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LOVE PLACES?

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WHY DO WE
SAVE THINGS?

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COME FROM?

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LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 21, 2015

Leverett's Touchy Subject

By ANN TWEEDY

Taxation has been an historically touchy subject in Leverett. Major Richard Montague, a veteran of the French and Indian War as an English subject and of the Revolutionary War as a patriot, fought a tax imposed on the new Baptist church.

This tax was imposed on the Baptists by the Congregational church; Major Montague and several others felt it unfair, and refused to pay. They were escorted to the county jail by the constable and released the next day. To add insult to incarceration, the constable took one of Major Montague's hogs as payment.

Today, property owners in Leverett take up issues over taxation with the Board of Assessors and, if the situation is not resolved to their satisfaction, with the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board.

Two property owners decided to do just that for FY'16. The impact of the potential losses, coupled with the accounting fees sent the Leverett selectboard and various committees and departments scrambling to adjust their budget without having to further burden other taxpayers.

Mark Defrancisco, Chief Counsel for the Appellate Tax Board, said the Leverett requests will be heard in January of 2016 and that the decision could take about 3 months.

Based on prior abatement requests



HUDYMA PHOTO

The town's budget hinges on the outcome of a tax abatement request for 26 Amherst Road and 0 Juggler Meadow Road – two of the properties that lie beyond these iron gates.

and property values, Defrancisco confirmed that the first of these requests, made by a household on Laurel Hill Drive, has been withdrawn – settled in exchange for a reduction in assessed property value.

But the other request, from Barre Tozloski and the Pocomo Road Nominee Trust, is still in play.

Behind the Wall

The Pocomo Road Nominee Trust is one of several land trusts established by Michael Kittredge, founder of the Yankee Candle Company. The identified properties for consideration are 0 Juggler Meadow Road (FY'15 estimated value of \$81,300) and 26 Amherst Road (FY'15 of \$767,100).

These properties are two of numerous properties acquired along Juggler Meadow, Amherst

see LEVERETT page A5

A Swing for Jacob: The Community's Gift

By ANNE HARDING

TURNERS FALLS – While much of the town was engrossed in the daylong celebration of the Connecticut River last Saturday afternoon, another quietly dramatic event was taking place across the street at the Unity Playground. Jacob Norwood took his first ride on the accessible Sway Fun Glider along with his parents, sister and friend while his grandmother looked on.

The moment he was wheeled up the ramp his face lit up, and when the glider started moving, his infectious joy in the moment was heart-

breakingly beautiful. This was an experience almost three years in the making: a moment made possible by ordinary people, doing something extraordinary.

A crew of ten men started their day at 8 a.m. They worked non-stop assembling the myriad of parts and pieces until the swing was built. Trying to get them to take a lunch break was next to impossible, as everyone wanted the swing finished before Jacob arrived.

The excavation, foundation, and ramp had been done earlier, thanks to the generous donation of Graves Concrete and the loan

see JACOB page A5



HARDING PHOTO

Greg and Heather Norwood (at left) enjoy the swing with Jacob and other family members last Saturday.

Rich Kuklewicz Takes A Seat On Selectboard

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL and MONTAGUE – In Monday's town elections, incumbents faced mixed results. In Gill, selectboard member John Ward and tree warden Ernie Hastings successfully faced down write-in campaigns by Fred Chase and Jeff Suprenant – Hastings by five votes.

But Gill school committee representative Jenn Waldron, who had not filed nomination papers by deadline, lost her seat to another write-in candidacy. And by a three-to-one margin, Montague voters opted for Richard Kuklewicz over two-term selectboard member Mark Fairbrother.

Only one additional race in each town ended up being competitive: one-year seats among the library trustees in Montague, for which Amanda Traynor and Nancy Crowell defeated David Harmon, possibly because he was listed third on the ballot; and a spot on Gill's cemetery commission, for which Joan Pillsbury beat out Pat Hawkins.

Voter turnout was 19% in Gill, and about 16% in Montague.

Incoming Board Member

"I'm a little humbled by it," said Rich Kuklewicz, minutes after the final precinct tallies from town hall were announced at the Rendezvous

see ELECTIONS page A4

Reflections on Memorial Day: An Epiphany on Brotherhood Whilst Peeling Potatoes on KP

By PETER REICH

STATENISLAND, 1968 – The Verrazano-Narrows Bridge touches down on Staten Island at Fort Wadsworth, the oldest continuously manned military installation in the U.S. which, during the Vietnam War, served as a Transfer Station for GIs returning from their tours of duty overseas for discharge (most Vietnam Vets returned via the West Coast).

Thus, the only redeeming feature of our daily task as Key Punch Operators was that the quicker we typed names and service numbers into IBM keypunch machines to make IBM cards, the faster guys got out of the service.

At the time, this was a

very small Fort with a tiny HQ company: mostly clerk typists, computer programmers (to process the mountains of IBM cards we produced), some MPs, a Marching Band, and the usual cadre of officers.

However, because clever managers had secured exemptions from KP (Kitchen Police) for the Band, MPs, computer programmers, and pals from the NCO Club, the lottery for KP and Guard Duty seemed to draw only from the remaining pool of grunts in administration and personnel. So most of the time a pretty small group of us often pulled KP or Guard Duty at least once a week.

The most painless way to deal with KP was to arise

at 4:00 a.m., dress quickly, leave the barracks and secure a spot downstairs leaning against the warm door to the large glass-windowed mess hall so as to be first in line.

First person in line got choice of jobs and, and for this lowly Spec4, Pots and Pans quickly emerged as an assignment well worth the loss of a few minutes of sleep ahead of a day that often went 15 or 16 hours.

In addition to the pots and pans man, there were usually two or three guys on Dishwashing, a couple of DRO's (Dining Room Orderlies), a total of maybe five or six of us KPs, two or three cooks and a Sergeant.

Working alone, the pots and pans person was much less likely to be harassed by the lifer cooks, who took a particular dislike to draft-ee (prefix "US" instead of "RA") college graduates who wore glasses.

One such lifer cook (Military Occupational Specialist 92G: Cook) took particular pleasure in calling me "Yard Bird" and finding ways to harass me such as threatening to make me clean the grease trap, scrub the grout between the floor tiles with a toothbrush or, more often, peel potatoes when the potato peeler "broke down" – which always happened when I pulled KP.

On the day in question, Lifer Cook announced with

see PEELING page A4

Turners Clinches the 2015 Franklin County League Title

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Softball Indians finished the week with 3 wins on 3 shut outs. Mackenzie Phillips used her "Nunchuk Fire," as her teammates have been calling it, to silence all three opponents.

In fact, Mackenzie pitched 2 perfect games this week and, with the help of relief Pitcher Peyton Emery and the defensive prowess of the rest of the Tribe, Powertown has shut out six teams in a row.

On the offensive side of the diamond, Blue utilized the long ball to ensure the 3 victories. With these 3 victories, the Blue Indians improved their record to 14 and 1, and when they beat Frontier on May 19, they clinched the 2015 Franklin League title.

Turners Falls 9 – Hopkins 0

Different game, different strategy. Although there's a strategy for every pitch that's thrown, every swing at the plate and every runner on base, there's a greater strategy for every game that's played.

In the second Hopkins game, played on Tuesday, May 12, the strategy for Turners Falls was "long ball". That was evident when Mackenzie Salls came to the plate in the first inning. She



DAVID HOYT PHOTO

No. 6 Amber Caouette is congratulated by teammates as she crosses the plate on her 5th inning 2-run homer. Amber went 5 for 5 on May 15 as the Turners Falls Indians defeated the Mahar Senators, 21-0 at a Franklin County League softball game in Orange.

cracked a booming fly ball which was chased down by the outfielder. Then Jenna Putala crushed a double. The other three batters in the first, Amber Caouette, Nicole John and Gabrielle Arzuaga also swung for the fences.

Full swings and booming fouls ended the inning for the Tribe. But that's ok. The last time these two teams played was a mercy-rule 28-to-nothing drubbing, and it seemed that Coach Gary Mullins was giving the green light to most of his batters.

The first batter in the second Blue inning was Mackenzie Phillips. She found the sweet spot and parked

an over-the-wall home run. Then, in the third inning, Mackenzie Salls hit a 2-2 line drive up the third base line. Jenna Putala brought her home with a "Fisk foul pole" dinger.

In the bottom of the fifth, with Powertown up 4 to nil, Mackenzie Phillips broke the fence. Her hit was hard but low enough for the outfielders to believe they could catch it. The left and center fielders went up but the ball was hit too far. They flipped over the fence, the fence collapsed and the ball bounced into the grass beyond. After the fence was repaired and

see SOFTBALL page A6



Fort Wadsworth, today.

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The Montague Reporter

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It's Tick Season!

What has eight legs, hides out in the woods, slices a tiny hole in your skin and anchors its head inside while feasting on your blood? Why, no, it's not four newspaper editors. Why would you even say that? We're talking today about ticks. That should have been apparent from the headline.

All that useless snow we got this year, according to certain experts, failed to freeze out this year's tick crop, and may instead have insulated a particularly hearty batch. We are living in deer tick territory, and these charming little parasites often come with their own parasite, *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacteria associated with Lyme disease.

We are unable to untangle the medical controversy over how persistent Lyme itself is in the human body, but even short-term Lyme is a terribly draining ailment, and the typical treatment – long courses of antibiotics – takes its own collateral damage.

In 2013 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention concluded that over 300,000 human cases of Lyme occur each year in the US – about an order of magnitude worse than was previously determined. Vermont leads in per-capita cases, followed by New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, and Massachusetts.

Last month, Beth Daley from the New England Center for Investigative Reporting combed through the budgets, talked to researchers, advocates and state officials, and discovered something many should find shocking: the state does not spend a penny on Lyme prevention, or tick containment.

Some towns are taking to permitting special deer kills in an effort to reduce a tick vector, but it's unclear that this would help – despite their common name, deer ticks hang out on a variety of animals, and have especially benefited from the spread of white-footed mice.

In fact, one measure to fight the spread of ticks has already been taken – but too late. In 2009 the state banned the importation and sale of Japanese barberry, an ornamental shrub many will find familiar for its long red berries.

Having a rather robust reproductive strategy – a single plant can self-fertilize and sends seeds in every direction – and no natural local predators, the barberry is one of the region's most pernicious invasives.

White-footed mice love it under barberry, which afford a protective canopy while they breed – and serve as apex hosts for deer ticks in their larval stage. Larvae need a blood meal to grow into nymphs, and mice make a great starter mammal for these insidious specks.

Most Lyme disease in humans doesn't come from adult ticks. It usually takes quite some time – 36 hours, claims the CDC – for *Borrelia* bacteria to spread from the feeding tick to its host.

While we may feel violated and and shudder in horror as we try to tweeze the largest passengers out of our skin (if you can manage it without ripping the head off, it's safer), researchers believe that it's the nymphs, the size of poppy seeds, that are responsible for most Lyme cases.

The University of Rhode Island's "Tick Encounter" website, a fairly useful public resource, insists that the best defense against ticks is the insecticide permethrin – you could spray your shoes with it or even buy pre-treated pants. But a review of permethrin's effects on non-tick bystanders including fish, frogs and cats leads us to disagree with the wisdom of this method.

Until such time as all the barberry has been uprooted and made into bonfires, and swarms of tiny tick-eating robots set loose on the countryside, it may make sense to throw clothes in the dryer after a tromp through the brush.

Just ten minutes on high heat should desiccate any nymphs hitching a ride in your shirt collars, pants cuffs or sneakers. It sounds counter-intuitive, but a quick cycle in the dryer before the wash is the best way to do this.

Don't fear the great outdoors. We live in the middle of a large, relatively well-conserved and utterly beautiful region of woods and reverted pastureland.

Hike the trails, picnic at the overlooks, swim in the ponds, lay in the grasses and look up at the vast, milky ocean of probably lifeless solar systems, stretching through space in all directions.

But until we take their threat seriously and thoughtfully, we will share this wonderland with hard little bugs that can wreck our immune systems. So every night, after you brush your teeth and before you climb into bed, take a few minutes to check for ticks.



Letters to

the Editors

Thanks For Tearing
Playground Down

Ballots
Were Late

I would like to express my deepest appreciation towards Gary Turn, John Collins and the Mohawk Ramblers for their assistance with dismantling the playground structure at the old Montague Center School on Saturday, May 9.

The project went much smoother than originally anticipated, for which we were certainly thankful. The structure incurred no damage during its removal, and we were able to salvage the entire unit and store it in the old blacksmith shop for future installation at Montague Center Park.

The Parks & Recreation Department is hoping to start a master plan process for Montague Center Park within the next year, which will initiate a facility-wide improvement project that will serve the community well for the next few generations.

The time, muscle, and resources we received from Gary, John and the Mohawk Ramblers helped us take that crucial first step.

Sincerely,
Jon Dobosz, CPRP
Director of Parks & Rec.,
Town of Montague

I am writing this on Thursday, May 14. I am shocked to know the absentee ballots were just sent this week for the election for the town of Montague for the election Monday, May 18. Town hall is closed on Friday, May 15.

Apparently, the "printing was delayed."

There are many who request these ballots. They could be veterans, disabled, etc. We all have the right to vote, and the right to be counted in our town election. Are our late votes being considered?

Those who are concerned by this should write to Secretary of State William Galvin.

