

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 2

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 13, 2016

## Bringing Life to the Civil War

By ANNA FORBES GYORGY

**MONTAGUE** – Though the most famous land battles of the Civil War were fought much further south than Springfield, the soldiers and the resources of western Massachusetts played an instrumental part in the victory of the Union.

This Saturday and Sunday, visitors to the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club on Turners Falls Road in Montague will get a vivid glimpse into our area's rich wartime history at the "Skirmish at Millers Meadows," a reenactment and demonstration of life in the camps will be provided by the 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Militia, representing the valley's first Western Massachusetts Civil War Regiment.

Visitors will get to witness first-hand scenes from the lives and service of the men of the 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Militia, walk through both Union and Confederate camps, and watch a reenactment of a skirmish between Union and Confederate forces such as would have occurred along the company's march to larger battles.

There will be musical performances throughout the camp on both days, and speakers will illuminate topics which highlight the involvement of our community in the Underground Railroad, as well as the significance and contributions of the Springfield Armory.

In the early summer of 1861, just three weeks after President Lincoln had declared war, western Massachusetts had already mustered a volunteer militia of around 1000 men from towns up and down the Connecticut River to answer the President's call to bolster



Reenactors Darlene Guditis and Maj. Allan Guditis prepare for next weekend's "Skirmish at Millers Meadows."

the nation's standing army. After the Union lost the nation's largest armory at Harpers Ferry, Virginia to the Confederate Army, the Springfield Armory became one of its largest suppliers of arms, turning out 80 to

see REENACTMENT page A8

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

### Town Hires New Treasurer, New WPCF Superintendent

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague has filled two key positions – the director of its Water Pollution Control Facility, and town treasurer and tax collector – and is well on its way to filling the position of town administrator.

On October 4, the board selected Eileen Seymour to serve as town treasurer and tax collector until the election in 2019, rounding out the term of the long-serving Patti Dion, who will retire next month.

Seymour has lived in Montague her "entire life," and lives in her parents' house in Millers Falls. She said she has worked "in banking" for thirty years, and is currently op-

erations manager at a medical billing company. She told the board she has "extensive experience in finance, in customer service, and in leading teams."

Board members asked Seymour a number of questions relating to how she would handle potential conflicts with taxpayers. She stated that one needed to see the problem from the other person's point of view, but would not tolerate "having chairs thrown at [her]," as had happened in a previous job.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz asked about Seymour's experience in public finance, particularly borrowing and bonding. She stated see MONTAGUE page A4

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### Billings Announces Retirement; State Reduces Elementary School To "Level 3" Over Test Opt-Outs

By MIKE JACKSON

Police chief Gary Billings met with the Leverett selectboard at its October 4 meeting to discuss his decision to retire from his post in the first week of January 2017.

"There's some real changes in law enforcement coming down the highway," he told the board. "A dinosaur like me just said, no thank you... It's time for younger, more ambitious administration."

Billings also told the board that he still enjoyed the job, and offered to be appointed as a part-time officer, for "a few shifts a month,"

upon his retirement. He thanked the board members, town hall staff, and town residents for their support during his 11-year tenure.

The selectboard, in turn, praised Billings and thanked him for his service. "It's a measure of comfort, knowing you were there," member Julie Shively told him.

The board discussed their options for selecting Billings' replacement. When the town created a sergeant position, it was in part to guarantee continuity; Sergeant Scott Minckler has expressed interest in becoming chief,

see LEVERETT page A6

## Sheffield Student Honored With Fire Safety Award



Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman (left), captain Kyle Cogswell, and state fire marshal representative Tim Howe (right) recognize the quick-thinking Daniel Widmer (second from left) with a Young Hero Award last Friday.

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – The auditorium at Sheffield Elementary School was packed with students and parents coming together for an all-school meeting last Friday morning. Principal Melissa Pitrat opened the meeting, which included student presentations, and guests from the fire department to perform a very special task. They were there to honor a Sheffield student who had done something he-

roic. He had helped save his family and his home from fire.

Chief John Zellman and Captain Kyle Cogswell of the Turners Falls Fire Department joined Tim Howe of the Massachusetts state fire marshal's office, who was there to present eight-year-old Daniel Widmer of Millers Falls with a "Young Hero" award for his bravery.

They told the audience the story of what Daniel had done. On the morning of September 27, Daniel see FIRE SAFETY page A4

## Healthy Living Workshops Offer Help for Chronic Conditions

By JOE KWIECINSKI

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Meet Marcus Chiaretto. He's a young man on a mission. As coordinator of the Healthy Living Program at LifePath, his goal is to aid program director Lesley Kayan in delivering free health-oriented workshops for folks in Franklin County and the North Quabbin area.

"Our department," said Chiaretto, "is truly a valuable one. The Healthy Living Program offers a number of community based activities and events, which are designed to support individuals seeking to better manage any type of chronic health condition they might have."

National statistics reflect the huge impact of continuing, lingering disease. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), nearly 75 percent of the \$2 billion dollars expended annually in our country for healthcare is devoted to battling chronic disease. 50 million Americans suffer from arthritis, the most frequent cause of disability.

In addition, 145 million of us – one of every two – have at least one chronic disease. Twenty-eight percent of Americans are plagued by two or more continuing conditions.

Indeed, the challenge for our citizens is great, in the eyes of the National Council On Aging. The

see WORKSHOPS page A5



LifePath's Healthy Living program coordinator Marcus Chiaretto (left) and director Lesley Kayan (right).

## TFHS: The Week in Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

Turners Falls fields three varsity team sports in the fall: Volleyball, Field Hockey and Football.

As we enter the last half of the regular season, all three squads

have their hopes set on making the playoffs.

At press time, both the volleyball team and field hockey team were in second place in their respective divisions, while the football team remains unbeaten.

### Volleyball

With eight games left in the regular season, the Turners Falls Volleyball Spikers sit at an even 6-6, and are 4-1 in the Northern Class.

With 60 percent of their games played, the Lady Indians trail Athol by 1-1/2 games, and lead third place Mahar by a full two.

With so few players on the court, volleyball is truly a group effort. The players have to communicate with each other and make split second decisions where to hit the ball to optimize their attack. Therefore, different positions result in specific stats.

Setter Sienna Dillensneider leads the Lady Indians in aces (43) and assists (107). She also saved 26 digs and made 12 kills.

Outside hitter Abby Loynd has the most kill shots with 33, and the most digs with 49. She also scored 20 aces. Jordyn Fiske, who also plays the outside hitter position, leads in blocks (9), and has served 19 aces with 18 kill shots and 16

see TFHS SPORTS page A6



Turners Falls freshman Marcus Sanders goes 74 yards for his first career touchdown.

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Direct Legislation

On November 8, Massachusetts voters are being asked whether to authorize a slots parlor in Plainville (Question 1); remove the caps on charter schools and charter school attendance (Question 2); ban the sale of eggs laid by hens, or meat from pigs and calves, kept in cages (Question 3); and end marijuana prohibition (Question 4).

We tend to take the availability of this process for granted, but ballot initiative was not established in Massachusetts until 1918, a year some historians and many vampires would consider quite recent.

It was adopted at a state constitutional convention of 1917. One of its main opponents at that convention was a man named Albert E. Pillsbury of Wellesley, who had served as the attorney general of the state. He was also a prominent anti-lynching activist and a founding member of the NAACP (in fact, he drafted its bylaws).

In a stern speech he gave at the convention arguing against the initiative, Pillsbury described a contest "between the believers in constitutional representative government on the one hand and socialistic democracy on the other."

He condemned what he called "the absurdity of committing the work of direct legislation to an electorate too ignorant or indifferent to take care of the selection of their own local representatives," and warned that the initiative would mean "government by the most active and clamorous faction, a little socialistic oligarchy, controlled by half a dozen men, or women as it may be, for which the name of democracy is nothing but a false and criminal alias."

Pillsbury predicted that it would "emasculate the Legislature and make it a mere collection of puppets sitting in *terrorem* under shadow of the initiative and referendum."

"Almost a third" of the state's people, he pointed out, "are still alien but on their way to the franchise. We know how far industrial workers are under the influence, not to say the control, of their leaders, who preach to them the gospel that labor and capital are natural enemies, that they are the victims of corporate greed and the Legislature under their control."

Pillsbury's faction of Republicans did not succeed in preventing the initiative, but they did make it significantly more complicated and cumbersome before it passed.

In their first decade with this new weapon in their sweaty paws, the enfranchised masses of Massachusetts did not seize control of industry from the propertied class, though they did successfully pass two citizen-initiated laws.

The first, in 1920, allowed for the sale of cider, beer, and wine. It passed by a slim 1% margin.

And the second, in 1928, with the approval of 63% of voters, allowed sports games on Sundays.

A trickle of twelve more citizen-initiated laws went through between 1932 and 1978, and in 1980, the process gave us what is now known as Proposition 2-1/2. Since then, there have been another 24 successful instances of direct legislation in the state.

But if you happen to find yourself in a voting booth on the 8th of November, ask yourself this:

Why *didn't* we ever set our sights a little higher?

## CORRECTION:

In our September 29 Notes from the Erving Selectboard (page A1, *Board Awards Riverfront Park Bid; Dismisses Longevity Pay for Treasurer*), we apparently misquoted Erving treasurer Margaret Sullivan.

Our article reported that Sullivan told the board, "I can walk out tonight [leaving the position], and you can't do a damn thing about it," but Sullivan denies having described her perspective in those words, and suggested to the *Reporter* that it may have been a member of the selectboard who summarized the situation using similar words.

No recording was made of the meeting. (We are told the Erving cable committee is in need of volunteers who might tape the meetings

to upload to Montague Community Television, as is the practice in Gill. Given the fallibility of human memory, we hope someone steps forth, if only so we can fact-check disputed reports here at the newspaper!)

Our Erving town hall reporter says she does remember Sullivan saying those words, but town administrator Bryan Smith, who was present during the September 26 meeting, told us he doesn't think she put it quite that way.

An attempt to reach selectboard chair Jacob Smith was unsuccessful as of press time.

We can't think of any good reason not to retract our reporting. Apologies are due to Ms. Sullivan, and, as usual, to our readers.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

## Letters to the Editors

### Parzych: Change Other Names?

I've been asked to sign a petition to ban the name Indians as the Turners Falls Football team mascot.

