

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 13 – NO. 28

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 30, 2015

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### Acker Withdraws, Nathhorst to Stand for Selectboard

By DAVID DETMOLD

Due to “family reasons,” Tara Acker has withdrawn from the running for an open two-year seat on the Leverett selectboard. Acker’s withdrawal was announced in a townwide phone call from town hall last week.

On Tuesday, April 28, Dudleyville Road resident Rich Nathhorst, a member of the planning board and broadband committee who works as a capital project manager at UMass Amherst, announced he would stand for the seat being left open by the retirement of longtime

selectboard chair Rich Brazeau. Brazeau is stepping down at annual town meeting this Saturday, May 2, one year into his current three-year term.

Leverett is the only town in the Commonwealth to nominate and elect town officials directly from town meeting floor. In the event more than one candidate stands for a seat, a paper ballot vote is held during town meeting, and the results announced as quickly as ballots can be counted.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford said four seats on the five-member

see LEVERETT page A6

### “It’s a Shame They Tore The School Down.”



PARZYCH PHOTO

The former parochial school is now largely a rubble-sorting operation.

By JOE PARZYCH

**GREENFIELD** – The Holy Trinity Parochial School has had its day. Built in 1929 by General Contractor George Reed of Greenfield, the school opened in 1930. Armando Bresciano, 97, now at Buckley Healthcare Center, was one of the first students to enroll in the school.

“I finished four years of grammar school there, and graduated in 1934. My uncle, Pasqualli Mascatini, or something [spelled] like that, was a mason contractor, and

he laid up the bricks,” Bresciano said. “He did all the masonry; put up the whole building” – apparently as masonry subcontractor to general contractor George Reed who did the finish work.

Mr. Bresciano’s mind is sharp, despite his years. He recalled many details of the school, and spelled out names, only having trouble with his uncle’s last name. “It was run by the Sisters of St. Joseph. Mother Superior Mary Justinian ran the school,” Bresciano said. “The sisters worked

see DEMOLITION page A5

### Thinking Ahead: Fifth and Sixth Graders Check Out Colleges

By EMILY KREMS

**TURNERS FALLS** – “What would you study if you went to UMass?”

You might think this question came from a 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> grader, but it was a 5<sup>th</sup> grade student asking her friend this question following the



KREMS PHOTO

Eighth grader Kyle Dodge looks at a painting in MCLA’s Science building.

April 15 field trip to UMass-Amherst.

During the trip, the students – 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders from Sheffield and Gill Elementary Schools and Great Falls Middle School – saw a full performance by the Dynamics, one of UMass Amherst’s *a capella* groups. The students then walked around a small part of campus on a self-guided tour with their chaperones, seeing the views from the 23<sup>rd</sup> floor of the W.E.B. Du Bois Library, the newly renovated first floor of the Campus Center, and the impressive new Recreation Center. Finally, the students ate an all-you-can-eat lunch at the Berkshire Dining Commons, where some young students procured autographs from UMass football players.

Donna Klaiber, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Sheffield, found the trip to be a

see FIELD TRIPS page A5

### TFHS Softball: Mullins Hits 600th Win; Season Starts With Run of Blowouts

By MATT ROBINSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – The Turners Falls Softball Indians have jumped out to an impressive five-win, no-loss record. And in those first five games, Powertown has outscored their opponents 74 to 0.

Four of the first five games were stopped via the Mercy Rule which

was enforced when the Tribe led by at least 12 runs, after 5 innings. And because the visiting team bats first, the games against Greenfield and Mahar were called after only four Blue at-bats.

Scoring 74 runs is incredible. And the scoring has not been one-dimensional. Along with hits,

see SOFTBALL page A8



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Mullins works with the team during a break in the action during the team’s five-inning, 28-0 win over Hopkins Academy.

### After \$10,000 Worth of Losses, Village Co-op Seeks New Generator

By JULIE CUNNINGHAM

**LEVERETT** – A community-centered store like the Leverett Co-op is a central part of life for the residents of Leverett, Montague, Wendell, and Shutesbury, but for the last five years the beloved health food store hasn’t weathered the winter as well as it could.

Paul Rosenberg, general manager for the last 16 years, said for the first ten years he was with the co-op there were no power outages. In the last five years, however, there have been three costly power outages totalling \$10,000 in losses for the store. That is why the co-op is looking to purchase a new generator, so

these losses can be prevented and so the store can be a place of refuge during the tough winter months.

“What we would like to do is be fully operational in times of power outages,” explained Rosenberg.

Without a generator, when the power goes out the co-op loses all the perishables that require refrigeration. The cash register no longer works, and employees have to make do with estimating the weights of fruits and vegetables without the use of a scale. Last time the power went out, Rosenberg said, the temperature in the store went so low it was almost as cold inside as it was outside.

see GENERATOR page A5



CORINA BARRETT PHOTO

The Leverett Village Co-op is launching their fundraising for a new generator, which will cost about \$35,000. The hope is that, with the new generator, the co-op will be a safe haven for locals during winter power outages, and will also allow the co-op to avoid the large losses that come with the loss of power.

### Turners Falls-Gill Bridge Project Delays: Details Emerge

By MIKE JACKSON and JOE PARZYCH

Though traffic has been flowing north and south across the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge since November 2013, the reconstruction project, originally slated for four years in the beginning of 2010, has still not been completed. Bridge contractor SPS New England has closed down their Turners Falls office and has not responded to queries from the *Montague Reporter*.

According to an engineer no longer involved with the project who spoke under condition of anonymity, the design to replace instead of cleaning and lubricating worn and rusted rollers on the bridge bearings with nylon or some other plastic material did not work out, and needs to be remediated.

The asphalt pavement over the membrane covering the concrete bridge deck at the Gill end slid

see BRIDGE page A5

### Montague Woman Helms Regional Foodie Mag



Mary Reilly

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE** – Mary Reilly, who moved to Montague Center in January 2014, has brought the *Edible Communities* magazine franchise to our region. In just a short period of time, running at “something between 98 and 105 percent of her energy,” she had found stories, assigned writers, secured advertisers, hired photographers, designed the magazine and driven each issue of *Edible Pioneer Valley* to distribution points around the region.

It seems daunting to me, but not to Reilly, who once owned a restaurant in Boston with her husband Dave, who helps with ad sales. Owning a restaurant means you might come in one morning to find that the refrigerated food locker died overnight. Everything must be discarded, and you have reservations for lunch and dinner. That kind of pressure makes putting together four issues of *Edible Pioneer Valley* each year seem manageable to Reilly.

see MAGAZINE page A5



# The Montague Reporter

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**A NOTE FROM THE  
MANAGING EDITOR:**

The *Montague Reporter* is a nonprofit that operates as a service to the community. The majority of our revenue comes from print advertisement.

We will always try to run announcements for events for free, provided that they are free and open to the public.

The volume of requests for PSA postings, listings and event coverage has risen steadily, and our advertising has not. When we can't fit free announcements, we are often met with expressions of disappointment and anger.

If your organization or event planning committee has a budget, or can pass the hat for the expense, please consider making more sustainable use of the service we provide by taking out ad space. Our display ad rates are a very affordable \$7 per column-inch.

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## Throw Them Away, And Move On

About 2 million Americans take illegal drugs by injecting them directly into their bloodstream. This is unhealthy behavior for a number of reasons, and in addition to the harm many users inflict on themselves and their loved ones, it can take a wider toll on public health.

Worldwide, people who inject drugs are four times as likely to die from AIDS-related causes as from an overdose, according to the Bulletin of the World Health Organization. This is because they are more likely to contract HIV, and while sharing syringes is not the only way people who inject drugs may be exposed to that virus, it is a major one.

Two Scottish cities provide a classic test case. In Glasgow, by the mid-1980s, 1 to 2 percent of intravenous drug users were HIV positive. An hour away, in Edinburgh, the rate had hit 50%. Guess which city had legalized syringe possession.

Still, the widely harbored feeling that this virus was a punishment for deviant lifestyle delayed sensible harm reduction policies. The same crowd that thinks teenagers want to have sex because condoms exist is convinced people turn to heroin because of the convenient allure of fresh syringes.

While great strides have been made in reducing the spread of HIV via needle-sharing, hepatitis C is making a resurgence, driven largely by people injecting drugs.

Here in Massachusetts, syringe prohibition ended in 2006, over a veto by then-governor Romney. This was a positive step that will pay off in the decades to come, as every additional sterile needle sold at a pharmacy slightly reduces the the overall spread of bloodborne diseases in our state.

As an unintended consequence, by rising to a higher volume in our consumer waste stream, these dangerous, sharp items are also showing up a bit more frequently among our litter – alongside tiny “nip” liquor bottles, cathode-ray-tube monitors, mattresses, used diapers, cigarette butts, frappuccino bottles and town newspapers, wherever trash is quietly tossed.

Kudos to Montague police chief Chip Dodge for pointing out the obvious: we don't need the police to deal with this issue. Rural Massachusetts, like so many other places, has a drug problem; we don't need the rest of our adults

succumbing to an epidemic of being big babies about it.

If it's disease you're worried about, avoid the end with a needle on it while you put it in a nearby frappuccino bottle, and wash your hands after for good measure. For the record, HIV dies when exposed to the air, and it is extremely unlikely you would contract hepatitis B or C even if they are in dried blood droplets on the outside of a syringe. It's probably safest to wear gloves.

Public health officials are supposed to cover their rears and will advise you to avoid all risk, however small, but we encourage our readers to educate themselves about relative risks, and decide on their own how comfortable, or useful, they want to make themselves.

Kudos to the F.L. Roberts gas station on Third and L for recently making a sharps container available, no questions asked, for disposal. We hope a couple more businesses around town will follow their example, because it will make it easier for residents to take a minute out of their day to make the streets safer for kids at play.

Needles can also be turned in at the Montague town hall and public safety complex. In case you're wondering, the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District provides empty sharps containers and exchanges them for full ones, free of charge.

And kudos, finally, to Turn It Up! owner Patrick Pezzati, who a reporter from NPR followed around earlier this week, scouting for sharps, though it doesn't sound like he found any. The segment made it to *All Things Considered*, and while we have already heard groaning about Turners Falls once more being connected with drugs in the press, we think it's a good thing.

Stray needles are a nuisance, but they are only a minor symptom of our culture's drug addiction. They have become an object of fascination locally, and a focal point for deeper anxieties about contagion. The attempt to isolate addicted people from the society that creates them is futile, morally wrong, and self-defeating.

Hundreds of small towns are struggling with these issues. If we can overcome being paralyzed by fear of stigma, maybe Montague can be known instead as a town that comes together to solve its problems with common sense and direct action.

## Letters to the Editors

### They Should Ban Spraypaint

Many cities and towns are working to stop homicides, drug activities, gangs and homelessness. Surely, our own town officials from the town of Montague – village of Turners Falls can learn how to manage the removal of graffiti, some of which was sprayed on town buildings as long as three years ago.

So please. I am asking each one of our town meeting members to “think outside of the box” and vote “yes” on May 2 for graffiti bylaws.

Alice Johnson  
Turners Falls

### Not Given Enough Warning For Fire District Meeting

On Saturday, April 18 and Monday, April 20 – a holiday – an ad not much larger than a “Tag Sale” ad was placed in the *Greenfield Recorder*. It announced the Annual Meeting of the Turners Falls Fire District on April 21.

For a working person, it effectively left no or perhaps an hour or two window to gather and research information before the meeting. This extremely short window for a taxpayer to review and vote on a \$2.53 million budget does not reflect well on the Prudential Committee.

Warrants (without critical detail) may have been posted around town, but who really goes looking to read warrants?

It appears that the Prudential Committee had no real interest in getting participation beyond the 29 who attended the meeting. The great majority of those were District officials, employees, and relatives – all looking out for their interests.

Statements published well in advance of the Meeting explaining things such as tax rate impacts, this year's 5% increase in the budget over last year's budget (a 13% increase over 2 years ago) might have generated interest and a more representative showing.

The District stopped publishing the warrant in the *Recorder* a couple of years ago because of cost. However, this pales in comparison to the average fireman's pay in 2014 of \$84,000. Two actually earned \$108,576 and \$104,271 respectively with the former wage earner issued a car to go to work. The Chief also is assigned a car to take home.

The Prudential Committee should be encouraging the participation of all district residents and keeping them informed of all important issues – not announcing a \$2.53 million budget three days (weekend and holiday) before a vote. That's arrogant and irresponsible.

Marcia Power  
Montague Center

Joseph G. Janikas  
Turners Falls

### Let's Turn The Center School Into A Senior Center

It's been over three years since the town entered into negotiations with Mark Zaccheo and his proposal to purchase the building for use as an apartment complex.

Since that time, the purchase price has dropped from \$50,000 to \$1. Also since that time, the town – at taxpayers' cost – has made many improvements, including new water pipes, and has maintained the building.

At the upcoming Town Meeting, there is a warrant asking the town to commit another \$15,000 for the building's maintenance. All this, and still no signed Purchase and Sale Agreement from Mr. Zaccheo.

The town is in desperate need of a new Senior Center, and since Mr. Zaccheo is still not committed, why not use this building for a new Senior Center?

I was only in the building briefly about 8 years ago, but I recall large classrooms with good lighting and many parking spaces. I imagine there must also be an auditorium and/or cafeteria. No renovations would be needed and the existing space would be perfect for craft rooms, classes, lectures, meal programs, exercise, etc.

The second floor could be used for office space; both town and rental to local business.

It's time for the town to stop waiting for Mr. Zaccheo to make up his mind, and to make use of this building to benefit the town's senior citizens.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

Join the Nolumbeka Project and the Connecticut River Watershed Council for a **river walk** on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Learn about 10,000 years of Native American presence near the Great Falls, speak to experts in Native American history in this area including the Turners Falls massacre during the King Phillips War in 1676. Meet at the Unity Park bike path gravel parking lot on I Street in Turners Falls.

The guides will be Nolumbeka Project Board members David Brule, Howard Clark, and Joe Graveline. Collectively, they share about one hundred years of information reconstructed through research, observations, insight, education, explorations, field work and associations, which illuminates the little known history of the early Native American culture of the Northeast.

All three work closely with the Narragansett Indian Tribal Historic Preservation Office and monitor local Native American/American Indian sacred sites.

What's cute, gentle, and eats poison ivy? Answer: it's the **Goat Girls**.

Hope Crolius, owner of Artemis Garden Consultants in Amherst, will present her unique method of dealing with invasive plants, like

multi-flora rose and bittersweet, as well as irritants such as poison ivy and sumac at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, May 2, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Crolius and her four legged team will bring her browsing beauties to your property for several days or a few weeks to munch and crunch the parts you want cleared. Recently featured in Business West, as well as the Boston Globe, Crolius will share with you her "out of the box" solution to pesky weed patches.

Come and find out what this is all about. Meet a sample of the browsing beauties up front and personal.

Arts are Essential is inviting **students to be part of the River's Song Celebration performance** on Saturday, May 16, at 4 p.m. at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. This would be appropriate for grades 2 and up. There are limited spaces for the workshops and performance. **Please RSVP by May 4.** This will be first come, first served.

Tony Vacca, world famous percussionist from the Valley, has created an original piece of music about the River. Vacca will be teaching the students the piece in preparation for their performing in the concert. All instruments and drums will be provided. No experience needed. Sekou Sylla, world famous dancer and drummer from

Guinea, also now residing in the Valley, will be teaching an African Dance workshop.

