluded with a recommendation to use Crocker as an ISP and Holyoke Gas and Electric as network operator.

The fourth recommendation was to keep the broadband committee in the same form it had for FY'16, with a construction subcommittee. At the July 13 meeting, the selectboard chose instead to form an operations committee and an independent construction committee, which would have two selectboard members and so could make executive decisions on the spot.

The proposal that the selectboard brought to the July 27 meeting was to have a five-member construction committee.

At the July 27 meeting, the selectboard listened to objections, and made some changes, but did not change the fundamental decision to have a smaller and more nimble construction committee that would oversee the physical nuts and bolts, and a larger operations committee for ongoing decisions and the operation and maintenance of the network.

The major objection to dual committees among broadband members was that construction and operations are so intertwined as to be inseparable.

Selectboard members agreed that construction and operations are intertwined, but said that the two committees can meet together, that a person can be a member of one or both committees, and that, since committee meetings are public, any citizen can come to any meeting. Nothing in the selectboard's proposal prohibits collaboration between the two committees.

Doug Tanner, finance committee chair and member of the 2016 broadband committee, strongly favored the two-committee model. He compared the project with building of the still-new town office building, library, and septic system, in which the creation of an infrastructure was different than its maintenance and use.

He said he could work with the nuts and bolts of construction, but could not stay part of the long-standing obligations and complications of operation.

Ben Schwartz was most vocal of the former broadband committee members who wanted to keep one large broadband committee, with a construction subcommittee reporting to the larger committee as needed. He repeated several times that the larger broadband committee had no problem getting a quorum at its regular meetings, and that everyone on the committee brought a level of expertise and experience, and contributed to the very complex effort.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," he said several times.

Broadband committee member Carol Jud said she came in thinking we would work out the conflict, but felt now as if the committee was getting a lecture, and did not even get a chance to speak. Former broadband co-chair Ray DiDonato echoed that sentiment.

Heard said that was not at all what she intended. "We have listened to everybody. There is no way to make everybody happy." Later in the meeting, Jud said that she felt she had been heard and that she could now move forward.

Citizen Phyllis Lawrence said to the selectboard, "I voted for you. I didn't vote for the committee members. You are the responsible party. A smaller committee makes sense to me. It worked before [in the construction of the new town buildings]."

When asked for his opinion, citizen Paul Wanta said he had sworn a vow of silence.

Former broadband committee member Robin Heubel said she would not be a member of either committee, but would help out as she could.

**After discussion, the selectboard expanded the construction committee to seven members. The operations committee would have nine, and the committees may overlap in membership.**

After discussion with former broadband committee members, and on the recommendation of broadband co-chair Robert Heller, the selectboard expanded the construction committee to seven members. The operations committee would have nine, and the committees may overlap in membership.

Not all broadband committee members were satisfied with the result of this meeting either, but some were mollified.

Robert Heller said he was a bit more comfortable than he was when he left the July 13 meeting.

The tasks and decisions that remain include: 1. completing a readiness assessment, which Tanner said is nearing completion; 2. deciding between gigabit-capable passive optical networks (GPON) and active Ethernet; 3. deciding whether to install fiber via microtrenching or aerially; 4. surveying driveway lengths; 5. creating a "service drop" policy; 6. devising a rate structure, based on construction choices and subscription; 7. determining subscription rates and subsidies; 8. determining marketing strategies; 9. designating a municipal light plant; and 10. pursuing regional collaboration.

The selectboard will divide those

tasks between the construction and operation committees, and send the list to the former broadband committee members, who may choose which committee they prefer.

#### Other Business

The selectboard attended to some other business in the few minutes before the broadband discussion began, and the few minutes after it ended.

Former cemetery commission chair Richard Mackey volunteered to take the empty seat on the cemetery commission. Heard told him one other person was interested in the seat, and that the board would wait for the recommendation of current commission members.

Following examination by town counsel, the board accepted the inter-municipal agreement for subsidizing Montague for expenses incurred during its pipeline intervention.

FRCOG sent Wendell a letter that said no town has yet submitted a name to serve on the community development block grant (CDBG) advisory board.

The town was offered a non-conforming lot at 10 Davis Road. Selectboard member Dan Keller said his property abuts the lot, and that there is an interested buyer. The town does not need any more small properties, and board members agreed to allow the sale to a private owner.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she could find no town bylaw that prohibited alcohol and tobacco on town property. She proposed a town meeting vote.

Historical commission member Pam Richardson looked at the old curtain rescued from the town hall cellar in the spring. She said it is in bad shape, has mold, and most of the businesses advertised on it are from Orange if they are still in business. The Orange historical commission, she said, may be interested.

The town accountant's office has two surplus file cabinets. Aldrich said she could use one, and they would fit in the selectboard office if her desk were moved. She tried by herself, but the desk is too heavy.

Aldrich reported a strange telephone call. A woman asked if she could pay her property tax ahead 18 years, and be done with it. The town cannot really do that. Tax rates and property values change, and pre-paying may not be legal.

#### GREEN ADVENTURE from page A1

where campers saw so many bottles they couldn't even count them. They also encouraged the school to build a new compost bin, and lobbied the administration to let them collect used toothbrushes and toothpaste tubes and send them to TerraCycle for a cash redemption.

Kaylee Moore, a rising sixth grader, led everyone outside to check out the school's new compost bin.

"Miss Whiteman's group built it," she explained to the Reporter. "There's a lot of things you can put in, like weeds, and paper ... fruit, vegetables, apple cores and banana peels. You cannot put in meats - that's a definite no."

Moore pointed to illustrations of more ambitious systems. "Those pictures on the wall of those compost bins are pictures of what we wanted to do, but the board of health

came in and said we couldn't, for some reason."

"Christine really taught them that when there's something they care about, or when there's a problem in your world - even if you're a kid - you can make change, which is a pretty powerful lesson for kids at that age," said Jen Audley, coalition coordinator at the Gill-Montague Community-School Partnership. "It's really cool for the kids, to guide them through the process of doing research."

J.J. Jean-Charles, who'll start sixth grade in the fall, led visitors through a board game of his own creation, involving a large die, bottle-cap markers, and flashcards containing tricky green trivia. Correct answers win players a second roll.

J.J.'s mom, Kerlie Gedeon, helped out with the program every day. The family recently moved from Boston to Turners Falls.

"I had a lot of fun learning about composting," she said. "We're from the city, so we didn't really garden, but this is our first time learning about gardening, and recycling - People don't really recycle much in the city, but out here, recycling is a really big deal."

"It's the country, Mom," interjected J.J. "Of course."

Elijah Forcier, headed into ninth grade at Turners Falls High School, volunteered as a counselor. He said his favorite activity was painting in the art room, and that the neatest thing he learned was how plastic bottles are turned into fabric after they leave the recycling plant.

Campers assembled a final treat - layers of crumbled-cookie soil, chocolate pudding and gummy worms - and sang a final song, and then headed out into the larger world, where one more month of summer waited.

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## NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Leverett Revises Its Recycled Products Purchase Policy

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

The Leverett Selectboard met for its regular bi-weekly meeting on July 26. The agenda was packed full of environmental concerns, ranging from herbicides to green energy aggregation.

Leverett has agreed to move forward with the contract with Colonial Power Group for electrical aggregation that includes green energy sources. However, an issue arose as to the term of the contract. Previously, the board had discussed a six-month term for price negotiations with Colonial. However, the length of the contract delivered was three years.

"Maybe this just means we will be doing business with Colonial for three years, and the six months is separate?" selectboard member Julie Shively wondered.

In an abundance of caution, the board opted to go back to Colonial to ask about the six-month intervals for price negotiation, and will not deliver a signed contract until the issue is cleared up.

A contract attorney consulted by the *Montague Reporter*, Phillip Horton of Lowell, said that while the parties can agree to a separate, six-month term for price negotiations, if there is no mention of that six-month term in the contract, the three-year term would prevail.

"If there is no mention of a renegotiation, then the price is for the full three years," Horton said. Horton said the parties can agree to one contract, and do not need two separate contracts for such a deal.

### Weeds and Trash

Town administrator Margie McGinnis informed the board that the hydro-raking of Leverett Pond was not successful. "They came back and said they couldn't do it because it was too shallow," McGinnis explained.

On a positive note, Leverett was able to save \$500 due to the raking not taking place.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson explained an issue with the poison ivy along the roads. Instead of cutting it, workers were contemplating using an herbicide to kill the ivy.

"If we told Eversource they have to announce using glyphosate, then we should too," Shively said.

Hankinson is looking into the safety of the herbicides, but said he thinks glyphosate is safe, if used correctly. "I'm sure it is safe if used according to label instructions," he explained.

McGinnis and transfer station supervisor Ananda Larsen attended a meeting with Shutesbury to discuss that town making use of Leverett's "Take it or Leave It" service.

McGinnis explained the rationale behind the proposal. "They only have their trash picked up every so often," she explained. "So if someone needs a bulky item removed, like a couch, they don't want to keep it in storage for six months until their trash is picked up."

Selectboard chair Peter d'Errico voiced some concerns about the idea.

"We have to have some safeguards. If things start to pile up and no one is using it, or we don't get paid for the service, we have to be able to terminate," d'Errico said.

Board members agreed to the idea, pending Larsen's approval, and McGinnis was charged with drafting a letter to Shutesbury to begin the negotiations.

### Softening and Hardening

A water issue in a Leverett home has led to confusion over the equipment the town has provided to homeowners, and whether homeowners were provided a water softener and a filter, or just a softener.

McGinnis explained that Leverett is paying a rental fee for water filters, but she was told by the ECS that Leverett homes are only using water softeners. "I need to see if this rental fee is really an error before I terminate," she explained.

The board provided an update as to the North Leverett road squabble between two neighbors who cannot seem to get along.

Leesa Crocker's property was inspected, and the inspector did not find any violations.

"He said he was willing to write a letter stating that, as long as she keeps her property as is, she is not violating any zoning provisions," Shively said.

Neighbors have also reported occupation of the Mall at Moores Corner to the board of health. The selectboard received notification from the board of health, but opted to push it back.



JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

*Heavy load: Joe Parzych spotted this truck parked just off Route 63 in Northfield, delivering a transformer to FirstLight Power Resources' Northfield Mountain facility. Marino Crane Service was moving the package on a lowbed trailer, pulled by an Autocar tractor with a 600 HP Cummins diesel engine. The transformer weighs in the vicinity of 100,000 pounds, according to a Marino spokesman.*

"The board of health has a remedy on this. They need to do something about it, and can't simply give it to us to deal with," said d'Errico.

### Other Business

Leverett must revise its recycled products purchasing policy, as the existing policy is from 1997. A new, updated policy was sent to the board for review.

The board noted that the updated policy was substantially the same as the 1997 version, with similar language regarding the types of items to be purchased. The only difference was with the charge, which was increased from 20% to 30%.

Finally, the board discussed improvements to the historical highway garage.

McGinnis said she has an appointment with George Farver, a historic preservationist, to see if he could help with the project. Failing that, the selectboard may investigate known historical sites like Historic Deerfield for consultation on historic preservation.

The next meeting for the Leverett selectboard will be August 9.

By KENT ALEXANDER

Blistering heat caused the July 25 meeting of the Gill selectboard to be held in the air-conditioned downstairs office of the town hall. Once commenced, the meeting proceeded quickly, and ended in nearly record time.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington reported that the Green Communities Grant-funded storm windows would soon be delivered.

Purington then announced he had received an amended administrative consent order (ACO) from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) agreeing to extend until December 31 the town's deadline to install a new treatment system on the water system serving the Gill Elementary School.

An ACO issued in February 2015 had included a requirement to install a mechanical disinfection treatment system should an additional violation involving the detection of coliform bacteria occur. In April 2015, the school had such a violation, and the town has temporarily addressed the issue by routinely hand-chlorinating the well's water while the

town determined what kind of treatment system should be installed.

On July 13, 2016, the town told the DEP that it intends to install an ultraviolet light disinfection system, but that it will also require pre-filtration, which may also be effective in reducing elevated levels of iron and manganese. For this reason, the town had requested an extension.