I'm not so sure about banning the name "Indian". There are a lot of references to Indians. There's an Indian Crossing Mill Works in Athol, Indian Head Farm in Belchertown, Indian Music Center, Indian Hill Symphony Orchestra, Indian Meadow Real Estate, Mohawk Trail, Mohawk Plaza, Indian Motorcycles and an Indian Motorcycle (not spelled motorcycle) Building, Mohawk haircuts, Mohawk River Valley, NY, and Indianapolis, etc., etc.

Our government even minted Indian Head pennies. We once had a Mohawk Chevrolet in Greenfield. Are we going to change the names of all those namesakes, too?

I am of Polish descent. The Revolutionary War Hero Thaddeus Kosciuszko, who helped George Washington win the Revolutionary war, has all sorts of things named for him in Europe and the US, including Kosciuszko Mustard, which I confess is not particularly dignified, though it goes great on hot dogs.

Then there's the Pulaski Highway in NY and a Roosevelt Square in Warsaw, honoring FDR for coming to the aid of Poland and Europe

during WWII. I'm not sure if it is a square or not, but there's a commemorative plaque at a roundabout junction of several highways and trolley tracks in Warsaw, honoring FDR.

There's also a Kosciuszko Foundation in New York City that promotes intellectual and artistic exchanges between the US and Poland.

Don't forget that we must get Prince Albert out of the can. We had pipe tobacco and Prince Albert frock coats honoring the fashionably dressed prince who would later serve as King Edward VII, king of England.

We have a Lincoln Highway, Lincoln coins, Lincoln automobiles, and Lincoln, NH, as well as other cities. Do they dishonor Honest Abe by incurring his name in a similar manner, as well? Could be. Only Lincoln could tell us that.

My late wife had some Native American DNA. I'm not sure what tribe it was, and I'm not sure she knew, or cared. It was on her father's side. Her heritage only surfaced when we were locked in heated disagreement.

I wish she were here to tell me what her feelings were on the subject, which she would express in no uncertain terms, as opposed to my

ambivalent views on the subject.

Has anyone asked an Indian – or, I should say, a Native American – like Joe Graveline?

It may be construed as an honor to have the team mascot, so named, honoring these brave fighters. We should ask those who we feel are being dishonored before getting worked up about it.

I think it would be far better to revert the name Turners Falls to Great Falls. The name "Turners Falls" clearly honors a massacre led by cowardly Captain Turner in his despicable slaughter of sleeping women and children who had gathered peacefully to fish at Peskeomskut, which is the Native American name for "Great Falls". I will gladly sign a petition to support reverting the name to Great Falls, or Peskeomskut, from Turners Falls, and I'll gladly help gather signatures.

I'm sure my wife would more than welcome that. I am not at all sure how she'd feel about the subject of the Turners Falls mascot. When I see her, I'll ask; though I'm in no hurry to inquire, just yet.

Joe A. Parzych  
Gill

### Russell: Head Didn't Represent Me

According to Webster, the word mascot is derived from the French word "masco," meaning sorcerer. Do you think an educational institution needs a sorcerer?

Instead, I suggest an emblem, perhaps a Blue Diamond. A Blue Diamond, as an emblem of the high school in Montague, is far more representative than an Amputated Indian Head.

How can an amputated head – just a head, without arms or legs – help a team or the school? Do you think the sorcerer, acting through the amputated Indian head, brings

good luck to players at Turners High? How? It can't run, it can't catch a ball, it is useless.

Moreover, that amputated Indian head only represents *emasculated* males; there is no emblem for female students.

Voting: I think voting should be restricted to students and alumni. Because the school exists and was built for educating students, I don't think sports should be considered during future discussions, but I played basketball, softball, and volleyball.

That amputated and emasculat-

ed Indian head never represented me, or any of my siblings, while we were at Turners High, so I know where I stand.

I am voting for an emblem: the *Blue Diamonds*. Before voting, you should consider the purpose and responsibilities of educating all the students in the Town of Montague. Turners Falls High School is an educational institution, not a stadium. Depose and dethrone the sorcerer. Choose an emblem. No mascots!

Muriel E. Russell '61  
Colrain

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

# LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The Reporter's special edition of October 6 was the first issue for the newspaper's 15th year of publication. Congrats all those who have donated their time and experience to this unique success story. Also thank you to our loyal subscribers, advertisers and dedicated staff!

The Friends of Gill will hold a Pancake Breakfast on Saturday, October 15, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at Gill Congregational Church, 6 Center Road to benefit their college scholarship program. Prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 10, and free for 4 and under.

The Friends' famous apple pies (frozen, uncooked) will also be available for \$12 each. To pre-order pies, please call 863-2212.

A labyrinth program titled "Pilgrims on a Path," will be led by trained labyrinth facilitator Deborah Yaffee on Saturday, October 15 starting 9:30 a.m. at First Congregational Church of Montague, 4 North St., Montague Center.

Participants will walk the indoor and outdoor labyrinths, and learn

about the history of their use in Christian life. Following the walk there will be time for shared insights from the journey. For more information or to register for this free program, call Rev. Barbara Turner Delisle at (413) 367-9467 or email Yaffee at [labyrinthgal@gmail.com](mailto:labyrinthgal@gmail.com).

Hurricane Irene had a tremendous impact on the Deerfield lowlands, especially along the Stillwater Bridge and surrounding areas. On Saturday, October 15 at 10:30 a.m., local historian Ed Gregory will present "The Days After Hurricane Irene Blew into Town" at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls.

The bank will provide light refreshments. No reservation required.

Just one more for this Saturday: The Great Falls Discovery Center presents "Moose in Massachusetts" on Saturday, October 15, from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall.

You may have heard about challenges facing moose populations in northern New England such as warming winters, brain worm, winter tick... but are they a problem here for western Massachusetts moose? Hear from MassWildlife Connect-

icut Valley District Manager Ralph Taylor as he describes the current moose situation in Massachusetts, moose natural history, and ecology.

The homes in Farley, on Erving's side of the Millers River, and the iron bridge that spans the river, were built to serve the factory on Wendell's side of the river before the turn of the 20th century. Who were the Farley brothers who brought their dream to this unlikely site? What was the factory, and who were the workers who came to populate this area in two towns?

Historians Sara Campbell and Shari Strahan will present a talk on the "History of Farley: Both Sides of the River" at 6 p.m. on Friday, October 21 at the Wendell Free Library. Campbell and Strahan will share their research into the long neglected history of the Farley area using a PowerPoint presentation that includes old maps and many photos. Sara says they even uncovered a long-forgotten scandal!

The Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter is holding a Rabies Clinic on Saturday, October 22, from noon to 2 p.m. The shelter is located at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls and the fee is \$20 for cats or dogs. Dogs must be leashed, and cats transported in a carrier.

The Dakin Humane Society has been named a recipient of a 2016 grant from the "I'm Animal Friendly" license plate program, a program of the Massachusetts Animal

Coalition. The funds will be used to perform spay/neuter surgery for 500 owned and free-roaming cats in Massachusetts communities.

Funds for the "I'm Animal Friendly" license plates are dispersed annually to organizations that demonstrate a need for – and provide – low-cost spay/neuter services. The tax-deductible plates can be ordered by visiting [www.petplate.org](http://www.petplate.org).

Eggtooth Productions is organizing a holiday variety show at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls, on the theme of "grace." Would you like to submit a 5- to 10-minute offering that could be a part of their show?

Eggtooth and the Shea will provide the venue, promotion, tech, and any support, within reason, you might need to perform your piece. It could be theater, music, dance, circus arts, poetry, really anything that lasts under ten minutes and can be experienced upon a stage. Be creative!

Proposals are due by October 31 and participants will be announced the first week of November. The play will be December 16, 17 and 18.

Email Linda McInerney at [lmciner@gmail.com](mailto:lmciner@gmail.com) with your idea.

Save the date: On Sunday, November 13 from 1 to 3 p.m., there will be a reception at the Discovery Center honoring retiring Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio for his 30 years of service to the town. More details to come!

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

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# "People Claiming To Honor Us..."

By KATHLEEN BROWN-PÉREZ

I am writing this guest editorial as a resident of Turners Falls and as an enrolled member of the Eeyanquittoowauconnuck (Brothertown) Indian Nation. My mother was American Indian; my father was English. Both descend from notable people in their respective ancestral nations. I provide this small amount of information about myself so readers will understand something about my perspective, rather than to assert my qualifications.

I will, in fact, begin by stating the obvious: The Indian mascot controversy is not unique to Turners Falls. Every argument that either side could come up with has been repeated over and over again in the mascot debate at countless schools, colleges, universities, and elsewhere.

Over the years, I have listened to the views of those on both sides. Most people are quick to edit their opinions when expressing them in a public forum. They'll take a side and support it with arguments such as "this mascot is our tradition," or "no, you're not really honoring us."

Behind closed doors (and within closed minds) uncensored arguments include, "We're keeping our Indian mascot because we don't care about the harmful effect on Indians," or "If you're not an Indian, you shouldn't even have a say in this." Locally, more public arguments have included the opinion that non-Indians should not be allowed to be on the side of removing offensive mascots.

As an Indian, I am grateful for the support of our non-Indian allies. It is essential in a country in which we now represent less than 2% of the population. This country also often governs based on majority rule rather than consensus. If the Turners Falls

High School mascot debate goes that direction, we might as well simply take a headcount (Indian versus non-Indian) and stop the debate now.

Truth is, I am saddened by the idea that Indian people may not have non-Indian allies, while anyone can be on the side of keeping an offensive and psychologically damaging mascot. In fact, many people have loudly expressed the opinion that a number of Indians have no problem with Indian mascots.

So, if non-Indians aren't permitted to be on the side of replacing the mascot, why are Indians allowed to be on the side of keeping it? Please excuse my lack of understanding on the issue of who is allowed to be on which side.

As an American Indian on the side of removing Indian mascots – e.g., Indians, braves, warriors, redskins, red raiders, etc. – I hope that those on both sides of the debate will at least acknowledge my right to express my opinion in this forum.

Lately, many have asked what side I'm on, and why I'm on it. It's simple: I have an issue with people who know virtually nothing about the Indigenous history of this country or Indigenous peoples either historic or contemporary appropriating our likeness (however inaccurate and dated), our cultures, or anything about us.

People claiming to honor us through this misappropriation have often taken no steps to get to know us personally or to learn something about the many diverse cultures represented in Indigenous America. Sadly, most of us go through K-12 unaware of what is being left out of the textbooks and the lectures.