Students are also free to participate in the parade around Turners Falls leaving from the Great Falls Discovery Center at 3 p.m. To register, please email: [jean@arts-are-essential.org](mailto:jean@arts-are-essential.org) or call 978-263-0108 with any questions.

There is also a call for **Water Dancers and Drummers** to help with a Water Dance. Arrive at the Shea at 2:30 to rehearse; the performance is at 8:30 p.m. They will be using illuminated hula hoops for the dance so it would be helpful if you know how to use one – but you don't have to. Wear black.

Interested dancers should contact Phyllis at (413) 369-9985. Drummers can contact Ricardo at [ricardofrota3@gmail.com](mailto:ricardofrota3@gmail.com).

The River's Song is a day-long event on May 16, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., being held at various locations in Turners Falls which include the Great Falls Discovery Center, Shea Theater, Unity Park and others. For details and schedule on the celebration visit [www.riversong/umass/edu](http://www.riversong/umass/edu)

Join **Teaching Creatures**, with Rae Griffiths, featuring "Animals of Spring" at the Millers Falls Library on Tuesday, May 5 starting at 3:30 p.m. Some of the animals that may be featured are rabbits, box turtles and frogs.

Join local artists for a bi-weekly **figure drawing class** at Third Street Studios in Turners Falls. No prior drawing experience is necessary to attend.

The first class will be on Wednesday, May 6, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Classes are \$10. Artists must bring their own paper and drawing materials, as well as something to carry

their work to and from class in.

This will begin as a biweekly class but depending on interest and model availability may end up taking place weekly. Call Charon Art Visionary Tattoo for more information: (413) 676-9146.

The Eastern Chapter of the **Young Shakespeare Players** presents one of Shakespeare's most famous plays: Julius Caesar, on Saturday, May 9 and Sunday, May 10 at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.

There are two talented 12-person casts with actors ranging in age from 7 to 18. Each cast will perform twice and then be the tech crew for the other cast's performances.

Admission is free and open to the public, and showtimes are at noon and 6 p.m. on both days. Delicious concessions will be available for purchase and all proceeds will directly benefit the Young Shakespeare Players East Scholarship Fund, so be sure to come hungry.

The performance is approximately two and a half hours with two intermissions and reservations are not required. Make sure to save the dates and watch some of our talented local youth bring this historical event to life!

**Chickens for Sale.** The following was posted on the corkboard of [MontagueMa.net](http://MontagueMa.net): "I have about one hundred, one two and three year old chickens for sale here at the farm and asking five dollars each. Most are red and black sex links along with some other breeds also which lay nice big eggs, so if interested call me at (413) 522-3910."

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

## Saturday: Montague Town Meeting

**MONTAGUE** – Montague's annual town meeting gets rolling at 8:30 a.m. in the theater at the Turners Falls High School. It is open to the public, but only elected town meeting members may make motions or cast votes.

See last week's edition for an analysis by Jeff Singleton of the warrant. We have heard after their meetings this week that the broadband committee is now recommending a "no" vote on Article 24, the pole survey, and that the school committee may have come to a new position on boiler replacement at the Sheffield school (Article 14).

## Saturday: Leverett Town Meeting

**LEVERETT** – Annual Town Meeting will be held Saturday, May 2, at the Leverett Elementary School at 9:00 a.m.

Coffee and donuts will be available as a fundraiser for the Friends of the Library, and lunch will be served as a fundraiser for the 6th grade. See you there!

For supporting materials, visit <http://www.leverett.ma.us>.

## Monday: Wendell Election

**WENDELL** – We have a Town Election on Monday, May 4. The polls are open noon to 8 p.m.

If you need an Absentee Voter application, please pick this up at the Town Clerk's office as soon as possible. The deadline for AV applications is noon on Friday, May 1. If you need a ride to the polls, please call (978) 544-3395 x102.

The candidates on the ballot are as follows: Jeoffrey Pooser, Selectboard; Ted Lewis, Assessor; Jim Thornley, Board of Health; Katie Nolan, Moderator; Michael Gifford, Road Commissioner; Peter Zera, Tree Warden; Jack Radner and Dick Baldwin, School Committee; Kathleen Swaim and Melissa Grader, Library Trustees.

Write-ins are expected for Planning Board (two positions); and Cemetery Commissioner.

## Monday: Gill Town Meeting

**GILL** – The Annual Town Meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 4. All registered voters are encouraged to attend. The warrant articles, along with explanations and expected motions, can be viewed at [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org).

The first nine articles are expected to be voted. Article 5 is the Planning Board's proposed amendment

## Monday: Erving Election

**ERVING** – Polling opens at 10 a.m. and remains open until 8 p.m. at town hall in Erving's annual elections May 4.

There are two competitive races this year. Former fire chief Almon "Bud" Meattey and finance com-

mittee chair Jacob Smith both seek a selectboard seat vacated by Margaret Sullivan.

And Sullivan herself faces a challenger for reelection to town assessor in finance committee member Daniel Hammock.

## Tuesday: Montague Debate

**MONTAGUE** – At 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 5, Montague selectboard incumbent Mark Fairbrother and challengers Jacobo Roque and Richard Kuklewicz will participate in a moderated debate.

The event will take place in the upstairs meeting room at Town Hall, 1 Avenue A in Turners Falls. Chris Collins of WHAI will moderate. Candidates will have a chance to answer each question, and provide optional second responses.

Candidates will have no prior access to the debate questions.

The debate is hosted by the *Montague Reporter* in conjunction with Montague Community Television (MCTV), and will be broadcast live and rerun on MCTV.

Two previous candidate forums were held April 12 and 19 at the public safety complex. See [montaguenv.org](http://montaguenv.org) for a rebroadcast schedule, or check MCTV's Vimeo site for streaming video.

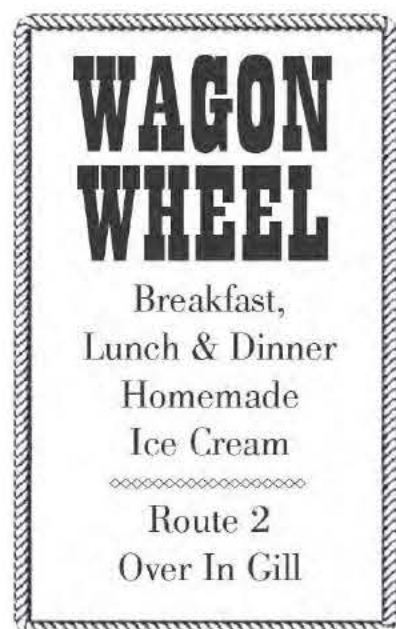
## Wednesday: Erving Town Meeting

**ERVING** – Erving's annual town meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6 at the Erving Elementary School.

For a discussion of the town meeting warrant articles, see page A4.



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week ending 4/17/15:

### Grade 6

Mckailya Popkowski  
Isabella Allen

### Grade 7

Kaitlyn Miner

### Grade 8

Sarah Waldron

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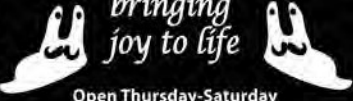
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Container Parking, Log Storage and Red Tape

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday, the selectboard decided to draft language for an agreement with Bryan Sears, who wants to park his tractor-trailer container at the former IP mill. The container had been stored there intermittently before the town took the property for unpaid real estate taxes. At the April 13 meeting, selectboard chair William Bembury reported that town counsel Donna MacNicol was adamantly against anyone using town property in any way.

Selectboard member Arthur Johnson said he felt the town should support small business owners when possible. Bembury said an agreement should stipulate that Sears provide proof of registration and insurance, that the container be parked only in one place, in the overgrown parking lot at the former mill, and that the board can discontinue the permission to park at any time.

The board will review the draft agreement at the May 4 meeting.

While considering Sears' request at a previous meeting, the board had also asked Jacquelyn Boyden to research the agreement between the town and William Lemieux for the storage of logs on town property at the former Usher Plant near Arch Street.

Boyden reported that, according to the board's meeting minutes, the board discussed the request in 2013, but put off deciding whether to approve it. She said she found no further information about the request for log storage in the board's meeting minutes and no formal agreement.

After hearing Boyden's report, the board decided to ask Lemieux to attend the May 4 selectboard meeting to discuss the log storage.

According to *Montague Reporter* coverage, at the October 7, 2013 selectboard meeting, Lemieux told the board that timber harvesting across the Millers River from Arch Street on Old Farley Road in Wendell would take two winter seasons, but he expected the storage would be for only 8 to 10 hours at a time. He estimated the area that would be used at approximately 40 feet by 20 feet.

At the October 7, 2013 meeting, Jeannie Schermesser of the Usher Plant re-use committee said she had concerns about a two-year commitment and suggested a one-year permission, with the possibility of extension to two years. Boyden asked about the town's liability in case of an accident at the log pile, and said that allowing the log storage would set a precedent for use of town property for profit-making ventures.

Usher Plant re-use committee member Gary Burnett felt it was unfortunate if the town can't accommodate citizens without a big uproar.

Then-selectboard chair Andrew Goodwin commented, "Maybe we can put up so much red tape that people can't move into this town."

After discussing the issue further, the board asked Lemieux to provide documentation for the log hauler's liability insurance before making a decision on the log storage.

**G-M School Committee**

The selectboard developed a warrant article for the June special town meeting, specifying that the selectboard will appoint the town's representatives to the Gill-Montague regional school committee.

Currently, the Erving school committee appoints the representatives. The school committee would like one of the representatives to be a school committee member.

However, this sets up a potential conflict of interest, because the regional school committee members receive a stipend. If the regional members were appointed by the selectboard, there would be no conflict of interest.

The Erving representatives have an advisory role on the Gill-Montague committee, but do not have a vote.

**Putting Seniors to Work**

Boyden suggested that the town consider adopting the senior citizen property tax work-off abatement allowed under Massachusetts General Laws chapter 59 section 5k. Under this program, a senior citizen (with age limit to be set by the town) may work for the town and earn a property tax abatement of up to \$750.

Bembury commented, "This is something the town of Erving should be doing." Boyden said she would research the policies developed in other towns under this law, and would report back to the board about a possible future special town meeting article.

**Purple Heart Community**

At the suggestion of Leo Parent, the board declared Erving a "Purple Heart Community," and established August 7 as an annual "Purple Heart Day" in Erving.

The proclamation cites the purpose of "honoring the service and sacrifice of our nation's men and women in uniform that were wounded or killed while serving to protect the rights and freedoms enjoyed by all Americans."

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**Library Feasibility**

The board signed a contract with P3 Consulting to act as owner's project manager for the library feasibility study. The board also signed the request for payment forms to send to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners to receive the grant money awarded to the town.

Library director Barbara Friedman said that, although the town has not paid for any services yet, it would soon receive bills from the FRCOG, P3, and for feasibility committee expenses.

**CDBG Priorities**

The board decided to prepare a letter to MJ Adams of Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority listing the projects/programs it considers most important for the town in the fiscal year 2016 community development block grant: senior housing, IP Mill Redevelopment, and upgrades to the Pleasant Street school building.

Volunteers Needed for Erving  
Town Forest Cleanup Day

Spend part of Mother's Day weekend giving back to Mother Nature! The Erving Conservation Commission is looking for volunteers to help with trail cleanup and maintenance on Saturday, May 9 from 10 a.m. to approximately 2:30 p.m. The work party will clear fallen brush and debris, trim overgrown trails, and remove trash. If you've never explored this network of trails, this is a great way to become familiar with it!

If you are interested, please meet at 10 a.m. at the trailhead located on the left hand side, approximately 1 mile from the western entrance of Old State Rd. in Erving. The trailhead is marked by a green gate and is located next to an old white farmhouse (almost directly across from the dirt road that leads to the town cemetery). Parking is available along the road.

Please plan on bringing your own lunch, plenty of water, and hand tools such as gloves, loppers, clippers, and handsaws. (We will have some extra tools.) Chainsaws are welcome too! Be sure to wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately. Refreshments will be served next door at Erving Conservation Commissioner, Laura Herbert's house directly afterwards.

For more information, please contact Laura at (413) 423-3027 or [laura@ladyvelvis.com](mailto:laura@ladyvelvis.com).

Preview of May 6 Erving Annual Town Meeting

By KATIE NOLAN

At their May 6 annual town meeting, Erving voters will consider articles to raise and appropriate \$9.2 million for fiscal year 2016 and spend \$436,000 from free cash.

Non-money articles include a zoning bylaw allowing commercial aboveground petroleum storage in the groundwater protection district, research on hiring a cook at the senior center, resetting the dates for town elections and annual town meeting, and creating revolving funds for senior transportation and for use of the senior/community center.

The largest expense items are \$3.2 million for **general government**, fire and police departments, highways and cemeteries, veterans' services, library, parks and recreation, and employee benefits.

**School funding** is the next highest expense, with Erving Elementary School budgeted at \$2.7 million, secondary education tuition at \$1.1 million and Franklin County Technical School at \$496,000.

The meeting will be asked to fund **wastewater treatment** at \$340,040, employee **benefits liabilities** ("other post-employment benefits") at \$300,000, and elected **officials' salaries** at \$101,587.

The selectboard recommends that the town put \$852,712 into the **stabilization fund**.

**Other expenses** paid from raising and appropriating tax money include:

- Building repair and maintenance: \$25,000
- EES computer stabilization fund: 12,000
- Computer upgrades for town departments: \$8,000
- Around Town newsletter: \$7,500
- Computer Server upgrade: \$6,000
- Streetlight repair: \$5,000
- Audit expense: \$3,000
- Assessors' Revaluation: \$2,000
- Northfield Mountain Project valuation: \$2,000.

Proposed **spending from free cash** (unexpended fund balance) includes: \$165,000 to purchase the property at 34 Northfield Road, located between EES and the Senior/Community Center, \$110,000 for capital improvements at EES, \$140,000 for road work on Mountain Road, High Street and Lillian's Way, \$13,500 for a mower and bagger system for the highway department, and \$8,000 for a thermal imager for the fire department.

The **zoning bylaw change** would allow aboveground liquid petroleum products/tanks in the town's groundwater protection district by special permit. The zoning change, which would clear the way for a gas station at the Dunkin Donuts convenience store on the corner of French King Highway and Semb Drive, was prepared at the request of the 2014 annual town meeting. However, the planning board voted 4 to 1 not to recommend the change.

The warrant also asks for a "straw vote" to see if the town supports further research on **hiring a cook** so the senior center can serve daily hot meals at the senior/community center. Currently, senior lunches are provided by Franklin County Home Care Corporation three days a week, free to seniors, with a suggested donation of \$2.50 per meal.

The meals are prepared off-site and warmed up at the center by a FCHCC employee.

Currently the annual town election is held the first Monday in May and the annual town meeting follows on the first Wednesday in May. The selectboard is asking the town to **change the order**, with the annual town meeting on the first Monday in May and the town election on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in May.

The town will be asked to set up two revolving funds under the **Council on Aging**, one to receive reimbursements for Medicaid rides provided by the COA and to provide matching funds for purchase of a new COA van, and another to receive payments for use of the Senior/Community Center by outside groups and to pay for maintenance and repair of the building.

The library is seeking authorization for moving the donated **collection of artifacts** in the library's Traversari Room temporarily to the Pearl B. Care historical building. Library director Barbara Friedman said she had talked to Traversari family members and they agreed to the move. Friedman said that the collection could be better displayed in the historical building.