Selectboard chair John Ward stated that it was his hope that the work would not run into any further stumbling blocks. Purington remarked that he had already started gathering together the paperwork connected to the permit application. He added that in a bit of "good news," the standard \$350 application fee would be waived, due to the fact that Gill is a town.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier asked if anyone had any news on the project's progress, and selectboard member Greg Snedeker stated that he had been taken on a recent walkthrough of the building, and was happy with the progress being made.

The next order of business was the signing of the warrant for a debt exclusion vote on

## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## Gill "Juices Up" Its Recycled Products Purchase Policy

September 8. Purington reminded the selectboard members that the state forbids a dollar amount to be listed in the warrant, and that the selectboard itself may not take either side when issuing the warrant.

The board also signed a warrant for the primary election on the same day. This warrant mandates the selectboard to "notify and warn" the town's inhabitants that voting will occur on September 8 between the hours of 7 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the fire station on Main Road.

### Trust Placed in Staff

The selectboard then tackled the town's outdated 1998 recycled product purchasing Policy. Purington shared copies of the original policy and an updated one, as he indicated that the town wished to "keep ahead of new policy" and therefore sought "updated wording."

After reading both forms, Ward remarked that it "looks like [the new language] just juices things up a little bit."

Snedeker observed that the basic changes were an update on meeting the federal and state minimum of 30% post-consumer recycled content for the purchase of all paper products, and the deletion of a paragraph requesting that town departments implement paper-reduction techniques such as double-sided copying and printing and sharing and circulating materials.

Ward then asked if the selectboard thought people needed to be reminded to save paper, but both Snedeker and Crochier stated that it was their belief such a reminder wasn't necessary. The board approved the new wording.

### Other Business

The next announcement was met with some sadness. Purington said he had received resignation letters from part-time police officer Scott Minckler and cable advisory committee member Maureen Parzych.

Minckler stated in his letter that, due to taking on full-time employment, he now needed time to spend with his family. Parzych wrote of her need to resign because she works out of town and had difficulty making meetings.

The selectboard accepted both resignations with understanding and regret.

Purington then shared a note from the town's agricultural committee seeking both input and new members, to help implement a plan to create community garden space for town residents.

Snedeker inquired if the committee had any idea where such a garden might be possible. Purington responded that one such location was the lot behind the Riverside school.

Gill resident Janet Masucci – who videotapes the selectboard meetings – asked if that particular lot wasn't being used for sports. Crochier interjected that to his understanding it was not, but that even if it were, the lot was long and had room for a garden.

A polite discussion then ensued about upgrading the soil needed for a successful garden. Ward asked if the garden might utilize the school's compost materials, but Crochier remarked that the town did not have the proper equipment to sort out usable materials from the unusable.

Purington reminded the selectboard that the Common People Concerts, held on Tuesdays at 7 p.m., were continuing through mid-August. Information on the final concert on August 9 can be found on the town's website.

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**TIDDLYWINKS** from page A1 game, while the historic distance of a half-century made it a blank slate for creative interpretation.

In mid-January 1955, the Cambridge Undergraduate Tiddlywinks Association (CUTWA) was formed, in direct pursuit of prestige and the impressive resumé. Bill Steen, John Rilett, R.C. Martin, Lawford Howells, R. Parker, and Brian Tyler – none of whom had ever succeeded as athletes in the *athletic* sense – were the founding members.

Their goal was to find a new sport in which to represent their university. When Steen, a chemical engineering student, came across Tiddlywinks' entry in the Greater Oxford Dictionary, which described its origins as "Obscure, Unknown," it was decided. Their choice of Tiddlywinks, a game that *Brooklyn Life* had described in 1890 as "fascinating in the very nature of its apparently absolute inanity," as the means to fame turned their quest into a self-aware farce.



Ferd Wulkan and Betsy Smith, then members of the Somerville team the Somervillains, concentrate on the game pieces during an early-1970s match.

The main work of the CUTWA at this point was to create institutions of respectability. The club had to build this new inter-collegiate sport from scratch, which entailed proving that it actually *was* a sport. The ambitious organization also prioritized setting standards and rules, and most importantly, finding people who would play them.

The group rigorously experimented with many different commercially available versions of the game's pieces – pots, squidgers, winks, and mats – and decided which were to

be used in official competition. They wrote a manifesto, called *The Thesis*, which argued Tiddlywinks was not a game of chance, but one of skill.

This masterpiece of collegiate humor, which lampooned student culture and scientific method, contained five sections. The first four related to the physical pieces and basic strategy, while the fifth, which explored the "mental" side of the game, was broken into three sections: Wine, Women, and Song.

*The Thesis* was distributed to club members, friends, and the Statistical and Physics Department of the university, and was submitted to magazines around England, though none published it.

Now that groundwork was laid for the legitimacy of competition Tiddlywinks, the CUTWA began looking for rivals. The group mailed high-profile challenges to Oxford University, the newspaper Daily Mirror, foreign embassies, the Royal Canadian Air Force, and Peter Sell-

### Tiddlywinks in America

In 1962, Guinness, which was just breaking into the US beer market, sponsored the Oxford University team to take on America. When they arrived in New York by boat, the team had only one pre-arranged match, against a clique of Madison Ave. public-relations executives who frequented a restaurant called Maria's Chin Chin.

Lucky for the Oxonians, while their amateur opponents were poor winkers, they turned out to be great at PR, and the Oxford team's instant media success had new opponents lining up across the country.

They were flown to the west coast, where they made headlines in San Francisco and Seattle, and in Los Angeles were featured on the TV show "Who in the World?" At Harvard, they trounced Harvard's hastily assembled Gargoyle Undergraduate Tiddlywinks Society (GUTS) – which would become known for its innovative cheerleading squad – and they sailed for England holding a 25-game undefeated record.

In 1965, three friends, Severine Drix, Robert Byer, and present-day Montague resident Ferd Wulkan, were finishing high school in New York City. According to Wulkan, they had had a premonition of the future of Tiddlywinks: "For us nerds, when we go to college, this will be our game."

During their probably emotional senior year, the three friends made a pact to start teams at their respective institutions: Cornell, Harvard, and MIT. It was the teams that Drix and Wulkan started, at Cornell and MIT, that moved winks culturally into the 1960s, and changed the North American scene forever. In 1966, the North American Tiddlywinks Association (NATWA) was founded.

Drix and Wulkan are responsible for creating an enduring community of winkers and friends that persist today. According to Wulkan, winks is "a constant that's always there. It's a major way I've stayed connected with people."

In the 1970s and '80s American winks continued to evolve. While a few years before, teams had mostly begun under the banner of one college or another, the sport took on a DIY ethos as many players became part of other communities.

There were several teams around Boston in these years, including the Somervillains, whose logo looked



Tiddlywink historians date this photograph of the Somervillains to the early 1970s. Top row, left to right: Ferd Wulkan, Betsy Smith, Don Fox, Larry Rosenberg. Bottom row: Mary Kirman, Nancy (Nan) Brady, Bob Henninge, Gred Gross.

like the face of the Monopoly man with a long hippy mustache and a pot on his head, and Zoo. Members of the Somervillains eventually left Boston to go "back to the land" in Ohio in a community called the Humble Toad Tree Farm.

According to Wulkan, during this era there were "nerd teams" and "freak teams." (This mix of identities would prove extremely fertile in other places, such as Silicon Valley, during the same period.)

### Winks Today

Last week, Wulkan and I played a game of tiddlywinks together. It was fun, despite the extremely one-sided way in which I was defeated. The size of the game is appealing – the mat is 6 feet long by 3 feet wide, which, to me, gave it the feel of a real sport, as if the mat was a playing field, or the Earth itself.

The game also appeals to me in a tactile and aesthetic way. I'm attracted to the feel and look of the primary-colored plastic circles and slightly bowed pot that rest on the towel-like mat. Touching the pieces gave me a feeling that was perhaps more common before the Pacific trash gyre – that plastic is perfect.

Just as the chemical conditions on the planet gave rise to the beginnings of life, winks seem to have arisen naturally from the discovery of Newtonian physics; the pieces seem to be shaped by natural law and the game's internal principles. Playing winks is like living in a world where the only events that take place are arc problems from textbooks.

The cult popularity of modern

Tiddlywinks rests on its historic cycles of obscurity and rediscovery. Winks also has some features that lend it the quality of spectacle. Like the Puppy Bowl, the media loves the tension created by students of Ivy League institutions, or counter-culture freaks, playing a game that most observers find hilarious.

But time will tell whether a new generation of campus winkers has been lost to Quidditch. Winks in North America today is played mostly by a network of friends whose origins hearken back to 1960s subcultures. Despite this modest base of participation, the NATWA has celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> and 40<sup>th</sup> anniversaries, and this month, will mark its 50<sup>th</sup> in Montague.

Matches between champions of the NATWA and the English Tiddlywinks Association (ETWA) happen with regularity, and in September our own Ferd Wulkan will compete with Alan Dean, "The Supreme Dean," in the North American Pairs Championship in Washington, DC.

The game has mostly ebbed during the last few decades, since the Association's 25th anniversary gathering titled "Tiddlywinks: An Antidote for the Nineties," which was held at the Gill Town Hall.

But the capacity of Tiddlywinks to fascinate seems immortal. While appealing to underdogs, the game itself has also proven to be an underdog winner.

This month's commemoration is a great opportunity for newcomers to encounter this classic and totally legitimate sport.



### CHILDCARE from page A1

currently around 26,000 children statewide waiting for childcare vouchers. Massachusetts is broken into districts and each district's waiting list is far less than 26,000, but the number still translates into a year wait for a family in need of assistance.

In Franklin County, families go through the New England Farm Workers Council. To be eligible, each family must meet income requirements based on the size of their household and their income level.

But the requirements to be placed on the waitlist, and the requirements to receive a referral through the Department of Transitional Assistance under the Transitional Aid to Families with Dependent Children (TAFDC) program, which secures a voucher immediately, are different.

To be placed on the waitlist, families must be at or below 50% of the state's median income, and below 85% of the state median income when re-applying. To be eligible for a referral from TAFDC, families must

fall below a \$2,500 income cap.

Miller said a family of three – one parent with two children – could work 27 hours a week at minimum wage before that family is considered to be "above income." Once a family is "above income," the family will receive transitional vouchers for up to one year.

"It's easy to become not qualified for TAFDC," Miller admitted.

Miller also noted that TAFDC's income requirements have not been updated after the recent hikes in the minimum wage, making it increasingly difficult for families to receive assistance. When applying for TAFDC benefits, families who don't pay rent will have an additional \$124 attributed to their income. A family that pays rent, however minimal, will receive a \$40 income deduction.

However, Miller said, that \$40 income deduction hasn't been updated since at least 1989. A family of two (a single mother and child) living rent-free can reach the \$824 income cap by working just ten eight-hour days a month.

"It also depends whether or not the household is exempt from the work program requirement or not. As an incentive to work, earned income is calculated differently than unearned income," Miller explained.

Currently, the income requirements in 106 C.M.R. do not take into account credit card payments – or student loan payments.

Single mom Stephanie Gale has first-hand experience working the voucher system. Gale first applied for the vouchers in 2005 when she was pregnant with her daughter.

"I had to wait two years to receive the vouchers," Gale explained.

As a single mom, Gale needed to earn money. When her daughter was just seven weeks old, Gale returned to the workforce. Without money to pay for childcare, she had to use what was available to her.

"A friend of mine's mother took care of my daughter for me," Gale said. When she finally received vouchers, Gale was already in school and working in the community.

"I was surprised I had to wait so

long," she said. "I don't know if it was lack of funding, or so many people using the voucher system."

Gale said she never qualified for vouchers through TAFDC because she was in school and working part-time. At one point, she took out student loans to help cover her childcare costs.

"There was a gap in coverage when I had my son. When my daughter qualified, I had to re-apply for him, and I had to take out a student loan to pay for daycare," Gale explained.

At that time, approximately 2009, childcare cost around \$300 a week. Gale explained that she took out the loan, in part, to pay for other expenses like rent. However, she also said she did take out more money due to her childcare needs.

"I definitely had to take out [a larger] student loan to pay for childcare," Gale said.

Gale said once she received the vouchers, she was pleased with her childcare options.

"I felt like there were always

enough options, but especially with home daycares, there was always a home interview," Gale said.

Gale was given a list of providers that take vouchers, but it was her responsibility to call to find an opening. "Most of them did have an opening of some sort," she said.