Fortunately, most colleges and universities have taken steps to address this issue. Quite recently,

in fact, Amherst College listened to complaints about the "Lord Jeff" mascot. They outweighed the "tradition" argument. The tradition, in the case of Amherst College, is that there is no reason to use as a mascot the name of the man who encouraged the distribution of smallpox-infested blankets to Indians in correspondence to the gentleman who carried out the dastardly deed of biological warfare. (Yes, there were smallpox outbreaks within the two tribes that received the blankets.)

Beyond the "you-don't-know-who-we-are" argument are the dozens of psychological and sociological studies that have found that the use of Indian mascots is harmful to Indian people, particularly children.

The American Psychological Association (APA) has taken the position that Indian mascots are harmful. They are not neutral; they do not honor either historic or contemporary Indians.

Ask yourself why the APA would bother with such an issue if it were irrelevant. Political correctness? No. Political correctness is simply lip service intended to disguise one's own prejudice. If you're interested in reading more, please see [www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots.aspx](http://www.apa.org/pi/oema/resources/indian-mascots.aspx).

I want to end by thanking the Gill-Montague Regional School District committee that has decided it is time to at least consider a mascot change. Their motto, after all, is "Challenging and supporting every student." These are the truly brave people in this debate.

Anyone can circulate a petition or give an interview or write an editorial. But there comes a point when we, as with all controversial issues, have an option: We can be part of the problem or part of the solution.

Long after I'm gone, I hope to be remembered as someone who was part of the solution. Therefore, I write this short plea hoping that at least some will listen and consider the other side.

More importantly, however, I am hoping that some will consider the impact this is having on their own children. Just as Indigenous peoples worry daily about the many things their children deal with – such as having the highest suicide rates in the country – our concern for children does not stop with Indigenous children.

We care about all children, including those who are being taught that there is a world in which a people who are fighting daily for their very existence can be reduced to caricatures and team mascots.

Our Indigenous ancestors did not survive disease, war, removal, relocation, reservations, and termination for us to be dealing with something that is arguably not worthy of debate, because it is never acceptable to not respect others.

As a community, let us make a change for all of the children. Let's use this as an opportunity to have the children of Turners Falls learn more about the many aspects of our village's complex history, and vote on an appropriate mascot.

*Kathleen A. Brown-Pérez is an attorney licensed to practice law in Massachusetts and Arizona. She currently provides consultation services to law firms representing American Indian nations. Brown-Pérez is faculty in the Commonwealth Honors College at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and past chair of the Five College Native American and Indigenous Studies program.*

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#### MONTAGUE from page A1

that she did not have a great deal of experience in this area, but would rely on colleagues in the field.

"I assume the town probably has a financial advisor," she said. "I have no problem working with them, but I can't say I have had experience in depth in the financing part. But I would know where to go."

Michael Nelson noted that the position is currently "interim," pending the election in May 2019, and asked Seymour what she thought her role was in that situation. She replied that her role would be "to learn and also build the trust of the taxpayers. I would have every intention of running, should I be appointed."

The board also interviewed Kristen Parmenter, who is currently the assistant city treasurer of Northampton. Parmenter has experience in the city's payroll department and five years of banking experience, and is studying finance and accounting at UMass. She stated that Northampton separates treasurer and collector functions, and so she would be learning the collector's role.

When Nelson asked about her role as an interim treasurer and collector, she did not pledge to run for the office in 2019.

After Parmenter left the front table, Rich Kuklewicz stated that he thought both candidates were well qualified, but that Seymour brought "stability and management experience."

"Given staff seniority levels," he said, "having someone more seasoned might be a benefit."

Selectboard member Chris Boutwell also noted that Seymour would know many local taxpayers. Without further discussion, the board voted to offer her the position.

#### WPCF Hire

The next day, October 5, the selectboard chose Robert McDonald to serve as director of the Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF). McDonald has, for the past four years, been chief operator at Medfield's treatment plant.

In his interview, he stated that he took over the Medfield plant when it was "in pretty rough shape," and that within two years had received awards from both the state Department of Environmental Protection and federal Environmental Protection Agency for "excellence" in its operation.

McDonald also said he had pursued and received a grant from the state to install a solar array, which provides approximately half the electricity for the plant.

Kuklewicz asked McDonald about the lucrative and apparently efficient,

#### FIRE SAFETY from page A1

woke early, and looking out his bedroom window saw there was fire in the yard on his side of the house. It turned out that the porch attached to the house was on fire.

Daniel had learned about fire safety in school, so he knew he had to do something. He woke his parents, and together they left the house and called 911. The family waited at a neighbor's house until the fire department arrived.

Chief Zellman told the audience that when the fire department arrives at a fire, the first question they always ask is, "Is everyone accounted for?" He said it's always heart-warming when the answer is yes. In this case everyone, including the family dog Happy, was safe.

Daniel stood onstage and listened with shy humility, holding the award and the T-shirt they gave him, while the fire officials spoke and students looked on.

Captain Cogswell spoke to the students about fire safety, including making sure smoke detectors work, and the importance of the Student Awareness Fire Education (SAFE), the annual state grant the fire department receives to educate students.

After the presentation, the meeting went on in the auditorium, but Daniel and his father stepped out into the hallway. There they joined the three fire officials, who spent some time taking photos with them and congratulating Daniel for his quick thinking and bravery.



but poorly documented, "Montague Process," which has allowed the town to import and process sludge from out of the district to generate revenue. The state is now requiring that Montague implement a study of the process to insure it conforms to state and federal standards.

After explaining his understanding of the local innovations, McDonald stated that he wanted to make sure that the current staffing situation remained stable.

"There's no way I can run that process without the staff," he told the board. "My goal, when I come here, is to document the heck out of it." He said there needed to be written standard operating procedures, to ensure the process can continue after current staff members retire.

McDonald, who grew up in Palmer, said he has "family and roots" in western Massachusetts. "It's been our plan all along to try to come back this way," he said.

The board also interviewed Hannah O'Connell, who currently serves as water and highway superintendent for the town of Brattleboro, Vermont. O'Connell attended Northfield Mount Hermon and Greenfield Community College, and worked for MassDOT.

In the end, the board chose McDonald because of his direct experience in the field and his understanding of the Montague Process. Kuklewicz said he thought he had "a good handle on how to start documenting" the process. "He's more conventional, but seemed very willing to work with the staff," he said.

The facility has been working under an interim superintendent since the abrupt retirement this spring of longtime head Bob Trombley, amid a well-publicized dispute over a succession plan.

The board still needs to select a town administrator to replace Frank Abbondanzio. The hiring committee will be meeting in executive session in the coming two weeks to choose finalists. The selectboard will then conduct public interviews and make a final decision on the candidates.

Town officials are hoping for an overlap of at least a few weeks before Abbondanzio retires in early December.

#### Solar Project

At its regular meeting on October 3, the selectboard approved a landowner consent agreement with the electric company Eversource to work on town property at the former landfill on Sandy Lane. The agreement will allow Eversource to connect with a solar array Kearsarge Energy plans to build on the site.

The consent agreement means that Eversource has reached an interconnection agreement with Kearsarge. Critics have charged that electric companies have been dragging their feet on interconnection agreements, which allow companies operating large arrays to receive credits under the state's net metering law. Town planner Walter Ramsey stated that the interconnection agreement was finalized on September 24.

The interconnection and consent agreements pave the way for a lease agreement between Montague and Kearsarge. Town officials believe the proposed array, which could produce up to 6.4 megawatts of electricity, will provide significant revenue for the town, although the facility will not be subject to property taxation.

Ramsey said the lease agreement with Kearsarge should be finalized this winter, and the array built "during the next construction season."

#### Beagle Legal

The board's October 3 meeting, however, was not dominated by energy and local development issues, but by a lengthy "nuisance dog" hearing. Wayne and Gina Pleasant, who live on Carlisle Avenue in Turners Falls complained that dogs owned by their next-door neighbors, Kyle Bessette and Michelle Newton, were guilty of "excessive barking."

As the hearing began, Kuklewicz announced that both he and Nelson had potential conflicts of interest. Kuklewicz said that Newton is his niece, and that Nelson is "close personal friends" of the couple. He then read a statement from town counsel stating that the conflicts did not violate state law, as long as they were publicly declared. Both Kuklewicz and Nelson made public declarations, with Nelson recusing himself from the hearing.

A nuisance dog hearing is not nearly as high-stakes an event as a dangerous dog hearing, wherein the offending animal can be ordered "put down." Still, the hearing was contentious, at least in its early stages.

Mr. Pleasant complained that the barking of the three dogs often occurred during the night, affecting his sleep and blood pressure. The noise, he reported, "goes to the center of your soul."

Mrs. Pleasant called the sound "the most acoustically offensive I have ever heard."

The Pleasants also claimed that they had been threatened by a relative of the neighboring couple, who blamed them for the barking. Mrs. Pleasant said she was afraid to go into an area of her property where she enjoys collecting moss.

Bessette and Newton responded

#### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

## Montague Voter Registration Deadline

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 is the last day to register to vote for the November 8 Presidential Election.

Registration will be held at the town clerk's office for all Montague residents who will be 18 years old on or before November 8, 2016. Office hours will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Even if you have been registered to vote for years, many Federal and State Laws impact your registration status. If you have moved, changed your name or if your local census form was not received at the town hall, you may

encounter an issue at the polls.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau, advises all eligible citizens to act now. Do not wait. Check your voter registration status.

The town clerk's office is located at the town hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. Town hall hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Fridays.

For more information call 863-3200, ext 203. You can also register to vote and check your voter status online at [www.123voter.com](http://www.123voter.com).

## Montague Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk's Office for the November 8 Presidential Election. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, November 7.

All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by the close of the polls on November 8. The polls will be open

from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Town hall hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town hall is closed on Fridays.

The town clerk's office is located at the town hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 863-3200, ext 203.

## Montague Early Voting Schedule

For the first time in Massachusetts history, early voting for the November 8 Presidential Election is now available for all registered voters to cast their ballot before Election Day.

Early voting will take place at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls in the office of the town clerk.

Early voting begins Monday, October 24 and is held during normal business through and including Friday, November 4.