Thank you,
Betty Tegel,
Disabled advocate
Turners Falls

GUEST
EDITORIAL

Comments On Reconciliation

By PAT ALLEN

Former Montague selectboard member Pat Allen delivered these comments at the annual reconciliation ceremony, which took place last Saturday during the River's Song events at Turners Falls.

Once again in the glorious month of May with its rich promise of bounty and life, we join together to commemorate, to reflect and to celebrate.

We commemorate today those who endured the hardships of that most difficult period in North American history in the Pocumtuck valley; those who lost their lives here at the confluence of the Connecticut and Falls Rivers in the Turners Falls massacre; and those who lived on to give us their memories and lessons of that fateful time.

Through the development of the Battlefield Grant studying the Turners Falls Massacre, we can use those valuable memories and lessons to realize a more accurate understanding of that event.

Joining Montague are several New England tribes: the Nipmuc Tribe of Massachusetts, the Narragansett Indian Tribe, the Aquinnah Wampanoag Tribe, and the Stockbridge-Munsee Mohican Tribe as well as the Gill, Deerfield, Northfield and Greenfield Historical Commissions. As a result of their research a unique document will be created.

For the first time, we believe, there will be four parallel reports, each unfiltered by others' preconceptions. Finally the native perspective will be granted equal standing in our national history.

We reflect today on the issues of humanity: how to live in harmony with each other; how to respond and adapt to mankind's changing needs and desires; and how to respect and protect our environment so that our earth may continue to sustain and nourish us in the future.

When I think of the Reconciliation Ceremony of 2004, I am amazed at the transformation of

Turners Falls since that year. As I look back over the last dozen years, I have seen remarkable changes. Not only is our village expanding its traditional economic efforts, but it has found a new identity: Turners Falls has become a celebration of the arts and joy of living, funkiness prevails, openness to new creative expressions are encouraged, and people want to join us in parades, soapbox derbies, and festivals of all kinds. We are actually happy to be us now.

Was the ceremony itself the cause of this renaissance? Perhaps not, but the effect at that moment of recognizing that something must change among ourselves – that we must reach out and seek help to bridge that chasm of more than 300 years in order to begin a process of healing – opened a door for us that has brought a fundamental change in our perception of ourselves. And we owe much of that to the spirit of cooperation and support given to us by our friends and neighbors in the

see GUEST ED next page

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Members of the Lake Pleasant Village Association extend a heartfelt tip of their collective motorcycle cap to members of the **Mohawk Ramblers Club**. As has been done for many years past the motorcycle club conducted its annual rid-the-roadsides-of-trash campaign during the Mothers' Day weekend.

The Wendell Climate Change Group will gather on Friday, May 22, at 7 p.m. in the Herrick Room, Wendell Free Library, for **"The Ethics of Fracking,"** a film by Green Planet Films, about the political, spiritual, scientific, medical, and professional battle over hydraulic fracturing.

There will be a panel discussion with Jim Cutler, co-founder, Hilltown Community Rights; and executive board member, Massachusetts Pipeline Awareness Network

(MassPLAN.org, and Pipeline Awareness Network for the Northeast, Inc. (PLAN-NE.org).

Fellow panelists include Leigh Youngblood, Executive Director, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust; Julia Blyth, member of Northfield Open Space Committee and Board of Directors of the Greater Northfield Watershed Association, and special guest, Vicki Elson.

The Montague Public Libraries will be starting their **summer schedule**. May 23 is the last Saturday the libraries will be open until September 12.

On Saturday, May 23, Ryan Voiland, along with his wife Sarah, will be hosting a **Garden Party at Old Depot Gardens** to celebrate its 25th anniversary and kick off the growing season.

The event starts at 10 a.m. with

a plant talk, led by the Voilands. At 11 a.m. there will be a presentation on the history of the farm and a toast with the family to celebrate this milestone. And all day, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., there will be free samples of the local products sold at the stand. The stand is located at 504 Turners Falls Road.

Participants are also welcome to visit Red Fire Farm fields on Meadow Road, a short drive from the farm stand. There is a walking trail on the farm and it is open for self-guided tours all day.

Kidleidoscope season kicks off at the Great Falls Discovery Center on Tuesday, May 26, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and continues each Tuesday until October 6.

Come learn about our neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed! Kidleidoscope is a kid-friendly, hands-on environmental experience for young children.

Each weekly topic includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce you and your child to the natural world. Programming recommended for ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian.

The Cushman Library, 28 Church Street in Bernardston is hosting **"When the Road Came**

Through: How the Construction of I-91 Changed Bernardston," an informative and interesting presentation by Barry Deitz on Thursday, May 28, at 7 p.m.

This talk is funded by the Bernardston Cultural Council, a local agency that is funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Friends of Cushman Library will furnish refreshments.

May is National Melanoma and Skin Cancer Detection and Awareness Month. To help raise awareness, the Oncology Department at Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Joel Gordon, MD, dermatologist, will co-sponsor a **free skin cancer screening** on Friday, May 29, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. in the BFMC Oncology Department.

During the screening, Dr. Gordon will examine new growths that are less than one year old, as well as old growths that have changed in color, size, shape, pain level or are causing irritation or bleeding. The screening is not intended for individuals with skin rashes or for those who have seen a dermatologist in the past year.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Change Comes To GMRSD School Board



BLANCHETTE PHOTO

Gill-Montague school committee members marked their ballots at Tuesday night's meeting to elect new officers. Left to right: April Reipold, Michael Langknecht, Sandra Brown, superintendent Michael Sullivan, Joyce Phillips, Jane Oakes, Leslie Cogswell, Marjorie Levenson, and new members Christina Postera and Valeria "Timmie" Smith.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

TURNERS FALLS — In a short meeting of the Gill-Montague school committee, members elected new officers beginning the new session with a spirit of change.

There were two new members joining the school committee, having just been elected: Valeria "Timmie" Smith of Gill, who won in a last-minute upset as a write-in candidate, defeating incumbent Jennifer Waldron, and Christina Postera of Montague, who is filling the seat vacated by Misty Lyons.

The only order of business was the election of officers. Joyce Phillips and Sandra Brown were each nominated for the position of chair. In a

vote of 5 to 4, Brown won and is now the new chair of the school committee.

In the nominating process for vice chair, nominations were made for Phillips, Oakes and April Reipold. Both Phillips and Oakes declined the nomination. Reipold was elected vice chair with five votes in favor — and Phillips, Oakes, Cogswell and Postera, the four members who had voted for Phillips as chair, declining to vote at all.

Filling the other positions, Michael Langknecht found himself to be the one member willing to fill either the position of secretary, left empty by Brown, and assistant treasurer, which was previously held by Lyons. He agreed to serve in both roles, being local and usually avail-

able should he be asked to sign a document in the uncommon situation where the treasurer is not available.

All members supported his selection to fill these positions.

Brown asked for agenda requests before ending the meeting. Marjorie Levenson asked that time be spent reviewing Robert's Rules of Order, for clarification for older members and to inform newer members. The meeting was adjourned and members left the building stepping into the daylight of a cool spring evening, lingering for a time to talk.

The next regular school committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 26 at the Turners Falls High School at 6:30 p.m.

GUEST ED from previous page Native American communities.

We celebrate today that we have begun a path to peace and empowerment of all people. We have begun to understand that in appreciation of the vast diversity open to us through each other's backgrounds and experiences, we will find greater strength to find the solutions to not only our local concerns but our global ones as well. That door is now open to all of us. By welcoming our different backgrounds and cultures, we can embrace our future potential.

I can only imagine the wealth of benefits that can come to all of us in the future. I can see a cultural /

historical / living center developing here at the confluence of the Connecticut and Falls Rivers.

By creating a place where scholarship, seminars, demonstrations, examinations of artifacts and a way of life can come together in one locale, and where active and vibrant discussions in a setting of peace and harmony can only generate a deeper mutual understanding and cooperation.

Then we will have returned the Great Falls to the true nature of its settlement, which was shattered, more than 300 years ago.

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A completed application & resume must be delivered to the WPCF no later than 2:00 p.m., Friday, 5 June 2015.

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Grade 8
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Consultants Tour IP Mill

By KATIE NOLAN

Economic planner Frank Mahady of FXM Associates of Mattapoisett, architect Josh Fiala of The Cecil Group of Boston, and Tighe & Bond project manager Tracy Adamski and engineers Rebecca Sherer and Craig French toured the former International Paper Mill property Monday, and then met with the selectboard Monday night to share their initial impressions.

Adamski said the consultants were “just getting our thoughts in order,” and predicted that the feasibility study for the property would take months to complete.

Mahady told the Erving selectboard that there might be potential for developing rental housing at a portion of the property. He said there is often pent-up demand for rentals by “empty nesters” over 55, and those in their thirties who “can’t yet afford to buy.”

Selectboard chair William Bem-bury suggested that, with railroad access nearby, manufacturing was a possibility for the site.

Mahady replied that the prospect of finding “a single end user” was slight. “You’d have to be very lucky to find something like that,” he said.

Fiala said that the four-story, L-shaped historic building at the property has “good bones,” and “underlying characteristics that makes mills reusable.” He said that the more recent administrative/office building is deteriorated and has mold, and that the mill production building had “idiosyncrasies,” but that the loading and receiving area was in good shape.

Bembury asked if the administrative building should be taken down. Fiala said that the property currently has too much square footage, and that it would be worthwhile to “edit back to the square footage viable on the market.”

The consultants listed some of the assets of the property: a water supply and sewer connection, views of the Millers River and access to the river, enough area for parking and good access to highways. Mahady said that Franklin County and Erving have solid economic development plans, and that “the creative economy is well-represented in Franklin County.” He said redevelopment would “have to be grounded in what it will cost to bring the buildings up to code to support residential or manufacturing uses.”

French said the feasibility study would include inspection and evaluation of the structure and condition of

the mill buildings to provide an opinion on the level of effort needed to re-develop them.

The consultants will review site information and develop a strategy for the site and then meet with the town’s IP Mill feasibility study committee. The committee is still being formed. Before the feasibility study is complete, the consultants will present their findings in a public meeting in Erving. According to the project timeline provided by Adamski, the final market feasibility, architectural, structural, access/parking and development scenario report will be completed by October.

34 Northfield Road

The board signed the purchase and sale agreement for the property at 34 Northfield Road. The annual town meeting voted \$165,000 for purchasing the property. The current owners asked for a 5% deposit with the agreement and for an extension on the closing date, set for June 15.

The board voted to pay the deposit, but keep the June closing date while allowing the owners until July 15 to have personal property removed from the house. The board would like personal property removed from the out-buildings on the property by June 15, so that a senior and community center mower can be stored.

Special Town Meeting

The board considered draft articles for the June 29 special town meeting, including \$25,000 to be put aside for future library improvements, \$10,000 for repairs at the Pleasant Street School building, \$2,500 for refinishing the library’s oak tables and chairs, renewal of the contract with the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield, money for a snow blower and washer and dryer at the senior and community center, and money to repair the police station floor.

The warrant will be finalized by the June 15 meeting.

Other Business

The board approved setting up a town of Erving Facebook page, with Jacquelyn Boyden and Betsy Sicard as administrators.

The only bid for the surplus 1978 fire truck was rejected because it was \$3,632.12, lower than the minimum requested bid of \$9,000. Fire chief Philip Wonkka suggested revisiting selling the truck in a month or so.

ELECTIONS from page A1

restaurant on Third Street. “I will go to the meetings, and now I will deliver on those commitments that I made.... I’ll try to do everything I can for all those who have put their confidence in me.”

Kuklewicz said he has been watching selectboard meetings and thinks he could have “a good working relationship” with Michael Nelson and Christopher Boutwell.

Kuklewicz said that one of the first issues he hopes to work on is securing better administrative support for town boards and committees.

“We can’t be expecting volunteers to understand and maintain all of the paperwork,” he said. “We need to give some sort of support. I would also like to look at a more organized way of communicating among members of various committees and boards.”

He said open meeting law can provide challenges to effective com-

munication, and that he would investigate providing all elected and appointed officials with town email addresses. “I don’t know much about our IT infrastructure; I need to see what that is.”

As for the selectboard itself, Kuklewicz said he felt his years of chairmanship of the Franklin County Technical School committee would help him bring facilitation skills: “I try to remember that the chairman of the committee has no more power than any other member on that committee. I think there are chairmanships in various boards in town where people forget that.”

At Tuesday night’s meeting, he and Boutwell designated Michael Nelson as chair.

Echoing statements he had made along the campaign trail, Kuklewicz also said he would “like for the selectboard meetings to be more about dealing with the matter at hand than some of the tangents

PEELING from page A1

great satisfaction that the potato peeler had broken down, and that 300 pounds of potatoes in huge five-gallon pots of icy water awaited our paring knives in the cooler.

In the early evening, after cleaning up from the evening meal and 13 or 14 hours after starting, four or five of us pulled chairs up around a single five-gallon cooking kettle brimming with potatoes immersed in ice cold water, and started peeling.

Reflected in the double-glazed glass-windowed walls, the empty dining room receded into a fluorescent blur, repeating four or five figures in greasy combat fatigues dipping our hands into the icy water to retrieve the spuds. Waiting in the cooler was a dense cluster of many such kettles, enough for another 275 pounds.

After a while, a kind of rhythm settled in as we took turns reaching into the frigid water to gather up the next potato.