Reached for comment, state representative Stephen Kulik said he has "not been contacted by any constituents about problems with this program, or the local or state agencies that administer it."

Currently, bill S.286 is moving through the Massachusetts Senate that would give homeless families immediate childcare voucher assistance. However, in April the bill was sent back to committee for revision. An accompanying bill, S. 2256, was sent to the Senate Ways and Means committee on April 28.

To learn more about childcare voucher options in Massachusetts, visit the Executive Office of Education's website through [www.mass.gov](http://www.mass.gov).



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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Erving Resistant to Fire Regionalization Study

By KATIE NOLAN

Daniel Nietsche, emergency preparedness coordinator for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), presented the Erving selectboard with plans for a study of fire service regionalization.

Seven towns or fire districts were asked to participate in the grant-funded study: Gill, Greenfield, Turners Falls, Montague Center, Old Deerfield, South Deerfield, and Erving. Nietsche said that most of the towns had expressed interest in the study, but Gill had opted out.

Nietsche said the study would be "results-based" and would focus on how partnerships are formed, what equipment would be used, and how budgets would be developed. He said that once towns or districts had signed on to the study, their representatives would meet to develop its scope of work.

Erving fire chief Philip Wonkka said he was "not that excited" about the study. "I am very nervous about regionalization with this many towns," he said.

Wonkka said Erving's main issue of concern is daytime coverage, as most firefighters work out of town. "We don't have equipment challenges," he said.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith, who is also a call firefighter, said that of the towns selected for the study, "Erving probably has the most equipment, in total... Redistribution of equipment is a concern I have."

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said, "I'm not sold on wasting the time of FRCOG with Erving as a piece of the puzzle, because Erving would likely not have an interest in regionalization." Bastarache suggested that Erving review its own fire service needs and develop its own potential solutions besides regionalization.

Nietsche emphasized the town would not be obligated to accept the study's recommendations, and that towns would negotiate to set up regional plans. "You have the option to decide which departments you want to work with," he said.

"Maybe it's time for the town to look at some officers on full-time shifts," said selectboard member William Bembury. "That has never been explored." He noted that the MOU included barriers to the town's ability to pull out of the agreement.

"I'm not sold on signing it," said Bastarache. "I'd like to work with Chief Wonkka on the local level with our own department. I would say we opt out."

The board decided not to sign the memorandum of understanding for the study.

## Lake People's Garbage

At the July 11 selectboard meeting, the summer residents of North Shore Road had complained that they had no place to dispose of their trash, because the town does not provide trash pickup at their Laurel Lake residences. Within two weeks, Duseau Trucking had placed barrels and recycling containers at the town hall parking lot for the residents' use.

Jacob Smith said that he had mixed feelings about providing for disposal of summer resident trash,

but he felt the town should make "a reasonable effort to provide a service that's not required."

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith reported that only about three bags of trash had been disposed at the town hall parking lot by August 1. He told the board that discussions with Orange about disposing of summer residents' trash at the Orange transfer station are continuing.

## Broken Pavement

Brenda Silva told the selectboard that the town's sidewalks are "deplorable" and need repair. She told the board she had recently started walking, and that she had to walk on the side of the road because the sidewalks were in such bad shape.

"As a taxpayer, I want my sidewalks fixed," Silva said, adding that her niece was on crutches after sustaining a sprained ankle from a hole in a town sidewalk.

Highway foreman Glen McCrory said that some of the sidewalks would be repaired by the state Department of Transportation in a large project set to start in spring 2017.

Jacob Smith told Silva the town should look into fixing all the town sidewalks. "We'll see what we can do," he said.

McCrory said that a Water Tower Road resident had asked him about the town repairing the road. McCrory said he told the resident that it is a private road where the town has the right of way to access the water tank. Two residences and one building lot are on the road.

According to McCrory, the town has been plowing the road "out of habit," but that the broken pavement is damaging the plow truck.

Jacob Smith said that road repair was "their responsibility... We should discontinue plowing on the frequency done today, with plowing only for access as needed by the town."

The board decided to send a letter to abutters on the road with the information that the town would not repair it.

## Elementary School Projects

Erving Elementary School principal James Trill presented a proposal to build a two-lane running or walking track at the school. The track would be an oval, 260 feet long and 190 feet wide.

Trill cited the school's wellness policy and studies showing that active children perform better in school. He described the track as the foundation for a strong community, and estimated it would cost around \$12,000.

Trill said that the plan included a surface that could be cleared of snow – the track built at Swift River School was surfaced with a coarse rock material that is hard to clear.

"I won't be shy about asking for donations," Trill said.

Bastarache said the recreation commission was interested in building the track, and even had a pool of money in their revolving fund that could be used.

McCrory asked if seniors from the senior center next door could use the track. Trill said that, during school hours, seniors could come into the school, sign in, and use it.

The board asked Trill to get con-

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG

## Unauthorized Logging on Northfield Road; Fireworks, Trees, Drones, Cats, Dogs, and Guns

Monday, 6/27

10 a.m. Report of a motor vehicle crash on Prospect Street. Same left scene.

11 a.m. Report of possible fire at Arch Street.

3:55 p.m. Report of three car crash on Route 2 at Church Street. Located one car crash with injury. Assisted state police on scene.

Wednesday, 6/29

11:35 a.m. Medical emergency on Lillians Way. Assisted on scene.

6:30 p.m. Trees cut down on private property on Northfield Road. Under investigation.

7:35 p.m. Open door at River Street residence. Found to have items stolen. Report taken and under investigation.

Thursday, 6/30

1:25 p.m. Loggers reported on private property on Northfield Road. Advised them it was private property.

Friday, 7/1

5:15 a.m. Assisted fire department with fire at the Erving paper mill.

6:20 p.m. Landlord/tenant dispute on North Street. Mediated same.

8:53 p.m. Report of larceny

on Dorsey Road. Gas can stolen from motor vehicle.

Saturday, 7/2

1 p.m. Report of drone flying in Laurel Lake area. Subject gone upon arrival.

Sunday, 7/3

Medical emergency on Northfield Road. Assisted on scene.

1:40 p.m. Report of illegal dumping at Laurel Lake camp area. Report taken.

Tuesday, 7/5

1:30 p.m. Report of annoying telephone calls to Pratt Street resident. Found to be phone scams.

Wednesday, 7/6

8:54 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for negligent operation of a motor vehicle, operating after suspension, leaving the scene of property damage accident and marked lanes violation.

Thursday, 7/7

1:25 a.m. Report of open door at Prondecki's Store on Lester Street. All appears secure. Same secured.

3:10 p.m. Medical emergency on Old State Road. Assisted on scene.

3:50 p.m. Report of loose dog on Route 2 near French King Enter-

tainment Center. Same brought to Franklin County Shelter.

Friday, 7/8

1:55 p.m. Medical emergency on Route 2 at convenience store. Assisted on scene.

Saturday, 7/9

12:55 a.m. Report of large group setting off fireworks at Veterans Park on Moore Street. Located subjects and advised them of the noise complaint.

3:35 a.m. Medical emergency on Forest Street. Assisted on scene.

Monday, 7/11

6:45 p.m. North Shore Road resident advised her cat is missing since the 7th.

Wednesday, 7/13

7:30 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED] for court warrant.

Thursday, 7/14

9:42 a.m. Investigated past disturbance, found to be subject playing Pokemon on Central Street.

Monday, 7/18

2:20 p.m. Report of tree down in back yard at West High Street.

3 p.m. Tree on wires, French King Highway. No power lines down. Ever-source advised.

Wednesday, 7/20

11:25 a.m. Report of larceny of personal property on French King Highway. Under investigation.

Thursday, 7/21

9:40 a.m. Complaint of dog barking early in the morning, keeping neighbors awake on North Street.

Friday, 7/22

8:40 a.m. River Street resident called and advised of a possible breaking and entering. Currently under investigation.

7 p.m. Report of male subject on bike passed out at French King Bridge. Gone upon arrival.

7:35 p.m. Report of gunshots on North Street coming from Wendell area.

Monday, 7/25

10:39 a.m. Report of mail lottery fraud on Lillians Way. Report taken.

Tuesday 7/26

10 p.m. Arrested [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] for operating a motor vehicle unlicensed, illegal possession of a large capacity firearm, and illegal possession of ammunition.

Wednesday, 7/27

6:40 p.m. Report of Facebook scam on Lillians Way. Report taken.

firmed estimates from multiple companies, speak with the recreation commission about funding, and talk with Andrea Woods, procurement officer at FRCOG, about including donations into bid specifications.

Regarding an outdoor bathroom – considered because abutters had complained about weekend school ground recreators using the tree line around the playground for relieving themselves – Trill said a pre-fabricated, fully accessible outdoor bathroom would cost \$40,000 to \$60,000.

Bastarache suggested that renting a portable toilet which would be emptied on a regular basis would be more cost-effective.

## Early Retirement Packages

Governor Charlie Baker signed a bill allowing the enhanced retirement packages for Dana Moore, Jr. and Robert Miner on July 22.

Miner retired in 2001. A 2001 town meeting voted to pay into the Franklin County Regional Retirement System on his behalf in order to increase his retirement payout.

This type of enhanced retirement package must also be voted favorably by the state legislature, but there was no record of a legislature vote.

The enhanced retirement for Miner was re-approved at the November 30, 2015 special town meeting.

The October 6, 2015 special town meeting voted to seek special legislation to credit long-time highway department employee Dana Moore, Jr. with two extra years of age/or service with the county retirement system, and funded payment of \$35,000 to the retirement system on his behalf.

Senate bill S227, allowing the retirement packages, was approved by the legislature in July.

Understanding that Moore wants to retire as soon as possible, the se-

lectboard directed administrative coordinator Smith to advertise in local newspapers for a new highway department employee.

The board appointed McCrory, James Paulin, Peter Sanders, Bryan Smith, and Debra Smith to the highway equipment operator screening committee.

In conjunction with Moore's retirement, the board considered the way that the town pays employees for longevity. Employees are paid an annual longevity bonus of \$500 after five years of service to the town, and an extra \$250 annual bonus after ten years. Payments are made in December of the year in which the employee has a fifth or tenth employment anniversary.

It has been the practice that an employee who retires or leaves town employment before December does not receive the bonus, even if they had passed their employment anniversary earlier in the year. In the case of Moore, whose start date was August 1, retirement before this December would mean losing his bonus.

"How long has he worked for us?" Bastarache asked.

"Thirty-three years and several weeks," McCrory answered.

Both Bastarache and Jacob Smith said, "Pay the man." The board decided to ask the personnel relations review board to consult with Dale Kowacki of the county retirement system regarding the longevity bonus practice.

## Other Business

Energy consultant Kenneth McCance of Yolon Energy provided the selectboard with a mid-year review of the town's savings under the January-to-December 2016 contract with Direct Energy, with electricity rates set at 0.0899 per kilowatt-hour.

McCance calculated that, instead of the projected savings of \$30,000

per year, the savings were \$4,146 through June 2016. He noted that natural gas and electricity prices have been increasing, and will continue to increase.

The board signed the contract with Lloyd's of London for insuring the former International Paper Mill property, at a cost of \$6,400. After reading over the policy, selectboard member Scott Bastarache commented, "There are more exclusions than coverage."

FRCOG will write the bid specifications and handle bidding and bid opening for the town hall siding project for a fee of \$750. The board set October 31 as the completion date for the project.

The board voted to give town hall workers access to the live feed from the building's security cameras. Access will be restricted to cameras placed in doors, hallways and common areas of the building.

Several employees had asked for access to the camera feed in order to feel more secure when working at night.

The board approved allowing the highway secretary to have remote access to a town hall computer while working at the highway garage.

The board approved a one-day liquor license for the French King Restaurant to serve alcohol from a Girardi distributor's truck outside the restaurant on August 6. The restaurant will be hosting a motorcycle rally.

On the other hand, the board rejected a request from the French King Motor Inn to have its swimming pool filled by the fire department. "That's something we do not do," said Wonkka.

Wonkka said he would draft a written policy regarding the department's decision on filling pools.

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

Abbondanzio said he plans to retire December 6.

In a separate memo, he outlined a proposed "Town Administrator selection process," recommending that the new administrator should be in place "ideally by November 1 or November 14 at the latest," to allow for overlap with him.