Hours to vote early are as

follows:

Monday, October 24; Tuesday, October 25; Thursday, October 27: **8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Saturday, October 29: **8 a.m. to noon.**

Monday, October 31, Tuesday, November 1, Thursday, November 3: **8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Wednesday, October 26 and Wednesday, November 2: **8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**

Friday, October 28 and Friday, November 4: **Closed**

that no one else in the neighborhood had complained about their dogs. They stated that the police had responded to up to eighteen complaints, and "found no evidence of barking." Mr. Bessette also said the Pleasants had falsely told the police that the dog owners were drunks, and that Mr. Newton, by offering to help with repairs at the police station, was attempting to bribe police chief Chip Dodge.

After statements by Dodge and the regional dog officer, the parties attempted to clear up confusion about which dog was barking the most. Then abruptly the discussion became more collegial.

Gina Pleasant noted that the neighbors had recently made efforts to reduce the barking, which she appreciated. She also said that the hearing was the first time she had actually talked to the other couple. Kyle Bessette admitted that the barking of his beagle could be extremely unnerving, and pledged continued efforts to reduce the noise.

A relieved selectboard did not take any action on the issue.

#### Other Business

The board executed a grant agree-

ment of \$19,765 with the state to fund the local RiverCulture program. The board also approved \$6,000 from the community development discretionary fund toward the local cash match for RiverCulture, and raised the hourly wage of its director, Suzanne LoManto, by \$1 per hour.

The board extended the time frame of a contract with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to complete an application to enter Millers Falls in the National Register for Historic Places. It also voted to ask the state for an extension for the implementation of the 2014 Community Development Block Grant.

Finally, the board approved a consent order with the state Department of Public Utilities in response to two overflows at the WPCF. The consent order provides for penalties for the incidents, about 2/3 of which will be waived if the town completes other elements of the agreement.

The agreement requires that the town study and document its process for treating sludge from other facilities. This process has generated considerable revenue, but is currently on hold due to understaffing at the WPCF.



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## NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# No New Paving Without Town Meeting Approval

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard met on October 3 and, after a call to order, heard a report from Mick LaClaire, Gill's highway superintendent, concerning repaving work on River Road.

LaClaire stated that the repair work "adhered to the original footprint" and that, although the road "looks wider," it actually isn't.

He then asked the selectboard if his department could extend a 50' to 80' section of the gravel road where the incline is the steepest at the Barney Hale Road intersection. He explained that, due to the incline, the gravel bank was consistently pushed back and winter weather makes stopping before the stop sign extremely difficult.

Selectboard chair John Ward asked LaClaire why this issue was only coming before the selectboard one night before paving was to commence.

"I'm not trying to sneak anything in," LaClaire answered. "It's just the timing of the situation."

Ward agreed, then explained that the selectboard is "held to a standard that says we can only repave what was previously paved – our hands are tied. At a previous town meeting, we were told only to repave the existing pavement. So I don't really know what we can do."

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker asked about the actual date of that particular town meeting, and member Randy Crochier stated that it was before Snedeker's time on the selectboard. Ward added that the meeting in question was actually prior to any of their time on the selectboard.

Crochier went on to clarify that, while the decision wasn't "an official vote, it was pretty clear the majority of the town wanted the rural factor of the town to be maintained." After speaking further with LaClaire, selectboard members agreed that the decision to pave the small section of road was not an immediate "safety issue," and that they should table the decision for a 2017 town meeting.

LaClaire concurred, and promised that blacktop footprint of 21 feet would remain the same.

## Backup Backhoe Plan

The board and LaClaire then discussed the town's planned purchase of a used backhoe, and the upcoming open bidding. There is a possibility that the lowest submitted bid might come from a source that had not been previously checked out by LaClaire and his department. If this occurs, LaClaire would have to quickly visit the backhoe in question, thoroughly inspect it in the same way the others had been, and be able to quickly purchase it before it was sold elsewhere.

Based on the need to possibly

act with haste, the selectboard decided to appoint administrative assistant Ray Purington as a procurement officer. The motion passed unanimously, with the proviso that Purington keep the selectboard informed of the process.

## Who Will Shovel?

The selectboard then tackled the issue of the sidewalk maintenance agreement with the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) at the proposed Summit Mobil convenience store on Route 2.

Conversation immediately moved to the dilemma of whether the town, the developer, or the new convenience store owner would be responsible for the cost of future snow removal from the planned sidewalk, as well as liable for any sidewalk accident that might occur.

Selectboard members agreed that it should be the responsibility of the developer to contact MassDOT to resolve the problem, since there is no clear understanding of protocol. The board decided to table their decision until there was more information from the state.

## Theft Database

The next order of business was a new town bylaw proposal brought forward by Snedeker.

The bylaw, modeled after one recently adopted by the town of Uxbridge, would include Gill in an electronic system that helps to identify stolen goods received by second-hand dealers, pawnbrokers and precious metal dealers.

This system is designed to deter and prevent the sale of stolen goods by aiding law enforcement officers in apprehending and prosecuting any person who facilitates the theft, possession and or sale of stolen goods. This process would also expedite the return of stolen property to the rightful owners.

Snedeker said that he felt it was important to create such a bylaw following a recent incident involving a break-in theft at his own residence. He stated that not only would he like to see Gill adopt the system, he would also "like to see statewide legislation passed, for continuity's sake."

He went on to report that after Uxbridge adopted this plan, their police department was able to solve 11 open cases. He added that the city of Springfield had seen a steep reduction in the buying and selling of such goods after adopting this plan.

Crochier stated that electronically uploading all sale receipts to a shared site was a great idea and would certainly help police track down thefts. He added that in regards to the proposal's language, he "wouldn't change a single word."

When asked what the next step should be, Purington suggested

## WORKSHOPS from page A1

organization puts the spotlight on the usual suspects – hypertension, diabetes, lung disease, and arthritis – a quartet of illnesses that render life unmanageable for older adults, resulting in their being cheated out of precious independence.

"For reasons like these," said the 23-year-old Chiaretto, "our workshops are so vital to the people we serve. I like to think of it as a way of focusing on managing one's own health outside of a doctor's office. Evidence-based programs, such as ours, are really new concepts that are gaining a lot of traction in the medical field right now."

"What's so exciting is that what we're doing at LifePath is part of an emerging philosophy surrounding preventive medicine. Our programs are providing new skills and a boost in confidence, enabling participants to live a healthier life."

A private, non-profit corporation, LifePath has stressed options for independence for more than four decades – first as Franklin County Home Care, and now under its new name. A local volunteer board of directors, which includes a majority of elders (under Massachusetts law), guides the agency.

Currently, the Healthy Living Program is in the final stages of an eight-week workshop called "A Matter of Balance" at the Greenfield Senior Center. This seminar helps forestall attendees' concerns about falling by imparting practical strategies to improve balance and heighten strength and flexibility. It has a record number of participants at 24 attendees.

"It's important to note," said Chiaretto, "that workshops are not only open to those folks who are dealing with a chronic health condition, but also to caregivers, family members, or any individual who has a loved one with a chronic health condition. In addition, the helpers may attend the seminar and bring the vital information they learned back to the loved one."

The Healthy Living Program is proud, too, of its trio of peer-led workshops dealing with specific health circumstances. Three different workshop series are licensed to

the LifePath program by Stanford University in California.

To begin with, there is Diabetes Self-Management. "This very important offering," said program director Lesley Kayan, "helps participants to remain independent and healthy. Those who take part will create weekly personalized action plans on their way to attaining their specific objectives through small, workable steps with supportive peers, in small group sessions."

"The highly relevant topics include working effectively with health care providers, healthy eating, techniques for dealing with symptoms and emotional challenges, appropriate use of medication, along with appropriate endurance and strength exercises." Individuals who have either pre-diabetes or type 2 diabetes may enroll in the class.

Another offering is Chronic Pain Self-Management, a critical workshop that targets one of the banes of folks with chronic health situations: persistent pain, which takes a heavy toll physically and psychologically.

"In this class," said Chiaretto, "we develop the skills and confidence participants need to manage the challenge of living well with chronic pain. We teach elements of healthy eating and techniques for dealing with frustration, fatigue, depression, and poor sleep. We also cover appropriate use of medication and effective communication, and stress appropriate strength, flexibility, and endurance exercises."

In addition, the Healthy Living Program features My Life, My Health: Chronic Disease Self-Management, a precisely balanced overview for people dealing with lasting pain. "We want to reach out to individuals with any ongoing challenges," said Chiaretto, "such as diabetes, arthritis, heart diseases, or COPD. We feel this seminar will help those who take part in learning how to better manage their health and stay active."

Subjects covered include making informed treatment decisions, physical activity and exercise, pain and fatigue management, healthy eating, working through difficult emotions, relaxation techniques, communication skills, and appro-

appropriate utilization of medications.

What's the age distribution for the workshops? "Generally, we have older people participating," said Chiaretto, "but we've been noticing a wider range in attendance. We now have individuals in our offerings in their 30s through their 90s. It's very nice to see both elderly folks in the groups, and also younger and middle-aged participants."

Marcus is equally gratified by the fact that the classes are mostly led by peers. Thus, one or both co-leaders of each workshop have a chronic health condition.

"These workshops have helped me as much as my participants," said Chiaretto. "We have so many dedicated volunteers who do so much for the individuals in this community who are living with an ongoing illness."

Born in Pittsfield, Chiaretto graduated from St. Joseph High School in his Berkshire hometown. He went on to be a communications major at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, earning his B.A. in 2015.

He and Kayan are delighted with the response to these workshops. One former participant wrote back to say, "What a wonderful workshop – loaded with valuable information and discussion because of the breadth of the topics. Very comprehensive for those of us who are trying to learn more about medical challenges in one's life and make necessary changes to better manage these diseases."

"The discussion with the facilitators and the participants was worth its weight in gold. To hear people have their 'aha' moment was just terrific. Thank you for offering this workshop. Hopefully, more practitioners will encourage their patients to take advantage of such a worthwhile program right in our backyard."

For more information on the Healthy Living Program at LifePath, please call Marcus Chiaretto at 773-5555, extension 2304. LifePath, formerly Franklin County Home Care, is located in Turners Falls at 330 Montague City Road.



the selectboard give the proposal to the police department and town counsel to review and, if necessary, "polish up" the language. Then the matter should be openly discussed at a "well-publicized open town meeting." Both Ward and Crochier thanked Snedeker for bringing the proposal forward, while expressing their sadness that he and his family had to go through such a tragedy.

## Other Business

The board signed a warrant for the impending November 8 election.

Purington related that work on town hall funded by the Green Communities grant was moving forward, and another second floor window

had been installed. He also reported that the outside storm windows were yet to be restored.

Crochier quipped that it was, at least, "a good sign that there was now two upstairs windows that were safe to open."