The meeting will take place at Erving Elementary School and will start at 7 p.m.

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**GENERATOR** from pg A1

“Luckily that helped preserve our perishables,” Rosenberg said jokingly.

Now that spring has come, the co-op is just beginning to fundraise for the \$35,000 generator.

“We are just beginning because winter was so long,” explained Rosenberg. “We have just begun public outreach.”

A fundraising event is in its infancy, and the board is toying around with the idea of the first ever co-op auction. Rosenberg said he is hopeful that enough donations will be received to allow for an auction, but he is also considering the idea of a raffle.

“What the event will look like is centered around how many donations we receive,” said Rosenberg.

So far, they have received \$5,000 in donations and \$15,000 in loans to be put towards the purchase of the generator, and are looking for more donations of art, crafts, and anything of value to be auctioned off.

“While we do have loans, we would like the majority of the funds for the generator to come from donations,” explained Rosenberg.

Rosenberg hopes the new generator will be in place in time for winter next year, to realize the dream of being a fully operational grocery store even in the event of loss of power, and to prevent further losses in the future.

“We are really looking to be a safe place when the power goes out, a place to get a morning coffee and pastry,” said Rosenberg.

Anyone who wishes to donate can visit the Leverett Village Co-op Facebook page to learn how to make a PayPal donation, or call Paul during working hours and talk to him directly.



**DEMOLITION** from pg A1

there a long time. Sister Agnes Angela worked there for 60 years.”

Looking a little pensive, Bresciano said, “It’s a shame they tore the school down.”

Several factors led to Associated Building Wrecking’s demolishing the school. “It was a case of prohibitive costs, lack of enrollment, a dwindling number of parishioners, the number of Sisters, who had taught for only a stipend, had also dwindled, requiring the hiring of teachers and paying them salaries,” Pastor Fr. Timothy Campoli said. “All this made costs rise.

“There were other things, like the antiquated heating system that was not zoned, so that the entire school had to be heated when only a portion needed heat. Eventually the Diocese took over the school and determined that keeping it open was not feasible. When Saint Ann’s Church in Turners Falls closed their school in 1968-69, St Ann’s students enrolled in Holy Trinity School.

“For a time Holy Trinity School was very popular, since it offered a quality education at a reasonable tuition. The student population was not entirely Catholic,” Fr. Campoli said.

“Anyone could attend the school even if not Catholic, but they needed to embrace Catholic

**MAGAZINE** from page A1

The restaurant did open on time that day, if you are wondering. Hasty calls to suppliers and visits to the farmer’s market made it happen. These days Reilly gets the magazine out on time and within her budget four times a year – same kind of miracle.

*Edible Pioneer Valley* is free, beautiful and packed with information and inspiration for those of us who revel in the bounty of our area. To find a distribution site near you go to the website [www.ediblepioneer-valley.com](http://www.ediblepioneer-valley.com), click on Find My Edible, and an interactive map will show you where to go. You can also peruse back issues at the website or have the magazine delivered to your door if you buy a subscription.

The most recent issue, an homage to spring, has a green-and-white cover featuring tiny seedlings, a hint of the fresh food to come. Inside there are stories about local farmers bringing produce to New York, investors who literally “put their money where their mouth is,” instructions for cutting up a whole chicken, recipes for tasty cocktails using maple syrup, and more.

This is titillating content for food lovers, capable of inspiring immediate trips to the nearest market or farm stand. There are many magazines devoted to cooking and eating well, but this one features local seasonal foods from this abundant valley and shows how we can support local agriculture.

Reilly loves everything about food. Her culinary knowledge is primarily self-taught, and it is vast. I don’t know many people who can butcher a pig. Reilly can. At the restaurant she started with fish

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**FIELD TRIPS** from pg A1

success. “This was such an eye-opening, educational trip for our students,” she said. “To think all that is down the road from Montague!” Sixth grade teacher Conor Driscoll heard several of his students exclaim “I can’t wait for college!”

The trip was funded by the Integrating College and Career Readiness grant from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The grant also paid the majority of the cost for the eighth grade students from Great Falls Middle School to go on a field trip to MCLA (MA College of Liberal Arts) and Williams College on April 17. At MCLA, they were given a campus tour by current students, and participated in a college readiness activity.

At Williams College they ate lunch at Whitmans’ Dining Hall and then members of Ephoria, one of Williams’ *a capella* groups, sang their group song and answered questions about college life.

Finally, college students who are part of the Questbridge program that assists disadvantaged students in accessing college, spoke to the 8th graders. They encouraged them to find their own path, which may include a college education, and to never give up, despite life’s obstacles and the existence of people in their lives who may not believe in them.

Gill-Montague was one of only five districts in the state of Massachusetts awarded funds to plan and implement programs to promote college and career readiness in grades 6-12.


Secondary school guidance counselors and other middle and high school staff have spent the last two years writing curriculum and implementing college and career readiness activities in the schools.

In addition to college trips, middle and high school students participated in online career readiness activities, attended a career fair with over 40 businesses and employers, and engaged in small group discussions to prepare them for the workplace.

The students at Gill-Montague are learning that it is never too early to start thinking about one’s future. Early college and career exploration will help them be much more prepared for life after high school and will also provide a goal to work towards throughout their schooling.

As a guidance counselor at the middle school, it has been exciting to bring these new opportunities to our students, and I look forward to providing more college and career readiness experiences for our youth.

*Emily Krems works as a guidance counselor at the Great Falls Middle School.*





Armando Bresciano, 97, remembers the school when it was new.

JOE PARZYCH PHOTO

clers in east Greenfield, [and] sorted demolition wood is converted to fiber material at a plant in Holyoke for capping landfills, or it goes to a plant for making wood pellets. A place in West Springfield takes some of the material, too.”

According to Associated Building Wreckers Project Manager, Steve Hill, “People wanted the building to be saved, but it needed too

much work. It was heated by two steam boilers – huge old dinosaurs – and the roof needed replacing. There were a lot of repairs needed.”

The concrete foundation and granite are slated for crushing to fill the cellar holes as a contribution to forming a compacted base for a parking lot to serve the construction operation, and then as general parking.

At a later date the area may be a building site for Baystate Medical offices. Additional fill material will have to be brought in and compacted for the parking lot. In preparation for the crushing operation, Jamie Bryson operated a 330 Cat excavator equipped with an excavation bucket, to unearth the concrete foundations in preparation for the crushing operation by a portable crusher, arriving in a week or so.

The remaining 5-7% of material, not suitable for recycling, is sheetrock, carpet padding and mixed material not easily separated,” Steve Hill, Project Manager for Associated Building Wreckers, said.

At day’s end, the once-vibrant teaching facility lay in tangled ruins, looking like a battle zone. The jumble of demolition debris sat waiting to be sorted and carried off in all directions on another day.

**BRIDGE** from pg A1

loose from the action of braking traffic, exposing the concrete deck. An asphalt patch was placed directly over the exposed deck without replacing the membrane, which will subject the concrete and metal reinforcing to corrosive ice control chemicals entering through eventual cracking of the patch.

There also may be other structural defects that need to be remediated.

Montague DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron said this fit with what he has heard. “From my understanding, they have to replace the bearings under the bridge,” he said. “I heard that was going to be in April, and I don’t know why they haven’t done it. They have to physically jack the bridge up to replace the bearings.”

Asked if the bridge is currently safe, Bergeron had no qualms: “Oh yes! Absolutely.”

The bridge flexes, so that jacking it using a hydraulic jack does not raise up the entire structure, but flexes up the end just a few inches, if that.


According to a source at the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, “There is a pending Extra Work Order for redesigned bearings that is currently under engineering peer review. The bearing replacement is expected to be completed this construction season with all other remaining work scheduled to be done concurrently.”

It was unclear as of publication time what this “other remaining work” is comprised of.

Many of our readers will want to know whether traffic on the bridge will be blocked again.

“I don’t think so,” guessed Bergeron. “When they said they’d have to replace the bearings – that’s why there’s a five-foot lane, for the trucks. That’s not a bike lane.”

Time will tell.





## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Desbien Denounces Eversource

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of April 27 was a relatively quiet affair, with one notable exception. A local resident named Phil Desbien, standing dramatically in the front of the room, took the opportunity to denounce the electric utility Eversource, and in particularly the “generation service charge” which appears on the back of your electric bill. Mr. Desbien repeatedly called the service charge “blood sucking,” claiming that it resulted in “unearned profit.”

Desbien’s presentation came as a bit of a surprise to the board, as well as the audience in attendance.

Desbien began by stating that his last bill showed a \$62.50 generation charge. Thus the charge will cost him an extra \$800 on his electric bill. Since Desbien is on a fixed income, that increase “will have to come out of my food budget.” He estimated that the service charge would lead to a total “unearned profit” of two billion dollars for the company.

Desbien handed the selectboard a lengthy memo containing a good deal of data and his own recent electric bill. His complaints about high electric rates, and the confusing charges on the back of the electric bill, seemed to strike a sympathetic chord with the board and the audience. However, his solutions to the problem did not seem so well received.

Desbien argued that Montague was in a “unique situation to do something about it.” He suggested the town charge Eversource a fee for “every cubic foot of water” that runs through the “ugly canal”. He proposed that the town seize the Cabot generating station at the end of the canal through eminent domain and then turn it into a museum. He also suggested that the town impose a “view tax” on the company because

residents were forced to look at “ugly power lines, and ugly power poles, and an ugly transformer.”

Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio pointed out that utilities account for a significant proportion of Montague tax revenue. Two companies account for as much as 25% of total tax value in the town. The valuation of one of these companies had increased from \$47 million in 2006 to \$117 million in 2014. An electric utility is currently in litigation with the town over its increased assessment.

Desbien became increasingly frustrated with the passive demeanor of the board and the failure of audience members to raise their hands when asked to support his proposals. His presentation ended after nearly twenty minutes.

## Celebration

Suzanne LoManto of Turners Falls RiverCulture requested that the board execute contracts with the FirstLight Power company to use their land along the Connecticut River for two events: the May 16 River’s Song Celebration, and the August 1 Pocumtuck Homelands Celebration.

The River’s Song event will involve a dance or “choreographed walk” across the bridge behind the Great Falls Discovery Center with illuminated hula hoops.

Donna Francis, chair of Montague’s agricultural commission, requested that the board authorize the commission to sponsor the 2016 Great Falls Farmers Market. The market is located on Avenue A near the Discovery Center. Francis also asked for permission to place five signs declaring Montague a “right to farm” community at entrances to the town.

There was some discussion of which entrances to the town should be covered. Jeanne Golrick argued

that the entrance near the Montague City General Pierce bridge to Greenfield was preferable to Meadow Road.

## Assessor Search

The board established a committee to hire a new director of assessing. The committee will include the town administrator, the temporary director of assessing, the chair of the board of assessors, a selectboard member, the treasurer/tax collector, the town accountant, and an assistant assessor.

The town has received confirmation that the board of assessors is the entity mandated to hire an assessor under state law. The appointment of the head of that board to this committee was said to satisfy that requirement.

## Other Business

The selectboard placed the children’s librarian, Angela Rovati-Leonard, on medical leave until June 11. The board also accepted the resignation Tina Sulda as back-up town accountant and appointed Shari Hildreth to the position. Lana Aruda was appointed to the IT administrator position.

The board authorized the disbursement of \$11,526 to the firm Catlin and Petrovick for services associated with the senior center planning study.

The board also signed the May 18 town election warrant.

Finally, it issued a “letter of support” for building inspector David Jensen to be appointed to the Bureau of Building Regulations and Standards. The bureau develops the state building code and has a “semi-judicial function,” ruling on “questions and appeals.”

Jensen seemed unsure whether his appointment, made by the governor, was still an option, but he requested a letter of support just in case.

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## LEVERETT from page A1

school committee will be up for election on Saturday. Incumbents Kip Fonsh and Sarah Dolven will be standing for re-election, but Cheryl Bonica and Jenn Chylack have decided not to run again, adding an element of surprise to the election for that important board. Incumbents are running for re-election for all other elected boards and offices, Stratford said on Tuesday.

This week, Nathhorst said, “I’ve been very impressed with Rich Brazeau’s chairmanship of the selectboard. My goal will be to try to follow in his footsteps. An even-tempered and even-handed town government is very important.”

Looking forward to a successful roll-out for the town’s municipal broadband network this summer, Nathhorst said he hoped to bring the expertise he has gained in four decades of capital planning at UMass to bear on other projects, like pushing for an upgrade of the town’s electrical grid, which he said is not ready for a concerted switch to residential photovoltaics, and too prone to townwide failure in storms when one substation or another loses power.

He said, “I’d like to bring my facilities expertise to bear on town infrastructure, so we can do a good job of managing and maintaining town buildings.”

He did not back away from state-

ments he made in print in November of 2013, in which he called for regionalization of town services like fire and emergency response and elementary education, referring to the Leverett fire department as “a dedicated but insular group of people who are in fact a bit of a private club that resists change.”

But Nathhorst said Leverett’s recent hiring of fire chief John Ingram, who also serves as a captain of the Amherst fire department, “is a step in the direction I was talking about. I view him as bringing a lot of the expertise and training and administrative skills the town of Amherst has to the town of Leverett. He’s doing a wonderful job; I’m very pleased.”

In 2013, Nathhorst wrote, “We must face facts that Leverett cannot continue to sustain both a stand-alone fire department and a stand-alone elementary school.” Although the underlying demographic pressures have hardly changed, Ingram reported this month the Leverett fire department now has 15 members, and not enough money to train them all.

Nathhorst called the Leverett Elementary School “a wonderful school” with “a great reputation,” but said, with enrollment at less than half the building’s designed capacity of 250 students, “It is an expensive resource to maintain.”

In the current budget cycle, as Leverett’s finance boards sought

3.5% budget cutbacks from all town departments, superintendent Bob Mahler complied, saying the Leverett Elementary School “is part of the town.” While admitting “it would be very much harder” to secure similar budget cutbacks from the regional school district in some future time of fiscal uncertainty, Nathhorst said he still supported K-12 regionalization with the Amherst-Pelham district.

Nathhorst called himself an environmentalist with a background in the natural sciences. On Tuesday, as “concerned citizen” Kurt Adams, of Old Mountain Road, sought the selectboard’s advice on how to halt Eversource’s plan to spray herbicides under the power lines on Brushy Mountain this summer, Nathhorst chimed in, citing a recent World Health Organization study linking glyphosate in products such as Roundup to cancer.

Two years ago, he was less persuaded by studies on low-level emissions some members of the *ad hoc* cell tower committee pointed to in seeking stiffer setback requirements for cell towers in Leverett. But he said he had gained from that experience in a way that would help him if he does win a seat on the selectboard.

“I learned people have strong opinions,” said Nathhorst. “I may not agree with them. But they still hold them.”



## May 10: Montague Plains Hike

Josh Rose, a naturalist, will lead a hike on the Montague Plains on Sunday, May 10 from 9 a.m. to noon. This is one of several spring hikes on protected lands where the proposed Kinder Morgan 36” pipeline could go if approved.

Rose will lead hikers on trails going from the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Clubhouse through areas of the Montague Sandplains exploring the biodiversity of the area. Hikers will have a chance to look for birds more common to the sandplains than other areas. These birds include Prairie Warblers, Eastern Towhees, Vesper Sparrows and other species. People will also have a chance to learn about the uniqueness of this local natural resource, which is protected by Article 97 of the MA State Constitution. The Montague Plains Wildlife Management Area (MPWMA) is owned and managed by the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) Division of Fisheries and Wildlife (DFW).