But that timeline, according to the memo, may be "unrealistic." Due to the need to advertise in the newsletter of the Massachusetts Municipal Association, which comes out on September 1, "[r]ealistically the earliest we could expect to interview is early to mid October..." That may put the overlap with the current administrator in doubt, but "I think we can expect the person coming in to transition smoothly" and "I will be available by phone to answer any questions in December."

Abbondanzio's retirement leaves Montague with a formidable number of positions to fill before the end of this year. In late May, WPCF superintendent Trombley announced that his retirement, originally scheduled for November, would take place at the end of June. Meanwhile, long-time treasurer/tax collector Patricia Dion will retire on November 30.

The WPCF transition is already underway. Grant Weaver, who has worked extensively with the department as a consultant, has been hired as interim director. But Trombley's retirement, plus sick leave granted to chief operator John Little, has left the facility short-staffed at the top.

At the July 25 meeting the selectboard elevated two operators, Tim Little and Tim Peura, to higher positions on the pay grade to fill this gap. The town has also applied for "temporary emergency certification" for Tim Little, to satisfy the requirements of the state Department of Environmental Protection.

There has also been some confusion about the process for replacing Dion, an elected official whose term as treasurer expires in 2019. At a previous meeting, Abbondanzio said a temporary replacement would be appointed until an election next May

to fill out her term. Both the appointed official and successful candidate would need to be town residents, as outlined in MGL Ch. 41, Section 11.

However, at the July 25 meeting, Abbondanzio produced a memo which said that town legal counsel has advised the position is exempt from that provision, and is governed by MGL Ch. 41, Section 40. This does not require an election in May, nor mandate the appointee be a town resident. Unless the town decides to make the position permanently by appointment, an election would need to take place in May 2019.

Abbondanzio reported that town counsel ran this opinion by Michelle Tassinari, director of the Elections Division of the Secretary of State's office, "and she confirmed it."

The board appointed hiring committees for the town administrator and interim treasurer-collector positions. Abbondanzio told the Reporter that the WPCF hiring committee has begun interviewing candidates.

**Annex Offered**

Town planner Walter Ramsey came before the board with a variety of requests.

He asked the board to authorize a request for proposals, under the town's commercial homesteading program, for the "Railroad Salvage Annex" at 15 Power Street.

That building, which was taken by the town last year for back taxes, is one of two formerly owned by the Railroad Salvage Company, and was originally an annex to the Griswold Cotton Mill. This homesteading program sells such properties for a nominal price - often \$1 - but the town must approve a detailed land development agreement that ensures adequate financing.

In this case, the town is offering the building for \$10,000, because it is in good condition and there has been more interest in the property.

The selectboard was asked about the main Railroad Salvage building, which is slowly crumbling and not well-secured.

"We lock [the fence], and the lock keeps getting broken," responded se-

lectboard member Michael Nelson. "Who's breaking it? Somebody is."

"In the short term, the town has no control over what happens at the [main] Railroad Salvage site," Ramsey told the Reporter this week. "It'll probably be demolished at some point, and prioritized for redevelopment." According to the office of the tax collector, that building is currently under tax title.

"This fall, the town is going to be working with the UMass Regional Planning Studio to do a vision for the canal district," Ramsey added.

A walkthrough at the annex is scheduled for September 1, with proposals for its reuse due October 13. Proposed uses may include up to two residential units, provided they are "accessory" to another use such as a work space.

"FirstLight [Power Resources] is also a critical abutter, for a number of reasons," Ramsey continued, adding that "when the town accepts a proposal, we back it every step of the way, until it gets built."

**Planning Proceeds**

Ramsey also asked the board to authorize a grant agreement with the National Park Service to fund Phase 2 of the study of the 1676 battle, or massacre, of Turners Falls.

The grant, which totals \$81,000, will primarily be devoted to archeological research. Ramsey said 25 landowners had given permission to survey their property, and that he expects more. He said there were "easily over 100 parcels" in the territory to be studied, and that landowner permission was strictly voluntary.

Ramsey asked the board to issue a "notice of default" to a business that owns land at the airport industrial park. The business had purchased 7.8 acres next to property it owns, but had failed to develop it as required by a covenant with the town.

The town will repurchase it for future sale. Town meeting approved a \$132,000 appropriation for the purchase in May.

Finally, Ramsey asked the board to execute a state Massworks grant for \$352,785 to finance the new

parking lot on Canal Street. The lot, slated to be finished in the fall, is on the corner of Canal and Third streets, most recently the site of a youth sculpture park. Some of the site's sculpture has been retained in the new parking lot design, but Ramsey says the town may be looking for volunteers to upgrade the art.

The board approved all of Ramsey's requests.

**Broadband Gets 90 Days**

The town's broadband committee came before the board to discuss options for expanding service to unserved residents, in light of the state's decision to award funds earmarked for that purpose to the cable company Comcast.

Committee member Kevin Hart outlined a number of options, including local financing of the proposal for fiber-optic cable by Matrix Design (which the state had rejected), and searching for a company to construct a fiber system in competition with Comcast.

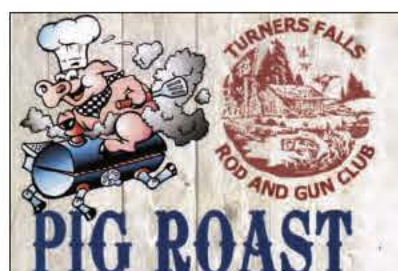
Hart requested that the board give the committee 90 days to research various options. The board approved this request.

The board also approved a letter to the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) requesting that it implement a recommendation by the state Department of Telecommunications and Cable (DTC). The DTC recommended that MBI help resolve disagreements over the number of unserved homes Comcast should be required to serve before awarding funds to the company. The broadband committee endorsed this request, though Hart said he doubted MBI would implement it.

**Other Business**

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority requested that the board eliminate Norma's Park from the Lake Pleasant Master Plan study, and transfer the Community Development Block Grant funds for the park design to housing rehabilitation.

The park property is owned by the electric company Eversource, which



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currently leases it to the town every three years. To complete the project with federal CDBG funds, the town needs a longer lease, which has not yet been successfully negotiated.

The board approved the request to transfer \$6,506.50 to housing rehabilitation.

The board acknowledged receipt of an Open Meeting Law complaint from resident Jeanne Golrick, sending it along to town legal counsel. The complaint alleges that the board failed to take roll call votes at its July 11 meeting, as required when a member participates by telephone.

The board accepted the resignation of Laura Arruda as IT administrator/coordinator, effective October 31. Abbondanzio said the town's finance committee is looking at a different way to organize IT coordination, which is currently a position paid by a stipend.

The board signed the warrant for the state primary on September 8, and executed a \$21,792 grant to fund the local 911 system.

The board then entered executive session to discuss strategy with regard to collective bargaining.

Additional reporting was contributed by Mike Jackson.



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AUGUST 4, 2016

## Pocumtuck Homelands Festival: Family-Friendly, and Free!



RICK WIDMER PHOTO

The Black Hawk Singers perform at the 2015 Pocumtuck Homelands Festival.

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Pocumtuck Homelands Festival returns to the Unity Park waterfront in Turners Falls this Saturday, August 6 from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. This is the third year for the festival, which is a celebration of Native American music, art and culture, with an emphasis on education.

This is a free family friendly event with a wide variety of events stretching throughout the day, rain or shine. Some of the highlights on Saturday include live music, drumming, singing and dancing. There will be primitive skills demonstrations, children’s activities, storytelling, a powwow emcee, Native American crafts, and local food vendors such as Diemand Farm, Holyoke Hummus, Bart’s Ice Cream, and the Millers River Cafe.

Lee Mixashawn Rozie will be

on stage at 12:30 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. Starting out as a jazz artist, using indigenous cultural principles, maritime arts and historical data both written and oral, Mixashawn has developed a system of “Hemispheric Principles” to inform and guide his art, which he refers to as “Wave Art” – sonic, aquatic, percussive and harmonic. He uses these to demonstrate the multicultural nature of “American” music.

Drawing from a musical heritage that spans four centuries and both sides of the Atlantic, Mixashawn uses instrumental virtuosity, a soulful voice, and original stories to illuminate the indigenous and African roots of “American” music and culture.

Also performing are the Konti-wennenhawihe Akwasasne Women Singers, featuring Theresa “Bear” Fox, and Mohawk (Wolf Clan).

see POCUMTUCK page B8

## THEATER REVIEW

### The Turn of the Screw: A Magnificent Horror

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – Two actors on a sparse stage: black walls and floors, and a staircase on one side that leads to a platform where on occasion an actor may stand and look outward, or sit and listen. Stairs and scaffold are also painted black.

And one chair, off to the side, where the Man often sits, and there is the young Woman, a governess.

The Man is there to hire her, but that actor takes many forms as the evening proceeds. There are no costume changes, and no props, only gifted actors who play their parts so convincingly, there is no need for anything more.

Completing their 2016 summer season, the Silverthorne Theater Company presents an entirely strange and creepy, yet riveting, production of *The Turn of the Screw*, adapted by playwright Jeffrey Hatcher from the novella by Henry James. Producer and co-founder of the company, Lucinda Kidder has said she makes a point of using local actors whenever she can, and here



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Stephanie Carlson and Stephen Eldredge, in the Silverthorne Theater Company production of *The Turn of the Screw* at GCC’s Sloan Theater.

we have two exceptional professionals, Stephanie Carlson (the Woman) and Stephen Eldredge (the Man) who are both active participants in the local theater community, including New Century Theater and Old Deerfield Productions.

Carlson has performed with Commonwealth Opera and Hanover Theater, is a member of the

see THEATER page B4

## OYSTERGIRL’S guide to REAL LIVING

by Vanessa Query

### #17: My Favorite Local Food Producers, Part 1

By VANESSA QUERY

**TURNERS FALLS** – Greetings, fellow Montagovians!

That’s right, folks; I am now a resident. If you’ve been reading my column for a while, you may know that I’m a Rhode Islander, born and bred and, until recently, resident. But I loved and visited this area regularly.

And now – finally – I live here. My son and I moved to Turners Falls about a month ago. The transition has been wonderful, challenging, wonky, and hard to talk about briefly or coherently. When people ask about it, I just say, “So far so good!”

One of my favorite things has been getting to know the local food scene. I should say, further getting to know the local food scene, because I’ve been acquainting myself with it since we’ve been coming to the area these past couple of years.

I’ve already got some favorite food producers I’d like to share with you. You’ve likely heard of these folks. If not, I encourage you to check them out, and tell them that Oystergirl sent you.

I also welcome recommendations of your favorite places.

**Upinngil Farm**  
411 Main Road, Gill / [upinngil.com](http://upinngil.com)

One of my first goals upon moving here was to find a new raw milk supplier. Having lived in a state where raw milk is 100% illegal – where I had to drive 45 minutes and commit a crime transporting the stuff across state lines – I was happy that, as a Massachusetts resident, any amount of effort and cost would be minimal in comparison.

I’d heard about Upinngil from several sources, and pleasantly drove the whopping four miles my first weekend here. I immediately became infatuated with the place – the land, the vibe, the offerings.

I returned several times in a short period, filling my fridge and freezer with their goodies. After a particularly big bounty, my new landlord said I could take out stock there. I think that’s a good idea.

Upinngil sells their own vast array of products,



QUERY PHOTOS

Even during a lull – or maybe especially during a lull – the Artisan Beverage production facility is never a boring place to be. General manager Garth Shaneyfelt claims it’s very important to defend the SCOBY against invaders.

as well as many by their fellow farmer and food producer friends. The raw milk is high quality and a good price, the egg yolks are orange, the produce is wonderful. They also sell Katalyst Kombucha, Real Pickles, meats, grains, prepared foods, maple syrup, jams and that sort of thing. This is the kind of place that could easily become my primary “grocer.”

And it’s so much more pleasant than a supermarket! My son likes to go and visit with the baby chicks on the lawn, and play hide-and-seek with the bigger chickens among the rows of raspberry bushes. We snack on local honey sticks and Lake Champlain chocolates. We walk in the fields and say hi to the cows.

It’s a great place to hang out, get some outdoor time with the kids, and get in touch with the origins of your food.