As you might expect, after half an hour or so, our hands grew colder and colder from repeated dips into the water and every so often, one of us would accidentally grab someone else’s hand and, as our senses were as dulled by fatigue and our fingers were numb, we had to squeeze occasionally to make sure it was a potato.

When this inadvertent squeezing had happened two or three times, a beatific grin began to appear on my face as a particular passage from *Moby Dick* came to mind.

I began to explain to my comrades that in *Moby Dick*, after the *Pequod* captures a whale, the sailors sit around a barrel and manually squeeze the spermaceti drawn from the whale’s head.

In the book, Melville calls the whale’s spermaceti “sperm” because early whalers mistook the spermaceti, a highly valued waxy substance, for the whale’s sperm – hence the misnomer, “sperm whale”.

I described how Ishmael has an epiphany about squeezing hands, brotherhood and human kindness. But all these baffled, bleary-eyed GIs heard was “sperm” and “squeezing hands”. Then my voice gave out as I saw utter bewilderment and fear in the faces bobbing over the bucket of tubers.

With dull, incredulous gazes, my comrades looked at me and one of them shook his head and said “Are

you Queer?” (The term “Gay” had no sexual persuasion attached to it in 1968, at least not in this isolated corner of New York City.)

Here’s the passage from *Moby Dick* that brought the smile to my face during the numbed groping and squeezing of my fellow peelers’ hands.

Squeeze! squeeze! squeeze! all the morning long; I squeezed that sperm till I myself almost melted into it; I squeezed that sperm till a strange sort of insanity came over me; and I found myself unwittingly squeezing my co-laborers’ hands in it, mistaking their hands for the gentle globules.

Such an abounding, affectionate, friendly, loving feeling did this avocation beget; that at last I was continually squeezing their hands, and looking up into their eyes sentimentally; as much as to say, — Oh! my dear fellow beings, why should we longer cherish any social acerbities, or know the slightest ill-humor or envy! Come; let us squeeze hands all round; nay, let us all squeeze ourselves into each other; let us squeeze ourselves universally into the very milk and sperm of kindness.

After the *Moby Dick* epiphany, conversation died right down while numbed hands groped, cautiously now, for the next spud from the kettle brimming with ice cold spuds.

Someone found a radio, spun the dial to WABC, and our exhausted brains peeled on auto-pilot to “Do You Know the Way to San Jose,” “Mrs. Robinson,” “Reach out of the Darkness,” “This Guy’s in Love with You,” and “Jumpin’ Jack Flash.”

Finally, the hour hand crept toward nine p.m., and after the peeled spuds were safely stored back in the cooler, potato parings and ice water eddied down the drain, washing away all traces of the day’s squeezings of kindness and brotherhood.

We stumbled up to the barracks and tumbled into bunks, mindful, even then, in the enforced brotherhood of barracks slumber, of war halfway around the world in Vietnam.

Editors’ note: the author served Uncle Sam in 1967-1968. A college roommate, a Navy fighter pilot, went Missing in Action August 20, 1972, while on a mission in the skies over Vietnam.



that the audience brings... We need to find a balance: we need to allow public participation, but not let it dictate the decision-making process, or skew it.”

“A Pretty Darn Good Job”

Speaking on Wednesday, Mark Fairbrother said he was “pretty disappointed” at his electoral loss.

“Overall, I thought I was doing a good job,” he said, “and I thought I was helping my community by doing it.”

Fairbrother described a second term defined by a growing tension with critics who “kind of vilified” him as “this angry bastard” for insisting on taking realistic, or pragmatic, positions.

“Once somebody decides they don’t like you,” he explained, “it’s a lot easier for you to do something that they decide they don’t like.”

“We’re there to do as much as we can for the public, but we’re there for

the whole town. And we also have to protect – people don’t like to think about it, but we also have to think of the town’s position in legal terms. And sometimes, that puts a wet blanket on things, and that sucks.”

By his second term, according to Fairbrother, he had developed “a pretty good handle on things,” and his pragmatism in defending the town’s interests put him at odds with the wrong crowd.

“Some people come in and they want to do this and they want to do that, make this wonderful thing happen,” he said. “I just took a very pragmatic, practical point of view: ‘You need to understand the ramifications of doing that!’”

Though he sometimes raised his voice when the public threatened to derail the meetings, he said, “I don’t like getting angry, it chews me to hell! I don’t like that. I really am a nice guy.”

see ELECTIONS page A5

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LEVERETT from page A1

- Leverett Road (the roads and towns switch names at the border), and Teawaddle Hill Road. The properties along the Juggler Meadow/Amherst-Leverett roads are now surrounded by a large green fence, and the property contains a barn to store vintage automobiles, a gym, a golf course, and numerous other amenities.

A selectboard member said that Tozloski's complaint and request for a state determination on housing, rather than a settlement with the town, was due to his belief that he would never get back the money that was put into these properties.

Michael Kittredge's first house and land purchase in Leverett happened in 1984 when he and his wife bought 113 Juggler Meadow Road, two tracts of land with six house lots for \$144,000.

Over the years, a steady expansion of ownership began along Juggler Meadow and Amherst Road and Teawaddle Hill Road.

Kittredge established a land trust, the Pocomo Road Nominee Trust, with Michael D. Parry and Harry J. Flood as Trustees.

Michael D. Parry is the former CEO and president of Yankee Candle Company, and a long-time friend of Michael Kittredge. Parry took the company public in 1999 and retired in 2001. He is now raising sheep at Springdelle Farm and helping his wife Barbara at her Foxfire Fiber and Designs in Shelburne.

Under Parry's lead, the trust made offers to abutting landowners to af-

ford greater privacy to Kittredge. Public record deeds in the Massachusetts Land Records website include the 1996 purchase of 14 Amherst Road for \$124,000.

In 1998, 6 Amherst Road was sold to the trust for \$400,000, on land purchased two years earlier for \$115,000. This was the former site of a cooperative housing community known as Ant Rocky's, in the 1970s and '80s.

The "Wing Man"

Land records show that Barre Tozloski was appointed Trustee of The Pocomo Road Nominee Trust in 2004. Michael Kittredge often prioritized hiring local businesses and local people, and this is how he became acquainted with Tozloski, who owned and ran the former Ben's Service Station in Sunderland on Bridge Road. An appreciation for cars brought them together. Tozloski still maintains a garage space at the Bridge Road location.

A photograph in the Spring 2011 edition of Mesh New England Magazine shows Kittredge and Tozloski at a "British Invasion" car show in Vermont, posed in front of Kittredge's Jaguar. Tozloski is identified as Kittredge's "longtime confidant and automotive wing man".

The tall green fence went up around the property during Tozloski's ongoing tenure as Trustee and more property was acquired, including the 26 Amherst Road parcel currently before the Appellate Tax Board. That property and 22 Amherst Road were

acquired in 2004.

Two houses owned by the trust on the other side of Amherst-Leverett Road are up for sale as of earlier this month, for \$650,000 and \$340,000. There is also a small parcel of land behind these properties on which Tozloski is requesting 3 house lots as part of an ADR (Alternate Dispute Resolution) settlement.

In February of 2015, the town of Amherst approved the application for a 7-lot residential subdivision on 17 acres of pasture, formerly occupied by Landscapes by Earthcare, Inc. Amherst Real Properties, LLC, also trusted by Tozloski and associated with Kittredge, bought the property for \$1.05 million in 2009.

There was an initial delay due to wetlands and natural habitat considerations, but Amherst's wetlands administrator Elizabeth Willson said the trust agreed to abide by the conservation commission and Natural Heritage Programs' recommendations, such as the nesting enhancement area for the eastern box turtle and to site the houses away from the wetland area.

The landscape surrounding the original Kittredge property on Juggler Meadow Road has changed under Tozloski's stewardship of the land trusts. Michael Kittredge endured a stroke in November of 2012, and it is unclear to what extent he is involved in the trust's decisions.

Barre Tozloski's primary residence is in Sunderland. He declined to respond to inquiry.



one and several can ride at once.

One of the highlights of Heather Norwood's day was seeing Jacob enjoying the swing along with a swarm of other children, just one of a gang. It is an experience often denied to the eleven-year-old Turners Falls native.

From Diagnosis to Advocacy

Jacob was born five weeks early and spent two weeks in the NICU. His parents expected he would have some developmental delays, but at six months, his pediatrician ordered an MRI that showed the infant was missing brain tissue.

This was the moment they realized he would have lifelong physical and cognitive impairments, and the beginning of visits with medical specialists of all kinds.

Jacob suffered seizures beginning at 18 months old, cannot speak or walk and failed to thrive due to oral motor issues. The family made the decision to have a feeding tube placed in 2009, which has helped immeasurably.

For many years, the Norwoods were frustrated by a lack of diagnosis. It was not until 2010 they were told Jacob has FOXG1 gene disorder, a rare and recently discovered condition.

They searched the internet for information, finding only a few technical papers written by scientists. Heather posted on a message board called "Circle of Moms" in hopes of finding other families who might have more information. It was months before anyone responded.

Over the course of the next year, she found five more families in the United States with children diagnosed with FOXG1. They built a Facebook page, and found 30 more families in the next couple of years.

Frustrated by the lack of information about the disorder, they formed a non-profit, the International FoxG1 Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 or-

JACOB from page A1

of Ernie's excavation equipment. The volunteers clocked over 130 hours prepping the site and putting this glider together. They didn't stop until a mountain of mulch was spread to the exacting safety standards of parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, who gave special thanks to 2nd Street Baking Company, Scotys, and Turners Falls Pizza House for their food contributions.

Three Years Pay Off

When Jacob first rode the glider, a trio of women looked on with tears streaming down their faces. Lesley Cogswell, Marie Putala and Kathy Webber were the main drivers behind the efforts to raise money for this project. They started back in 2012 after the park renovations were completed.

Jacob's mom, Heather Norwood, had wondered what it would cost to add accessible playground equipment for children in wheelchairs. The three women formed a small subcommittee from a larger community group formed to assist families with life-limiting challenges and began fundraising.

When Greg's father passed away unexpectedly in June 2013, his widow, Betsy, requested that memorial donations be made to the Accessible Swing Project. Donations in memory of the much-loved Philip Norwood came from all over the country, and added several thousand dollars to the campaign. Cogswell says the community and businesses have been incredibly supportive and generous.

The first swing choice didn't pan out when the Australian Liberty Swing couldn't meet all the required safety standards in a timely fashion. While the Liberty Swing has excellent features, it is fairly restrictive, requires a key to operate and is restricted to use by one person in a wheelchair at a time. The glider, on the other hand, can be used by any-

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ganization. Their missions are to support the families in need, educate the medical community and public about the disorder and to provide funding to the three neurogeneticists who have begun studying FOXG1 in hopes of someday discovering treatments and possibly a cure.

Heather Norwood is currently the vice president of the organization. She says they now have 151 families world-wide with a definite diagnosis, and most are families with children 5 and under. The foundation suspects there are older children who have never been diagnosed due to the lack of knowledge.

Vote for a Van

It is a challenge to parent a child with multiple handicaps, and the Norwoods have their share of challenges in addition to Jacob's medical complications. He is now 5 feet tall and 70 pounds. He has almost outgrown his special car seat, and it requires two people to lift him into a vehicle.

If it were not for the school district transporting him to school and MassHealth providing transportation to medical appointments, Jacob would rarely leave the house. Transportation will get more difficult as Jacob continues to grow.

The family has investigated purchasing an accessible van through the Massachusetts Catastrophic Illness in Children Relief Fund. Unfortunately, that fund requires applicants to pay for items up front, then enter a lottery for reimbursement.

Accessible vans range from \$40,000 to \$50,000, which is beyond the Norwood budget at this time. They have recently entered an online contest in hopes of winning a van, and have received more than 9,400 votes as of press time.

Interested readers can vote daily

for Jacob: on the website www.mobilityawarenessmonth.com, click on "Vote Now," and search for the entrant, Gregory Norwood of Turners Falls, MA.

The Norwood family is so grateful for the community support of both the swing project and the online votes for a van. Heather talks about the amazing support of the Gill-Montague Regional School District staff who have been involved with the family since Jacob's first days in the Early Intervention Program. She says she feels lucky to have a decent primary health insurance program and to live in Massachusetts where MassHealth provides excellent secondary coverage.

The Norwoods do not talk much about the frustrations and worries of the years, of the unknowns, or their fears for the future. Like many ordinary parents dealt a difficult hand, they have risen to the extraordinary as they continue to cope with the challenges of a child in need.

In the Norwoods' own words, from their submission to the van competition:

Why is Jacob a hero? He is a silent teacher. He teaches patience, resilience, compassion, hope, flexibility, love, and so much more.

Not only has he inspired our community to raise funds for a wheelchair accessible swing at the town park, but he has also inspired us to join other families and start the International FOXG1 Foundation (www.foxg1.com) to help research the disorder.

Jacob is a pleasure to spend time with; he is happy, loves to laugh, enjoys spending time with his family and has even developed his own way of saying "I love you".

Jacob is pure joy.



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Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 87: Shade Tree Law

Section 1. All trees within a public way or on the boundaries thereof including trees planted in accordance with the provisions of section 7 shall be public shade trees; and when it appears in any proceeding in which the ownership of or rights in a tree are material to the issue.... it shall be taken to be within the highway and to be public property until the contrary is shown.