Josh Rose, a naturalist with a Ph.D. in zoology, worked as a program director at the World Birding Center before moving to Amherst. He has a special interest in dragonflies and has written about the

Montague Plains for the Hitchcock Center.

This unique 1,500-acre natural resource is a large sand delta formed thousands of years ago and is now populated with pitch pine/scrub oak and is home to several rare plants.

As a wildlife management area, several species of grassland birds nest and breed in this area. Other hikes have been held in the region to help educate people about the proposed location of Kinder Morgan’s pipeline project and its possible effect on the landscape. In Franklin County there are other protected lands that the pipeline could cross including the New England National Scenic Trail as it passes through Northfield.

The hike will begin at the Mohawk Ramblers Motorcycle Clubhouse at 9 a.m. To get to the Clubhouse follow Lake Pleasant Road from Turners Fall Road (across from airport) for 1.5 miles. Turn right onto the dirt road and follow to Ramblers parking area (Bartlett Road). There is parking there.

This hike on the Montague Plains is sponsored by MAP (Montague Against Pipeline), The Enviro Show, and No. Quabbin Pipeline Action (NQPA).

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# More Discussion, and Concern, over WiredWest Model

By JOSH HEINEMANN

During the second part of its April 22 meeting the Wendell selectboard's office filled to standing room only with Wendell's broadband committee, Ben Schwartz, Robbie Lepzner and Robbie Heller, two finance committee members, Garrett Sawyer and Ray DiDonato, WiredWest legal and governance chair Steve Nelson, Shutesbury town administrator and WiredWest liaison Becky Torres, and town citizens. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser was away and tried to participate through a telephone connection, but he lost contact early, and it was unclear whether he was able to reconnect.

Discussion continued from the April 8 meeting on the town's potential participation in WiredWest's buildout of the "last mile" fiber optic internet connection to every house in town. When the meeting ended people gathered in the hall outside the office and continued the discussion, and the two board members present stayed at their table, and allowed the proceedings to settle in.

At issue was whether to include an article on the annual town meeting warrant that would authorize the town to borrow its share of the buildout costs, and then to schedule a debt exclusion vote that would allow the town to repay that bond and stay within the limits set by Proposition 2-½. All articles for the annual town meeting must be ready for posting by May 29, one week before the June 8 annual town meeting, and the last regularly scheduled selectboard meeting before then is May 20.

Selectboard member Dan Keller seemed inclined to delay that vote to a fall special town meeting when more concrete information and more substantiated dollar figures should be available. He wanted to know where documents were, and how much the town would be committing to. He wanted time to look at the cash flow model, a model that was created by proprietary software.

Two proposed articles were submitted to the selectboard, one by WiredWest, and one by MBI, the Massachusetts Broadband Institute; those articles were not read aloud at this meeting. Nelson said that the article was originally drafted by MBI and that WiredWest submitted their article just to express the intent of towns to work together as a regional cooperative. MBI is the state institution which will oversee building of the system and will provide 40% of the money required.

Wendell became a charter member of WiredWest when the 2010 annual town meeting approved an article to join the cooperative, and has paid dues to stay a member of WiredWest. WiredWest now has 32 member towns.

The WiredWest estimate for building Wendell's last mile is \$1,920,000 of which MBI would pay \$700,000 and Wendell would pay the remainder through borrowing.

During construction, MBI money would be spent first, and then Wendell would borrow short term notes as work progresses. When the last mile is connected the town would take out a bond to cover the entire project, and that bond is projected to cost \$13/month, or \$156/year for an average homeowner with a house valued at \$160,000. WiredWest proponents say that tax increase will be

more than offset by savings in telephone, satellite internet and television payments, all three of which can be provided by the fiber optic system.

Nelson said the differences between the two articles was not important enough to make a difference and approving either one would get Wendell involved in forming the WiredWest cooperative. He said there is a draft of the organization's bylaws, but the organization cannot be formed until towns approve the articles and begin to write the finished bylaws. If Wendell does not approve the article at the annual town meeting the town will not be involved in creating the cooperative bylaws. If it joins later, decisions will have been made without input from Wendell.

DiDonato said that the articles are enabling, not committing, and that there are downsides to not getting broadband internet connections in the form of a dwindling tax base and people leaving. Nelson said estimates were made by MBI with input from three consultants. The software used is proprietary.

Town facilities engineer Jim Slavas said that he has that proprietary software on his computer, and has found that the model structure holds mostly, but there are some disconcerting errors in three parts: the structure of the model, assumptions made, and policy decisions.

**Facilities engineer Jim Slavas said he has found the WiredWest model structure holds mostly, but that there are some disconcerting errors in three parts.**

He used the example of a pay rate which increased by a percentage in the first year, but that percentage was not compounded in following years. The amount of money involved is not great compared with the total budget, but an oversight like that, he said, is something to raise concern. He said he wanted more time to study the model and its four pages of assumptions.

Schwartz said if the town does not join at this time, MBI will make the decisions about parameters of construction of the network without the town's input. Then, if the town chooses WiredWest to be system operator and internet service provider, profit will return to the town as reduced bond payments and as revenue after the bond is paid off.

Citizen Alistair MacMartin said we should see what the town wants, at the annual town meeting.

Citizen Sharon Wachslar said any talk of delay makes her stomach tighten. She works for a dog trainer who is moving in order to get internet access. Citizen Jeff Bauman asked what were the potential downsides of several months' delay. Leppzner cited a lack of input in forming the bylaws, and having to catch up with the process of organization.

DiDonato said without internet there would be a declining tax base as property values drop, and people leave because they need internet service to work. Young people will not rent where there is no internet, because they need the connection for school work, and for work.

Sawyer said that when people leave, the town's expenses stay the same, and the property tax per household increases.

Torres said that property values increase an average of \$5,000 with an internet connection.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that there are people in town who will get the tax increase but will not subscribe, and will not get any benefit. But that follows the same pattern as people who pay taxes that support schools, but have no children.

Trevor Kearns said the issue also brought up the strength of democracy, as more people attend the annual town meetings than might attend a special one, but Keller said that when issues attract interest, special town meetings bring in as many people.

Slavas said the model has WiredWest as the system operator, but Nelson said there is a choice of operators once the fiber network is built. Leverett, which is building its fiber optic network independently, will have Comcast as its system operator, and that choice is possible for towns within WiredWest, but other choices are available.

Heard said there are three steps in the process of getting this internet network built. Wendell has completed the first by getting over 40% of households signed up with a \$49 deposit and a commitment to subscribe. The second step would be to pass a town meeting article authorizing the borrowing, and the third would be a debt exclusion vote. She said she favored putting an article on the annual town meeting warrant, and if the information and clarification that Keller is seeking are not available by then, the town can vote to postpone its decision.

## Other Business

In the hour between the meeting's 7 p.m. beginning and the 8 p.m. fiber optic discussion, Keller and Heard took care of the more routine business that comes to the selectboard meetings. Heard began the meeting with an announcement that Wendell Dollars for Scholars had raised over \$4,000 in donations. So far no one has applied for the money which can be used towards college or post secondary technical training.

She also said that Joe Diemand offered the town triangular concrete posts that could be used as stops on the downhill side of the office building parking lot where they would hinder a vehicle from rolling over the edge and into the community garden. Coordinator of Buildings and Grounds, Ted Lewis said there might be a problem with snow plowing, but the triangles are light and could be moved for winter.

Keller has been talking about getting a reasonable pay rate for Slavas, as facilities engineer, and librarian Rosie Heidkamp suggested \$20,000 a year as a low estimate. Slavas has not suggested an amount. Keller said he should get at least \$50 an hour or at least \$10,000 a year, which is "almost an insult."

The Mahar school committee voted to borrow \$250,000 to rehabilitate the dam which creates a small pond on school grounds. Breaching the dam would cost more, and a state dam inspection insisted that something be done. The rehabilitation would be done so the structure is no longer a dam, and so would not require the regular expense of

a dam inspection. Wendell's share of the borrowing would be \$10,525 over five years, and would replace another borrowing and not influence the town budget.

The town's insurance agent, Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), is giving Wendell \$2,297 towards its insurance premium for next fiscal year.

Wendell's share of chapter 90 road repair money for fiscal 2016 is confirmed at \$190,353.

Fire chief Joe Cuneo met the selectboard and told them that with the legal brush burning season almost over, Wendell's new brush truck is almost ready for service. Answering Keller's question he said the two way radio system that is used in Franklin County is sound, with some glitches. It is a multiband, three-tiered system that allows firefighters and emergency workers at a scene to communicate with each other without interfering with the Shelburne control dispatch calls.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich handed out a paper copy of an exchange of emails between Good Neighbors and the Full Moon Coffeehouse committee. The emails expressed frustration between the two groups over cleanup including putting the tables away, and with the kitchen committee over placement of the mop sink just outside the kitchen entrance. Health regulations do not allow putting the mop sink in the kitchen, and its planned location in the women's lavatory was not possible and the decision to put it by the kitchen door was made on the spot during construction. That was the storage place for the town tables.

Alistair MacMartin, who works with the kitchen committee, brought to the selectboard a proposal to build a storage compartment under the town hall stage for the town's tables. He suggested building a box there with a floor and then two dollies each of which can hold five tables, and roll in and out as needed. He has measured and they will fit. There are vents in front of the stage but they only go into the crawl space under the stage and do not appear to be part of the heating system.

Nancy Graton, Wanita Sears, and Ed Hebert came representing Good Neighbors. Hebert's concern was that the platform should be sealed against rodents, and MacMartin said that building a box instead of a simple platform would work for that. Sears was concerned about lifting the tables up from essentially ground level would be more work, and both board members present thought the idea is a good one, and young people should help with the lifting.

However, the boxes may interfere with work on the heating system. Whittier Plumbing and Heating is on vacation and will return with plans and an estimate, and so board mem-

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Interested parties should contact MPD for a complete job description and application at (413) 863-3216, or [recdir@montague-ma.gov](mailto:recdir@montague-ma.gov). Application Deadline: Open until filled. Montague Parks & Recreation Department, 56 First St., Turners Falls, MA

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bers suggested delaying the project until the work is set for the heating system repairs.

MacMartin then announced that gas is connected to the new stove in the new town hall kitchen, and with just a bit of work left before completion, the kitchen committee is asking to schedule an opening party May 31 at 4 p.m., with some state and federal officials, including at least a representative from Congressman Jim McGovern's office.

He also asked about the status of the piano on the stage, which goes out of tune with changes in temperature and humidity, and has sticking keys. Performers now bring their own keyboards. Ted Lewis might remember who donated it.

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**SOFTBALL** from page A1

Turners Falls had to rely on teamwork, conscious base-running, and headfirst slides to beat the throw. But that's only half the story. Keeping your opponents off the score board is equally difficult. Not one of the five teams has managed to score a single run against the Blue Tribe.

Incredible pitching, clutch catches and heads-up throws have managed to shut down batters and runners, game after game, inning after inning, win after win. Just look at the game by game play.

**TFHS 12 – Mohawk 0**

The Lady Indians started their season on April 16 with a 12-run, Mercy-Rule victory over host Mohawk. Powertown's defense shut down the Warriors' batters, while their own hitters crushed out 12 runs.

Gabby Arzuaga went 3 for 4, with a double, 2 runs scored, and 3 batted in. Amber Caouette went 2 for 4 from the plate, scored 3 runs, and had 2 RBIs. Jordan Meattey banged out a double, scored 2 runs, went 2 for 3 from the plate, and batted in a run. Jordyn Fiske was perfect from the plate, going 1 for 1 with a RBI.

Mackenzie Salls batted 500, 2 for 4, had an RBI and crossed the plate 3 times. Maddy Johnson reached base when she was hit by a pitch and was batted home. Melissa Hersey finished the night batting 500, managing 1 hit in her two at-bats. Haley Whipple also scored a run.

When your team is leading by so many runs, it's easy to let up. To relax. Show some mercy. It's very hard to play perfect defense when the game is all but won.

But the Blue Indians and their starting pitcher, Mackenzie Phillips, never let up. Not only did Powertown keep Mohawk off the scoreboard, Mackenzie struck out 10 of the batters she faced, and did not allow a single walk.

**TFHS 6 – Mount Greylock 0**

On April 17, Turners shut out visiting Mount Greylock, 6 to nothing. Arzuaga led the Blue offense with 3 RBIs. She went 3 for 4 from the



*Melissa Hersey and Mackenzie Phillips look on as Maddy Johnson scores a run for Turners during the team's 12-0 defeat of Greenfield.*

plate, smashed 2 doubles, and scored a run. Whipple also banged out a double, and Hersey, Salls, and Phillips each contributed with RBIs, accounting for the other 3 Turners Falls runs. Phillips had another fantastic outing, allowing just 1 hit in 7 innings. She also struck out 15 batters while allowing only 1 walk.

**TFHS 12 – Greenfield 0**

Four days later, on April 21, Turners blanked Greenfield in another Mercy-Rule victory.

Caouette had the most Blue RBIs, batting-in 3 baserunners. Pitcher Phillips helped her own cause by knocking in 2 runners, and was perfect from the plate, 1 for 1. Salls batted 750, going 3 for 4, and had a RBI of her own. Arzuaga had 2 hits and batted in 1. Meattey also had a RBI.

Phillips kept the strike-out parade going, whiffing 10 batters in 4 innings and allowed just 1 base on balls. Reliever Peyton Emery struck out 2 of the batters she faced, and didn't allow a hit in the inning she pitched.

**TFHS 28 – Hopkins 0**

On Thursday April 23, Coach Gary Mullins celebrated his 600th career softball win as his Blue Powerhouse exploded against Hopkins 28 to 0.

"That was a noble thing you did last inning, Coach," the opposing coach said to Mullins after the third inning. He was referring to the fact that Turners didn't run up the score.

In the midst of a 7-run inning, Turners' base runners were only allowed to take one base at a time. Third base coach Sully held his runners at third even when they could easily have rounded the base and scored additional runs. And when someone made a joke about turkey vultures circling over the Hopkins bench, Mullins said, "I don't like it. I don't like it at all."

You see, above all the accolades and beyond all the titles, lies sportsmanship. And seeing a young girl struggling on the mound, and her team getting increasingly frustrated, isn't good. And that didn't happen. Simply because of sportsmanship and fair-play. The Hopkins' girls were allowed to make great catches and timely throws and get out of the game, feeling good about the 15 outs they executed.

"We did pretty good, considering we were playing Turners Falls," someone from the Hopkins side said after the game.

Coach Mullins' 600th win started off with a bang with 9 runs crossing the plate in the first inning alone. But holding a 9-run lead after a half in-

ning, the Blue Tribe could've let up, but they didn't. They shut down the Hopkins Golden Hawks in each and every inning while piling on the runs. After 2, it was 11-0. After 3 it was 18 to nothing and after 4, the Tribe was up 25, zero.

Mullins said he had no idea it was his 600th win. He just smiled and accepted the congratulations of those around him, but he didn't want to talk about all that. The only thing he wanted to speak about was the night's game. "We have a great pitcher," he said about Mackenzie Phillips. "She's one of the main reasons we haven't been scored on yet."