**Artisan Beverage Cooperative**  
324 Wells Street, Greenfield / [artbev.coop](http://artbev.coop)

A rare treat in my former home in Rhode Island was chancing upon a liquor store that sold Ginger Libation. Now I can get it any time I want! And so begins the need to pace myself...

The Artisan Beverage Cooperative makes kombucha, Libation, and mead.

Their Katalyst Kombucha has long been a favorite of mine and my son’s. If you’re unfamiliar with kombucha, it’s a traditionally fermented, naturally

see OYSTERGIRL page B3



POLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – Halfway through summer, we are now settled into a routine: each day advances as the last during our forty days of heat and drought: shorts, tee-shirts and sandals, coffee on the deck in the morning near the trellis that holds the climbing honeysuckle vine that hummingbirds love. Any chores requiring physical work or mental alertness are finished by 10 a.m., then quiet reigns during mid day, with all shades drawn in the house.

By six o’clock in the early evening, down to the slowly flowing Millers River we go for a wade in the water with the dog, letting the



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

Cardinal flowers along the Millers River bank, with Nicky.

cool water swirl around our feet and paws. After the sun goes down in the evening, a quiet glass or two of chilled white Muscadet wine and a good book while we wait for the bats to come out and Red Sox game to come on.

The best parts of the day are the mornings and the evenings, as you can tell. At 7 a.m., the members of the household who are already up step out of the kitchen onto the wooden deck where the floorboards

radiate heat to bare feet from yesterday’s burning sun. The hummingbird is busy going from flowering bee balm to honeysuckle tolling free nectar, the chipmunk awaits his daily handout of sunflower seeds.

The deck reaches out to the edge of the flower garden, and beyond, the grass crinkles like shredded wheat. The lawn mower has been loafing all month. No need to start her up, the grass is crisp and yellow.

see WEST ALONG page B5

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# Pet of the Week

Hello, I'm Precious... literally! Are you searching for the perfect lap cat? Do you yearn for an affectionate friend to keep you company? I will fit the bill. I enjoy spending time with my paws up for no reason and enjoying the serenity of my surroundings. But I'm not a total couch potato.

I like playing with toys, chasing bugs and hitting the catnip.

I'm quiet but sometimes chatty.

When we have company I'll be there to welcome them.

I've been an indoor kitty and lived with an adult woman who is moving and can't take me along. Come down and ask an adoption counselor about me.

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



CARMODY COLLAGE

## "PRECIOUS"

### Senior Center Activities AUGUST 8 to 19

#### 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.

**Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays:**

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

**Tues, Wed, Thurs:** Noon Lunch

**Mondays, 8/8 and 8/15:**

8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesdays, 8/9 and 8/16:**

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

**Wednesdays, 8/10 and 8/17:**

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

**Thurs 8/11 Coffee & Conversation**

**Thursdays, 8/11 and 8/18:**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:30 to Noon Brown Bag

1 p.m. Cards & Games

**Friday 8/12:** Reflexology appts.

#### ERVING

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

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

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

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

**Mondays, 8/8 and 8/15:**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

**Tues 8/9** 9:30 a.m. COA mtg.

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

**Tues 8/16** 12:30 Friends Bus. mtg.

**Tuesdays, 8/9 and 8/16:**

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

Homemade Lunch (*sign up*)

**Wednesdays, 8/10 and 8/17:**

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

**Thursdays, 8/11 and 8/18:**

8:45 a.m. Aerobics (*fast moving*)

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Creative Coloring

**Friday 8/12** 11 a.m. Market Shopping

**Fridays, 8/12 and 8/19:**

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 a.m. Bowling; Walking Club

11:30 a.m. Pizza Salad & Dessert

12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

#### 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.

## MR at the Great Falls Farmers Market: A Fiddler's Fabric

By HANNAH SANCHEZ

**TURNERS FALLS** – Last week at the Great Falls Farmers Market, I had the pleasure of watching Susie Secco play Swedish fiddle music for market-goers. Out of the four musicians playing, her face was the one I could see from the *Montague Reporter* booth; I was watching a woman who was suspended in bliss and gratitude as she played.

After the performance, we struck up a conversation about the practice of art making and how important it is to build a creative practice in your life to serve as a sanctuary.

Secco began crafts at a young age, learning how to sew from her mother at age five. Since that time she has maintained her interest in "figuring out how to make stuff" with her hands.

For the past 23 years, Secco has taught first grade in the Amherst-Pelham School District. Art practice, whether it be music, drawing, or working with fabric, functions as a necessity to her well-being.

"I started this idea of very seriously printing fabric, a couple years ago, during a very difficult year at school. I just needed something that was very different from working



SANCHEZ PHOTO

with children, something that wasn't so cerebral, and that was just for me, and also gave me an escape."

Designing fabric gives Secco a moment for "a different way of looking, and to get out of the analytical brain... looking and observing, thinking about patterns, thinking about color, about design."

Bringing arts into the classroom to help encourage the habits of art making for children is important to Secco. She sees that the pendulum in school curriculum is swinging back to project based and creative learning opposed to testing-based

strategies.

Currently, Secco draws inspiration from a fabric designer in Cape Town, South Africa called Skinny laMinx. Her recent trip to Florence, Italy is also a source of influence.

Secco makes napkins, baby swaddles, and other fabric goods with printed patterns that are organic, and fabric colors that are vibrant, providing a nicely balanced combination.

Take a look at Secco's beautiful hand printed fabrics at [etsy.com/shop/NuthatchandBluet](https://www.etsy.com/shop/NuthatchandBluet).

#### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Can I Get Too Cold In the Sunshine State?

the annual fatalities from hypothermia in the United States.

Low body temperature impairs the brain, so hypothermia is especially dangerous because its victims may not know they're in trouble. Severe hypothermia eventually leads to cardiac and respiratory failure, then death.

Hypothermia comes on gradually. Shivering is a common and obvious sign. Shivering is a natural response that increases muscle cell activity and generates heat.

But shivering alone does not mean you have hypothermia. Healthcare professionals recommend looking for "umbles," too. These are stumbles, mumbles, fumbles and grumbles.

Watch for these specific symptoms: confusion or sleepiness; slowed, slurred speech; shallow breathing; weak pulse or low blood pressure; changes in behavior such as apathy; change in appearance such as pale skin; poor body control or slow reaction times.

If you suspect that someone has hypothermia, call for emergency medical treatment. Here are some first-aid tips to follow until professional help arrives:

- In general, try to warm the victim. Replace wet clothing. Share your body heat.

- First warm the chest, neck, head, and groin with an electric blanket or warm compresses. Don't use direct heat from a lamp or hot water.

- Don't warm the limbs because you will drive cold blood to the heart, lungs and brain; this will lower the core body temperature. Use an electric blanket or warm compresses.

- If the person's breathing has

stopped or appears dangerously low or shallow, begin cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) immediately if you're trained in that procedure.

- Provide warm, non-alcoholic beverages. Alcohol lowers the body's ability to retain heat. Forget that image of the St. Bernard with the brandy keg.

- Don't rub the victim, especially an older person who may have thin skin.

- Handle people with hypothermia gently because they're at risk of cardiac arrest.

A typical scenario that can lead to hypothermia is being stranded in the snow while driving. The following are some valuable recommendations for surviving this type of ordeal:

- Attach something that is brightly colored to the car antenna so you can be seen.

- Wrap your entire body, including your head, in extra clothing, blankets, or newspapers.

- Stay awake.

- Run the motor (and heater) for about 10 minutes per hour, opening one window slightly to let in air. Make sure that snow is not blocking the exhaust pipe – this will reduce the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning.

- As you sit, keep moving your arms and legs to improve your circulation and stay warmer.

- Do not eat unmelted snow, because it will lower your body temperature.

If you would like to ask a question, write to [fred@healthygeez.com](mailto:fred@healthygeez.com).



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

By FRED CICETTI

*Q. I retired and moved from northern Minnesota to Florida. I was wondering if there is any way that someone in the Sunshine State can get hypothermia.*

Hypothermia occurs when your body doesn't maintain a normal temperature, which is about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit. When your core temperature drops to 95 degrees, you are suffering from hypothermia, which can be lethal.

Can your internal temperature drop to 95 or below in Florida? Yes. You can get hypothermia in an air-conditioned environment. It can strike you if you are soaked in the rain on a cool, windy day, or if you fall into chilly water. Water colder than 70 F can begin to cause hypothermia quickly.

People older than 65 years are especially vulnerable to hypothermia because they tend to suffer from illnesses or take medications that interfere with regulating body temperature. Also, older adults often produce less body heat because of a slower metabolism and less physical activity.

Seniors make up about half of

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Shannon Madigan - Property Manager  

**OYSTERGIRL** from page B1  
probiotic drink. It's made by feeding sweetened tea to a culture called a SCOBY that looks a bit like a jellyfish. The SCOBY eats up the tea and produces a living, probiotic, acidic, fizzy drink. I like to describe it as "vinegar soda – but in a good way." It's quite appealing! They flavor their kombucha with all sorts of things, like blueberries, Concord grapes, ginger, and jasmine.

Ginger Libation and its cousins, Local Libation and Blueberry Libation, are alcoholic ginger beers, or ginger wines. Sometimes I describe it as like a ginger cider. It's a unique drink, and very, very good. Local Libation, because its name is honest, is made with local cranberries, apple cider, and ginger.

Green River Ambrosia is mead, or honey wine. Like all their drinks, their mead is made traditionally, with great care, and with mostly local ingredients.

We've now visited the "kombucha factory" several times to see how the magic happens. I've had some great tastes of kombucha right out of the keg, and was once lucky to sample some of their delectable mead.

The Artisan Beverage Cooperative doesn't have tasting room hours yet, but you can follow their Facebook page for details on special open houses and events, so you can get a glimpse into how their beverages are made and their factory is run.

**Great Falls Farmers Market**  
Every Wednesday, 2 to 6 p.m.  
Avenue A at 1st Street, Turners  
[greatfallsfarmersmarkettturners.blogspot.com](http://greatfallsfarmersmarkettturners.blogspot.com)

Turners' very own farmers market is small, but it's convenient, and it's on Wednesdays. So you can do your bigger shopping on Saturdays at the Greenfield Farmers Market, then get your mid-week fix in Turners.

In addition to a wide selection of produce, you can get baked goods and honey products from the market table. And now more recently, as a nice tie-in, you can get Katalyst Kombucha from the market table!

There's also this great little newspaper called *The Montague Reporter* that's known to have a table at the market, where you can pick up a copy of last week's paper, get a t-shirt, start a subscription, buy an ad, or be interviewed for your own 15 minutes of fame.

There are frequently special events and musicians on Wednesdays. Check out their Facebook page for updates!

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

## The Olympics: Rio 2016

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The Summer Olympics, officially known as the "Games of the XXXI Olympiad," will take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 5 to August 21.

A number of Olympic athletes have come out of Massachusetts. One, a female gymnast from Needham named Aly Raisman, was at the 2012 London Games. She was named captain of the US gymnastics team for Rio.

Another, a man named Tim Daggett, earned a team gold medal in gymnastics, and an individual bronze medal on the pommel horse, at the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. Daggett was born in Springfield, and has his own gymnastics place in Agawam. Since retiring from competitions, he has worked covering the Olympics and other gymnastics events for NBC, starting with the 1992 Summer Games in Barcelona.

I asked a few people here in Massachusetts to share their opinions on the Rio 2016 Olympics. They had some diverse things to say when it comes to the event.

A man named Andrew said, "I think they're a fun competition, which are pretty entertaining."

"Any season of Olympics bring out the patriotic side of me," said a woman named Tracy. "I think it does with a lot of people."

To me, what brings out the patriotic side of a person is the Fourth of July. A lot of people show up each year at Beacon Field for the July 4 fireworks in Greenfield. If these statements about people's patriotic sides connecting with the Olympics are true, then people should be showing up to these Olympics by the tons.

In reference to the athletes involved in the games, someone named

Judy said, "We've got some fabulous athletes out there, and they're going to do a good job."

A man named Bryan had this to say in connection with the Olympians: "I think it's going to be awesome, and a better dynamic situation," because officials have been catching athletes who are taking steroids.