Section 3. Except as provided by section five, public shade trees shall not be cut, trimmed or removed, in whole or in part, by any person other than the tree warden or his deputy, even if he be the owner of the fee in the land on which such tree is situated, except upon a permit in writing from said tree warden, nor shall they be cut down or removed by the tree warden or his deputy or other person without a public hearing....

Section 4. Tree wardens shall not cut down or remove or grant a permit for the cutting down or removal of a public shade tree if, at or before a public hearing as provided in the preceding section, objection in writing is made by one or more persons, unless such cutting or removal or permit to cut or remove is approved by the selectmen or by the mayor.

Section 7. Cities and towns may appropriate money for the purpose of acquiring and planting shade trees in public ways. The tree warden, or a private organization acting with the written consent of the tree warden, may plant shade trees acquired with public or private funds in a public way, or if he deems it expedient, upon adjoining land at a distance not exceeding 20 feet from the layout of such public way....

Section 14b. A utility may, or at the request of the tree warden shall, submit an annual vegetation management plan describing the maintenance work to be performed in a municipality.... The plan shall be submitted not less than 90 days prior to the date the utility proposes to begin its maintenance work. Upon receipt of the plan, the tree warden, or a designee thereof, shall notify the utility within 60 days, in writing, whether or not the plan has been approved....

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Board Confronts Shade Tree Policy, Late Ballots

By JEFF SINGLETON

Newly elected Montague Selectboard member Rich Kuklewicz attended his first board meeting on Tuesday, May 19. The meeting lasted for over two hours and contained several complex and potentially contentious topics. These included a complaint that the town had not mailed out absentee ballots in a timely fashion, a request that the town join a legal action against a proposed natural gas pipeline, and, above all, a good deal of confusion about the elimination of eleven historic trees on Montague Street.

Kuklewicz sat down to work and immediately nominated Michael Nelson to replace Chris Boutwell as chair. The motion was approved 2-0, with Nelson abstaining.

Nelson then assumed control of the meeting, recognizing Betty Tegel for a public comment.

Tegel complained that she had not received her ballot for the previous day's election in a timely manner. She said that the ballots had been mailed "on or around" May 10; that they arrived in her post office on the 14th; that town hall was closed on the 15th; and that the election was held on Monday the 18th. She stated that she "scrambled around to meet the deadline."

Tegel called for an investigation by the Massachusetts Secretary of State. She also called for the selectboard to adopt a policy of mailing out local ballots forty-five days in advance, as is required in November state elections.

Nelson said the board could not take a vote that evening, because the issue was not on the agenda, but "what we can do is speak with the town clerk, find out more about this, and definitely put it on a future agenda."

John Reynolds updated the board on the status of the Boston Post cane, a replica of which is given to the oldest citizen in town. Reynolds said the real cane would be placed in a display box on the wall opposite the secretary's office. Nelson suggested that selectboard members take a look at the spot on their way out of the meeting.

At the request of town planner Walter Ramsey, the board put on hold an award to the firm Mountain View Landscapes and Lawn-care for the Turners Falls Streetscape Project.

Next the board approved its summer schedule, which means meetings every two weeks beginning in June. Reynolds encouraged the board to revive its onetime tradition of summer meetings in separate villages. He

objected to the argument that this could not be done due to the lack of wiring for live cable broadcasts.

Melissa Carballo of the Church Light of Salvation requested and received approval for three "religious events" at Peskeompskut Park in May and June. The events will include preaching and music.

Tree Policies

Next up was the issue of the removal of eleven potentially historic trees on Montague Street without a public hearing, an action which may have violated the state shade tree law. Mark Stevens, the town tree warden, was accompanied by Jamie Beauchesne, the arborist for the Eversource power company, which implemented the actual tree removal.

According to Stevens, "The trees were dying at a rapid rate. I knew about them, Jaime came and asked me to remove them for his lines. They were behind the sidewalk, out of the right of way. I [told] him if the residents gave him permission to remove the trees, to remove the trees... that's what happened on Montague Street."

Beauchesne said he had received written permission from every involved resident to remove the trees. Several times during the ensuing discussion, Stevens and Beauchesne emphasized that the trees "were on private property."

Kuklewicz asked Stevens if the trees were town-owned trees, a reference to the fact that they may have been planted by former tree warden Lyman Klaiber. "Some say they are and some say they are not," responded Stevens, suggesting that there was a lack of evidence to answer the question. However, he said that many of the trees in the Hill section of Turners Falls are "likely Klaibers."

Frank Abbondanzio stated that if the trees were planted with public funds and within twenty feet of the town right of way they are considered public shade trees under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 87. This might mean their removal would require a public hearing.

Beauchesne held up a copy of a book which contained the shade tree law, and stated that Montague might be the only town in the state that maintains ownership of its public shade trees. He cited a number of towns to show the variety of policies on the issue.

The question of the exemption for utilities in the law also arose. The law suggests that utility companies may be exempt from the law, but only after presenting a "vegeta-

tion management plan" to be approved by the tree warden. At one point in the hearing, Beauchesne suggested that this process was optional.

Kuklewicz moved that the board "create a bylaw dealing with public shade trees, or trees that might be considered public shade trees, and work on coming up with a bylaw for 2016 Annual Town meeting. Until such time, we will ask the tree warden to inform the Town of any trees that might be considered public shade trees, and go through the hearing process to assure notification of the residents."

The motion was approved by the board.

There was a lengthy discussion of the policy of replanting trees, the status of the special fund for tree plantings, and the trees in planters on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Town meeting member David Detmold continued to advocate for more aggressive tree planting. He suggested creating two line items in the tree warden's budget: one for removal, and one for planting.

Stevens described his efforts to plant trees and the practical obstacles he faced. He stated that the planters on Avenue A should realistically contain only one tree. He also complained that he had not been contacted when tree issues were being discussed by the town.

Other Business

At the end of the meeting, the selectboard approved a motion to join an organization called Plan-NE that is challenging contracts between gas companies and the corporation building the proposed natural gas pipeline through Montague.

The contracts, one involving Berkshire Gas which serves Montague, are central to federal approval of the pipeline. They must first be approved by the state Department of Public Utilities.

The selectboard motion cited the recent town meeting vote against the proposed pipeline. According to Abbondanzio, the motion did not include a commitment to allocating funds for legal work, which may be discussed at a future meeting.

The board also approved a motion to place the borrowing for window replacement at the Sheffield school on the June 23 ballot. The vote also includes borrowing for renovations at the Franklin County Technical School.

The initiative is called a "debt exclusion" because it excludes borrowing for specific projects from the Proposition 2 ½ property tax limit.

SOFTBALL from page A1

fielders examined for injury, play resumed. And then it was Jessica Loynd's turn. Jessica put the score at 8 when she parked a homerun of her own.

And then, with the score 9 to nothing, the "Rookies" came in. I only use that term because the coaches used it, but rest assured that these so-called rookies were up to the task. With so many one-sided games this season, these underclassmen have gained valuable playing time experience.

In the top of the sixth, Hopkins loaded the bases by hitting a popup bunt, surrounded by two walks: three men on, no outs. But relief pitcher Peyton Emery whiffed the next batter. 1 out, bases still loaded. Then with cool acumen, the Tribe executed a home-to-first double play to the cheers of the starters who were now standing on top of the bench. The shutout was preserved and, it seems, the future of Turners Falls' softball was as well.

On the defensive side of the diamond, Mackenzie Phillips was per-

fect. She allowed no hits, no walks and had 12 K's. Peyton Emery had two strike outs in her relief effort and allowed no runs in the two innings that she pitched.

At the plate, Jenna Putala went 4 for 4 with a homerun and a double. Mackenzie Phillips' 2 hits were both homers. Amber Caouette finished with 2 hits. Maddy Johnson had a hit and Jessica Loynd batted-in 2 runs with her homer.

Turners Falls 21 – Mahar 0

On Friday afternoon, May 15, the Turners Falls Softball Indians defeated the Mahar Senators in a 21 to 0 mercy-rule victory. It was the fifth straight shutout for the Tribe and the second straight perfect game for Mackenzie Phillips.

Mackenzie K'ed 11 batters, and did not allow a hit or base on balls. Turners banged out 8 runs in the first inning and by the time they were retired in the second, the score was 14 to nothing. After 2 more runs in the third and 5 in the fifth, the game was mercifully called.

Amber Caouette went 5 for 5 at

the plate with a homerun and 6 RBIs. Jordyn Fiske had 2 hits, including a two bagger and knocked in 2 runs. Jordan Meattay also had 2 hits and 2 RBIs. Jenna Putala had 2 RBIs on two hits, including a double. Mackenzie Salls batted in 3 runs on her two hits. Gabby Arzuaga had 1 hit and 1 RBI. Melissa Hersey scored 2 runs, Maddy Johnson scored 1 run and earned a RBI. Jessica Loynd had a hit and scored a run. Mackenzie Phillips scored a run, had a hit and batted in a run.

Turners Falls 3 – Frontier 0

Powertown had difficulty by stranding baserunners against the Frontier Red Hawks on May 19. But in the long run, it didn't matter.

Turners' batters slammed three, over the wall homers and, in the end, that was all they needed because Mackenzie's "Nunchuk Fire" again kept the Hawks off the scoreboard.

It was a pitcher's duel in the first few innings. In the top of the first inning, Mackenzie Salls and Amber Caouette both struck out after two quick fouls for the first and third outs.

Jenna Putala flew out with a shallow right field fly for the middle out. In the bottom of the inning, Melissa Hersey notched the first out when she caught a fly. Then Frontier was retired with two infield grounders.

In the second inning, Gabby Arzuaga hit a 1 out single into right field, but the Blue inning ended with a double play. Frontier threatened in their half of the second, when, with one out, a Red batter reached first on an in-glove missed ball. She took second base on a base hit and advanced to third on a passed ball.

The first base runner stole second on a Mackenzie Phillips strikeout, and the Hawks had 2 men on with 2 outs. But a quick throw to first to get the next batter and the second inning ended with the score zero-zero.

In the top of the third inning, Jordyn Fiske reached base on a shallow right field pop but she was stranded on base. Frontier went 1-2-3 in their half of the third, but in the top of the fourth, Jenna Putala broke the stalemate. She hit a booming fly ball which landed 10 feet beyond the fence and just like that, Powertown

was up 1-nothing. Amber Caouette kept the rally going with a base hit, Nicole John got her to second base on a deep fly ball out and an interference call got her safely to third. But she was stranded there.

Mackenzie K'ed the first two Red batters in the bottom of the fourth inning and the third batter was retired on an infield fly.

Turners failed to score in the top of the fifth but in the bottom of the fifth, Mackenzie continued her "Nunchuk Fire" pitches. She struck out the first 2 batters, walked the next, and retired the side on an infield grounder.

Then in the sixth inning, Jenna Putala came to the plate again. And again, she homered, putting the Tribe up 2-zip. Not to be outdone, Nicole John cracked her own 4-bagger, and Turners was now leading 3-0.

Frontier failed to score as Mackenzie kept her "Nunchuk Fire" blazing and the game ended with a 3 nothing Indian victory. And by beating the second place Hawks, Turners Falls clinched the 2015 Franklin League Title.



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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

No Town Office Overhaul This Year

By TIA FATTARUSO

Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, Gill's town clerk, and Veronica LaChance, collector / treasurer, were discouraged and disappointed Tuesday when the selectboard was not ready to move forward on a construction project in their town hall office.

The project, which has been under discussion since 2010, would create one private office in the first floor room. With building costs estimated at \$8,750 and electric around \$3,000, the project is over the \$10,000 budget originally voted on. LaChance said she thought the electric price would probably come down, as that was an estimate from when they had hoped to put in two offices, which would have required more wiring and moving of lights.

Hodsdon Mayo expressed concern that not moving on the project now would put it off the radar of contractors whose schedules are filling up for the season.

The selectboard seemed empathetic, yet committed to either adhering to the \$10,000 budget cap, or seeking financing for the expanded, two-office renovation.

"We're held to a certain process," said selectman John Ward, who remains on the board after a write-in challenge from Fred Chase during Monday's election.

"One thing you have to be very careful about in a municipality is not cherry-picking projects so they appear to come in under budget," he said, in reference to a portion of the estimate for windows that would instead come out of the building maintenance fund.

Chair Randy Crochier said he would rather do the two offices at once. "I don't want to get into a project that's mission creep," he said.

"We're not giving you what you want right now, but we may be giving you a chance to get more," said Crochier.

Selectman Greg Snedeker added that the board should seek clearer answers to questions of heating and ventilation in the room as well.

Fire Department

Fire Chief Gene Beaubien attended Tuesday to inform the selectboard that the Greenfield Fire Department is hoping to upgrade an engine, making a retired engine available for purchase.

The department plans to meet with engineers Thursday night to assess the engine for sale, and while Beaubien thought they might reject it for its relatively small, 500 gallon water tank, he seemed intrigued by the possibility.

"We'd be replacing engine three?" Ward asked.

Baubien affirmed that Greenfield's 1988 Pierce would take the place of the 1979 engine.

Finance committee member Fred Chase, who provided additional information on the newer engine, pointed out that it would mean replacing a rural pump truck, with a 1,250 gallon poly tank, with a city truck.

"It's just something to think about," Beaubien said.

Chase pointed out that there are other sources for used engines, and Snedeker added that perhaps the department and the selectboard should focus instead on what would actually be wanted in a new engine.

Crochier asked for a small digression to address a need he saw in keeping maintenance records for town equipment in accordance with state regulation. While the board gets information from the highway and fire departments, he said, it is not necessarily always complete.