Ward added that using the Green Communities grant was "a good way to fund the start of this important project."

Purington then updated the selectboard on project to build a treatment system for the Gill Elementary School well, funded by a USDA grant. He recounted that the September 16 water test confirmed that the system as designed should be adequate, and that an October 6 test

would determine the soil conditions behind the school where the modernized well would be set up.

As the final order of business for the evening, Purington shared the following public service announcements:

- Scarecrows on the Common: October 21 through November 4

- Rabies Vaccination Clinic at the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter in Turners Falls: October 22, from noon to 2 p.m.

- Fall Festival Fire at Gill Elementary School: October 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.

- Flu Vaccination Clinic at the Gill Elementary School: November 2 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Senior Housing Needed, But No Takers On Design

By KATIE NOLAN

Pam Parmakian of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCHRA) told the Erving selectboard at its October 3 meeting that 117 people had completed the town's senior housing survey.

According to housing committee member Paula Betters, the conclusion of the study was, "Yes, we need senior housing."

Parmakian said that the FCHRA had sent a request for proposals (RFP) to seventy-five architectural firms, seeking a firm that would take the preliminary senior housing plans developed for the town and the recently completed senior housing survey, conduct a market study, and prepare a "unit demand analysis" and conceptual design for future senior housing.

However, she said that there were no responses to the RFP, which was budgeted at \$10,400.

Senior housing committee members asked for help in moving to the next steps in the process. Parmakian said she would provide the committee with the RFP developed by FCHRA, which she said outlined "good next steps."

Rebecca Sherer of Tighe & Bond suggested that the housing committee consider the senior housing project in light of a town master plan. Sherer noted that the likely location of future senior housing — near the senior and community center — was also the location of a proposed future library building, and of planned roadway improvements by MassDOT.

Sherer said she plans to attend the next senior housing committee meeting to discuss planning for future senior housing.

The selectboard decided to form an open space committee, composed of representatives of the con-

servation commission, the planning board, the recreation commission, the zoning board of appeals, the historical commission, the selectboard, the Council on Aging and two non-affiliated residents.

This committee, with help from Franklin Regional Council of Governments, will be tasked with updating the town's 2007 open space plan, a necessity for certain grant applications. The town has budgeted \$20,000 for updating the plan.

### Special Town Meeting

The board considered draft warrant articles for a special town meeting, with the date still undetermined.

One potential article is elimination of the elected position of tree warden, and moving the tree warden's responsibilities to the highway department.

Board members noted that the position has remained vacant for several months, and that recruiting a tree warden can be difficult.

Other proposed articles include: \$9,717 for speed monitoring equipment for the police department; \$15,000 for voting equipment; \$50,000 for hazardous materials cleanup at the former IP Mill; and adding additional funds, amount as yet undetermined, to the town hall siding project.

### Other Business

The selectboard formally accepted the \$491,650 bid from Mountain View Landscapes and Lawncare of Chicopee to construct the first phase of Riverfront Park on Arch Street, at the former Usher Mill.

The board decided that the proposed longevity policy was complete, and that it would include a statement specifying that elected officials were not eligible for longevity pay.

### LEVERETT from page A1

and Billings has recommended him.

The board decided to speak with Sgt. Minckler at a future meeting, and took no other action on the subject.

### Opting Out

The state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has reduced Leverett Elementary's "accountability and assistance" rating from Level 2 to Level 3, citing "very low assessment participation (less than 90%)". The rating had previously been reduced from Level 1 to Level 2 in 2014.

The 55 third- through sixth-grade students at Leverett Elementary who took the standardized PARCC test this spring "met or exceeded expectations" on average in nearly any category, but they only represented 82% of the students in those four grades; the rest voluntarily opted out.

The selectboard met with principal Margot Lacey and school committee chair Sarah Dolven to discuss the situation.

"We would have preferred that the state declare a moratorium on testing, given that they had already decided they were going to change what the test was," said Lacey. "They have a test that they acknowledge was not a reasonable test, and yet they're somehow declaring our 'accountability' based on this test."

Lacey argued that state assessments are not well designed for small rural districts. "We have so many groups that are fewer than 10 kids, that they can't even declare a percentage," she said. "You see all these asterisks, because they don't even know what to do with us."

She added that her graduate degree was in urban teaching, and that she understood the original point of standardized testing. "They've taken that attempt to improve failing schools, and they've applied it to everybody. And it's an untenable situation for schools."

"It's not the first time people in Boston haven't seen past Framingham," said selectboard chair Peter d'Errico.

Lacey said that the school community was not overly concerned with the state assessment, and pointed out that there is a wait list for families hoping to choose their children in. She said the school is devising its own alternative assessment to measure student learning.

"What I'm feeling is that this is one more screw-up from DESE,"

said d'Errico, comparing it with "inadequate funding of transportation," "not fulfilling [special education] responsibilities," and the impact of charter schools.

After the meeting, the selectboard sent an open letter to DESE commissioner Mitchell Chester, condemning the department's move as "demonstrat[ing] an incoherent structure for accountability and assessment."

"The decision to not participate in the test reflects choices made by parents about their children's education," the letter read. "Such choices are an essential element in the overall framework of education in a free society."

### Ability To Pay

The selectboard also met with a quorum of the finance committee to discuss the town's stance on the formula by which Amherst, Pelham, Shutesbury and Leverett are assessed costs within the shared middle and high school district.

For a half century the assessments have been in equal proportion to student enrollment. In recent years, Shutesbury has been pushing for land valuation, as one measure of town wealth, to be taken into account. The towns must come to a consensus or revert to a statutory formula put forth by the state, which would assess Amherst more than it is likely to be able to pay, putting a major dent in the overall district budget.

"We need a new definition of ability to pay," said Shively, adding that by her estimation, Shutesbury residents should be able to pay more than Leverett's. She cited, among other factors, the larger sum of state Chapter 70 aid that Shutesbury receives, and Leverett's higher tax burden.

"There is no agreed-upon way to distinguish among all the many formulae you can put on the board," said fin com member Tom Powers. He recommended Leverett convince Amherst and Pelham to publish a letter, in a united front, explaining the problem to Shutesbury's residents.

"We could reduce the warlike stance," selectboard member Tom Hankinson suggested, "if we could get the other two towns to agree, to have all three towns send them to the residents of all four towns."

"There's so much concern with not offending Shutesbury," said d'Errico, "and that's what empowers Shutesbury." He bemoaned a political environment, including at the national and global levels, in which

"all you have to do is fart loudly and people will say, 'oh, we have to take that into consideration now.'" He suggested the town should stop wasting its time in the negotiations.

The group talked about the possibility of asking the state to intervene via special legislation. "The agreement has been around for a really long time, and it has outlived its workability," said fin com member Ann Delano. "It's an incomprehensible model."

"You can make an argument right now that we have a broken governance structure in our region," Powers argued. He wondered if a structure in which "Amherst plus two" could set the assessments would work. About 85% of the district's students come from Amherst.

The boards agreed that the town's position was to make no more concessions, and decided to schedule the annual town meeting a week after Shutesbury's.

### Other Business

The board signed a covenant for a house bought with assistance from the town's affordable housing trust, the third bought under the program. According to d'Errico, Paul Bockelman, Amherst's new town manager, has indicated that it was unlikely to be a good time to extend Amherst's water to Leverett, given the mandatory water restrictions under effect in that town.

Leverett is responsible for supplying water to a handful of homes whose wells are believed to be contaminated by a plume of toxic chemicals leaching from an unlined town landfill, and officials have been looking into hooking them up with clean water from Amherst. "We don't have any idea where that plume moves," d'Errico said.

The board took no action. Hankinson mentioned that in the 1930s, Amherst had tried to gain access to Leverett's aquifer.

Engineers have been looking at the Coke Kiln Bridge, and highway boss David Finn expects estimates for its repair to be drawn up soon. "Unfortunately, they're talking about some very expensive numbers," warned town administrator Margie McGinnis.

The town has sold its surplus 1988 GMC four-wheel-drive rescue truck for a winning bid of \$666. In related news, the board signed a warrant for the November 8 election.



### TFHS SPORTS from page A1

digs. Middle Hitter Tess Hunter has 1 block, 21 kills, 10 digs and 14 aces.

Setter Emma Miner has recorded 12 aces, 11 kills, 10 assists and 10 digs; outside hitter, Maddy Johnson contributed by aces four serves and shooting four kills; and Adrianna DiMaio, who comes into the game as the libero, helped out with 16 digs.

### Field Hockey

With the postponement of the Springfield Central game, the Turners Falls Field Hockey Indians are in the midst of a 10-day recess.

Currently, Powertown holds a respectable 5-5-1 record, with 7 games to go. More importantly, Turners is 5-1 in the West Class, second to only powerhouse Holyoke.

This week, with their hiatus over, the Powertown Ladies travel to Shelburne Falls to play Mohawk on Thursday, go to Northfield to take on Pioneer on Saturday, host Franklin Tech on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup>, and then travel to Roberts Sports Complex to challenge first-place Holyoke.

### Football

TFHS 54 - Mahar 12

On Friday, October 7, the Blue Tribe trekked east to Orange to face the Mahar Senators. It seemed that the game would be decided early when Ricky Craver caught a Tionne

Brown pass and danced into the end zone at 7:35 of the first quarter, and Quinn Doyle added the 2-PAT.

But on the very next play, Mahar connected on a 60-yard bomb of their own, and the Senators were also on the board. The Blue D tightened up and rejected the extra point attempt.

Four plays later, Brown found Craver again for a 61-yard TD. And after another Brown completion, this time to Nick Croteau, the Indians took a 10-point lead, 16-6, with 5:53 left in the first.

Turners added to their lead in the second quarter when Doyle pounded ahead five yards for the Tribe's third TD of the half, and with 2:53 left before intermission, the Indians led 22-6.

It looked like Powertown was going to score again before half-time because they had the ball on Orange's 19, but Mahar intercepted a pass with 24.6 seconds left on the clock. The Senators had time to run four plays, and with 2.4 seconds left, they scored another passing TD. The Blue D again repulsed Orange's 2-point attempt, and went into the third quarter with a comfortable 10-point lead, 22-12.

On the opening play of the third quarter, Lapointe's Tribe kicked an onside kick and came up with the loose ball. Blue converted the re-

covery into 6 more points when Jack Darling scored on a 27-yard run. The Indians were now up 28-12, and were off to the races.