In the past, the Summer Olympics have been held in many places, including Tokyo, London, twice in Los Angeles, California, and twice in Athens, Greece, the place that they originated. This summer's games will be the first in Brazil, and the first in South America since the games began.

It's a tropical place, so that will certainly help to draw tourists to see the games. How many people can there be, who do not like being in a tropical location?

"It's pretty exciting this year, since they will be in Rio," a woman named Kaylee told me. Sound like a ringing endorsement for the place to me.

I don't necessarily connect the Olympics with being patriotic. I would call them a tradition that is done by people in the world every so often.

They are also not an athlete's last place to shine. Look at Tim Daggett, having his gym and being a TV commentator, or another US Olympic gymnastics gold medalist, Nastia Liukin, who will be joining Tim Daggett in covering the Olympics this year in Rio. Liukin is a professional speaker on subjects like Olympians and women in sports.

From what I have discovered while writing this article, it would seem that this summer's Olympics will be one of the best ever – if public opinion, the location, the former Olympians who are showing up, and the quality of sportsmanship that is said to be present are any indication.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Rashy Fish; Errant Sext; Rising Waters; Nocturnal Pokémon Go Players; Drones

Wednesday, July 13

1:28 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports needle in road; officer found that item was actually a twistable Crayola crayon. Item disposed of.

Monday, 7/18

9:19 a.m. Red Fire Farm truck lost a load of plastic containers. Officer assisted with traffic and helped driver pick up containers.

12:23 p.m. Caller was just involved in altercation on Avenue A near St. Kaz: he was eyeballing two males and they were eyeballing him back, some words were exchanged, and the males came after him but did not make physical contact. One subject unknown race; other white male, shirtless, with nipple piercings and white shorts. Officer spoke to caller, who may have made some comments that instigated the altercation. Advised of options.

2:26 p.m. First of multiple calls reporting trees down.

3:25 p.m. Caller reports that a male party came to her door, stated he was a "mobile notary public," and asked her to sign a piece of paper having to do with a foreclosure up the street. Caller admitted she did not completely read what she was signing but did not give any personal info. Area checked; unable to locate.

7:30 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

9:26 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

10:48 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that her apartment window was just smashed out and a white female was calling from outside asking her to come out of the apartment. Unable to locate. Report taken.

Tuesday, 7/19

2:16 p.m. Caller expressing concern that there might be contamination in the water at Cranberry Pond; was kayaking there this afternoon and observed at least 15 dead fish. Caller is an avid kayaker and has never seen this before. Fish appeared to have a rash or other abnormal issue with their scales. Caller carefully bagged some of the fish and left them at the door of the hatchery with a note explaining the situation. Shelburne Control advised and will notify Fish & Wildlife.

4:53 p.m. Report of van window smashed in on Seventh Street. Investigated.

Wednesday, 7/20

4:42 p.m. Officer checking on vehicle in Railroad Salvage parking lot. Parties were parked in shade talking.

6:25 p.m. Caller complaining of 3 barking beagles on

Bridge Street; ongoing issue; does not feel that calls to animal control officer have been helpful. Officer and ACO advised of call.

8:48 p.m. Caller from K Street reports refrigerator stolen from apartment she is moving out of; items left outside also taken. Advised to have landlord call re: refrigerator. Tenant will accept other items as a loss. Investigated.

Thursday, 7/21

11:19 a.m. Bicyclist struck by vehicle across from post office on Avenue A. Written warning given to vehicle operator for failure to use care in starting. Bicyclist refused medical attention. Later spoke with cyclist, who advises that he saw his primary doctor when he went home to WV and was very happy with the professionalism of MPD officers and dispatchers.

4:26 p.m. Vehicle parked on Seventh Street near Peske Park reported stolen. Vehicle determined not to be stolen; caller had parked vehicle in front of Salvation Army and forgot it was there.

10:54 p.m. [redacted] was arrested as a fugitive from justice on a court warrant and also charged with breaking and entering into a motor vehicle at night; larceny under \$250; and trespassing on land, dwelling, etc.

Friday, 7/22

1:58 a.m. Caller reports she hears what she believes is a dog in distress at the kennel. Officer checked kennel and advised that one dog has a whiny bark, which may be what the caller heard. All appears to be fine.

2:48 a.m. Report of disturbance on Fourth Street; female parties may have been fighting; items damaged in apartment. Officer advises there is probable cause for breaking and entering in the night, malicious destruction, and simple assault and battery. Summons issued.

12:13 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

4:57 p.m. Caller complaining that his wife received a text stating "I need some sex" from one of MPD's phone numbers. Caller assured this did not come from the PD, but wanted to pursue matter due to this being so bizarre. Caller given options but not satisfied; transferred to officer.

8:13 p.m. Caller reports that items previously reported stolen from K Street can be seen in her neighbor's apartment. Report taken.

8:15 p.m. Caller states that his intoxicated father-in-law just punched him in the face, then got into his truck and drove away from St. Kaz. Area search negative.

9:43 p.m. Officer checking on vehicle pulled to side of road; passenger was carsick.

10:07 p.m. Different officer checking on same vehicle; advised re: carsick passenger.

10:22 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on two default warrants.

10:25 p.m. Deaf, mostly white, very friendly French bulldog reported missing on Crescent Street.

11:37 p.m. Caller states that she believes an animal is on her second floor as she heard a loud crash and now there is something walking around blocking light through the grate. Officer reports that TV was on in second floor room and she may have been seeing shadows from flickering light.

Sunday, 7/24

1:42 a.m. Report of loud party taking place inside and outside a Taylor Hill Road residence. Small gathering was having a talent competition. Group advised of complaint and will be going inside. Party got loud again right after officers cleared; group spoken with again and has now gone inside.

10:56 p.m. Caller advising of bat in living room; requesting assistance. Officers clear; bat removed.

Monday, 7/25

2:22 p.m. Caller is stranded on Smead Island off

of Poplar Street; waded out to island but water has risen and he cannot get back to shore. TFFD and officers advised. Greenfield FD contacted for mutual aid. Northfield Mountain Project contacted and requested to maintain water level.

5:54 p.m. Request for additional officer to respond to area of Scotty's, where a couple of male parties have a 30-pack and are drinking. Parties dumped out open cans and will be returning to their residence on Maple Street.

7:02 p.m. Report of heavily intoxicated male party believed to have driven away from Poplar Street area. Party was reportedly struggling to carry his fishing equipment, could not find his shirt, keys, or phone, and had several beers as well as some Dr. McGillicuddy's around him. Gone on arrival.

Tuesday, 7/26

5:52 a.m. First of multiple reports of tires slashed overnight; calls from parking lot at Canal & Fifth streets, Industrial Boulevard, Lake Pleasant Road, Hillside Road, Walnut Street, Fairway Avenue, Highland Circle, and Davis Street. Reports taken.

8:11 a.m. Caller from Dell Street reports that his vehicle was broken into last night; several items were moved and a set of keys were stolen. Report taken.

11:28 p.m. Report of disturbance on Avenue A. Officers advise this was a dispute over a dog. Situation mediated; units clear.

11:48 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant.

Wednesday, 7/27

1:02 a.m. Report of vehicle speeding down Hillside Avenue toward Millers Falls Road; sounds like they may be hitting mailboxes. Officer observed several damaged mailboxes on Hillside. Report taken.

3:06 p.m. Caller fishing with children at Green Pond advises that he has found several bullets on the beach area. Officer advises that caller could

see MPD page B4

**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**

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## This Week on MCTV:

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Help MCTV welcome in August by watching the newest additions to the A Natural Music School's "Common People Concert" series. The July 19 concert featured Flootsimo, a flute trio representing three states, while the July 26 performance starred versatile violinist Michi Wiancko. Look for these programs and more on channel 17, or catch them at [www.montaguetv.org](http://www.montaguetv.org)!

To learn more about programs

from the A Natural Music School, visit [www.anaturalmusicschool.org](http://www.anaturalmusicschool.org). Wiancko's website can be found at [www.michiwiancko.com](http://www.michiwiancko.com).

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 (413) 863-9200, [info-montaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:info-montaguetv@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!

### MPD from page B3

bring bullets to PD for disposal; however, it is known that people do hunt in the area. Caller into lobby with items. 10:35 p.m. Caller complaining of 2 drones flying overhead on Lake Pleasant Road the last 2 nights. Officer advised of call.

#### Thursday, 7/28

12:16 a.m. Caller reporting suspicious vehicle driving up L Street repeatedly, proceeding to St. Mary's church each time. Officer confirms that vehicle is same that was talked to on J Street a few minutes ago; operator is playing Pokemon Go. Caller advised.

12:34 a.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle on J Street behind Aubuchon Plaza. All involved determined to be playing Pokemon Go.

1:18 a.m. Officer out with male at Goddard Avenue and Grove Street. Male juvenile advises he was just out looking at the stars because he couldn't sleep. Juvenile was told to go back home.

1:26 a.m. Officer out

with 3 males at United Arc. 3 juveniles out chasing Pokemon. Officers clear.

2:02 a.m. Officer out with suspicious vehicle on Eleventh Street. Operator playing Pokemon Go.

3:36 a.m. Report of man who appears to have set up camp in the patch of woods between Second Street and the Discovery Center parking lot. Male is yelling and screaming profanity at people walking in the area. Officer advises male has blood alcohol level of .236; requests contact detox for an available bed. Male transported to Franklin Recovery Center.

4:05 a.m. Motor vehicle stop at Third Street and Avenue A. Operator playing Pokemon Go. Verbal warning issued for stop sign violation.

4:31 a.m. Officer with suspicious vehicle at golf course. Pokemon player.

3:54 p.m. Caller from Bridge Street advises he came home to find a broken window and his checkbook missing.

Report taken.

#### Friday, 7/29

7:01 a.m. Caller from Masonic Avenue states that his vehicle was broken into overnight; later discovered charges on the cards that were stolen from vehicle. Report taken.

#### Saturday, 7/30

1:11 p.m. Report that female who purchased \$30 swimming pool at Aubuchon put it down on her way out, picked up a \$90 pool, and quickly left the store. Employees made positive ID of suspect. Summons issued.

7:06 p.m. Caller reports a female in a blue dress "going off" outside his residence on Montague City Road; believed to be heading to Greenfield. GPD notified.

8:05 p.m. Report of highly intoxicated male banging on doors in Fourth Street building. Officers located party and placed call to detox facility in Greenfield; they will not accept this party as he has reportedly been there three times and left against medical advice. Party taken into protective custody.



## WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



Overture is based in Shelburne Falls. Check out [opertura.org](http://opertura.org).

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was August 10, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Roadwork Ahead for Montague

With the recent announcement that town of Montague has been approved for nearly \$340,000 in federal community development block grant money for crosswalk improvement and new curb cuts along Avenue A, reconstruction of the old main drag will move forward on several fronts in the next year and a half.

Highway superintendent Tom Bergeron told the selectboard on Monday, August 7 he will put a portion of this year's \$6,000,000 in state Chapter 90 (road improvement) funds toward repaving from Third Street and Avenue A, down Third to Canal, and back around to Seventh Street.

He also promised to install new stop lights and crosswalk signals at these two intersections, where motorists have complained of long waits with little cross traffic due to worn out trip wires. "The computer system at Avenue A and Third is 30 years old," said Bergeron, and difficult to maintain. The computer at

Seventh is 25 years old. The new LED system will allow for flashing lights at night, and audible walk signals.

### Objections Raised to Senior Center Razing

The doorless, windowless shells of Wendell's original town hall disappeared last Friday, August 4. Stripped earlier of windows and some interior walls in preparation for renovation as a wing of the new library, the building had acquired a pronounced list after being hit and weakened by the tornado that plowed a swath through Wendell on July 11.

The demolition took place over the objection of the town's historic commission and, according to members Jerry Eide and Jean Forward, without consulting or notifying them.

Eide charged the demolition "chopped up and dumped... \$20,000 [worth] of historic materials and craftsmanship."

The building had first served as town hall, built in 1846, after Massachusetts became the last state to disestablish state churches in 1833. The building next served as a school-

### Among Horses

At the bottom of a hill on Main Road, Gill, not far past the entrance to what Gill residents know as the Renaissance Community, another renaissance is taking place. The former Ten Penny Acres, unused as a riding arena for over two decades and housing more tractors than animals in recent years, is being reborn as Ashcan Stables and Opening Gaits Therapeutic Riding Center.