Chase agreed and directed the board to an article passed by the town in 1994 but never enacted for a five member machinery committee meant to assist the capital improvement planning committee. He said even three members would suffice, suggesting a selectman and two qualified people. Chase himself has acquired a special municipal employee exemption from the state, which others could do.

Snedeker asked about any potential for concern about such a committee, and Ward responded that the usual issue tends to be the possibility

for the perception of qualified individuals using the position for personal gain.

Baubien also let the board know that this year's Department of Conservation and Recreation grant application is due June 12. The state would provide \$2,000, which must be matched by the town. The town typically uses donations from Northfield Mount Hermon to do that.

The money would go toward the Volunteer Fire Assistance Program, and is typically used to make purchases of brushfire-fighting gear.

The department will get the narrative to town administrator Ray Purington when possible. When Beaubien joked he often turns it in just in the nick of time, Crochier playfully changed his deadline to June 6.

Other Business

On the subject of LED street lighting, town counsel's response on the purchase & sale agreement is going back to Eversource.

The energy commission has settled on a different brand of streetlights, with a more acceptable color spectrum.

Town counsel Donna MacNicol has reviewed the USDA's proposed engineering contract for the elementary school and well offered comments and suggestions to amend it. According to Purington, it now more closely resembles a standard contract, with liability indemnification. It is now being returned to the engineers and USDA. He added that it was a shame the USDA uses a contract that MacNicol found so many issues with.

Eight companies attended the pre-bid site inspection for a new roof for the Safety Complex. One company lacked the DCAMM certification necessary for jobs estimated at over \$100,000, and one has already submitted a bid, which are due next Thursday, May 28.

Materials from a DEP sustainability grant from last year have just come in as request for funding this year is due. Purington's suggested numbers for black composting bins, kitchen composters, blue recycle



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bins, and reusable grocery bags total approximately \$500.

Purington presented the good news that the amount spent pumping sewer water from Gill to Montague between January and April was the lowest it has ever been, and speculated that it was perhaps due to the slow snow melt this year.

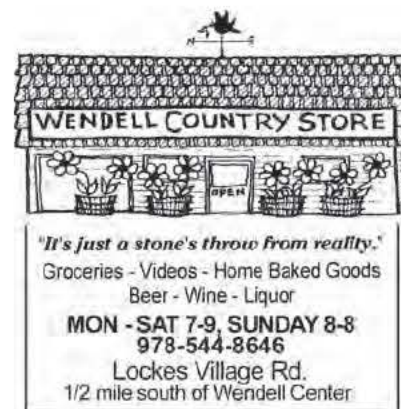
Memorial Day Ceremonies will be held this Sunday, May 24. Services will begin at the Gill Congregational Church at 10 a.m. and continue across Main Road at the Veteran's Monument. Snedeker said he plans to attend.

This year's ACT play, Robin Hood, will hold its public performance at town hall Friday, May 29, 7 p.m.

The next energy commission workshop, "No Till in Gill" with Alden Booth, will be held Sunday, June 7, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The Association for Community Living, headquartered in Springfield, has named the Gill selectboard, fire department and police department chiefs as this year's recipients for its Charles E. Veith Community Service Award.

The selectboard were selected because they were instrumental in assisting with one of the CLA's homes in Gill when it had problems with its well, and another award is going to the fire and police chiefs, on behalf of their respective departments, for responding to alarm calls at the Association's homes with courtesy.



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HISTORY LESSON



ROBBIE LEPPZER PHOTO

Howard Clark, an anthropologist and researcher with the Nolumbeka Project, guides a walking tour Saturday around historic Peskeomskut/Great Falls. The tour was given in conjunction with the River's Song, an all-day event sponsored by the UMass Asian Arts & Culture Program, weaving together history, art and the environment.

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FACES & PLACES



LAURA BEZIO PHOTO

Clockwise from front, Emma St. Hilaire, Caroline Chase and Catherine Bezio of Erving Girl Scout Troop 40052 assisted Mr. Leo Parent and Mr. Bruce Bezio in replacing the flags at Highland Cemetery in Millers Falls to honor veterans for Memorial Day.

This is the fifth year Troop 40052 has provided this service.



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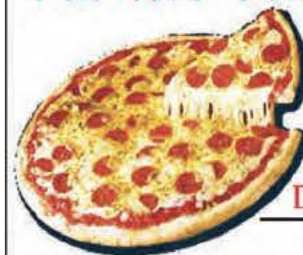


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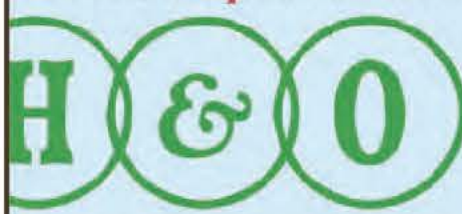
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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS TOUR: THE ERVING LIBRARY



A case of tiny wonders.

BY NINA ROSSI

ERVING – Continuing my survey of artifact collections at the local libraries, I stopped at the Erving Library one Sunday afternoon. It's a low, white building on Moore Street, consisting of a large open room with several small side rooms. A separate room to the left rear is devoted to a mini museum that represents the effort of one person.

This is a very different scenario than the library at Northfield, the next town north on 63, whose founding members petitioned the surrounding community for donations to build a community museum in the late 1800s.

The entire collection was the gift of Mrs. Doris Felton sometime back in 1978. She also gifted money to build this little museum addition, in the memory of her parents, Julius and Emma Traversari. The Traversari

were married in 1919 and then lived on High Street in Millers Falls their whole lives. Julius Traversari came to this country from Italy in 1911 and worked as a machinist until his death in 1966. Mrs Traversari died 11 years later.

Doris Felton was born in Erving in 1923, and died in 2005 at 82 years old. She was particularly devoted to the town, co-authoring a *History of Erving* to commemorate its 150th anniversary, and collecting household antiquities, local ephemera, family genealogy, and news clippings. After her mother died in 1977, she put this museum together and married for the first time in October of the following year.

Felton is quoted in an Irmare Jones column that appeared in the *Greenfield Recorder* shortly before the Traversari Memorial Room opened: "I've put lots of hours here, helping at first as the room was built

and setting up the exhibits just the way I want them. There's a time capsule under one cabinet. We put in a copy of *The Recorder* and everyone who was helping signed it."

There are six glass fronted cases. In cupboards at the base of them are stored the scrapbooks and some of the grave rubbings Felton made. Barbara Friedman, Erving library director, explained that the rubbings are of particular interest: "Boston Public Library archivists came down here to look at what they would digitize; they were interested in the gravestone rubbings because in some areas now it is illegal to gravestone rub, and because the collection was all of New England, not just Erving."

Friedman observed "there are a million scrapbooks. It was a work of love. Some of them, I think all of them, have a subject."

There is one on flags, one on her own wedding, postcards, and ones full of Erma Bombeck's newspaper columns, or "I Remember When" by Ruby Hemenway. Hemenway began writing her remembrances for the *Greenfield Recorder* in 1974, at 91 years old. She wrote her columns for at least ten years before dying in 1987. I will definitely revisit just to read the Ruby Hemenway scrapbook.

There's probably something of interest to any local history buff who happens to stop in here. Many of the scrapbooks she donated are filled with historical transcripts and news clippings relating to events in Erving, Millers Falls, and Montague. There are several shelves of 200th anniversary scrapbooks from Franklin County towns. There is a

see **LIBRARY** page B8

BOOK REVIEW

Alice Scheffey, *The Place* (Levellers Press, Amherst)

By LEE WICKS

LEVERETT – I have two confessions to make. First of all, I am reviewing a book I haven't finished. Secondly, I am a biased reporter.

Alice Scheffey's reading at Leverett Crafts and Arts on Saturday was so engaging and intellectually stimulating; the portions of the book she read aloud so compelling that I know I love her book, *The Place: A story about dwelling*, which I am savoring slowly like the many courses from an elaborate tasting menu.

I know this: having read just half of the book because the characters are strong, stubborn, cranky, wise and silly, and because light and the pursuit of light functions as a character that Scheffey describes beautifully. And most of all, because place and the definition of dwelling infuse each character and the narrative, the book makes me feel rooted in moist nourishing soil. I hope everyone I know will read this book so we

can talk about it.

Initially the first-person voices of the various narrators made me think this was a work of non-fiction. Because others have come to the same conclusion, Scheffey addressed that in her opening remarks.

She described her book, which is most definitely fiction, as a "story of what the heart needs to feel safe." Then she quoted William Faulkner, Wallace Stegner, and others who mined their own places and found all they needed to create fiction from imagined events and rearranged characters.

Having settled that, she returned to discuss dwelling and what it means to dwell, since this is pivotal to her characters and narrative. She used a poem by Robert Frost; she quoted Heidegger, who "gives us his understanding of what it means to dwell with awareness of the wholeness of earth and sky with

see **SCHEFFEY** page B4



WICKS PHOTO

Alice Scheffey speaks at Leverett Crafts and Arts.

Disarming Bears: A Positive Story About Local Law Enforcement

By DAVID ROWLAND

NORTHFIELD – Ray Zukowski grew up in Turners Falls in the 1950s and 1960s. Although Zukowski eventually moved to Northfield with his two children and wife Gail, his father, Greenfield's current Assistant Town Clerk, still lives in Turners on L Street.

Zukowski recalls sitting at dinner with his family one evening when he was just 19 and the police chief knocked at the door asking for him.

"What have you done?" his father asked him, expressing the same concern millions of fathers might have felt under

similar circumstances.

"Nothing," Zukowski told him.

It turned out that the chief had heard that Zukowski, enrolled in a law enforcement program at Greenfield Community College, might be interested in joining the police force. They talked, and within days Ray had signed on as a part-time officer in Montague.

He remembers being paid \$3.50 an hour during his first assignment on Thanksgiving Day, 1975, as part of the detail working the traditional Turners Falls/Greenfield football game.

At the time, the Montague

Police Department involved some 15-16 sworn officers. Today, almost 40 years later, the numbers remain about the same. Perhaps significantly, most of his fellow officers, like Zukowski, have been local men and women with roots in Franklin County if not in Montague itself. This predominance of local involvement may distinguish many small town police departments from their larger and often better paying cousins in major urban and suburban areas.

Ray Zukowski has spent his entire professional life as a member of the local law enforcement community, rising through the ranks from patrolman to court officer/detective to Montague's chief of police. Even today, four years after retiring as chief, he works part-time each week as a deputy with the Franklin County Sheriff's Department.

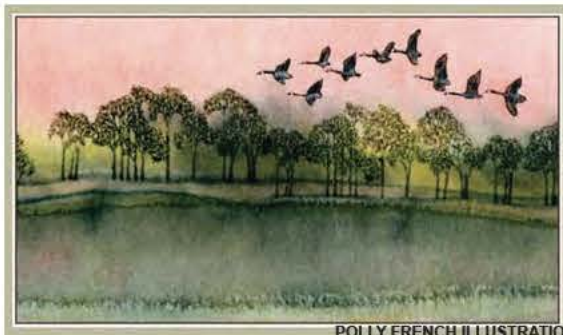
He has seen his share of the situations that traditionally confront law enforcement. In the '70s, for example, he recalls that there were 28 different bars and clubs serving liquor in and around Turners, contributing to problems with fighting, drunk driving and other alcohol-related abuses. At the time, the legal blood alcohol limit for driving was .15.

see **BEARS** page B5



ROWLAND PHOTO

Former Montague police chief Ray Zukowski.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER – May 12. A merciful breeze is blowing at 6:30 am, after a scorching day of 92 degrees-plus yesterday. I had of course chosen that 90-degree day to cut up a fallen maple in the hollow below the back yard lilacs. I later regretted that.

I began early, at 8:00 before the heat. Usually this hollow is a creek in the normal spring freshet times, but this year, our three feet of snow melted away gradually, barely raising the level of the river only by a foot or two.

I had a lovely wood thrush for company in the glen-like glade. The thrush sang and trailed his lyric vibrato all morning long.

I cut my wood by hand, except for the biggest of the trunks, so I can pause at any time to catch the thrush at his singing, or the bouncy song of the northern waterthrush, a warbler not a thrush, competing with the breathless endless song of the red-eyed vireo, and the mimicking, maddeningly varied calls of the catbird clan, flouncing and preening and showing off red petticoat underwear whenever possible.

From below in my hollow, I can look up to the terrace upon which sits the one hundred and forty-year-old house, and peer up under the leaves of the towering maple that stands in the yard, shading the rhododendrons.

Slung up there on the highest branch are the beginnings of the basket-cradle being woven by the orioles, the kite string we offered them hanging down below the leaf cover. They were drawn into the yard by the endless supply of orange halves set out on the plat-

WEST ALONG THE RIVER A Few Days in May

form feeder ten days ago, and they voted to stay right here. They've granted us the honor of watching them weave their deep basket of a nest, fifty feet up over the lawn.

The Judah Smith lilacs, named by us for my great-grandfather who planted them in the 1880s, are already blooming – the earliest ever in our nearly forty-five years in the old



A male baltimore oriole – Icterus galbula.

homestead. Nearby, our Doug Smith deep-purple lilacs are blooming too, also named by us for our grand-uncle, Judah's son, who first planted them at his home on Pleasant Street. Doug was a baseball pitching prodigy at 18 and played for the Red Sox in 1912, right out of high school.