Phillips allowed only 1 hit and 2 walks, while striking out 10 of the 15 batters she faced. On the other side of the plate, she went 3 for 6, with 3 RBIs and a home run.

Caouette hit 7 RBIs and had a home run of her own. Salls also homered on her way to 3 runs batted in. Fiske and Johnson each tripled, and Jessica Loynd and Meattey each had doubles. Arzuaga, Hersey, and Nicole Thibeault each contributed 2 hits apiece, and Whipple scored 3 runs with a hit and a RBI.

DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



*Hersey races the throw to first on the way to a 28-run defeat of Hopkins.*

**TFHS 16 – Mahar 0**

Turners Falls scored 16 runs on 18 hits on Monday, April 27 to defeat the Mahar Senators. Because the Mercy Rule was enforced, Turners was only allowed to bat for 4 innings. But in those 4 innings, they managed to score 16 runs while keeping Mahar off the scoreboard.

Salls, Fiske, Whipple and Arzuaga were the power hitters for the Tribe. Jordyn, Haley and Gabby each hit doubles while Mackenzie cracked a triple. Other players who contributed were Thibeault, with 2 RBIs, and Caouette, Johnson, Loynd, and Phillips, who each knocked in a run.

Sienna Dillensneider, Emery, Hersey, Loynd and Meattey also came to the plate for the Tribe. Phillips pitched 3 no-hit innings, and struck out 7 of the 9 batters she faced. Emery pitched the last two innings, giving up just 1 hit and striking out 5.

*As we went to press on Wednesday, word came in that the team had defeated Frontier, 5-0. They travel to Silver Lake Park on May 1 to play Athol, head to Hampshire on May 2, and return home on the 4th to host Pioneer. — Eds.*



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APRIL 30, 2015

B1

## THE GARDENER'S COMPANION



## The Feel of Spring

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY**—The wind is sharp and the clouds scud across the sky, weakening the strength of the sun. Still the daffodils dance merrily, yellow, orange and white and the buds fatten up on the fruit trees. We look back wistfully to the string of warm, sunny days mid-month.

But this is the nature of spring in New England and still plant, animal and bird life move forward, flowering, building nests and tending young. A fellow gardener in Heath set out his onion starts a couple of days ago in the snow, because it is time.

Very soon it will be May which, while it, too will have chilly days, will suddenly warm up for good and we will be into the summer heat. The cold-loving crops must be put in, the nest filled with eggs, the fruit set on the trees.

Timing is significant in the life of farmers. The combination of warm days and below freezing nights sets the stage for the maple sugaring season, but it began late this year and the usual thirty-day season was

see **GARDENER** page B6

## Valley Lux Fest Brings Contemporary Lighting Art to the Gun Club Grounds

By MARK HUDYMA

**MONTAGUE** – Next weekend, May 8 and 9, the fields of the Millers Falls Gun Club will be filled with projections, soundscapes, and light art, all backed by an extensive lineup of local and international DJs and electronic dance music as the Valley Lux Festival comes to town.

The event is being organized by Vilkas LLC, a team of Hampshire College graduates who met while throwing parties “organized in the backwoods of Hampshire College from dawn until dusk.”

This festival will run from a more conservative 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. each night. The music is managed by Foïs Gras, a record label started by Hampshire College graduates Finn Liss and Nick Kane.

The festival bills itself as “first and foremost a gathering of artists.” However, the exact nature of that art is often difficult to pin down.

Light shows and festivals are a relatively new way to blend different styles of art, and the line between audio and visual art is blurred for many of the acts.

“There’s a lot going on in light technology,” said Molly Lynch of Vilkas. “You can program them to interact with you.”

Organizers cite the New York Festival of Light and Illuminus Boston as inspiration, though those events are also in their infancy. “An outdoor festival trying to draw a big crowd for this is new... The technology has advanced enough to move outside,” Lynch explained.

As part of a theme of a high tech-

nology in a natural setting, many installations will “[project] lights to natural objects in the woods.”

Even the stage represents a union between the two mediums: an octagonal DJ booth wrapped around a tree, covered in surfaces for projection and light art.

One installation, called a soundscape, monitors an individual’s movement through the woods, and gives unique audio and visual feedback based on their movement, giving each participant a different experience of the piece.

“Western Mass is beautiful, and we all wanted to come back,” said Lynch. One of the goals of the festival is to “collect high technology artwork and create an interaction with the natural setting.”

This made the Rod and Gun Club a natural choice for their location, with ample fields, a pavilion, and a path through the woods.

The installations and other set pieces, like the stage, will tem-

porarily change the Rod and Gun Club into something that is not completely natural or unnatural.

“They came to Mutton and Mead and saw the venue, and thought this would be a good place for it,” said Joe Warsawski of the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club.

Highlights from the list of participating artists include D’Hana “Battyjack” Perry, and London-based Donjohnston.

Perry will perform a DJ set, accompanied by a visual piece on the custom built stage.

Their previous work, LOOSE, combines documentary film with electronic music to create a unique sensory experience, and has been featured at The Brooklyn Museum, Harvard, and MIT.

Donjohnston features contemporary electronic and house sounds with swing and jazz rhythms. He has played at Boomtown and Glastonbury music festivals.

see **VALLEY LUX** page B8



A mysterious large scale installation in the woods will feature “as many CRT, tube type, TV’s as we can get our hands on”.

## E. O. WILSON TALKS ANTS, HUMAN EXISTENCE AT NMH

By EMILY ALLING

**GILL** – “If you save the living environment, you will save the physical environment – but if, as the world seems hell-bent on doing, you save only the physical environment, you will lose them both.”

Speaking at Northfield Mount Hermon School on Earth Day 2015, renowned biologist E. O. Wilson distilled his career’s work into a captivating 45 minute talk, and offered words of advice to young people as they enter a world that is undergoing rapid and unpredictable change.

Widely regarded as the world’s leading expert on ants, Wilson began his career as an entomologist and went on to pursue research in biodiversity, sociobiology, evolutionary theory, and the meaning of human existence, among other areas.

He is a professor emeritus of entomology at Harvard University, the winner of two Pulitzer prizes, chairman of the board of advisors of the E.O. Wilson Foundation for Biodiversity, and an active scholar and writer at age 85.

In his early work on ants, Wilson could tell that the insects were able to communicate with one another in a sophisticated manner, but didn’t yet understand how.

Advances in chemical analysis opened the way for the discovery of pheromones, substances secreted by organisms that can influence

see **E.O. WILSON** page B3

## 1676, Part Three: Charlevoix and the Little Ice Age

By JAMES GILDEA

*The Reporter is running a series of excerpts from Mr. Gildea’s history of Bernardston, “The Journey Home,” in which he discusses historical and environmental factors he sees as helping shape the battle or massacre at Peskeompskut in 1676.*

*Last week’s installment described the massive 1663 earthquake along the banks of the St. Lawrence River, and this week’s explores some of its other effects.*

Thousands of deer, beaver, foxes, caribou, moose, mink, and other animals, all of which had created a lucrative trade in furs for the Iroquois, were suddenly gone. The people of the St. Lawrence were not only out in the cold, they had been dispossessed of their fur trade, and the food from their forests had also vanished.

The loss of hunting lands may have been the primary reason for their raids against other tribes across the Northeast. They expanded their hunting grounds by marginalizing tribes in a wide swath. In some confrontations they integrated other tribes into their inner circle.

The native people along the St. Lawrence were not agriculturalists. They depended on the forest for their food, and for good reason. During the so-called “Little Ice Age” (ca. 1500-1850), the cold and fickle climate of southeastern Canada made food production from the land extremely difficult, if not impossible in some years.

Shortly after the quake, many French-speaking people abandoned their farms and villages in southern Quebec and moved to the region of Lake Champlain. There’s little doubt they would have felt threatened by the starving native population along the river. Equally important: the Lake Champlain area did not have a history of the devastating quakes that occasionally rattle the St. Law-

rence region.

Those migrants probably also wondered if another great quake might lay ahead. After seven months of severe aftershocks, any reasonable person would have pondered that question many times. The French-speaking people who lived in southern Quebec weren’t hanging around to find out. The people of the Iroquois Nation probably asked the same question as they moved to other hunting grounds.

### Charlevoix

The epicenter of the shaking was at Charlevoix Crater, an ancient asteroid impact crater along the St. Lawrence, named for Pierre-Francois-Xavier De Charlevoix, a Jesuit missionary who had been sent to Quebec to teach the native people. He was there from 1705 till 1709, when he returned to France.

In 1720, the French government once again sent him back to “New France,” as southern Canada was then known, on a mission heralded as “scientific and exploratory.” Its true purpose, however, was a closely guarded secret.

Charlevoix sailed the

see **1676** page B4



Pierre François Xavier de Charlevoix

## You say Tomato, I say Blight

By EMILY MONOSSON

**MONTAGUE** – The first inkling that things were really bad was the news that late blight had not only wilted and rotted my own tomatoes, but those of Montague’s Red Fire Farm as well. Farmer Ryan Voiland has been growing and selling tomatoes since middle school, setting up a road-side stand outside his parents’ home.

A decade or so later Voiland – a thirty-something, soft-spoken organic farmer with a degree from Cornell – had become an award-winning tomato grower.

“That first year was remarkable,” recalled Voiland, cracking a shy smile, “we heard about the Massachusetts Tomato Contest ... we had a good crop and managed to send in some specimens.” Red Fire’s tomatoes won five out of twelve awards, more than any farm, organic or conventional, had ever won in a single year.

Red Fire, now a successful Community Supported Agriculture farm or CSA, grows

more than 150 different tomato varieties, offering them up for tasting at their annual Tomato Festival. But in 2014, a fungus-like disease called late blight had made its way up the valley, jumping from one farm to another until it hit Red Fire.

Tomato crops died within days. Rows of once lush plants resembled vegetative versions of zombie armies: upright stalks studied with browned blight-infested leaves. Large brown spots blossomed on the fruits, turning them soft and unsellable.

That my kitchen garden, just a few miles away from Voiland’s farm, succumbed as well, was no surprise; I am not the most attentive farmer.

When I can amble down to the Red Fire farm stand and purchase plump red Brandywines, Big Yellow Zebras or Sungolds, tending to tomatoes is not a make or break situation.

But for independent farmers and CSAs, such large scale crop loss can be

see **TOMATO** page B4



Garden tomato (variety “Ace”) with *Phytophthora infestans* (late blight or potato blight).



# Pet of the Week

Hi, my name is Izzy! I'm very affectionate and I love all people. I have lived with cats as well as dogs (a German Shepherd, a Husky and an Arctic Wolf) and I make great friends with dogs.



“IZZY”

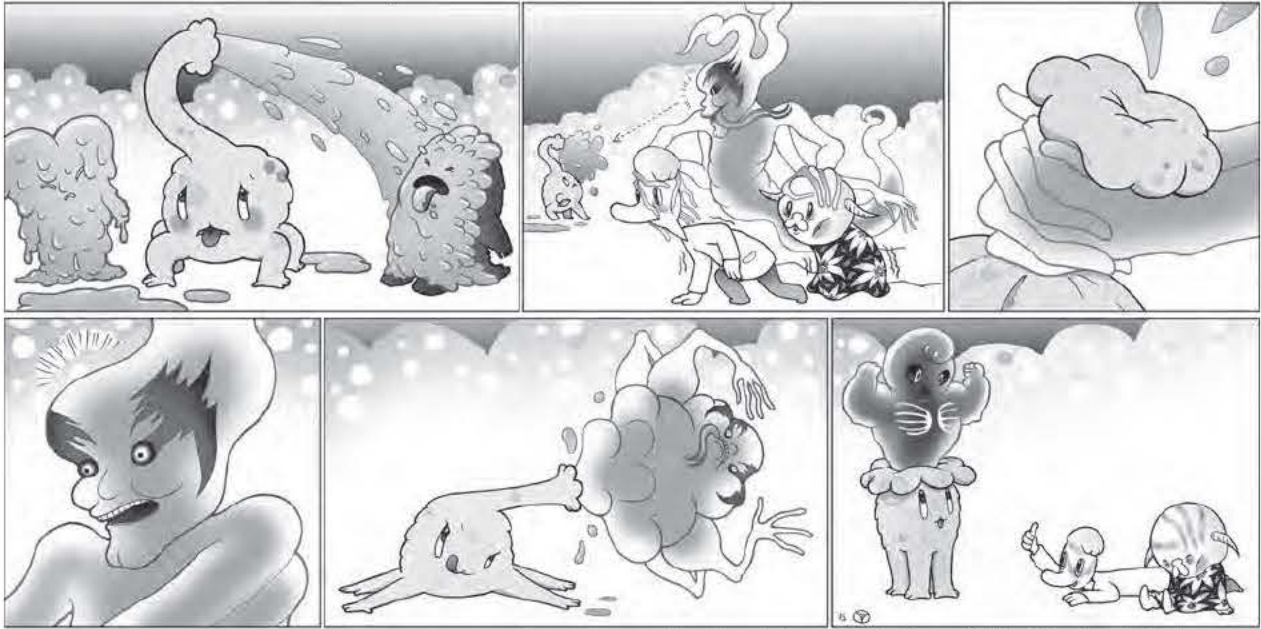
I can live peacefully with other cats but would prefer to be your one and only, which really isn't that surprising because my previous guardians described me as more like a dog than a cat!

Here's something else that sets me apart from other cats: I much prefer to drink straight from a faucet than your run-of-the-mill water bowl!

I would love for you to come visit me if I sound like I may be the perfect cat for you. I would love to find a great, new loving home!

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

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## KINDERGARTEN READINESS PLAYGROUPS

Do you have a child who will be entering Kindergarten in the fall at Hillcrest or Gill Elementary Schools? If they haven't been in a formal pre-school or day care setting they may benefit from practicing some of the following skills they will need for Kindergarten: Recognizing the letters of their name, sitting in a circle, taking turns and sharing.

Join us for an hour as we learn, have fun and practice

these skills...and more!

**Where:** Hillcrest Elementary School, 30 Griswold Street, Turners Falls

**When:** April 28, May 12, May 26 and June 9, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

**Contact info:**  
Karen Guillette, Gill-Montague CFCE Coordinator, (413) 863-4804 x 1005, [karen.guillette@gmrtd.org](mailto:karen.guillette@gmrtd.org)

### THE HEALTHY GEEZER

## Dyspnea Discussed

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION



By FRED CICETTI

*Q. My wife has complained of being short of breath while shopping in the mall. She says it's just a sign of age, but I'm concerned about her.*

The likelihood of suffering shortness of breath or “dyspnea” (disp-nee-ah) becomes greater the older we get. As we age, our air passages get smaller, chest muscles weaken, and our lungs become less flexible. These changes reduce our air flow.

Dyspnea should happen rarely to healthy people. It can be brought on by exhaustive exertion, high altitude, extreme temperatures. Otherwise, shortness of breath is commonly a sign of a medical problem. So your wife should get this symptom checked by a doctor immediately.

Dyspnea is associated with the major breathing disorders that can develop in seniors. These disorders are chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, obstructive sleep apnea, pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary thromboembolism and aspiration.

COPD involves difficulty in exhaling. Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are COPDs. Emphysema makes the small air spaces in the lungs collapse. Bronchitis is

inflammation of the airways.

Most asthma is caused by allergies to airborne particles such as dust and mold. The airways become inflamed, which causes them to spasm. Unlike COPD, asthma is reversible.