Sarah Rury, 28, and Erika Heilig, 35, are the new owners breathing life into the equine complex, which they have populated with nine horses, to date, including Morgans, Arabian, and one small pony named Honey.

Rory and Heilig started up for lessons at Ashcan June 1, and will launch a grand opening and open house in October. Last winter, friends, family and neighbors logged over 1,000 hours of volunteer time to restore the facility - clearing ground, laying fence, repairing stalls and walls, and creating a space that is welcoming, roomy, and cheerful.

### THEATER from page B1

Northampton Playwrights Lab and cofounder of Passport Theater Company.

Eldredge has appeared in many Hampshire Shakespeare Company productions, and is cofounder of their Young Company, which led to his founding the theater program at Northampton High School. Both are members of Actors Equity, appearing under a special appearances contract.

*The Turn of the Screw* is a story told sometimes in narrative, sometimes in rapid-fire conversation; confrontational at times, with much dramatic action, and yet at times just a story, told as a ghost story in the manner of an evening's entertainment around a campfire.

Carlson holds the audience atten-

tion easily as she tells her tale in a gentle voice, with pure thought, elegant language and dramatic control. She appears tightly wound yet innocent: a lady, perfectly dressed in a black velvet dress with a bit of white ruffle in the front.

So much of the stage is drenched in shadow, as is the meaning and intention. What is at the heart of the story? Is it really about ghosts, or is it more about evil? And who or what is the source of this evil? All that never seems entirely clear.

This is the real source of the suspense, although the skill of the actors goes a long way to maintain the feeling that at any time, something truly horrible might happen.

The magic of the theater is how much of a story can be told without the audience even seeing the real ac-

tion. Sometimes in this play, even the characters are a mystery.

With a cast of two, we have a play with at least five characters. Carlson (the Woman) is central to the story, the primary narrator, on stage throughout the performance. She interacts with Eldredge as he portrays several different characters: the master of the estate, uncle and guardian of the two children she is being hired to care for; Miles, the boy; and the housekeeper, a woman who tells the most startling part of the story.

And then there are characters we never see, but are in the story, as real as the ones on stage.

While the story comes to a conclusion, each of us is left to unwind the real heart of it - the truth, if you will - for ourselves. Leaving the theater, audience members are excited

by the drama, and impressed by the performance of the two actors who manage to pull off a complicated, shocking and hugely entertaining but mysterious theatrical experience.

Ellen Kaplan has done an excellent job as director of this very complex script. She has shown skill in the way she guides the actors through the play, keeping the visual aspect engaging, while allowing them each to find the voice, the heart of each moment. There is neither too much nor too little emotion or drama, each scene seems to be perfectly calibrated for just the right power and intensity, with volume, passion, held to scale.

This flow keeps the audience's attention and maintains the suspense. There is no break for scenes or intermission; Carlson is onstage for the

full 90 minutes, Eldredge on and off the stage, but more on than not, so there is only the momentary break in action.

This production of *The Turn of the Screw* continues for another weekend, with shows on August 4, 5 and 6, evening performances at 7:30 p.m. with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m. There will be a talk-back session on Thursday August 4, after the performance. All performances are at the Sloan Theater on the campus of Greenfield Community College.

Tickets are \$19 general admission, \$17 students/seniors (over 65). Group rates are available. Tickets and information: [silverthornetheater.org](http://silverthornetheater.org), where there is also information about the Dinner+Theater program, or call (413) 768-7514.



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## WEST ALONG from page B1

The bird bath out there in the shade of the dogwood is an oasis for the catbird, robin and blue jay: we need to change the water and refill the basin three times a day.

The frog pond has gone bone dry, except for a vague mud hole in the middle where the bull frog has likely ensconced himself under the mud-soaked oak and maple leaves, waiting for better froggy weather.

The Millers does flow, but it is the lowest we've ever seen it in forty years, as it moves in slow cascades from pool to pool down what seem like a series of waterfalls through river-stone dams.

With ten extra feet between wood's margin and water's edge, the early cardinal flowers flare up in spires like never before, and the Joe Pye weed advances onto the new territory left vacant by the sluggish river. Nature never stands still.

Our new Siberian pup Nicky could step from township to township, crossing over the west-flowing river from our Erving side to chase squirrels on the Montague side, barely getting his paws wet. The temptation to scoot across is telegraphed to us in his quick glance to

see if we are watching (dogs usually can't lie very convincingly). He'd love to get over into the uncharted Montague territory of the marsh just over there, but he turns back when I promise him a snack from my pocket full of treats and puppy bribes.

Noon time finds us inside, with the house buttoned up, keeping last night's cool captured in the kitchen and parlor. Later a fan from Aubuchon's Hardware will go on duty whirring and helping us get through the late afternoon until the sun goes down.

In the living room, a vintage Silex Handybreeze (Made in USA), dating from the '50s, rotates on the coffee table, keeping the lucky one who loafs on the couch cool in the afternoon heat. Upstairs, in the bedrooms under the eaves of the sloped roof, the heat rises to ninety. We won't venture up there until bedtime.

*"Do not all flowers after mid-July remind us of the fall? After midsummer we have a belated feeling as if we had been idlers..."*

— Henry David Thoreau, *July 30, 1852*

With that odd, quirky fellow Thoreau seeming to chide me from a century ago, I figure it's time to

draw up lists of things to do before the autumn. I haven't actually been a slacker, but that Sahara-like heat of the past month has definitely helped me avoid any serious chores.

At least the wood for the winter has already been split and stacked, way back in April, so no problem there. But the front piazza needs a fresh coat of paint, upstairs closets need sorting out. Both projects would be good for cooler weather.

I've been saying that for 30 years.

However, the dirt floor cellar down below needs another precursory stab at emptying out. It is much cooler down cellar and more tempting to sort out some of those artifacts down there that go back to the days when this house was a farmhouse along the river.

Over the years, I haven't had the heart or ambition to throw out or even move objects that belong to generations past: the old tool box of a long dead uncle, the tire of a 1940s-era Ford, a battered horn from the days of the Millers Falls Drum and Bugle Corps, nails of all sizes scavenged from shipping boxes of the Millers Falls Co by Grandfather Abe, even his old scythe still hangs

from a downstairs rafter.

The woven-reed fishing creel still hangs on a hook, used by generations of us who tried our luck at trout fishing in Four Mile Brook or on Lyons Brook up in Mormon Hollow. Problem is, you never know when you might need some of those things, even the 1954 calendar from Mackin Fuel Co. Might be worth something some day!

Besides, there's some of the spirit of the old people left in their tools and possessions that have held on down there in the dark all these years. Like those who have lived here before me, I'll leave all that for my son to deal with when I'm gone!

By evening with the sun going down, we venture back out onto the deck, now in the shade of the century-old oaks and young maples towering over the edge of the yard by five o'clock, shading us from the heat still blazing from the West.

The sound of ice cubes tinkling in the gin and tonic glasses lends a coolness to the late afternoon. The quinine found in that summer drink is the best prevention against mosquito-born malaria, I'm told, so we quaff our share. Never mind that nobody around here has suffered from

malaria since coming back from the Spanish-American War.

Birds move about again at this hour. Soon the Red Sox will resume their summer evening quest for another win, inching closer to first place, after their typical faltering stretch after the All Star break. Will they fade like the late summer heat, or hang on and perk up by the cool of September?

Some things never change. The bats tumble forth in the dusk, as they have for as long as anyone in this house can remember. Our bats are here in the evening year after year, somehow never falling victim to the diseases wiping out many species of their kind.

The nightly heron squawks from somewhere out on the river.

We have it from a credible source that tomorrow the rains will come. We'll move then to the front porch for the morning coffee, and listen to the showers hitting and drumming the leaves of the forest just across the way. It'll be a welcome, cleansing drenching to begin a new month of easy midsummer living.

*"Après la pluie, le beau temps"*  
— old French folk saying



## Greenfield Food Co-op Hosts Conversation About Race, Insensitivity

By KENT ALEXANDER

Last Thursday evening, Greenfield's Franklin Community Co-op hosted a conversation about race and racial relations at the coop and in Greenfield. This conversation, entitled *"Let's Be Honest: About Race, Racial Insensitivity and Racial Tension,"* was initiated and hosted by Keyedrya (pronounced "Kai-drah") Jacobs.

The two-hour event drew some 40 people, many of them food coop members. During the open dialogue, attendees shared why they were there, and spoke openly about ideas of skin privilege and race relations in the community. The meeting was lively, and many expressed gratitude for the opportunity to talk openly about race.

Jacobs, a young Black single mother who has called Greenfield home for the past three years, currently works as a front desk cashier at the coop. Before moving to Greenfield, Jacobs resided in Springfield. But after the birth of her son, she decided to raise her child in a calmer and greener environment.

Although previously employed at The Arbors at Greenfield, Jacobs told the *MR* that, despite her love of the work, it began to "physically drain her." At the urging of her younger brother, Tyler, who has worked in the coop kitchen for the past three years, Jacobs became a front desk cashier.

She found the coop community welcoming, and quickly became an enthusiastic addition. Wanting to break through the stigma of how many people see women of color, Jacobs began to wear colorful head wraps, and presented a composed and well-educated persona while making upbeat transactions with customers.

Jacobs explained that everything seemed smooth — until the recent incident involving a Confederate flag displayed in the garage owned by a Greenfield police officer. She stated

that this very public event, and the conversations that ensued, "woke me up" due to the fact that she had a four-year-old son and three brothers.

Jacobs stated that she began to wonder how safe the men in her life might be when confronted by police officers who might view them as "targets" because of their skin color. Worried about their safety, she turned to Facebook to vent her frustrations with online friends.

Meanwhile, while performing her duties as cashier, Jacobs encountered micro-aggressions from time to time. These took the form of statements like, "You're so nice! I don't see your color," or comments that alluded to her possibly wanting a "skin lightening" cream.

These experiences led to "conscious conversations" with a Black male friend who works with the Franklin County Deputy Sheriff's office. Jacobs started seeing her beloved coop as the perfect place to begin a process of dialogue between white people and folks of color.

She approached John Williams, the coop's general manager, and asked if she could host a dialogue that focused on race and the unspoken tensions that, more often than not, run silently beneath cross-racial interactions.

Jacobs succeeded in convincing Williams that such a conversation would augment the overall health of the community and that the model of a coop was the perfect atmosphere to embrace not only this conversation, but also a series of talks dealing with community issues, such as police brutality, attitudes about medical marijuana, and shining a light onto rape culture.

Asked how she thought the evening went, Jacobs paused, then replied, "I feel like it went well. I didn't expect so many people, but I'd like it to be even bigger. Perhaps it could grow into a radio or television show!"

## August 13: Pig Roast on Deep Hole

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** — The Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club is situated on the Connecticut River, shortly after The Narrows where the peninsula that forms Bartons Cove juts into the river. It is arguably "one of the most beautiful views on the river," according to the Club's new events coordinator, John Landino. "It's also the best place to be a boater, and a great place to have fun."

The sports club is revitalizing itself this year with a series of events designed to entice the public to its

facility at 15 Deep Hole Drive.

While the club is available for rentals and booked solid for most of the summer, they also want to make an effort at holding public events and creating occasions that allow the members to work and play at the same time.

One such day is coming up on Saturday, August 13, when folks can get a real bargain of live music and a pig roast with a ten-dollar ticket. The West Gill BBQ Co. will be there, with his deluxe BBQ trailer that he performs his magic culinary arts on at grilling competitions

far and wide. Bands include *Josh LeVangie and The Pistoleros* and the *Sullivan Davis Hascom Band*. There's a large, full service bar.

A successful chicken roast was held earlier in the year, and last winter saw the beginning of a new tradition of monthly prime rib specials as well. The non-profit uses earnings from these events to offset the upkeep of the facility as well as fund several scholarships for local youth to attend environmental camps and programs. See the ad on page A8 for more details and ticket info!



**LEFT:** Kiera and Margarette revel in their successful and repeated pieing of John Howland, Margarette's dad, president of the Greenfield Savings Bank. The bank invited the public to pie Mr. Howland last Friday at its Turners Falls branch, which was gathering donations of food and money for the Franklin County Survival Center.