Doyle scored two more touchdowns in the quarter, and after three complete, Powertown led 42-12.

In the fourth quarter, Coach Chris Lapointe began sending in his reserves. And after Craver scored his third touchdown of the night, Lapointe was polling his players, "All right, who hasn't been in yet? You, you and you. Get in there. Anyone else?"

Coach Lapointe can put in all the underclassmen he wants, but they'll still try their hardest. Case in point is rookie Marcus Sanders.

Sanders, on his very first offensive handoff, took the ball on his own 26, banged ahead — and then sprinted the entire 74 yards to pay dirt! And in a show of good sportsmanship, Lapointe had Brown take a knee on the PAT instead of piling on the points.

Doyle had another monster night

for the Indians. He rushed for 195 yards, scored three touchdowns and two 2-pointers, and caught a 9-yard pass.

Ricky Craver also scored three TDs and finished with 121 total yards: 42 on the ground, and 79 in the air.

Jack Darling and Marcus Sanders each scored TDs. Darling finished with 80 yards on the ground, and Sanders had 76 rushing yards. Sophomore John Torres rounded out the running attack with three yards.

In the air, Brown completed four passes for 133 yards, threw two touchdowns, a 2-PAT, and was picked off once. Croteau caught a two-pointer, and Owen Ortiz had a catch for 45 yards.

The Powertown defense had arguably their best game of the year. With the exception of three long pass completions, they consistently neutralized the Senators' offense.

Tahner Castine made eight solo tackles, and had 2.5 sacks for the Tribe. Will Roberge had seven tack-

les and forced the QB to hurry once; Kyle Bergman finished with six tackles, four sacks for 25 yards, and a hurry; Jack Darling, Quinn Doyle, and Reilan Castine each made four tackles, and Doyle caused a fumble.

Brown made three tackles and had an interception for a 26-yard return. Croteau and Ortiz also made three tackles.

Mark Waite, Ricky Craver, Kyle Dodge, John Torres and Owen Darling also made solo tackles, with Waite getting a sack and Craver defending a pass.

The Turners Falls Football Indians are undefeated with a record of 5-0. But this is nothing new for Lapointe's Blue Indians. In fact, in three of the last four years, Powertown has started out at 5-and-0.

This season, however, all of their wins were against teams in Division IV or higher, and come playoff time, this will only help their rankings in the postseason.



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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Con Com Recommends Tabling Wetlands Bylaw; Officials Negotiate With Resident Over Junk

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At its October 5 meeting the Wendell selectboard agreed to and signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute that will allow a pole survey, the first step in the town's construction of a fiber-optic internet delivery system. MBI will pay for the pole survey, and the information gained will belong to the town.

Board members signed the warrant for the next special town meeting, which will be held on Thursday, October 20 at 7 p.m. That warrant includes several bills of prior years, money transfers, and a nine-page proposed wetlands protection bylaw. Wendell's present wetland protection bylaw is more limiting than the state's, and the proposed bylaw is stronger than the current one.

The proposal is available on the town website, [wendellmass.us](http://wendellmass.us), and paper copies are available at the library and posted with the warrant at the town office building.

As part of their Tuesday October 11 meeting, the con com held an information session about the proposed bylaw. Seven people came.

Con com chair Robin Heubel said that the proposed bylaw needs some more work, and so they will advise that action be delayed to a later town meeting.

The con com will hold a public hearing November 15 and they hope that better publicity will bring more interested residents.

There are two sites in town with which the commission has been dealing. The company that has planned a solar farm off Wendell Depot Road contends that the wetland delineation the con com gave them goes beyond what the state requires, and beyond reasonable compromise, and has appealed to DEP for a correction. And at 131 Locke Village Road, a resident has piles of junk close to the property line, and close to possible wetlands.

### Junkyard Diplomacy

Andy Hamilton, the Locke Village Road resident, attended the selectboard's October 5 meeting. A week earlier, normally an off week, the selectboard had held a joint meeting with the conservation commission and board of health concerning the clutter at Hamilton's property. Under some pressure, he agreed to initiate some cleanup of his things, and to allow ongoing inspections by both the con com and board of health.

When he sat down at the October 5 meeting, Hamilton announced, as he had on September 28, that he was recording the proceedings. He placed his phone on the table beside him. Selectboard chair Christine Heard recused herself from the discussion, as she had on the 28th, as she has close relatives living next door to Hamilton. This left board member Dan Keller as the chair.

Hamilton had agreed to inspection for zoning violations, but said he did not want building inspector and zoning bylaw enforcement officer Phil Delorey to do the inspection. He wanted it done by the state or county inspector or the town's alternate inspector, Roland Jean Jr.

The position of alternate inspector was created following a homeowner's trying to contact Delorey

while he was on vacation. Jean gets only a small stipend for being available when Delorey is away from town for a week.

Hamilton said that Delorey favors his own friends, and accused him of favoritism, nepotism, cronyism and other ism's. He said that when Delorey was at his property in New Salem, he could not even quote the zoning bylaws that he was accusing Hamilton of violating. He said Delorey invaded his guaranteed personal rights, that he perjured himself in court, that his dealings with Hamilton were not on a professional level.

Keller said the situation at 131 Locke Village Road has been stressful for others as well as for Hamilton. He suggested that police chief Ed Chase could be present at the inspection, but that it was Delorey's job to perform the inspection, and Delorey would be the person to do it.

### Hamilton said that Delorey favors his own friends, and accused him of favoritism, nepotism, cronyism and other ism's.

Hamilton again expressed his preference for an inspection by Jean. Keller repeated that was Delorey's job, and then suggested that Delorey, Chase, and Jean could all be there. Hamilton asked for time to consider that idea, and said he would respond within a week.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser brought up one caveat, that no one had spoken to Chase or Jean.

Hamilton said he had a dog complaint issue, and Heard said he should call Chase, not the dog officer.

He also asked who was the town's fence viewer. Pooser said, "I am, but I haven't been sworn in yet."

### Bridge Repair

The meeting began with the road commission, including highway superintendent Rich Wilder, discussing the state's municipal small bridge program. That program is aimed at overhauling bridges 10' to 20' long in small towns, and allows up to \$500,000 per year per town, determined by need and merit.

Commission chair Mike Gifford said that the state inspector said the bridge that spans Whetstone Brook in Wendell Depot is a good candidate. The highway department saved Chapter 90 money to replace that bridge this summer, but the lowest bid was more than the town had saved. If the town gets money from the state, Gifford said there are other needs in town that could use the saved money.

The due date for applications is October 31, and after that February 28, and June 30. The road commission plans to apply in October to allow time for another bid process, and construction during the summer of 2017. That part of Wendell Depot Road will be closed during construction, and require long detours.

Wilder said that the program requires the town to pay for the work as it is done, and then get reimbursed by the state.

### Pizza Incubation

The kitchen committee met the selectboard to discuss a non-resi-

dent who had asked to use Wendell's town hall kitchen for making sauce and dough for a mobile wood-fired pizza oven. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said he found the kitchen on a culinary incubator website.

Aldrich said that the policy for use of the town hall requires a non-resident to have a resident sponsor. Issues that came up beyond that are: how to measure the amount of energy used, ServSafe certification, and the fact that the kitchen committee was appointed to oversee construction of the kitchen, and their current role is nebulous.

When asked, all three members present agreed to stay on as an advisory committee, as necessary, with Heather Willey acting as coordinator, the person to show how to turn the gas on and off, and other details of kitchen use. Aldrich is the contact person for use of the town hall.

The kitchen has not had heavy use. Member Myron Becker said that the committee planned some grand openings and demonstrations, but the first dates were delayed because of details that needed attention, and no grand opening ever happened.

All agreed that for now, use by a non-resident would still require sponsorship by a resident, and that until the additional amount of energy used by the kitchen is known, fees will be the same as for general town hall use.

### Other Business

Amy Palmer accepted her appointment to the school committee. Her term lasts until the May election, when she will have to run if she wants to continue as a member.

School committee member Johanna Bartlett urged people to vote against Proposition 2, which would allow the state to add 12 new charter schools per year. Bartlett said that a charter school takes an average of \$18,000 from the student's public school, and the public schools can ill afford that loss. Some charter schools are innovative, she said, and have been successful; but some are not, and there is insufficient oversight.

There is a proposal for seniors in town to work at minimum wage to alleviate some of the cost of their property tax. Aldrich cautioned that any work in this program should be work that the town needs and would pay for otherwise. Income guidelines are intrusive, and Hadley, which has a work program, does not require them. Keller suggested that the issue should go in front of the annual town meeting.

Aldrich reported that sodium levels in the Swift River School water supply are still high: not high enough to make the water unsafe to drink, but enough to be a concern for people with high blood pressure. Levels were high in spring, and the hope was that summer rains would wash the sodium out. Summer rains were scant and failed to do that. Families of students have been notified.

The plan had been for Wendell to take over plowing the yard because Wendell uses less salt in their sand-salt mix than New Salem does. Pooser said that removing sodium from water is not that difficult.

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL TOWN CLERK

## November Election

The Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, November 8. The last day to register to vote is Wednesday, October 19 from 2 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. in the town clerk's office.

On Election Day, the polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. If you are unable to vote in person on November 8, you have two options, which are defined below.

## Absentee Voting

A registered voter can vote absentee if they are not in town during normal polling hours, or if they have a religious belief or physical disability that prevents

them for getting to the polls. If you need to vote absentee, you must first complete an Absentee Ballot Application before noon on Monday, November 7.

## Early Voting

A registered voter can vote early starting on Monday, October 24 and ending on Friday, November 4 at noon. If you vote early in the town clerk's office, there is no application. If you vote early by mail, you must first complete an application.

open for early voting during normal business hours, or by prior arrangement. Normal hours include Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon, and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, contact the town clerk at (978) 544-7186 x102 or [wendelltownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wendelltownclerk@gmail.com).

The town clerk's office will be

## FCTS to Host Free College Financing Seminar

TURNERS FALLS – Franklin County Technical School will host a College Financing Seminar presented by the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA).

Parents and students are invited to this free seminar on paying for college, which will be held on Thursday, October 20, at 6 p.m. at Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

The College Financing Seminar will be held on the same night as the school's celebration of its 40th anniversary, beginning at 4 p.m., and the open house for parents/guardians of students, also beginning at 6 p.m.

This seminar is offered through MEFA, the Commonwealth's authority on planning, saving, and paying for college.