We transplanted some of his lilacs down here on the Flat, back in 1973, after he had gone off to that field of dreams in the sky.

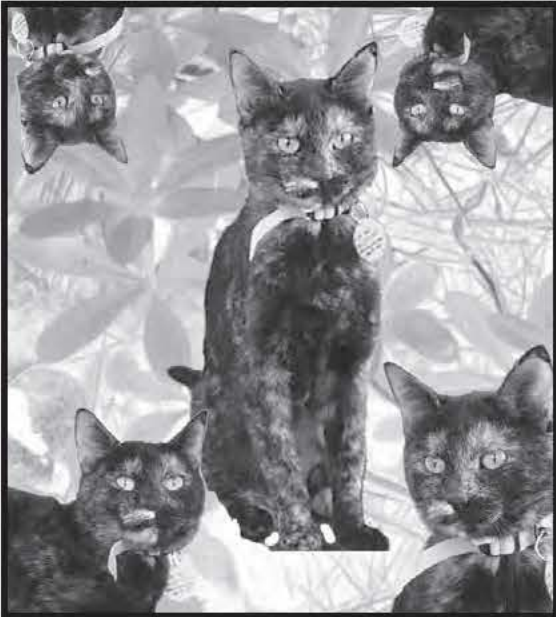
Suddenly the Model T bulb horn honk of the Canada geese pair sounds up and down

see **WEST ALONG** page B3

Pet of the Week

I am Marley, a multi-colored, multi-faceted cat. According to people who know me, I am sweet and want to be loved. I've also been described as active and athletic. How about this one: "Marley seems very teachable." I think that's just a fancy way of saying I'm smart and eager to learn. I initially came to Dakin as a stray, then spent some time in a home with another cat who didn't like me (what's not to like, right?). I've lived compatibly with cats and a dog in the past; I could also be content as your one and only love. I look forward to meeting you soon!

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



“MARLEY”

WEIRD HEALING by OVERTURE



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

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

Featuring Coffeehouse Duo – and Editing River’s Song

There is all kinds of great music on MCTV this week!

One of our featured programs is the May 8 Coffeehouse Concert at the Great Falls Discovery Center by duo Judy Handler and Mark Levesque.

Their music is an eclectic blend of international styles and influences ranging from Latin American and Brazilian to classical and folk.

They have performed over 1,500 concerts together throughout the Northeast and Midwest, and we are pleased to feature them at MCTV.

On the heels of The River's Song Celebration this past weekend, vid-

eographer Bret Leighton will be in the studio editing all the event's filming for your viewing pleasure. Saturday was a beautiful day in Turners Falls, with attendees of all ages.

The day's events included several Native American events commemorating the river, kids art making, video installations, an original composition by percussionist Tony Vacca and culminated in a sound and light performance entitled Water Dance, featuring a mesmerizing performance of illuminated hula hoops as envisioned by artist Phyllis Labanowski and drummer Ricardo Frota.

We will let you know as soon as it is available for viewing.

There is much more on this week including local town meetings, Great Falls Discovery Center ecology programming, energy saving seminars, lots of musical performances, *Democracy Now!* and so much more! Something going on you think others would like to see?

Get in touch to learn about getting a camera and capturing the moment! (413) 863-9200, infomontaguestv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 2nd Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

Senior Center Activities May 25 to 29

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 5/25 Closed
Tuesday 5/26
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Lunch
12:30 p.m. Tech Tutor appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Wednesday 5/27
10:10 a.m. Aerobics
10:30 Monthly Health Screenings
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise
Noon Lunch
12:45 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 5/28
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:10 a.m. Tech Tutor
Noon Lunch
1 p.m. Pitch & Five Crowns
Friday 5/29
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. 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.

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 congregate meals.

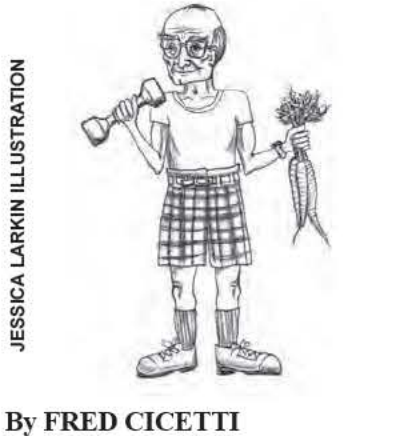
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 24 hours in advance. Call the Mealsite Manager at 423-3308 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, 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 5/25 Closed
Tuesday 5/26
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 5/27
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo & Snacks
Thursday 5/28
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Healthy Bones, Muscles
Noon Pitch
Friday 5/29
9 a.m. Bowling
11:30 Home Cooked Lunch
Noon Movie

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



By FRED CICETTI

Q. My doctor put his stethoscope on my neck and muttered to himself, "no brooey." I'm not the type to ask the doctor questions, but I'm still wondering what he meant by that. My spelling is probably wrong.

Your doctor was checking your carotid arteries on the sides of your neck to see if the blood flow to your brain was blocked. If one of the arteries was blocked, it would make a "swoosh" that the medical profession calls a *bruit*. Your phonetic spelling is excellent. Bruit is pronounced "BROO-ee" like "phooey."

Carotid arteries run from the aorta – the main trunk of the arterial system – up to your brain. When these vessels become blocked, you have carotid artery disease, which can cause a stroke.

The chances of developing this disease increase with age. About one percent of people in their fifties have

THE HEALTHY GEEZER
No Brooey: Your Carotids

significantly blocked carotid arteries, but ten percent of people in their eighties have carotid artery disease.

As you age, a sticky substance called plaque, which contains cholesterol, can accumulate on the inside walls of your arteries. The process is called atherosclerosis or hardening of the arteries.

Some of the causes of carotid artery disease are high blood pressure, cholesterol in your blood, smoking and diabetes.

It is possible to fight carotid artery disease. First, quit smoking. This is the probably the most significant thing you can do to combat this disease. In addition to quitting smoking, you should get regular exercise, eat a healthy diet and keep your weight down.

Obviously, if you have high blood pressure, too much cholesterol in your blood or diabetes, you should be treating those.

The common diagnostic tests for carotid artery disease are: carotid duplex scan, an ultrasound study that shows the location and size of the problem; arteriogram, which is an X-ray, Magnetic Resonance Angiography (MRA) and computerized tomography (CT Scan) of the brain for damage.

The amount of blockage in a carotid artery determines the risk of having a stroke. If the blockage becomes severe enough, you may need surgery to open the blood flow to your brain.

In carotid endarterectomy, a surgeon makes an incision in the neck to open a carotid artery. The blockage is removed and the artery is closed.

Carotid artery stenting is a procedure in which a wire mesh tube called a stent is positioned and expanded across the blockage in the artery.

In its early stages, carotid artery disease may have no symptoms. The initial indication could be a stroke. However, you may experience warning symptoms of a stroke called transient ischemic attacks or TIAs, which usually last less than an hour.

TIA symptoms include: weakness, numbness, or a tingling on one side of your body; inability to control a limb; loss of vision in one eye, and inability to speak clearly.

If you experience TIA symptoms, contact your physician immediately.

If you would like to ask a question, write to fred@healthygeezer.com.

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SCHEFFEY from page B1
attendance upon our fellow beings and the return of the fugitive Gods.”

She offered gratitude to Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (she loved saying that name), whose “science of qualitative wholeness compliments the analytic and causal explanations of modern science.”

Wait. Before concluding that this is all an impenetrable tangle of philosophy and science, consider a story about a woman who falls in love with a piece of property already loved by another. How one woman claims the place and moves in with her husband and three children, while the other yields and befriends her. How one watches the other stumble and struggle to let Stone Hill speak and reveal itself. How Lidia strives to make her husband Richard feel safe, hinting early on that he requires this safety and creating a mystery I cannot reveal since I haven’t come to the end of the story.

Here’s the voice of Piri Olevsky, the woman who first wanted the land: “The place kept pulling me back. I dreamed of dancing under the big trees and milking goats in the barn... I’m more than sixty now. I’ve learned not to get caught up in the net of all my desires. What really held me back was my feeling the place needed children.”

And here’s Lidia, who is standing beyond an overgrown field at the very beginning of the book, watching the abandoned house: “There are places that have known love and wait

for it to come again. I’ve listened to the dreams of many places. They have not always belonged to me but I’ve been touched by their dreams and their desire. I know dreaming doesn’t happen in the absence of desire. Desire runs deep. Desire is a dark energy that moves towards light and reaches out.”

It is sentences like that that keep stopping me because they are beautiful and I want to read them again and then again to see how they are made. It seems they come from wisdom and love for each character – and also a mischievous element in Scheffey, who uses these strong characters to set up the conflicts ahead.

Without saying so, I know Lidia is going to suffer. Piri foreshadows it by page fourteen when she says, “Both Lidia and Richard are beautiful in a way that’s similar. I think that’s not unusual for a man and wife. The beauty comes from their bones, strong under the eyes and especially the neck, Richard’s is tighter and tense around the jaw.”

Richard is tense and Lidia “is quick around him and graceful as a child,” and I have read enough to know she won’t always want to be the graceful child to this tense jawed man.

An artist named Crete articulates the quality of light in New England and also personifies what it means to be seeking such light. When she comes to visit Lidia at Stonehill in early evening, she says, “The sky

is dark as indigo now, a blue veil falling that draws in all the light. Already Lidi’s house and the trees shrink a little in the dusk. The dusk makes this clearing precarious, like a small raft floating in the sea.”

Alice Scheffey reads well, like someone who has spent a lot of time reading aloud. On Saturday she glanced over her glasses, paused for effect after a provocative sentence, and sometimes grinned in satisfaction.

She introduced Lidia’s and Richard’s children, and Merle who “lives by wit by living poor.” He can fix anything and has the uncanny ability to show up right at the moment he’s needed, and he also has an aura of mystery about him.

I can’t say more. I do not yet know how this story ends. I know Lidia wants to yield to Stonehill and let the place shape her. Richard fears the confinement of unending chores. Their children alternately love and hate the place. Piri is worried about them.

Too many reviews give away endings. Some make me feel that reading the book is no longer necessary. I hope for the opposite here. In fact, I suspect I will finish this book and start over to see what meditative nuggets I missed the first time.

You can order a copy of *The Place* at www.levellerspress.com.



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Senior Sara Bradley returns a volley in a match against Frontier Regional Monday at the Bourdeau Fields Complex. Turners defeated Frontier 3-2.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was May 19, 2005: *News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

Chief Blair Seeks Disability Retirement

Erving Chief of Police Christopher Blair, who has been the town’s chief for little more than a year since former chief John Paciorek headed south to Quantico, VA to join the FBI in March of 2004, informed the selectboard on Monday, May 16 that he would be seeking disability retirement due to an unnamed medical condition. He requested and received 12 weeks of medical leave. The board indicated it was open to extending Blair’s medical leave once the next fiscal year begins, July 1st.

“It makes me sad that Chris might not be part of our future,” said town administrative coordinator Tom Sharp.

While a search is underway, full-time patrolman John Pereault has been appointed as Officer in Charge at the Erving police department.

Selectboard Digs Into Sewer Study

The Montague selectboard dug into the question of which group of residents should pay for upgrades to the sewage treatment plant and combined sewer overflow abatements, estimated to cost \$5.7 million. The work is needed “to correct the issue of excess runoff which exceeds the current capacity of the plant,” according to board member Patricia Pruitt. New board member Pat Allen explained that the plant itself can handle the town’s waste flow, but the problem occurs when it rains heavily within a short period of time.

The intermittent problem of raw sewage flowing into the Connecticut River has raised flags at the EPA, and the town must com-

ply with Clean Water Act requirements or face fines and legal action to bring its sewer system into compliance.

The challenge lies in determining how it should be paid for. The state maintains a revolving loan fund for such projects, and has moved Montague to the top of the list for \$1.8 million in low-interest loans.

Should the 2,200 residences and 12-15 commercial businesses directly connected to town sewer pay the total cost? Or should the 4,500 taxable parcels, including those that have private septic systems, share the burden, as improvements to the town’s infrastructure may lead to more economic development and eventually to a broader tax base?

“We can’t make everybody happy,” said Pruitt.

Blue Meadow Farm Looking for a Buyer

After 18 years of seeding, rooting, planting, transplanting and nurturing an astounding array of perennials, including many unusual, rare varieties, the McGowan family has decided to move on. Blue Meadow Farm in Montague Center closed its gates last weekend as loyal fans visited from as far away as Maine and New York to pay respects and search out a few last elusive specimens to tend in their own gardens.

The McGowans have put the entire operation on the market. They have now sold off most of their plants after failing to find a buyer before the business shut down. The operation includes 10 acres of land and extensive structures.

The family has been busy donating leftover plants to local causes. On Tuesday, Leah McGowan delivered a truck full of perennials to the Great Falls Community Garden.

little tick

BIG PROBLEM



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 This message by The Cooperative Public Health Service 

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Testing free for residents of Buckland, Charlemont, Conway, Deerfield, Gill, Leyden, Hawley, Heath, Monroe and Shelburne

Turners Falls Baseball Squad Makes Playoffs

By MATT ROBINSON

The Turners Falls Baseball Indians notched their 10th win on Wednesday evening, May 19, defeating the Green Wave of Greenfield 7 to 2. And with that win, Blue qualified for the post-season. The victory also keeps Powertown in second place in the Hampshire West Baseball League.