**RIGHT:** The Turners Falls High School Softball team dons their new team jackets for a photo with the Division III State Championship Trophy during a celebration banquet at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club on Monday, July 25.

(Not pictured: a lucky rainbow, arcing across the early evening sky.)



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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  
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Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

# August Poetry Page

### THANK YOU!

I owe my rich life to my family and friends  
And helpers and teachers who open new trends.  
A life full of music and arts, sports and skills –  
Creative expression's developing still.  
Great senses – sight, touch, taste, smell and sound  
Enrich waking moments with delights most profound.  
Indoors I'm surrounded by challenging choices  
As home, school and work offer creative voices.  
Outside I'm surrounded by nature's great thrills—  
Fields, woods, gardens, glens, brooks, ponds and hills.  
Above all, bright skies of clouds, winds and weathers –  
Suns, moons, stars and planets, all glowing together.

Yes, life is a miracle many times rife –  
Every day, every hour, I'm so grateful for life.

D. W. Peterson

### Walking Blues

Overlooking the river, grand Victorians repose  
shuttered and well tended above perfect lawns and perennials.  
Homes to professionals:  
concerned citizens, property owners,  
board members, vision dealers.  
Life's discouragements whisper behind  
the moiré of sheer curtains;  
failure curls dormant in the mail basket by the door.  
Chimes chill the air, and there is the taste  
Of epilogue, of vellum, of just-so.  
And  
It is pretty here,  
very pretty here.  
To the back side of this excellent view,  
triple deckers skooch their tattered behinds  
up to stockades and pickets and  
privacy lattices,  
spilling children and bikes and  
bottles and butts  
and broken pipes and old cars and EZboys  
into the yard and street.  
The life of the renter is public property.  
I walk through it, within it,  
know too much about it:  
Too much about fixing the junk car  
leaking gas in the driveway,  
too much about how cigarette butts  
find their way into a polka-dot display of  
tattered marigolds  
and why dogs circle endlessly in  
tiny chain link pens;  
too much about smashed windows and  
ripped screens  
and the smell of beer spilled in the dirt.  
The streetside media of these lives neither  
beckons or threatens  
and  
things are both better  
and  
worse  
than they seem.

I pass between the chicken bones and beer cans and bikes  
and through the roaring of mothers and motorcycles;  
my home's on the corner,  
a middle ground behind hedges:  
one dream up from yesterday,  
one step behind tomorrow.

Nina Rossi

### Crapshoot

rutting in the deep of night  
soil& soul  
the dark loam of infancy  
back/behind  
kindling a reptilian urge  
we are a snap/bite away  
from murdering  
all thoughts of  
//individuation\\  
we merge flavors  
me to  
you > our  
]unashamed[  
\*reeking\*  
banquet  
love

Nina Rossi

### Noticing Notices

"Siempre en la historia es noche y es deshora,"  
wrote Paz, and this night,  
out of joint, out of time  
will soon become history.

We annotate the cumulative also-rans  
note nuance and contour,  
find meaning in remembrance of past acts  
that came to nothing.

We chart the ebb of antiquated ideas  
that once held promise, seek solace  
in our own illimitable frailties.

The shadows on the carpet define space  
as a series of irregular shapes.  
The dying fire flickers.  
The dog does not bark.

The notices that arrive with the wind  
are not yet signals of distress  
only warnings of what impends.

We muster ourselves  
for dress rehearsals,  
prepare with aplomb  
for the what if.

The honking geese  
Sensing the unease  
mount a decisive push:  
force flying against force.

Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

### Planned?

"You are exactly where you planned to be"  
At least that's what she said  
To Paul in a reading sometime back,  
With a woman who'd been dead.

She made the journey, gave her report,  
and though she longed to stay,  
She came back to this earthly place  
But what a strange thing to say

If he, or we, are where we planned,  
Who is there to blame  
For the ills and troubles that we meet  
In this our mortal frame?

If we can't blame God, or fate, or luck  
For what we go through here  
Or even chance in our cosmic dance  
What use then are our tears?

If this is so, the game is fixed  
As is the field on which we play  
If we set the rules as well as the goals  
What must we learn today?

Spectators watch us as we strive  
And cheer us all along  
If this is so, the game is fixed  
As is the field on which we play  
If we set the rules as well as the goals  
What must we learn today?

Spectators watch us as we strive  
And cheer us all along  
But the game is ours as the clock runs out  
Till we hear that final gong

John Haigis

### Small Droplets

I'm a very small drop in a much larger ocean  
My buddies are billows and swells,  
Storms quite tempestuous  
Roiling the rest of us  
Many the tales I could tell

I am but a leaf in the forest  
Green on the end of a limb  
Quaking in summer's breeze  
Singing among the trees  
Until autumn change shall begin

What can I tell of existence  
Doing the things that I do?  
Life forms so mutable  
Life so inscrutable  
Change constant, ancient and new

John Haigis

### CONTRIBUTORS' NOTES

John Haigis, of Turners Falls and Pennsylvania, explains the origin of his poem "Planned": A friend had a psychic reading recently with Natalie Sudman. In this reading with Paul she made the remarkable statement that "he was exactly where he planned to be." That prompted this poem.

D.W. Peterson lives in Leverett, and contributes frequently to the poetry page. Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno's latest book of poems is *Remission*. He lives in Turners Falls. Nina Rossi of Turners Falls is an artist, poet, owner of Nina's Nook, and Features Editor at the MR.

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### ONE MONDAY EACH MONTH

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: *Open Mic*. 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*. 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: *Hear, Now, and Always*. Paintings by Nancy First and wood carvings by Janice Doppler. Through August 12.

Forbes Library, Northampton: Local artist Nina Rossi joins two others for "Progressions" exhibit. Through August 31.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Hall Art Display: *Local Color*. Jenny Tibbets presents paintings of local rural and urban landscapes. Through August 30

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. Through October 30. \$

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Clouds*. The "sky of mind" of three artists, Marjorie Morgan, Nina Rossi and Barbara Milot fill the Nook with sculpture, pen and inks, and small canvases. Through August 27.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Joining Heaven and Earth*, drawings by Peter London. Artist reception Saturday, August 6, from 4 to 6 p.m. Also Janice Sorensen's mixed media paintings *Palimpsests*. Through August 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. Exhibit runs through August 29.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *On Pens and Needles*. Calligraphy and Fiber Art by Sandy Tobin. Artist's reception, Sunday, August 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. Through August 29.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Take Me to Your Leader: New paintings by Charlie Shaw*. Through August 31.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 4

Energy Park, Greenfield: 2016 Coop Concerts present: *Stephanie Marshall w/special guest Jim Henry; Sheryl Stanton; Pat & Tom LaMountain Band*. 6 p.m.

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

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

Berkshire Pizzeria, Charlemont: *Zydeco Connection*. 6 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Run Lola Run*. Basically watching Lola run; hyperkinetic, "dazzling roller coaster". 7:30 p.m. Music by *The Dinner Collective* at 7 p.m. \$

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

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6

Unity Park Waterfront, Turners Falls: *Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. Celebrate Native American Art, Music & Culture*. 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Run Lola Run*. Basically watching Lola run; hyperkinetic, "dazzling roller coaster". 7:30 p.m. Music by *The Dinner Collective* at 7 p.m. \$

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Science Fiction/Fantasy and Horror/Monster monthly movies series presents *Dracula's Daughter*, a 1936 classic. Feature starts at 7:30 p.m. Episode of *One Step Beyond* starts at 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: Kick Off Party for the *Vermont Jazz Centers Summer Workshop, featuring Freddie Bryant, Eugene Uman, Cameron Brown, Francisco Mela, and Scot Mullet*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Bees Deluxe*. Acid blues. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *From the Woods*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Franklin County Sweethearts*. Jazz, blues, and country. 8 p.m.

Jaume I, Greenfield: *Kevin Hufnagel, New Firmament, Androo Wang*. 8 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, AUGUST 8

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Open Mic.

### TUESDAY, AUGUST 9

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Poetry Night*. An evening of spoken word. Sign up to read at 6:30. Readings begin 7 p.m. \$

Watermelon Wednesday Extra, West Whately Chapel, Whately: *Maura O'Connell and Karan Casey*. Irish singers who have played with all the big Irish bands. 7:30 p.m. \$

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 10

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Mole Story Time by Paul Richmond*. 5 minute slots for true stories, no props, no scripts! Room for 12 performers, audience votes for the best. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. 8 p.m., free.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 11

Energy Park, Greenfield: 2016 Coop Concerts present: *Charlie Conant & Friends; Lexi Weege; Bruce Cosgrove*. 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Plavin All-Stars*. Rock/folk and a little bit of everything. 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 12

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse presents *Enigmatica*. New England-based mandolin ensemble; Enigmatica performs music of the Baroque, Brazil, and eclectic contemporary works. 7 p.m. \$

Frontier Regional School, S. Deerfield: Country Players Youth Ensemble present two plays, *The Mystery of the Gum Drop Dragon*, and *And Then There Was One*. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Values, Get a Grip, Depreciator, SCVM, and War Among Us*. 7 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Underdog (Italy), Hot Dirt, Derive, and The Leafies You Gave Me*. All ages / substance free. 8 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original guitar with Doug Plavin and Klondike Koehler. 8:30 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Satinwood. 1970's legendary songs*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Troll 2*. Folk Punk and Alt Blues. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Shadow Twisters*. 9:30 p.m., free.

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 13

Frontier Regional School, S. Deerfield: Country Players Youth Ensemble present two plays, *The Mystery of the Gum Drop Dragon*, and *And Then There Was One*. 7 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Betsy & Mark's Dance Party*. 8:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 14

Frontier Regional School, S. Deerfield: Country Players Youth Ensemble present two plays, *The Mystery of the Gum Drop Dragon*, and *And Then There Was One*. 2 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Marian McLaughlin Trio, Amber Wolfe, and Lady Jane*. 7 p.m. \$

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

### WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

Watermelon Wednesday, West

Whately Chapel, Whately: *Curtis & Staines*. Bill Staines and Catie Curtis, folk artists. 7:30 p.m. \$

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 18

Energy Park, Greenfield: 2016 Coop Concerts present: *Sue Krantz & Ben Tousley; Strawberry Afternoon; Small Change*. 6 p.m.

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**POCUMTUCK** from page B1

"The group was founded in 1999, driven by the need to protect and preserve the Kanienkeha (the Mohawk Language) for our women's group, called Kontiwennenhawi, which translates to 'Carriers of the Words'. Our language is struggling to survive right now, so it is important to me to put our language into the songs," explained Bear Fox.

At various stages of their lives, the singers take time out of their personal and professional lives to assist their community whenever possible. Aside from singing Haudenosaunee social songs, they work with elders and fluent speakers from Akwasasne to ensure the correct usage, pronunciation and spelling of words. The songs contain messages that they believe are important for the Mohawk people to know and remember. Performances of Kontiwennenhawi will be at 1:15 and 5:45 p.m.

Other musicians include the Medicine Mammals Singers. Medicine Mammals of Wendell provide wildlife programs presented from "unique Native American perspectives and philosophies." The group will present traditional and contemporary music, singing, storytelling, and drumming. They will present at 11 a.m.

The Black Hawk Singers are an Abenaki drum group established in Canada on the Odanak Indian Reservation in 2004. The group is ded-

icated to re-enlivening the Abenaki culture through keeping traditional songs alive, and creating new ones to express where the tribal spirit is moving. They are playing at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m., and 3 p.m.

Native American flute player George Leduc will play at 3:45. The haunting melodies played by Leduc are part of his own spiritual journey. "My music is from my heart and in my soul. I don't make the sounds in the flute. I give breath to the music in the flute," he says.

History buffs may be drawn to Lester Garvin's presentations. Garvin will display and describe his methods he has developed to locate likely Native American archeological sites by analyzing aerial photographs. He has used his observations of land forms to create a predictive model that has been used to locate sites from Northampton to Greenfield, and has been used to help protect these sites from desecration and destruction.

The Homelands Festival was conceived by the Nolumbeka Project, a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the history of Native Americans/American Indians of New England. Other sponsors include Turners Falls RiverCulture and the Visioning BEAR Circle Intertribal Coalition.

More information, including a parking map and full schedule of events, is available at [turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://turnersfallsriverculture.org).

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