Amy Proietti, Greenfield Community College coordinator of financial aid and MEFA representative in Franklin County, will provide an overview of the college financing process, including types of financial aid, how to apply, financing options, factors that determine your aid

eligibility, how colleges determine amount of aid to offer, and the details of financial aid award letters.

Proietti said parents/guardians and students who attend the session will come away with a better understanding of what can be a complicated financial aid system.

"There are so many myths around financial aid," she said. "I spend a lot of time explaining to people what it isn't as much as what it is. Parents walk into this process terrified about how complicated it is and whether they can do it. Seminars like this ease that fear almost entirely. It reassures them that they can do it."

Kim Gangwisch-Marsh, FCTS guidance counselor, said that working for many years with teenagers has taught her that they do not always plan ahead, or make firm decisions about what they want to do after high school. The seminar will help them prepare for life after high school.

Contact Kim Gangwisch-Marsh at (413) 863-9561 for more information.

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**REENACTMENT** from page A1  
100 muskets a day.

The Moore Brothers, two photographers on Main Street in Springfield, also saw an unexpected boom in business, as young recruits rushed to take portraits of themselves in uniform to leave with their families and sweethearts as they marched off to war.

During their three years of service, the Massachusetts 10th fought in some of the most critical battles of the Civil War, including the battles at Fredericksburg, Antietam, and Gettysburg. During the Battle of the Seven Pines in Henrico County, Virginia, the 10th demonstrated what the *Berkshire Courier* described as "unsurpassed gallantry" in staving off the Confederate advance.

In colorful terms the paper lauds the soldiers of the 10th, saying that the volunteers "...proved to possess that power which has been denied to volunteers, and claimed as the special attribute of old and so-called regular soldiers, namely, the power of regeneration."

Throughout the war, the 10th Regiment sacrificed 700 of its 1000 men in defense of the Union. Today, the sacrifices of these simple soldiers, farmers, tradesmen, shop-keepers, and volunteers of all backgrounds, are remembered and honored, their stories kept alive by historians and reenactors in our community and beyond.

This weekend's demonstrations will be provided by the 10th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry Militia, a living history group chartered by the Massachusetts Adjutant General as a heritage unit of today's Blue-Gray division of the 104th Massachusetts National Guard. It is led by Major Alan Guditis, who himself has over 35 years of experience traveling the country, participating in living history demonstrations and ceremonies with his wife Darlene.

As he helped prepare the field for the event on a cold and rainy Sunday morning, the frigid weather did nothing to dampen Major Guditis's excitement at getting to share this living history reenactment here in

western Mass. "Most battles were fought in the South, so a lot of the events are held down there," he says, "so we are very excited to be able to hold this here."

Indeed, the Skirmish at Millers Meadows is a rare opportunity for our community to experience all the excitement of a living history demonstration - hearing the sound of muskets and cannons, and smelling the smoke of gunpowder and cook-fires, while deepening our knowledge of our local history and our appreciation of the sacrifices made by so many in our community all those years ago.

The Skirmish at Millers Meadows will be held at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club, 210 Turners Falls Road, Montague. Food and beverages will be available to purchase; ample parking will be available. Admission is \$10 per person and \$20 per family.

The schedule is as follows:

- Saturday:**  
10 a.m.: Camps open.  
10 a.m. to noon: Walkthrough and visit; talk with period historians. Ongoing music and demonstrations.  
12 noon: Speaker from Springfield Armory, Mr. Richard Colton.  
1 p.m.: Skirmish!  
2:30 p.m.: Deserters; military discipline.  
2 to 5 p.m.: Minstrels performing on stage.  
5 p.m.: Camps close.  
6 to 8 p.m.: Barbecue, bonfire and sing-along.
- Sunday:**  
10 a.m.: Camps open.  
10 a.m. to noon: Walkthrough and visit; talk with period historians. Ongoing music and demonstrations.  
10 to 10:15 a.m.: United church service in unity.  
12 noon: Speaker from the Underground Railroad Historical Society, Ms. Bambi Jones.  
1 p.m.: Skirmish!  
2:30 p.m.: Demonstration of military discipline.  
3:30 p.m.: Camps close.

# FACES & PLACES



Left: Camden Bonnett prepares to pin a lieutenant's badge onto the uniform of his father, Christopher Bonnett. Lieutenant Bonnett is the first to hold the rank of lieutenant in Montague, after the new position was created this year. Right: Town clerk Deb Bourbeau swears in James Deery to the rank of Sergeant, as police chief Chip Dodge stands by. Lt. Bonnett and Sgt. Deery have served on the Montague Police Department for 15 and 10 years, respectively. The swearing-in ceremony, held at the public safety complex Tuesday evening, was attended by retired police chiefs Pat O'Bryan and Ray Zukowski, as well as active-duty police and firefighters, well-wishers, and families of the officers.

## Saturday 10/22: "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its Fall "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, October 22, from 9 a.m. to noon.

The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility at 66 Ashfield Road (Rt. 112 South), the Northfield highway garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and the Whately transfer station at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any District town may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible; disposal fees apply for most items.

Bulky Rigid Plastics will be col-

lected for a special recycling program at \$5 per load. Plastic items larger than 2.5 gallons are too bulky to be processed with municipal recycling, but can be collected separately.

Acceptable items include 5-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash barrels and recycling bins, laundry baskets, large plastic toys (no electronics), storage totes, milk crates and plastic pet carriers. Large yard toys (no batteries), plastic shelving and kiddie pools (rigid, not inflatable) will be accepted as long as they measure less than 4 feet in any direction. Clean, dry textiles and books will be accepted for free.

Unacceptable items include Styrofoam, PVC pipe/tubing, vinyl siding, fencing, toolboxes, hoses of any kind, pesticide/chemical containers,

and plastic bags and films.

Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site.

A complete list of prices for the most common items is online at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html), and will be available at participating town halls, town transfer stations, and the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

For more information contact the District office at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org) or 413-772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1 (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

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# MoRe

## OYSTERGIRL'S guide to REAL LIVING by Vanessa Query

### #18: Drinks to Warm Your Soul

By VANESSA QUERY

**TURNERS FALLS** – 'Tis the season! It's time to bust out my famous warming drink recipes. These are best served at dusk, by a fire, while wearing a cozy sweater. Or at dawn, listening to the silence punctuated only by the occasional barbling of a neighbor's hens, while wearing a cozy bathrobe.

#### Homemade Hot Cocoa

Not only will this recipe kick the buns off any hot cocoa you've ever had, its variations are nearly infinite, and fit any dietary restriction or preference or taste or mood.

- 1 cup whole milk and/or cream, coconut milk, almond milk, water, or coffee
- 1 Tbsp unsweetened cocoa, preferably Dutch-process, which has a milder taste than regular unsweetened cocoa, so it doesn't need as much sweetener
- 1 Tbsp any sweetener you'd like: maple syrup or honey, regular sugar, "raw" sugar, coconut palm sugar, etc.

Add-ins can include: cinnamon, sea salt, nutmeg, turmeric, ginger, cayenne, shredded coconut, coconut oil, butter or ghee...

1. Mix the cocoa in a small amount of the milk or



Homemade hot cocoa.



Homemade hot cocoa.

2. Add the rest of the milk, sweetener, and additions.
3. Heat on stovetop over low-medium heat.
4. Don't let it boil! Stir occasionally, and when it's fully dissolved and a preferred drinking temperature, it's ready.

#### Homemade Chai Tea Spice Mix

I've been experimenting with a small batch chai tea spice mix recipe for my morning black tea. No special ingredients – a simple mix with things already in my kitchen.

- Mix together:
- 2 Tbsp ground cinnamon
  - 2 Tbsp ground ginger
  - 1 Tbsp ground turmeric
  - a few dashes of ground black pepper

To make the tea, steep 1/2 Tbsp loose black tea with 1/2 tsp of the chai mix, in a cloth spice/tea bag, in boiling water.

I drink Irish or British black tea blends because, let's face it, they know how to make a good cuppa. Barry's Gold Blend and PG Tips are favorites.

#### Homemade Hot Toddy Recipe (medicinal & recreational)

The first time I had a hot toddy – a hot alcoholic beverage used to warm and heal, what's better than that – was at an Irish pub in Amsterdam. For my whole trip there, I had a massive head cold. During the day I wandered the city, using what little brain power I had to not get lost, and at night my ex-pat friend and host took me to his local, Mulligan's, where his bartender made me the best medicine I'd ever had: a hot toddy. Only then would I feel clarity.

see OYSTERGIRL page B4



## Leigh Rae's Very Long Walk

Homemade hot cocoa.

By LEE WICKS

**MONTAGUE** – The Long Trail in Vermont sounded gentle to me, like a meander through farmlands and dappled forests. According to Leigh Rae, who walked the trail in late summer with an assortment of Montague friends and family, much of it is, but some of it looks downright perilous to any inexperienced hiker.

Fortunately, Leigh had years of experience behind her when she set out on the 272-mile walk that took her through Vermont to the Canadian border. She did the first 106 miles in ten days, carrying a pack that weighed between 35 and 40 pounds.

The trail is described this way on the Green Mountain Club website: "Although the Long Trail is known as Vermont's "footpath in the wilderness," its character may more accurately be described as backcountry. On its way to Canada, this "footpath in the wilderness" climbs rugged peaks and passes pristine ponds, alpine sedge, hardwood forests, and swift streams. It is steep in places, muddy in others,

and rugged in most."

None of this served to discourage Leigh, who saw this adventure as a good alternative to hiking the entire Appalachian trail, which would take much longer. In our busy world it isn't easy to carve out time for an adventure, one that will separate you from cell service, hot running water and flush toilets.

Leigh gave it considerable thought. She said, "It took time to actually declare. From the beginning I knew I did not want to do it alone, and I wondered if anyone else would want to do it with me. As soon as I made the decision, people just came forward."

Which is how the Long Walk became a neighborhood event. Emily Monosson joined Leigh for the first stretch. Marina Goldman met up with her later. Both Julie Kumble and Mary Averill had planned to take part, but had to cancel.

Leigh's husband John stepped up, along with friends and relatives in Vermont, so that Leigh never walked the trail alone or spent a night by herself in one of the

see LONG TRAIL page B8

#### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Slipping Into Fall



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – Suddenly, it's fall. The autumnal equinox heralds the end of summer and the beginning of fall. It was followed by the equinox (September 25 this year), when the length of day and night are the same.