In the first inning of Tuesday’s game, the Wave took a quick and temporary lead. Tyler Charbonneau whiffed the first Green batter, walked the second and struck out the third Green batter for the second out. But a 1-1 triple got the baserunner around and the Tribe was down 1 to 0 going into their half of the first inning.

Emmett Turn led off for the Indians. He cracked a deep leftfield fly but it was chased down by the fielder for the first out. Trent Bourbeau got a shallow right field hit, and reached base. And with 2 outs, Tyler Charbonneau kept the inning alive by sliding into first to beat the throw. His single moved Trent to third.

Then Kyle Bergman put the Tribe on the scoreboard with a RBI base hit. Jalen Sanders then cracked an enormous outfield fly to bring in both

Tyler and Kyle. Zach Demars batted in Jalen and reached second base as Jalen came home. And the first inning ended with Powertown up 4 to 1.

Greenfield went 1-2-3 in the top of the second. In the Blue half, Trevor Mankowsky reached first on a walk. Emmett advanced him to second base on a fielder’s choice bunt, and Trent Bourbeau got him home with a RBI base hit. The second inning ended with a double play and after 2, the Tribe led 5 to 1.

In the third inning Kyle Bergman golfed a 1 out base hit to left field. He got to second on a passed ball and reached home on another Jalen Sanders’ hit. And Turners was now leading 6 to 1.

In the fourth inning, Blue loaded the bases with no outs. That’s a good thing, right? Well, not always. Greenfield retired the side with a very rare 7-2-4 triple play.

Greenfield scored their second run in the sixth inning, but Powertown countered with a run of their own in the Blue half of the sixth. Tyler Charbonneau beat the throw to reach first base, stole second, was advanced to third on a Kyle Bergman fielder’s choice and scored on a Jalen Sanders

left field line-drive.

Nick York took the mound for Green’s last at-bats. He struck out the first 2 batters, walked the third, hit the next batter and Tionne Brown caught the final out to end the game.

Tyler Charbonneau allowed 2 hits, walked 6 batters and fanned 9. In relief, Nick York allowed no hits, whiffed 2, hit a batter and gave 1 base on balls.

Jalen Sanders was perfect from the plate, going 3 for 3. Trent Bourbeau was also perfect, going 2 for 2 with a RBI. Kyle Bergman also had a RBI, going 2 for 3 from the plate.

Tyler Charbonneau had a hit and scored 2 runs, Zach Demars batted in a run, and Emmett Turn and Zach Wright both had hits. Liam Ellis, Tanner Jones, Zach Wright and Nick York also saw action for the Tribe.

The Turners Falls Baseball Indians have 3 games left in the regular season. On Wednesday, May 20, they host Franklin Tech. On Thursday, May 21, they travel to Hadley to face League Leading Hopkins Academy. Then on Tuesday, May 26, Blue travels to Athol to play the Red Raiders.

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OYSTERGIRL'S GUIDE TO REAL LIVING

By VANESSA QUERY

It feels like summertime right now, so I'm going to take a break from my philosophical and practical waxing about hygiene, and share with you some of my favorite cold drink recipes.

These three recipes are simple and homemade with real, unrefined, sometimes local, and mostly nutrient-rich ingredients. Dare we call them "healthy"? Let's just say that these drinks will make you feel good, inside and out!

Because sometimes, water alone isn't enough to hydrate. When filtered, bottled, or out of a tap, water is stripped of its naturally-occurring minerals, that, when present, help your body absorb the water. Adding things to water helps to slow the process of absorption – so the water doesn't just go right through you.

This is why electrolytes (natural or synthetic – guess which one I prefer?) are often added to drinks: They help to hydrate and replenish the body's electrolytes, which are critical to the health of muscles, nerves, and neurons. Sugar, salt, fruit, and the now-famous coconut water are especially helpful with electrolyte balance.

And my fruit tea and lavender lemonade are a great alternative to juice for the kiddos! My 4-year-old approves of them and has been approving of them for most of his life.

These recipes will also give you a bit of insight into my kitchen, arguably the center of my simple, natural, crunchy-lovin' life.

Cold-Brewed Lavender Lemonade

Lavender and lemon is such a yummy combination, and perfect for what will no doubt be a stiffling humid New England summer.

In addition to being delicious, the health benefits of this drink are pretty sweet (no pun intended):

- Lavender is a great soother; it helps you to relax and sleep well. I have also heard it boosts creativity.
- Lemons detoxify and cleanse the blood, activate enzymes, and help our body store vitamins and minerals.
- The enzymes in raw honey (that are killed when heated too high) act as a digestive aid and an energy booster. Raw honey will also help you with those dreaded seasonal allergies. The more local, the better.
- Water hydrates!

A note on raw honey: It will dissolve in cold drinks. That's an important part of maintaining the rawness. You have to stir for a while, and slide it off the spoon with your finger a few times, but it works.

So without further ado, here's how to make your own lavender lemonade:

Lavender Lemonade Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon of lavender flowers
- 2 cups of water
- 2-3 lemons
- another 2 cups of water
- 3 tablespoons of honey (ideally raw and local)

Instructions

1. Stir the lavender flowers into 2 cups of water. Let it steep over-



Ingredients for lavender lemonade

- night, either at room temperature or in the fridge. Strain out the lavender flowers.
2. Roll the lemons with some pressure to release their juices. Juice the lemons. I use a juicer, to make sure I get everything possible out of them.
3. Add the lemon juice to the lavender tea. Add the rest of the water. (I like mine pretty mild; experiment to find out how you like it.)
4. Add the honey. Stir it, with vigor. (See note on honey above.)
5. Keep testing to see how sweet, lemony, or lavendery you like it!

Cold-Brewed Sweet Fruit Tea (like juice, only better!)

Throughout the summer, my fridge is a science lab of cold-brewing, with usually between 3 and 5 glass jars of various things brewin': the obligatory black tea that gets me through the day, lavender flowers, mint tea or leaves, and my newest love, dried-fruit herbal tea. I've never liked hot-brewed fruit teas, but cold-brew them and they are completely different and really, really yummy.

As a self-identified tea mixologist, I make a different combination for every serving, depending on my mood and the particular fruit one that's brewed. If I have coconut water on hand, I might add a splash of that. I might add the fresh juice of lemons or limes if I've got any.

It wasn't until recently that I discovered the best, best, best kind of refreshing summer drink, like a fruit juice but way, way, way better.

I discovered this seemingly common-sense combination by accident. I've had hot herbal tea with honey, cold lavender lemonade with raw honey... Again, as a tea mixologist I've put a lot of things together, but for some reason it had never occurred to me to put together cold-brewed dried-fruit herbal tea and raw honey.

I tried it randomly with Adagio's Berry Blast. I took a sip. Then I pretty much wiped out the whole glass of it. Then I made more.

It's become a new house staple. I try to make it last longer by using



My son Dez loved sweet fruit tea from the first sweaty summer I made it.

it as a water-flavorer, but sometimes you just need a straight shot of really refreshing fruity honey-y tea.

Dried Fruit Tea Ingredients

- dried fruit-based herbal tea/tisane
- honey (ideally raw and local)
- water

Instructions

1. Mix together water and tea. How much to mix will depend on how strong you like it. A good medium-brew is 1 tablespoon of dried tea for every 2 cups of water.
2. Steep in the fridge overnight, or better yet for 24 hours.
3. Strain the tea.
4. Add the honey. How much to mix will depend on how sweet you like it. A good medium-sweetness is 1 heaping tablespoon of honey for every 2 cups of brewed tea.
5. Stir it, with vigor. It will dissolve. It'll take a few minutes, but it will dissolve.
6. Drink straight up, over ice, or dilute for a flavored water type of drink.

Cold-Brewed Coffee

Cold-brewed coffee is up to two-thirds less acidic than hot-brewed coffee. What's not to love?

This is a lighter-bodied coffee than what you may be used to, so you might want to add more coffee if you like a lot of coffee in your coffee.

Ingredients

- 6 cups water
- 1/2 cup coarse-ground coffee beans

Instructions

1. Stir the coffee into the water.
2. Stick it in the fridge for 12-24 hours, stirring a few times.
3. Strain through cheesecloth. I use a French press but still like to strain it for those sneaky smaller bits.

You can use this for iced coffee or heat it up for hot.

Cold-Brewed Tea

For this recipe I use black tea, but any tea or herbal tisane will work. The Britishism is "a tea bag for every cup and one for the pot." The same goes for this. I usually use a strong Irish tea (as in, imported from Ireland; not Irish breakfast tea made by an American company) because let's face it, Ireland and the UK have got it down with the black tea, so if you use something else, you might consider using more tea.

Ingredients

- 9 or 10 tea bags
- 2 quarts of water

Instructions

1. Stir the tea into the water.
2. Stick it in the fridge, overnight at least.
3. Remove tea bags.
4. Imbibe.

I hope you have enjoyed these recipes! I'd love to hear if you have your own variations.



Cold brewed coffee and tea.

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.

BEARS from pg B1

That limit was later reduced to .10 and today is set at 0.08, reflecting our society's increased concern with OUI issues.

Over the years, Zukowski found challenges off, as well as on, the streets. A position in law enforcement clearly requires significant training.

Here in Massachusetts, an applicant must possess a minimum of a high school diploma; a two-year Associate's or four-year Bachelor's degree in criminal justice is strongly encouraged. Only when an applicant has been accepted by a local department as a candidate can he or she apply to the state Police Academy for its 26-week program of formal training. The local department sponsors the applicant's training, with actual employment contingent upon successful completion of the program.

Law enforcement, of course, is not the only career area requiring rigorous, specialized training. Fire departments, for example, depend upon their own training programs to prepare candidates for employment.

One significant difference between police and fire departments, however, lies in the way training is funded. While fire departments across Massachusetts receive funding for training programs from private sponsors

like insurance companies, as well as from the state, police departments receive no private funding and have only their locally approved budgets plus limited state funds.

Adding to the challenges, the recent state administration cut funding for the Quinn bill offering incentives for young law enforcement officers to pursue advanced education: a 10% salary boost for an Associate's degree, a 20% raise for a Bachelor's degree, and a 25% hike for a Master's degree. Those financial incentives are no longer available for new hires.

In similar fashion, the state cut funding for community policing efforts – in Ray's case, some \$40,000 which he had used for various youth programs, the Triad program for senior citizens, Montague Catholic Social Ministries, and the like.

In short, the challenges facing Zukowski and other local police personnel have involved both enforcing new laws in a changing social environment, and finding new ways to generate adequate support for their mission to "protect and serve." How have they fared with this dual mission?

We might start by looking at the new Public Safety facility on the hill in Turners Falls. Stuck for years in the leaking, cramped, moldy station near the Gill-Montague bridge, the

police department worked to create a new facility during Zukowski's tenure as Chief.

This could not have happened without the active support and cooperation of the entire Montague community working through its select board and the Public Safety Building Committee.

Zukowski is a tireless champion for the things he believes. Rather than simply being in the right place at the right time, it seems far more accurate to see Ray as being in the right place to help create the right time. Today Montague has a facility that can actually support law enforcement efforts in our area – and a facility, it's worth noting, that was designed and built to ensure low maintenance costs.

One program to which Ray Zukowski has devoted much time and care over the years is the Franklin County Triad program for senior citizens. He was an active participant in Triad as an officer and Chief in Montague and currently serves as one of five Triad officers working through the Sheriff's department.

The aim of Triad is to maintain an active and helpful connection between law enforcement, protective services, and seniors within the community. While Triad has been a

nationally recognized program since the 1980s, Franklin County's program is unique in being the only such program in the country with police officers actually visiting with seniors in their homes, rather than just offering programs at local senior centers. For this reason, Zukowski and other Franklin County participants have been called on to offer Triad presentations outside of our area.

In 2013, Ray Zukowski's work with a wide range of programs was recognized by the Greenfield Recorder newspaper, which named him "Citizen of the Year."

The citation referred to his work with Triad, Baystate Franklin Medical Center, the Jane Lloyd Fund for cancer victims and their families, and numerous other causes which he has helped support through benefit events at Shuetzen Verein, a local civic-minded club to which Zukowski, his father, and now his son Christopher belong.

Last fall, Zukowski and the Franklin County Opiate Task Force hosted a clam and lobster bake at the Shuetzen Verein with Anthony Bourdain and his nationally syndicated television show, "Parts Unknown," to focus attention on the crisis of opiate addiction here in our county.

We all know of the surplus De-

fense Department equipment that has supplied police forces across the country. TV news stories show us officers in 21st century armor, supported by massive vehicles and weaponry that may have seen action in Iraq and Afghanistan. We worry about the growing militarization of police forces.

For a breath of considerably fresher air, we might look in the trunk of Zukowski's old cruiser or the cruisers of most police officers here in western Massachusetts. We will probably find there an unlikely object: a teddy bear. Provided by businesses like the phone company and local clubs like the Moose, these bears are kept for stressful occasions involving children – an accident or sudden illness, perhaps.

These are challenging times for citizens and police alike in our country. But the injustices and problems we encounter are often the exception rather than the rule. Like his fellow police officers, Ray Zukowski was required to carry a sidearm for much of his professional life.

But he, like other officers, chose to carry those teddy bears in the trunk. And that choice says a lot about Ray Zukowski's view of community policing.



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How Long Have You Lived Here?

... And Why Do People Move Here?