Diagnosing conditions in seniors can be challenging, because asthma in older people is often difficult to distinguish from emphysema and chronic bronchitis. In addition, many seniors have both emphysema and chronic bronchitis.

Obstructive sleep apnea is common in older adults. People with sleep apnea stop breathing for as long as 30 seconds at a time. These interruptions can happen hundreds of times a night. Obstructive sleep apnea occurs when the muscles in the back of your throat relax, narrowing your airway and cutting off your breathing.

In pulmonary fibrosis, the lung's air sacs become filled with scar tissue. The damage is permanent. Pulmonary fibrosis usually begins in your 40s or 50s, but can develop at any age.

Pulmonary thromboembolism is a life-endangering blockage of a blood vessel by a blood clot that travels – often from the legs – to the lung and damages tissue. Pulmonary thromboembolism is most common after age 65.

When something from your mouth goes down “the wrong pipe,” you have aspiration. Aspiration is inhaling food particles, liquids or bacteria. If the amount of aspirated material exceeds the ability of the immune system to handle it, you can

get a serious lung infection.

Shortness of breath can be caused by a variety of abnormalities in organs other than the lungs.

When the heart fails, it loses its ability pump blood. This elevates pressure in the blood vessels around the lung. Sometimes fluid collects in the lungs and interferes with breathing, causing shortness of breath, especially when a person is lying down.

A low red-blood-cell count causes dyspnea because the red cells carry oxygen. When their number is extremely low, your body doesn't get enough oxygen.

In addition, a high thyroid level, shock, systemic infection, kidney or chronic liver problems, stroke, nerve and muscle disorders, and anxiety can bring on dyspnea.

The following are some symptoms that indicate a medical condition: shortness of breath at rest, with exercise, when lying down or upon exposure to allergens.

In addition, you may have a problem if shortness of breath is accompanied by: chest pain or discomfort, arm pain, jaw pain, neck pain, swelling in the ankles and feet, fluid weight gain or unintentional weight loss with reduced appetite, unusual fatigue, sweating, yellow or green phlegm, blood in spit, fever, wheezing, persistent cough, blue lips or fingertips, fainting.

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

## Senior Center Activities

May 4 to 8

### 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.

#### Monday 5/4

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

#### Tuesday 5/5

8 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Lunch

12:30 p.m. Tech Support appts.

12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

#### Wednesday 5/6

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

Noon Lunch

12:45 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 5/7

10:10 a.m. Tech Tutor

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag

Noon Lunch

1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns

#### Friday 5/8

10:10 a.m. Aerobics

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Writing Group

### 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.

### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, temporarily at 18 Pleasant Street, 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, interim Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

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

#### Monday 5/4

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Osteo Exercise

12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn

#### Tuesday 5/5

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

10 a.m. Cardio Toning

11:30 a.m. Sandwich Tuesday

12:30 p.m. Painting

#### Wednesday 5/6

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo & Snacks

#### Thursday 5/7

8:15 - 10 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles

Noon Pitch & Brown Bag

#### Friday 5/8

9 a.m. Bowling

11:30 a.m. Home Cooking

12:30 p.m. Quilting

1 p.m. Pedigree Music Prod.

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**E.O. WILSON** from pg B1  
the behavior of other members of the same species.

Wilson’s early experiments involved “trying to talk to the ants.” (“That’s what I did in the ‘60s,” he quipped.)

In one such experiment, Wilson sought to understand how ants knew when one of their number was dead.

He observed that shortly after an ant died, it could lie for some time, “legs in the air,” ignored by its comrades; only later would they pick up the body and carry it away.

Wilson theorized that “decomposition substances” were the tell-tale signs of death and set about trying to identify these substances, painting a number of ants with different chemicals in an attempt to “turn them into zombies.”

After some time, during which his lab “smelled like hell,” Wilson hit upon lactic acid as the responsible substance: live ants painted with lactic acid and returned to their colonies would be hauled away, kicking and struggling, and dumped in the ant cemetery.

Humans, said Wilson, are one of relatively few species that rely primarily on audiovisual perception: “Relatively speaking, we sense almost nothing.” Pheromones and chemosensory receptors play a major role in the perception of most other species, “from bacteria to big cats.”

Wilson described the complex world of pheromones as “just one of the many parts of biology that lie unknown for your generation.”

Drawing the lens back from ants to the entire biosphere, Wilson lamented the disproportionate emphasis on the nonliving world among today’s environmentalists and policymakers, who focus on problems like climate change, water shortages, and the disappearance of arable land to the exclusion of the study of ecosystems and the species that make them up.

Out of the earth’s estimated 8 million species, only two million or so are known to scientists; Wilson described the remaining 6 million species – primarily microbes – as the “dark matter” of a complex biosphere that eludes human under-

standing. “We don’t know what the heck we’re doing.”

We do know, however, that the attrition of species on Earth is occurring 1000 times faster than before the existence of humans, and that the rate of extinction is only increasing.

Having summarized the state of the planet, Wilson then offered some advice as a new generation prepares to take on stewardship of it. The divisions between the traditional domains of human knowledge – sciences, social sciences, humanities, and arts – are dissolving, he said, and rather than content mastery, the keys to success in the future will be imagination, wise collaboration, and flexibility.

Wilson asserted that “you don’t need to learn algebra to be an effective scientist,” drawing cheers from the students in the audience but frowns from the math teachers. “Collaborate with a mathematician,” he said. “I’ve always done that. It works.”

Following his talk, Wilson fielded questions from the audience. In response to one student who asked how he viewed the problem of water, Wilson stated that we are going to need to develop the technology and energy sources – eventually, fusion – to acquire new fresh water via desalination.

Asked how science and religion can coexist, Wilson referred to his latest book, *The Meaning of Human Existence*, and hypothesized that the unifying qualities of religious faith may be Darwinian: religious communities confer an evolutionary advantage by bringing people together and thus aiding their survival.

Wilson also decried the tribalism inherent in organized religion, and the potential for competing creation stories to distract humans from focusing on preserving “the creation,” whatever its origins.

Finally, upon request, Wilson dispensed some suggestions on discovering one’s life path: “Study broadly. Things are happening fast. And write! Constantly practice writing – in an educated vocabulary, for heaven’s sake. “And when you find something you love, grab it.”

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Suspicious Person Near Stump Pile Sent Home

Monday, 4/20

2:22 a.m. Two calls regarding suspicious group of males in parking lot on Griswold Street. Unable to locate.

11:54 a.m. Caller from Norman Circle reports that his neighbor’s dogs bark continuously throughout the day; he is also concerned about one of the dogs behaving aggressively. Advised of options; copy of call forwarded to animal control officer.

1:29 p.m. Caller discovered a deceased fox in his backyard. He and his young son poked it with sticks to “check it out” and may have touched the tail of the animal. Caller is now concerned about the possibility of rabies. Animal control officer advises that party should use a shovel and bag the animal up; party could choose to have animal tested for rabies at his own expense or bury it.

Tuesday, 4/21

10:57 a.m. Lockout request at Shady Glen. Services rendered.

1:27 p.m. Lockout request at Hallmark Institute of Photography. Services rendered.

1:59 p.m. Lockout request at Franklin County Technical School. Services rendered.

2:26 p.m. Caller reports that he struck a bicyclist in the alley behind St. Kazimierz Society. Parties exchanged information and have both since left the area. Bicyclist later called to report accident, in which he says he sustained injuries to his left shoulder and wrist/thumb area. He will seek medical attention on his own. Incident under investigation.

2:27 p.m. Three reports of a vehicle that left the road and struck several headstones in the Aaron Clark Cemetery. No injuries.

4:25 p.m. Party from Norman Circle complains that neighbor’s 3-4 dogs are constantly barking, day and night. Caller also reports that the dogs seemed to display aggressive behavior while they were being walked the other day. Dogs were leashed and under control at all times. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

Wednesday, 4/22

10:45 a.m. Caller from Norman Circle requests to speak with an officer about an ongoing situation with his neighbor and her dogs. Officer left message for caller.

12:39 p.m. Report of erratic operator on Hillside Road. Second caller advises that the vehicle in question is pulled off the road half in the woods. Responding officers report no signs of impairment; operator states that she pulled over to take a nap because she was tired and will be driving home now. After observing her driving, officers pulled her over and provided a courtesy transport home; problems may be due to a medical issue. Later received a 911 call from Roberto’s Restaurant advising that the subject is there and appears somewhat disoriented. Officers followed up and will check into matter further.

12:49 p.m. Report of resident burning brush in close proximity to a residence on Millers Falls Road. TFFD spoke with resident; fire extinguished.

5:30 p.m. Two people into lobby to speak to an officer about a female party who is pregnant and drinking and living on their couch. Advised of options.

Thursday, 4/23

12:11 a.m. Caller reports loud party outside of house near entrance to Hillcrest Elementary School. Multiple youths are reportedly outside yelling and partying. Caller states his sleep is being disturbed. Quiet upon arrival; gathering will be breaking up soon.

12:45 a.m. Report that a customer in F.L. Roberts is harassing the clerk.

██████████ was arrested on two default warrants and also charged with shoplifting by concealing merchandise.

11:34 a.m. Brush fire on East Main Street reported to be close to a structure; caller can see it from his house in Erving. TFFD advised and en route.

12:45 p.m. Report of a white pickup truck filled with trash at G Street and Tenth Street. Caller is concerned that the operator of the vehicle has recently been dumping trash bags in the area. Responding officer advises that it appears that the vehicle owner has been picking things up rather than dumping them.

2:36 p.m. Caller reports that he just witnessed what appeared to be a drug deal at Fifth Street and T Street. Copy of call left for detective.

4:56 p.m. Report of 2 females walking on the tracks above North Leverett Road. Railroads notified. Officer located 2 juvenile females who came out of the woods onto Gunn Road and advised them of the dangers of being on the tracks. Females headed home now.

6:40 p.m. Officers located a suspicious person on Eleventh Street and advised him to leave the area. Subject had assembled a small stump pile which he will be cleaning up tomorrow when he gets his truck back.

9:05 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Third Street. Officer spoke with a male who admitted to bringing trash down at the request of the property manager. Subject advised to get stickers for trash bags.

Friday, 4/24

9:02 a.m. Caller reports that her medical marijuana was stolen from her kitchen. Upon speaking with an officer, party admitted that she did not purchase the marijuana at a dispensary. Party advised that MPD cannot investigate the theft because the drug was not purchased legally, to which she said, “Well, it was worth a try...”

1:22 p.m. Caller reports that while out walking she observed a few youths making a fort out of pine branches near the ballfields on Montague Street. When the youths saw her, they appeared nervous. Caller is concerned they may be up to no good. Responding officer advises that the fort may need to be taken down as it has a fire pit inside. Chains used to take down fort.

4:12 p.m. Caller from Norman Circle requests to speak to an officer. She has heard rumors that her neighbors have been making complaints to the police about her dogs and have reportedly started some kind of petition regarding her and the dogs. Officer spoke with party.

Saturday, 4/25

12:44 a.m. Neighbor disturbance on Central Street; caller reports that 3rd floor tenant is being very loud. Quiet upon arrival. Officer spoke with 3rd floor tenant, whom he woke up, and relayed the complaint.

11:39 a.m. Caller from Norman Circle reports an incident with her neighbor, with whom she has been having issues. Advised of options.

1:02 p.m. 3 car collision at Millers Falls Road and West Mineral Road. TFFD and MedCare en route. Citation issued.

6:28 p.m. ██████████ was arrested on 7 default warrants and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.

6:47 p.m. Report of a campsite and a fire near the Bridge of Names. Four parties advised to pack it up and move as they were on Water Department property. Parties complied.

7:40 p.m. ██████████ was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

Sunday, 4/26

4:50 a.m. Burglar alarm at Family Dollar. Responding officer advises that the front door is broken as if something had been thrown at it; door is also unsecured. Building clear. Officers watched security tape and saw a party break the door, enter the building, and leave immediately. Nothing taken.

10:20 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls reports that last night someone placed wooden stakes on their front lawn and bent over the political signs that she had placed out. Caller stated that earlier someone had threatened to stab her husband in the heart, and she felt that the stakes in the yard were connected to this; this is one of a number of incidents that have occurred recently. Officer spoke with caller and advised her of options.

10:55 a.m. Detail for Little League parade.

12:34 p.m. Caller from Unity Street reports ongoing dispute between herself and a male party over property that she left with him and that he is refusing to return. Both parties spoken to and advised that this is a civil issue to be taken up in court.

2:49 p.m. Caller from Newton Street reports that she can see across the river into Erving and observes three teenage males who appear to be trying to start fires. Referred to state police.

9:00 p.m. Two reports of gunshots in Lake Pleasant. Officers checked area but did not hear anything.

## Great Falls Farmers Market 2015

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Great Falls Farmers Market will open for the season on Wednesday, May 6. The market, located between the Great Falls Discovery Center and Second Street, will take place each Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. all season.

Recently, the market held its second annual Poster Art contest, which was won by Amy Bowse. The winner of the contest in 2014 was Lahri Bond of Lake Pleasant. Suzanne LoManto, director of Turners Falls RiverCulture, said Bond’s poster, an image of a woman, “drew people to the farmers market, so people will eat better food.”

LoManto said the poster contest “involves the community, and it gives opportunities to artists to display art to the community. It’s open to all ages. Anyone can submit something.” She said the contest started because the market just needed a poster, “so instead of designing one, they decided to have a contest.”

What is good about the farmers market itself, according to organiz-

er Donna Francis of the Montague Agriculture Commission, is “everything – the market provides a source of fresh locally grown food, and supports our local farmers and local economy. Fresh not only tastes better but is more nutritious. The market is also a fun and pleasant place to shop.

“There is music most Wednesdays, you can pick up growing and cooking tips from the farmers, and you can catch up with your neighbors who are also shopping at the market. SNAP, WIC and Senior Coupons are accepted. The market is a great community event.”

Regular vendors at the Great Falls Farmers Market include Johnson Farm of Deerfield, and Peter Kretzenger. Johnson Farm has fresh vegetables from the farm, plus flowers and vegetables plants that got started growing in the spring. Kretzenger has fresh vegetables, berries, perennial plants, jams and jellies to its name.

A new vendor for this year will be Just Roots Farm, out of Greenfield. They will bring fresh greens and vegetables to the market. Other items available at the market over

the course of the season will include hanging baskets, honey, eggs, maple syrup, herbs, baked goods, crafts, goat-milk soap and cut flowers.

The market is sponsored by the Agricultural Commission. The vendors, besides giving us all of these great items to buy, also help the market with funding by paying fees to participate, though according to Francis, “community groups are welcome to participate, at no charge.”

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**TOMATO** from page B1  
devastating.  
The 2014 outbreak left local tomato fields in tatters, but it wasn’t the worst case of the blight to hit Red Fire.

In 2009, writes Voiland in his farm blog, late blight “caused massive crop loss and severely impacted us financially.” Voiland had plenty of company that season as the blight ripped into tomato plants all along the east coast and mid-Atlantic.

Chef and author Dan Barber penned a New York Times op-ed about the outbreak, “You Say Tomato, I say Agricultural Disaster.” The article was just one of hundreds published that year.

“I, myself,” wrote Martha Stewart in a 2009 blog, “have lost seventy percent of the fifty different varieties in my garden. Even though I still have tomatoes on the vine, many of the beautiful heirloom varieties which were planted never had a chance.”