Photos and interviews by MARK HUDYMA

The idea of making Montague an attractive place to move, and not simply to live, comes up time and time again when we discuss the town's future. It always makes us wonder more about the present.

Why are we here in the first place? How many of us are newcomers, and how many are from old town families? Why do people end up living in Montague and its various villages, and where do they come from?

This week, we asked Mark Hudyma to travel around the town and talk with folks about these questions. He travelled to all five of Montague's villages. As it turns out, nothing is ever simple. - Eds.

HUDYMA PHOTOS



"I've lived here for 45 years. My mother remarried, and we moved here."

Brian O'Malley



I grew up in Leyden and I live right there at the Moltenbrey. My mother lives here too, so I've been around Montague since 2000. I'm a recovering addict, and this is the last step in the residential program.

Lindsey



"I was born in Montague. I lived here for 20 years, moved to Florida and lived there for 40 years. My wife didn't like hurricanes, so we moved back here. I'm here permanently to take care of my wife. It's the only thing I can do."

Forrest Serrell



"I was born here... I think!"

Navaeh Sikoski



"I was born in Greenfield. I think there's a lot of people coming here from cities."

Sara Sisson (left)

"I'm from Leominster. It wasn't my choice to move, there was a family relocation. I think people are moving here because there's less commotion than bigger cities."

Alaisiah Russell (right)



"I live in Turners. I was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina. My family is originally from here. I was an army brat. I moved back here in 1978."

Tari Grimard



I live in Millers. I was born in Vermont. We moved here for my brother's business, the People's Bakery."

Yatsaq Wickline



"About 30 years ago, I moved from Millers to Wendell. I got sick of city life. It was a vibrant village in the '60s. It seems to be coming back a bit. It's nice!"

Peter Lafrance



"I've lived here my whole life. It's almost all the same – almost everybody is still in the same houses from when I grew up here."

Tabitha Valliere



"We were just talking about where people are coming from. I'm talking about Turners Falls here, rather than Montague as a whole, but people have moved here from Easthampton, Amherst... the artistic folks from Greenpoint in New York City. I was told if I came back to the Valley it would give me everything I needed, artistically, spiritually, emotionally.... I often think how true that was."

Jack Nelson



"It's very complicated. I went to Mahar and lived in Athol, Orange, and Winchendon. I've lived in my Turners house longer than anywhere else. I consider it my hometown."

Pamela Capice (center)

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EVERY SUNDAY

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

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.

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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

land: Ann McNeal, *Elements of Nature: Photographs, Paintings and Poems*. Runs through 6/29

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Seeking Cool Cats for a special feline feature at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls in June 2015! Seeking feline themed arts and crafts consignors. Contact Nina Rossi, naban@verizon.net (413) 834-8800. www.ninas-nook.com

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: Seeking artists for co-operative gallery featuring fine arts and crafts. For more information see www.sawmillriver-arts.com.

Wendell Free Library invites artists to submit applications for two-dimensional work to exhibit

Dance Series 8 p.m. \$ (dance lessons at 7:30 p.m.)

FRIDAY, MAY 22

GCTV Studio, Greenfield: *Four Voices*. Poetry reading. Trish Crapo, Susie Patlove, Carol Potter, Paula Saywood. 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Lines West*. Songwriting duo. 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Bulldog with Corrinne and Caleb*. 8 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Chris Weisman, Gracie Jackson, and Luke Csehak*. All ages, substance free, 8 p.m., \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 23

Old Depot Gardens, Montague: *Garden Party and 25th Anniversary*. All day celebration starting at 10 a.m. with talks, demonstrations, free samples of produce, and self-guided walks at nearby Red Fire Farm.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Ryan Hobler, Emily Mure*. Folk. 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Father, Misty, and the Big Rock with Lexi Weege*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Steve Kurtz/Dan Belmont Jazz Quartet*. 9 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *De Lomas y Sones*. Afro-cuban. 9 p.m. \$ (Cuban buffet at 5 p.m. \$)

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A Tangled Web -- Street Change--Silver Lake*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAY 24

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *John and Peg*. Front porch music. 2:30 p.m.

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

MONDAY, MAY 25

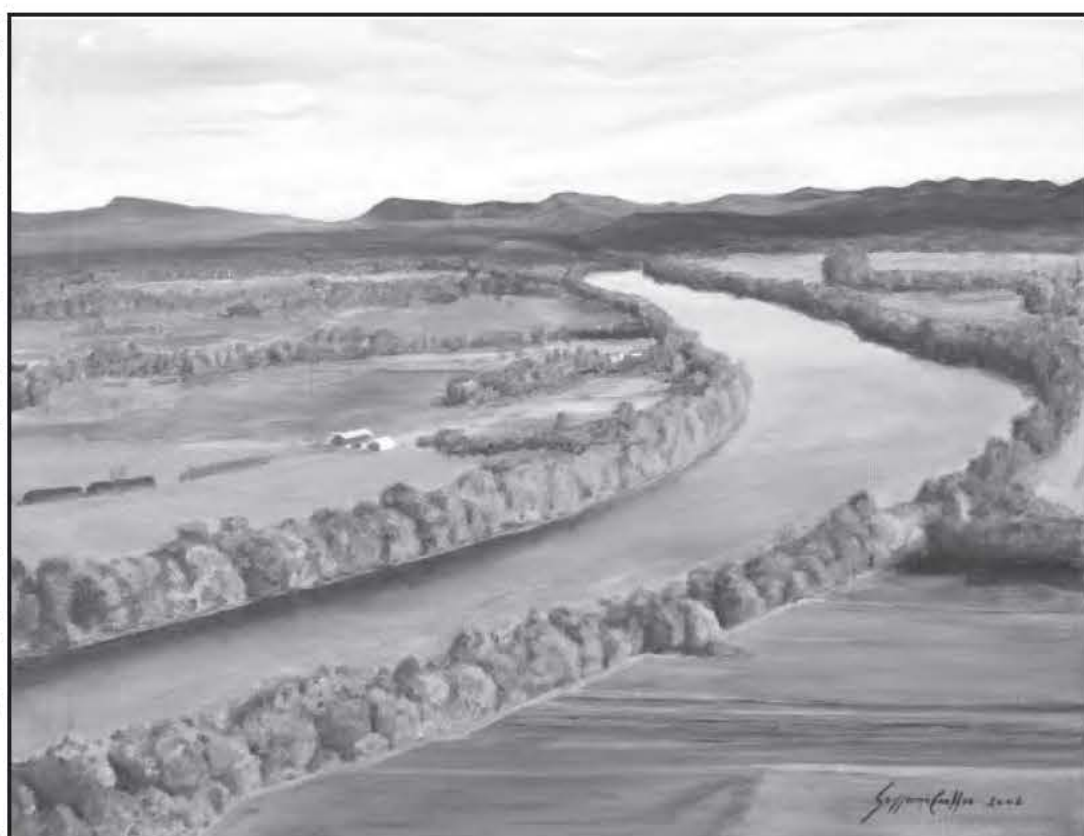
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nora's Stellar Open Mic. Cabaret*. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, MAY 28

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Coopsters in the Round*. Coop Concerts Summer Series. Eclectic music, family friendly. 6 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Break the Silence*. Student poetry reading. 6:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Blue Pearl*. Jazz/Blues. 8 p.m.



Wandering in the Valley by Joan Levy is one of the pieces in the new exhibit, LandEscapes, at the Deerfield Arts Bank. This exhibit features over 40 local artists working in a variety of media. There is an Artists' Reception on 5/21 at 6 p.m. and a Community Reception on 6/4 at 6 p.m.

from the Connecticut River watershed by regional artists. Runs through 5/27. Details at www.turnersfallsriverculture.org

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. Runs through 6/7.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Tom Wyatt: Reflections*. Digital photography exhibit. Runs through 6/30.

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Will Sieruta, Mixed Media Paintings*. Runs through 5/31.

Deerfield Arts Bank, S. Deerfield: *LandEscapes*. Group show. Runs though 6/21.

Shelburne Arts Cooperative, Shelburne Falls: *Merry Merry May*. Group show featuring 50 members of cooperative. Runs through 6/1.

Sunderland Library, Sunder-

in the Herrick Meeting Room gallery. Applications accepted at any time. See www.wendell-mass.us

CALL FOR PARTICIPANTS:

Turner's Falls Women's Resource Center, Turners Falls: *Mosaic Workshop* with Edite Cunha. Explore creating ancient decorative art. Event is on 5/29 from 10-2 p.m. Space limit to 8 participants; so sign up early. 413-863-4804.

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Lissa Kiernan*. Poetry reading. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Tommy Filiault Trio*. Original Guitar Music. 8 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The Nite Caps*. Honky Tonk Thursday

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Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scott Lawson Pomeroy's FEAR NO 80s*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 29

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Olivia King with Rodda J.* R&B pop. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Reprobate Blues Band*. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Gregg Smith and the Broken English*. Alt. country/rock. 9:30 p.m.

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LIBRARY from pg B1

scrapbook devoted to news clippings about the Northfield pumped storage station project and the construction of the new dam at the falls in Turners during the early 1970s.

News clippings are decaying and fragile now, but they are not likely to be digitized unless a volunteer steps forward to do it. The Digital Commonwealth Project is not able and/or interested in scanning bulky scrapbooks as part of their campaign to digitize archives in Massachusetts libraries.



Just a few of the collection's nearly 400 button books.

I asked local writer and historian David Brule if he ever uses the archives Felton assembled. "As a writer," he said, "I have gleaned a lot of material for articles from the scrapbooks, and worked them into stories for the *Montague Reporter*. I have even found photos and articles about my own family that I try to tie in to my writing. I do think that people are no longer compiling scrapbooks these days, information is more ephemeral, and much of the information will be lost for the casual researcher like myself!"

Different than older collections at other locations, there are no "wonders of the natural world" represented here. This is the world behind drapes; the world of the kitchen, the living room, and the parlor. And all the objects are manufactured, rather than hand crafted. There

are sewing accessories, kitchen implements, patriotic Bicentennial knickknacks from 1976, novelty ashtrays, china cats, and calendars, fans, and other antique promotional materials from a large number of (mostly) extinct local businesses.

In fact, it feels a little suffocating and relentless – relentless because I am uncomfortable thinking about time investment of the obsessive collecting and organizing that went into amassing the scrapbooks and groupings of china novelties such as cat figurines, ashtrays, tea cups, salt and pepper shakers, and creamers. There is a dedication involved in these activities that is quite foreign to me.

Collections consisting of things that were made to be "collectibles" and marketed as such, lack appeal to me. They do not hold my interest compared to items of an elegantly useful nature, or items made to exhibit the skill and artistry of their maker, or those that are made beautiful by wear and tear.

Everything in the cases has remained exactly as it was arranged by Mrs. Felton, as seen in photos in a scrapbook about the room itself. The same pumpkin-colored cloth behind the displays that was mentioned in the *Recorder* article is still there, and the contents of each case still complies exactly with the details of Mrs. Felton's typewritten inventory. Household items are a popular category throughout the room. A large – almost 400-piece – collection of **button hooks** held my interest and inspired further research. How and why were these fancy hooks on handles employed?

Buttons became popular on women's clothing, shoes and accessories during the second half of the 19th century. Prior to that, buttons were used on men's clothes or for embellishment only. Women's garments used hooks and laces.

The Victorian age delighted in carrying a motif to excess. Rows of tiny buttons became popular on shoes, garments, and gloves. What

was a lady to do to keep her nails from breaking while trying to push little buttons through stiff leather? How could she fasten buttons on gloves and sleeves with one hand? Button hooks solved the dilemma, and became fashionable accessories in their own right.

They were also the perfect little trinket to carry the name of a business into customers' homes. Some incorporated shoe horns, scissors and other implements to become multi-tools. Handles of bone, silver, ivory and other materials were artfully crafted.

Due to the popularity of mother of pearl buttons, the mussel population of the upper Mississippi was virtually wiped out by harvesters who punched buttons from their shells. Fortunes were made in button factories; a worker could fashion 3,300 buttons per day, and these mostly female workers were paid low wages.

Pollution, much of it from the Chicago Sanitation Canal, led to silting of the river, which reduced mussel populations. Over-harvesting and changes in the garment industry had an effect on button production after the turn of the century. Handmade pearl buttons could not be sewn on by machine, and they reacted badly to



All-American antiques.

heat from the clothes dryers that came into use. By the 1930s, introduction of plastics and other moldable button materials transformed the industry as well. A machine producing 5,000

buttons per hour gobbled up most button factory jobs. Not to mention the new Zippers.

Besides the occasional researcher who utilizes the scrapbooks, there isn't very much interest in the objects lining the many glass shelves in the cases, according to Freidman. Extra chairs are stored in the room, and sometimes people wander in for a few minutes to look at things.



A collection of calendars.

She is not certain what might happen to this collection going forward: "We're in process of getting a larger building, so some of this may be stored; these valentines are going to age with the light in here, so it's probably best that some of them be stored for a while..."

Brule, also on the Erving Historical Commission, says that commission is "still planning what to do... we will most likely be interested in the historical aspects of her collection, and not necessarily the knickknacks, etc. The actual transfer is still a few years away.

"We are hoping that a possible history room could be eventually established at the Usher Plant site that is currently being studied as a community cultural/activity center by the Usher Re-Use Committee."

Next stop: the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls. There's loads of interesting artifacts in the upstairs room there.



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