Stewart’s post was accompanied by an image of an ugly diseased tomato, a far cry from the doyenne’s trademark perfection.

Diseased tomatoes are nothing new, whether grown by conventional or organic tomato farmers.

Voiland and others are constant-

ly on the lookout for early blight and black mold; cutworms and leaf miners; and all sorts of specks, spots and cankers.

But late blight, caused by the fungus-like *Phytophthora infestans* – a pathogen with an affinity not only for tomatoes but also for their botanical cousin, the potato – was a new one for Northeast growers.

And ever since its 2009 debut, the blight that wipes out crops within days has returned each growing season.

For Voiland and many CSA farmers, tomatoes are an essential crop. A classic summer vegetable.

But ever since blight, tomatoes have become harder to bring to market.

That 2009 outbreak may have been the first to hit Northeast tomatoes but it certainly was not the first time *Phytophthora* went pandemic. Nor were tomatoes the first vegetable (or fruit) to be taken by blight.

Over a century ago a mysterious potato disease spread across Europe like wild fire. Healthy plants died within days.

Potatoes in the ground turned putrid. Tenant farmers in Ireland were hit particularly hard. Some one million Irish died and more than a million sailed for distant

shores.

Late blight had touched off the infamous potato famine, altering social structures, politics, and agricultural practices – its effects relevant even today.

Since its emergence on potato fields, blight has remained the bane of farmers around the globe.

Even so, no one expected the 2009 outbreak.

“In our experience,” writes Cornell plant pathologist William Fry and colleagues of the outbreak in their recent article, “The 2009 Late Blight Epidemic in Eastern U.S.” (available online by the American Phytopathological Society), “the scale of pathogen release was completely unexpected and unprecedented.”

Fry has tracked the plant pathogen to its roots and teased apart its DNA.

So what changed? How did this happen? Using an NCIS-like approach, including DNA fingerprinting, the group traced the 2009 outbreak to a single source and a single strain, subsequently named “US22” (there are dozens of late blight strains, but US22 was the bane of 2009 growers).

While the scenario played out like an agro-terrorist attack with blight hitting just about every-

where in the east, the cause was disturbingly mundane.

Blight-infected plants were traced back to big box distributors like Home Depot, Kmart, Lowes and others, which had purchased their plants from one national plant distributor.

News reports fingered Alabama-based distributor Bonnie Plants, a charge the company vehemently denied, though that summer they pulled their plants from a dozen states and took a financial hit. Since the outbreak, working with Cornell plant pathologists, the company has cleaned up its act.

Now, it seems as if blight is here to stay. Even so, no matter the source, the mere existence of the fungus-like blight isn’t enough to cause disease.

For blight to take wing, it requires moderate, wet conditions. When the temperatures hover around the 70s and the rains settle in, an apparently healthy crop can disintegrate within days.

Had 2009 been hot and dry, Voiland and others might have been hauling out the hoses and irrigation equipment, rather than contending with blight.

But along the east coast, conditions both in 2009 and 2014 have been more reminiscent of Ireland

and England than Arizona.  
Since that initial outbreak, the threat of late blight has loomed large. Before 2009, few tomato growers in the Northeast worried about losing whole crops to late blight; now even home gardeners are wondering how to tame it or better, avoid it altogether.

Should the weather turn cool and damp and the blight start flying this summer, there are few options other than:

1) Consider choosing resistant varieties like the Iron Ladies, Defiants and others.

2) Track blight and prepare as best you can using <http://usablight.org>.

3) Read up on blight: [http://www.extension.org/pages/18361/organic-management-or-late-blight-of-potato-and-tomato-phytophthora-infestans#.VSIfw\\_nF-Uk](http://www.extension.org/pages/18361/organic-management-or-late-blight-of-potato-and-tomato-phytophthora-infestans#.VSIfw_nF-Uk).

4) Give your plants space, and watch them like a hawk for signs of blight.

*Environmental toxicologist Emily Monosson is the author of “Unnatural Selection,” published in 2014 by Island Press. She is currently working on a new book about reducing chemical use on the farm and in medicine.*



## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was April 30, 2005: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### More Noise at the Selectboard

Since February 28, when the topic of a town noise ordinance was last discussed, heath agent Gina McNeely has moved away from relying solely on sound level meters to monitor decibel levels at bars, nightclubs and industrial sites.

At the continuation of the noise ordinance hearing on April 25, McNeely told the board her research of other Massachusetts noise ordinances had swayed her from what she regarded as a scientific, objective approach as the sole means of measuring noise, and she now favors including a common sense approach to determining whether a bar band or a factory is producing excessive noise, when no sound level meter is available.

If noise is plainly audible 200 feet from the source of the sound, that common-sense measure would constitute sufficient evidence that the proposed noise ordinance was being violated, McNeely said.

An exasperated Ross Capetta, who lives in an apartment on Fourth Street, behind Yesterday’s bar on Third Street, demanded to know “why people who live here have to ask permission to go to bed.”

### Rebuilding State Aid to Towns and Schools

Representative Stephen Kulik (D-Worthington) writes a letter to the community “to provide an overview of the budget picture this year, especially since it has such a large impact on the town budgets that voters will be considering at

annual town meetings in the coming weeks.”

He writes that “The past three years have been very difficult ones, financially, for the Commonwealth.” He explains in detail the budget difficulties the state has faced, and how long it is taking for the recession budget cuts to be restored.

“This is especially disappointing for local aid and Chapter 70 education aid,” writes Kulik, “Under these budget proposals, schools in my district such as Gill-Montague and Swift River would not receive any additional funds. To me, this is unacceptable.”

Kulik goes on to describe his advocacy for school funding spending increases, and his concern about the rising cost of health care in Massachusetts.

### Dodge Promoted to Sergeant Again

Chip Dodge is a sergeant again. After being demoted to patrolman in 2000 following an off-duty fracas with a fellow police officer, Dodge took the qualifying exam in 2004, and at the same time took the sergeant’s exam. He passed both tests.

Mindful of his past demotion, the selectboard voted to remove Dodge from the list of qualified candidates for chief in fall of 2004, and Civil Service upheld their decision.

Board chair Pat Allen asked how Dodge had come to view the incident that caused his demotion some years ago, and Dodge responded “Some people may say I’m crazy, but I view it as a positive. I learned a really valuable lesson as far as how much my job, my career, and my family means to me. It was a very big wake up call.”

Saturday, May 2  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

## New Salem Town-Wide Tag Sale

*On the Common  
in New Salem*

**1676** from page B1

length of the St. Lawrence, and even at that late date, he still found ample evidence of tremendous destruction; the area was still “a wreck.” His voyage took him down the Mississippi River, and out into the Gulf of Mexico, where he was shipwrecked for a time before he finally returned to France.

There’s a more likely reason for Charlevoix’s trip. Given that the year was 1720, the height of the Little Ice Age, Charlevoix may have been given orders by the government of France to “set a place at the table” for the many indigents who had been impoverished by the dismal weather in Europe.

The Little Ice Age hit France especially hard. For example, in *Times of Feast, Times of Famine* (Doubleday, 1971), author Emmanuel Ladurie recounts the dire conditions attendant on the famine of 1693:

“France was a big, desolate hospital without provisions; a concentration camp.... with Louis XIV the commandant.” The persistent cold and rain and limited harvests brought continual food crises to France.

The Little Ice Age peaked during the 1720s, and in 1720, when Charlevoix was sent to Canada, life in France was dismal, at best, and the mood throughout the country was

somber.

People’s lives had been turned upside down by the Little Ice Age, and they were in a foul mood. Revolution seemed just a matter of time if “just one more famine” came to France. That famine duly arrived in 1788.

In that year, the entire wheat crop was destroyed by a combination of severe drought and a “hail streak” that had swept across France. The hail in many places was described as weighing as much as “8 livres,” or 8 pounds.

In 1788 the people of France were forced to eat the wheat that had been set aside to sow for next year’s crop. When 1789 came, there wasn’t a grain of wheat to be had. Facing certain starvation, the revolutionaries had nothing more to lose, and they executed virtually anyone in authority that they felt had been “part of the problem.”

The disastrous weather and the general impoverishment of the people of France during the Little Ice Age became part of the public discourse for many years.

It is thus no surprise that the government of France would send Charlevoix on a mission to find room for the growing number of poor.

It’s instructive to note that, on his trip down the Mississippi, Charlev-

oix wrote in his journal that the land where the Ohio and Mississippi rivers came together would be a good place for settlement and fortification.

Shortly after Charlevoix’s return to France, the Ohio Valley region began to fill with French people, who aligned themselves with local tribes, and ultimately took part in the so-called French and Indian wars.

The Amish people of central Europe also began their exodus to America in the 1720s, and by no coincidence, many traveled to the Ohio Valley.

A forced migration of the poor from Europe to North America was considered a “safety valve” in many European countries.

One might be forgiven for believing that the care-taker government of France sent Charlevoix on a mission to find a place to resettle the poor, as Britain would do a short time later.

The secrecy of Charlevoix’s mission was a necessary ploy; news of his real purpose might have alerted both the colonists and the English that yet another war between the two imperial powers might lay on the horizon, as indeed came to pass.

Considering all of that, Charlevoix’s true mission seems quite apparent.



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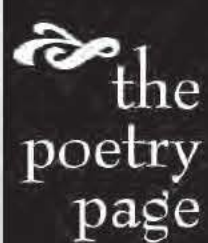
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It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Patricia Pruitt

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

A Bolt of Lightning  
there are many differences between new England and new South Africa, but I would like to stay with the positive similarities....  
and the weather is one of those....  
I encountered my first storm last night...  
my bed literally shook me awake  
i closed my eyes tightly and felt the lightning caress my eyelids  
the sound of thunder reminded me of my care and friend....Baba Ndlovu –  
who told me – not to be frightened as it was  
'only God moving the furniture around upstairs', and we pressed  
our noses on the slatted windows looking out at the  
“Pride of India” blossoms strewn all over the garden.  
the Standerton of my youth is not dissimilar to Montague in my  
'second childhood" – here I am learning to ride a bicycle with loving guidance.  
I am exploring the truth of relationship with myself and others.  
I spend hours on the carpet cutting out fabric hearts and pasting them on cards –  
and in my first childhood I recall hours spent with crayons and pencils and coloring books .....

I want to go beyond those lines of coloring-in-books – perhaps I will shade in the negative spaces to highlight the light.....

By Thandi Skye

Three Poems By W. Allen Miller

I. At a Distance

An everyday young man  
Charlie Company's forward observer his hand  
Written verse in journals in the pocket nearest  
Where leeches gorged.

He was called to a space that faced west to a blue river  
And white sand. Twenty silhouettes of human beings  
At the edge of the river west from Hill 391.  
The river the sand bar in front of us  
In our hands as a folded map where people stood knelt  
Maybe they were bathing. Battalion net  
Radio static authority says there are no friendlies,  
Our voices hush deception compass coordinates azimuth  
Between radios, banality in the form.  
From where we stood  
You couldn't tell if the names were given  
To men or women, Buddhist or Catholic  
When last they spoke as children.  
A call for fire, high explosive, air burst thirty meters,  
Fire for effect, and after the  
First salvo the forward observer in a hush  
Requisite the awe he felt new suns burning,  
“Only one standing waving one arm,” the guns fire again  
Machined proficiency a necessity the compliance of weapons.  
The second salvo whistles the arch overhead,  
Carolers of the abject, angels to the last standing,  
Witnesses no longer inquire into the eyes of each other.  
The cadence for civility passed,  
The Company Commander toward the top of  
The mountain the river was holding  
Says into the space created “It's a free fire zone.”  
Engineering Classes simple physics even calculus  
Would seem to have served the young FO well.  
Congratulations rest on his shoulders, last  
To the bottom of 391 moving single file.  
Camel cigarettes, heavy bottomed bourbon glasses  
lie in his fingers and hands with more comfort.  
The one armed silhouette through the round window  
of his binoculars standing  
Waving through the portal,  
somatic and corporeal.

*the jungle a hot house*  
  
*you would think orchids*  
*were blooming*  
*until you can say gook*  
*the training snarls*  
  
*Trip wires the thin breath of light*  
*ambiguity a last indignity*  
  
*like a hand deep in crematory ash*  
*accepting*  
*the voices of our fathers*  
  
*slant eye*  
  
*slopes*  
  
  
*his hand on his journal of verse,*  
  
*lying like offal the questions*  
  
*uniform uniformity*  
  
*Chaplin says we should pray*  
  
  
*for our soldiers*  
  
  
*the prayer of numbness*  
  
  
*cordite and flesh until you I we become*  
*obsidian black birds barking*

2. Untitled  
in this moment  
the earth is  
under my feet  
i am standing  
on a swell  
looking into  
blue birds  
moving blue sky  
between heaven  
and earth  
the bright sun  
x-ray through  
feathered wings  
of flight to  
blood filled  
hollow bones  
made light  
I am hoping  
this spirit  
lifts me

3. I Can't Keep Quarters...

I can't keep quarters in my pocket  
Standing at a meter measuring allotted time.  
Where there are broken stems of hay I kept  
A compound fossil print of a fern leaf.  
Because it was forever in clay I carried it  
Away from the spring in Jones's field.  
I still carry the location of slave's graveyard.  
Adjacent the “T” Galesburg Road and  
Gorges City Bridge Road where Colonel John Shirley  
Raised thoroughbreds, Africans enslaved, and his daughter ‘Belle’.  
The bright light that came through tall windows  
Across the field into a one room school  
Where John Browns body was sung.  
After a “Pledge of Allegiance” by quiet conflicted children  
Next to the graves of Africians' souls  
Still pinning planted among the corn.  
Next to the swings and white children squeal and delight.  
The story my mother whispered alone to me  
“It is a slave's graveyard.”  
Sassafras scent in the ditch where  
The rain drains sorrow bones.  
I can't keep silver nickels Indians and Buffalos  
For a long time I carried a sports hero  
Who ran and hit like Mickey Mantle  
But looked a lot like me  
In a pocket, where there is usually lint.  
I lay down on the floor with Ben and Maggie  
As babies and slept with them on my chest  
To poise the beats of our hearts.

Poets:  
Thandi Skye lives sometimes in Montague, and other  
times in South Africa.

W. Allen Miller's poems recount his experiences in war  
and in so-called ordinary life. He makes his home in  
Montague Center.

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# OYSTERGIRL'S GUIDE TO REAL LIVING

By VANESSA QUERY

Greetings, Montague! Your new friend Oystergirl here.

In my last column, I introduced you to my approach to hygiene and personal care, gave you a bit of science on how our body's **natural** cleaning process works – and is harmed by the use of hygiene products – and shared with you my first step to a more natural hygiene routine: Stop using soap all the time on every bit of your body.

Here are the next series of hygiene action steps which have helped me, and may give you some ideas on how to have a personal care routine that is more low-hassle, low-cost, low-time, and eco-friendly, body-friendly, and mind-friendly.

Don't **shower every day** – or even on a particular schedule.

The first time I went to Ireland, it was to volunteer for an arts camping festival in the Monaghan countryside.

I slept wherever my hosts had room; often I was camping, and for more than a week, I stayed in an old farmhouse that only had a tub.

Because I worked all day and partied all night, I didn't **have time** for a bath!

I was outdoors most of the time, running around all day, doing sometimes intense manual labor. I even had a couple of flirtations, which ordinarily would send me into hygiene paranoia. But it didn't. I was fine. I smelled fine; I looked fine. It didn't occur to me to look or be any differently.

When I got off the farm and into Dublin, I took a long and well-earned shower.

When you take showers all the time, they're just normal. When you earn them, they're wonderful.

Upon returning home, I was forever altered. I showered when I felt

like it, when I needed to.

This averaged – and continues to average – once or twice a week. Even during our sticky New England summer months, this is almost always adequate.

When more attention is needed, particularly during our aforementioned summers, a good sponge bath can do the trick.

Embrace the sponge bath.

A sponge bath, most commonly associated with hospitals, is not exclusively for the bedridden, nor is it something that necessarily requires a partner.

A sponge bath is merely a form of bathing that does not require fully immersing in either a shower or bath. Instead, you use a washcloth (or sponge, if you want to be literal) and a small amount of water to wash whatever bits you need to.

A sponge bath is a fantastic way to get in a non-showery shower, especially a quickie after a workout or other such excursion. It saves time and water, and covers the basics well enough. It's like **spot bathing**.

You can take a full sponge bath by standing naked in your tub or shower, with a bucket of water, or using the tap just to rinse out and re-wet the washcloth. Or, you can do just a top-half sponge bath by standing in front of your bathroom sink and using tap water.

I embraced that latter form of the sponge bath last summer. To be ladylike about it, I sweat like a pig. I also exercise, but not so extensively or heavily that I feel the need to shower after every workout. However, combine summer with a workout, and I'm **gonna need some**-thing.

After said workout, I go into my bathroom, take off my tops, and reach for my Irish washcloth.

The 100% cotton washcloth is from The Soap Room in County

Galway, Ireland. Simona from The Soap Room offers handmade soaps and hygiene accessories.

I have found this knit cotton washcloth to be perfect for my infrequent showers and occasional sponge baths. It seems to be slightly exfoliating, so it doesn't **take much** work – or soap – for it to feel like it's **refreshing my skin**. It is just scratchy enough to wake up my skin, but soft enough so it's **not stripping** any of my natural oils or disrupting my body's **self-cleaning processes**, provided I use it gently.

I rinse off my face, which is always slimy, and then work my way down and around until I am sufficiently cooled off. I rinse and wring out the washcloth, hang it to dry, dry myself off, get dressed, and I'm off.

Total time? Five minutes, max. Total water used? Probably in the range of a few pints or so. Well under a gallon, as opposed to a shower, which can use 10 gallons per minute.

And I am plenty clean and refreshed!

So far I have covered several basic ways to help your body get back to taking care of cleaning itself: not using so much soap, and not showering all the time. In columns to come, I will get more nitty-gritty and address things like shampoo, underarm care, dental hygiene, and laundry.

Thanks for reading! I look forward to continuing to share my views, and as always, I welcome your comments.

Let's **turn this into a dialogue!** Email me directly at the address below.

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



## Snow Is Off the Avenue

By LINDA HICKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – The very large pile of plowed-up snow in the Food City parking lot was finally gone on April 19. The Carnegie Library runs a free annual

raffle to determine who can guess the closest date. No one guessed the exact day. Ninety five guesses were entered.

Ivan Ussach wrote 4/17, and Kay Fern guessed 4/21. The two winners each received a \$15 Second Street Bakery gift certificate.



**GARDENER** from page B1

cut in half for many by a sudden surge of very warm weather.

Similarly, local farmers were eager to set out greenhouse veggies ready for planting, yet the soil remained too hard from the deep winter freeze.

Working with nature's clock is important to the home gardener as well, but we have a little more flexibility as we are not pushed by market demand or dependent on our crops for income.

Last fall we hoped to plant garlic sets before the ground hardened completely, but also after the likelihood of a lengthy patch of above normal temperature which would jump-start the plant too much leaving it vulnerable to winter cold.

You want the garlic bulb to root up for an early spring start but not to grow too much. We were lucky and now have healthy leaves a good eight to ten inches high.

It is traditional among New England gardeners to set out tomato plants Memorial Day weekend.

We have been burned by following this tradition. I once lost better than half my plants to several cold, windy days right after I set them out. Now I watch the forecast closely for heavy wind and or rain.

We've found that even if we set out our plants a few days later than most, they catch up and we are picking fruit as soon as anyone else. I learned something very important about tomato timing last season when the late blight came on.

Even though the plants succumbed almost immediately, we should have picked the fruit ready or not and at least enjoyed some of the crop. Although a shelf ripened tomato is never as juicy or tasty as a vine ripened one, it's still better than none.

I could have planted peas a week or ten days ago, but I didn't get around to raking out a garden space inside the fence for them. Oddly enough though, every year I am picking fresh peas for the Fourth of July regardless of which April week I set them out. You just can't wait too late or it will be too hot for these tasty cool weather lovers.

Walking our favorite loop in Old Deerfield a few days ago, we saw our first Bluebird of the season. We'll watch closely in our yard for

these shy beauties. Our apple trees are about to bloom and that's when we usually find them here at home.

The Bluebirds arrive, showing off their bright blue coats and swoop about the yard for a day or two, then disappear until we see them again at the end of the nesting season. They find a spot somewhere nearby, but they are good at hiding.

Whether or not they use the Bluebird house I hung for them specifically, they are around somewhere enjoying the orchard, the riverside and the open spaces.

By contrast the chickadees, surely the most sociable of birds, chat with us every day and are quite chummy about hanging around to comment on any and all human activities. They even converse with the family cat although always from the safe distance of a high branch.

As much as the planting, tending and tasty enjoyment of gardening, we love the excuse to be outside. We'd choose weeding, pruning and watering over dusting, vacuuming and scrubbing any day.

Save those necessary but unlovely chores for the rainy days and soak up all the sunny daylight hours you can. Put your fingers in the dirt and feel that primal connection that being at the oceanside can bring. Enjoy your gardening successes and don't spend too much time ruing the losses.

There will be some crops that fail or disappoint regardless of how carefully you plan and tend. That's part of the process. You can be as ruthless as a friend of mine who has a beautiful perennial flower garden.

If a plant doesn't survive or disappoints in some way, she yanks it out, one try and you're done! Or you can grab the challenge of a tricky crop or season and plan a new strategy for next season.

Remember, you're in this for the pleasure of working with the soil and the seasons. If it isn't fun overall, give it up and put your precious time into something else.

But if you like a challenge and can let go of losses; if you savor the joys of being out of doors throughout the growing season, set out a garden of your favorite crops for eating or for eye candy. Enjoy the feel of this magical spring season and happy gardening to all of you infected with the yen!



# Purple Panthers Succumb To Honda Rally In Season-Opening Nailbiter

By EMILY ALLING

**GREENFIELD** – The Montague Purple Panthers, Montague's entry in the Greenfield Girls Softball League Little Nippers division (ages 7 to 9), opened their 2015 season on April 25 with a tough 6-5 loss to Lundgren Honda at Murphy Park in Greenfield.

The Panthers displayed varying degrees of softball prowess, ranging from some well-struck balls and nicely executed plays to one player overheard yelling "Hey, Coach! Where's center field?"

Heading into the fifth and final inning, the Panthers held a 5-3 lead, but a string of Lundgren hits and some fielding miscues led to 3 runs, and the Panthers were unable to rally in the bottom of the inning.

Despite the loss, the team was in good spirits after the game, with several players observed enjoying refreshments at the Murphy Park concession stand.



*A Lundgren player takes a pitch in the top of the fifth inning on Opening Day 2015.*

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Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

## EVERY MONDAY

Montague Center Library: *Evening Story Time*. Young children and their families are invited to wind down at the end of the day with stories. 6:30-7 p.m.

## EVERY TUESDAY

Leverett Library *Spanish Conversation Group*. Brush up on or improve your Spanish in a casual and friendly environment, 4 to 5 p.m.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

## EVERY THURSDAY

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

The Pioneer Tavern (Formerly The Rt.63 Roadhouse), Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*, 8:30 p.m.

## EVERY FRIDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*, stories and a hands-on craft project. 10 a.m.

Between the Uprights, Turners Falls: *Karaoke with Dirty Johnny*. 9 p.m to midnight. Free.

## EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Trash to Treasure*. Artwork created with trash from the Connecticut River watershed by regional artists. Through 5/27. Details at [www.turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://www.turnersfallsriverculture.org)

Avenue A Storefront Galleries, #106-#112 Avenue A: Installations of work by Paul Root and



*Handler and Levesque are a Connecticut-based husband and wife duo, who blend Brazilian, Latin, gypsy, jazz, classical and folk music influences to create their unique, expressive arrangements. Audiences respond with great enthusiasm to their extraordinary sound, amusing anecdotes and the joyful spirit of their music. Friday May 8, Great Falls Discovery Center at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:30. Benefit for the Friends of the Center, sliding scale donation 6-12\$. Refreshments.*

Julianne Jones, video by artists from Millers Falls Arts Bridge. Through 5/13.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls, Bruce Kahn: *Dreams, Fantasies and Fetishes* Wildly unpredictable Kahn is back for a second showing of his unreal photo compositions. May 5-June 7. Reception on 5/16.

Deerfield Arts Bank, Deerfield: *Black and White and Read All Over*, group exhibit 4/16-5/17.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts: *Will Sieruta, Mixed Media Paintings*, through 5/31. Opening Reception: Sunday May 10, 4-6 p.m.

## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Seeking Water Dancers for Riversong May 16, Turners Falls. You will need stamina for a full day: co-creating and rehearsing and then performing the ceremony after the sun sets

that night. Dancers arrive by 2:30 pm so we can begin at 3:00 p.m. We will be using illuminated hula hoops for the dance so it would be helpful if you know how to use one. Call Phyllis (413.369.9985) to RSVP by May 1.

Drummers Desired for Riversong May 16, Turners Falls. Drummers arrive by 3:00 p.m. on the afternoon of the event. Please bring a drum. Contact Ricardo (ricardofrota3@gmail.com) to RSVP.

Seeking Cool Cats for a special feline feature at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls June 2015! Seeking feline themed arts and crafts consignors. contact Nina Rossi, [naban@verizon.net](mailto:naban@verizon.net) (413) 834-8800. [www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com)

Carolyn Walker, Alt-Folk. 8 p.m.

Bing Arts Center, Springfield: *Jim Kaminski*, legendary Valley blues and rock guitarist. \$ 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Irma la Douce* Presented by Arena Civic Theatre \$ 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Dave Dersham & Dennis Caraher*, \$ 8 p.m.

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

## SATURDAY, MAY 2

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Irma la Douce* Presented by Arena Civic Theatre \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Definite Maybes*, 9 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MAY 3

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Irma la Douce* Presented by Arena Civic Theatre \$2 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Roosevelt Dime* New Orleans Rhythms. 2:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Harmaniac Bros*, 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *CE Schneider Topical, Grape Room, Death Savings Flag, Ruth Garbus*. 8 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Tanya Donnelly, Robin Lane, Kris Delmhorst* Fund-raiser for Songbird Sings, \$ 7 p.m.

## MONDAY, MAY 4

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Nite with Quizmaster Michael*, 8 p.m.

## TUESDAY, MAY 5

Frontier Regional High School, Deerfield: *The Power of Dance: Spring Student/Faculty/Community Dance Concert*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zack and CJ make a Comedy Open Mic*, 9:30 p.m.

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Third Street Studios, 36 Third Street Turners Falls. *Open Figure Drawing Session*, Paper and Charcoal provided or bring your own supplies to work from live model. \$ 7:30 p.m.

## THURSDAY, MAY 7

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Poetry Reading with Peter Marcus and Diana Whitney*, 7 p.m.

Bing Arts Center, Springfield: *Art Critic Gloria Russell presents The 1913 Armory Show: Art Exhibit or "Chamber of Horrors"*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Roosters*, 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, MAY 8

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*, 8 p.m.

## EVENTS:

## THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Deerfield Arts Bank, Deerfield: *"Share a Read"* Come read three pages from a favorite book or other work to share. 6 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *City of Four*, jazz quartet. \$ 8 p.m.

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Jake and the Infernal Machine, Evan Greer, Loone, and Matt Feinstein*. All ages / substance free; bring donations. 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, MAY 1

LOOT, Turners Falls: Turners Falls: *Eight People, One Place, and a Book* Students from Amherst High School's advanced photography class present limited edition books based on studies of a single place. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Patton's 1940s Hit Parade*, 7 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Dylan Jane and special guest*

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Comedy Caravan*, \$ 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Ben Falkoff*, \$ 8 p.m.

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Sean Ashby Singer/songwriter/guitarist/producer* 8 p.m.

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Discovery Center, Turners Falls *Judy Handler & Mark Levesque* Enjoy passionate & lyrical music from around the world for guitars & mandolin. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barret Anderson*, 9 p.m.



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# Why Do They Do That?

TURNERS FALLS – Children’s behavior can challenge us in a myriad of ways.

When our primary goal with children is to help them grow rather than just to “stop that disturbing behavior,” it becomes important to address the cause of the behavior.

On Wednesday, May 6, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., the Gill-Montague CFCE program is sponsoring

a Parent Cafe at the Hillcrest Elementary School called “Why Do They Do That?”

This session looks at those causes because when we take the time to explore them, we’re more apt to reduce our own sense of frustration and become more effective at responding.

The workshop is free, and childcare and a light snack will be provided.

## VALLEY LUX from pg B1

Food will be available from Sun Kim Bop and Cliff’s Smokin’ BBQ. Brewmaster Jack will be the official beer sponsor for the event.

“The event is open to all ages,” said Lynch. “We want everybody to be able to come out and enjoy local art, music, food, and drinks – families too!”

Tickets for the festival are available at [www.ValleyLuxFestival.com](http://www.ValleyLuxFestival.com) and are \$15 for one day and \$25 for both.

There are also opportunities to volunteer in lieu of admission. Any questions about the event can be directed to [info@valleyluxfestival.com](mailto:info@valleyluxfestival.com).



RILEY AMES PHOTO

The organizers of Valley Lux got their start orchestrating all-night parties in the woods at Hampshire College.

# FACES & PLACES



PHOTO BY G.E. LONAX, HALLMARK STUDENT

Pioneer Valley Performing Arts’ African Dance and Drum Company, WOEFA, directed by Alpha “Kabisko” Kaba, gets the crowd at the Shea Theater moving last Saturday. The event was a benefit for the Katanya Women’s Development Fund of Sierra Leone. The Refugee All Stars also played.

## LEVERETT LIBRARY EVENTS

### Seed Saving; Amazing Animals

Come to Leverett Library for a Seed Saving Workshop with Gail Mason and Nina Renshaw from Moonlight Turtle Lodge, Sunday, May 3, 1 to 4 p.m.

Learn about: Different types of seeds; how to prevent cross-pollination; seeding; harvesting and storing seeds.

Participants will learn through some hands-on work; will learn to process a number of different vegetables, and will learn the art of winnowing.

And on Thursday May 7, join us from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. for Amazing Animals. We will meet several live small animals, some we can hold, and learn about their adaptations. How do they adapt to the place they live? This program is open to children ages 3 to 6 and their caregivers.

Join us for preschool story time every Wednesday at 10:30 with Julie Stepanek. For more information call 549-9220 or see [leverettlibrary.org](http://leverettlibrary.org).

The Montague Reporter is seeking businesses that may be interested in underwriting a sports page.

Please contact (413) 863-8666 or [editor@montagureporter.org](mailto:editor@montagureporter.org) to discuss the idea.

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