From here on in, the days keep shortening until the shortest one on the winter Solstice, which this year falls on December 21, the official start of winter and the season of the long nights.

The weather has changed: first with bright, crispy days and now with chill and rain. The maples have begun to change their garb despite the prognostication of a dull foliage season. We need the rain but, as it is raw and damp, we are not as welcoming as we might be, preferring the toasty fire in the stove to the outdoors, bright colors or not.

Nonetheless we are heading to the shore with warm layers to wear, so that whatever the weather, we can walk the beach, admire the bird migration and elude the list of garden chores for a few short days.

We have a prolific crop of acorns in the oak tree which the squirrels are harvesting frantically, and burying everywhere in the lawn. Still,

they have time out for dessert and much to our annoyance, have zeroed in on the beautiful pumpkins on the front steps. Accordingly, we have moved the display into the porch, not without disappointment. We have also picked the last of the red tomatoes in case they are next on the list while we are gone.

We had not seen the bluebirds since their busy arrival in the spring, but yesterday they flew into view again. They are no doubt finished with nesting and training their young, and will soon gather to head off to warmer places. They are such a shy and lovely bird.

In Gloucester the leaden skies hang low over grey water, but it is not raw and the air is clear. The main room in the apartment is largely glass, affording spacious views of the harbor. We enjoy a late lunch in town – tasty but pricey – no doubt more expensive as we enjoy a booth overlooking the water, visited by two seals. Ours is a propitious neighborhood near a small park and an oceanside walking trail.

The sun rouses us in the morning. It will be a good day after a deep sleep. We have surrendered to the power of the ocean: steady, eternal, commanding. Being in its see GARDENERS page B8

## Two Art Programs Focus on Migration and Cultural Connections

By REPORTER STAFF  
with combined sources

**TURNERS FALLS** – Lorna and Imre Kepes expressed interest in sharing Guatemalan art with the immigrant families who utilize the programs offered by Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) in Turners Falls.

Lorna, herself a volunteer at MCSM, knew that many of these families were of Mayan descent, originating from Guatemala and the Chiapas region of Mexico.

While visiting the Center during a playgroup, the mothers, seeing the paintings from Guatemala that the

Kepes brought in, became nostalgic about the coffee harvest, volcanoes in the landscape, "and the food of their homelands.

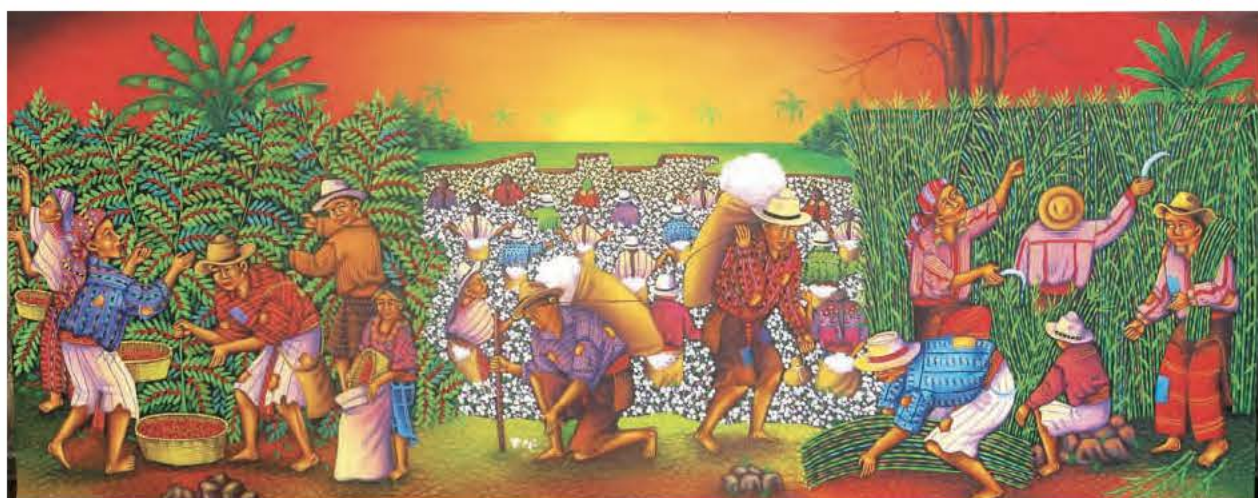
"My memory has been refreshed," said a mother named Elvira. "I never talk to my kids about our culture – how we used to dress, foods, etc. I realize now that I have neglected to do this. Now I have to work with my children and feel proud about it."

Lorna and these women formed a plan with Susan Mareneck and others at MCSM, to share the richness of Guatemala, Central and South America with their Franklin County neighbors. On exhibit through Oc-

tober at the Great Falls Discovery Center is "MIGRATION – Connecting Through Art & Culture of the Americas," featuring traditional arts, crafts, cuisine, dance and music from these regions.

The exhibition presents traditional art from Mayan villages around Lake Atitlan in Guatemala, including painting of harvest scenes, food markets, nature, and ceremonies which are integral to their life and culture. The artists are known for their distinctive style and have been exhibited in the Smithsonian in Washington as well as internationally.

see CONNECTIONS page B4



"Harvesting Coffee" by Gregorio Coche Mendoza, 20 by 50 inches. Image courtesy of the Guatemala Art and Culture Connection.

# Pet of the Week

Are you looking for a sweet little ball of cuteness to share your life with? Meet Jill, a gorgeous girl looking for a new family to go on all sorts of new adventures with!

She loves walks and toys, but her favorite thing is to hang out with her people. Jill seems more comfortable

with dogs her size. We can always check how she would do with cats.

Jill just wants you to come down and fall in love!

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



## “JILL”

### Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 17 to 22

#### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

#### Tues & Weds Noon Lunch

**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

#### Monday 10/17

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appointments  
Noon Pot Luck & Bingo

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

#### Tuesday 10/18

9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Painting Class

#### Wednesday 10/19

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

11:45 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:45 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 10/20

NO Tai Chi

1 p.m. Cards & Games

#### Friday 10/21

1 p.m. Writing Group

#### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregating meals.

Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413)-423-3649 for

meal information and reservations.

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

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

#### Monday 10/17

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

#### Tuesday 10/18

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Friends' Business Mtg.

#### Wednesday 10/19

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

#### Thursday 10/20

8:45 a.m. Aerobics (fast)

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

#### Friday 10/21

9 a.m. Quilting

9:30 a.m. Bowling; Walking Club

11:30 a.m. Pizza, Salad, Dessert

& Movie

12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

#### LEVERETT

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

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

#### WENDELL

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

### MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

## This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Check out what's new on [MontagueTV.org](http://MontagueTV.org)! We have videos up from last week's Montague selectboard meetings featuring interviews with candidates for the town positions of treasurer/tax collector and Water Pollution Control Facility superintendent. This is a unique opportunity to witness the hiring process of the town, and think about who you think is the most qualified candidate.

Our newest video celebrates the building renovations at Powers Block and 30 Main Street in Millers Falls, where a laundromat has just opened. Tune in and hear some words from



Bob Obear, responsible for the renovations, as well as remarks by town planner Walter Ramsey. These are exciting times for Montague!

Looks like we are seeing some bright fall colors this year, though they won't last long. So get outside if you can! Perhaps by enjoying the Great Falls Farmers Market Wednesday, October 19 in Turners

Falls – there are only three farmers markets remaining in the season.

And this Friday, October 14, don't forget to check out the Great Falls Coffeehouse at 2 Avenue A, featuring Anand Nyak and Polly Fiveash's harmony of sounds – blues, folk, rock & more.

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. We'd love to work with you!

### THEATER REVIEW

## The Orchids, by Ish Klein

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – At the Shea Theater in Turners Falls on Friday, September 30, the single performance of *The Orchids*, an original play by Ish Klein, was performed by the Connecticut River Valley Poets Theater, an ensemble group who are both actors and writers.

It was a weirdly strange, post-modern, unobtrusive, straightforward yet confusing, shocking, disturbing, not particularly enjoyable play – that is, not an easy one to watch or perform.

While it could be said it was saved in the end, the length of time it takes to get to that somewhat happy ending includes cruelty, sexual violence, misogyny, mutilation, subjugation, fear, terror, all manner of human degradation that the audience endures for the length of the play, only to have it thankfully resolve to a happy conclusion because the incredibly gullible woman central to the story finally realizes she can be free to be herself.

Whoever that is. The play isn't long enough to let us find out.

The actors did their best to meet the challenge, and within the context of the play itself, are successful in portraying what must have been the overall intention. There was commitment, intense emotion, devotion to the essence of the character, or in some cases, many characters.

A small ensemble, they carried the play forward with apparent deep understanding of the purpose of each scene and how it fit into the whole. **I'm not sure the play itself succeeds** in making that clear.

The themes appear to include human subjugation, how we are trapped by our own beliefs, how the voices in our heads control us. The way the infant and child that lives inside of us keeps us holding onto things that are no longer good for us.

In the beginning, it did seem that Iris (played bravely by Stella Corso) had done something wrong for which she was being punished, but it was never clear what that was. She did start to believe she must have done something to deserve being treated so badly; even while she resisted and resented it, she would ask what she had done wrong, but no one ever answered her.

The Man, played by John Sieracki, is gleefully cruel as he manhandles Iris, restrains her, and forces himself on her. The waitress, played by Sarah Beth Aspen McAlpine,



Left to right: Sarah Beth Aspen McAlpine, David Feinstein, Stella Corso, John Sieracki, performing at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls in *The Orchids* by Ish Klein. All are members of the Connecticut River Valley Poets Theater Company.

watches passively and encourages Iris to accept her fate. While Iris resists, trying to understand where she is and why this is happening to her, there is that feeling of a world that looks away and allows terrible things to happen.

So is this an image of a battered woman, who accepts her fate and assumes the guilt even though she doesn't know what she's done wrong? Is this a picture of a woman who stays in an abusive situation and after a while loses herself, and can't remember the whole, strong person she once was?

And the ending, where she figures out that she can cut the cord that binds her – is this a reflection of the judgment by society of women who stay in abusive relationships? Since it takes a man to help and encourage her to leave, what does that say?

How many women who are in a miserable trapped life find themselves looking to a man to save them? And how does that turn out?

The Man, as he morphs into the Doctor, even though he appears the aggressor, seems to also be trapped and in the end, he too is abused. This is a picture of a world where power does not remain in the same place for very long, and even those on top can easily fall.

The young man kept showing up to save Iris. Leif (played by David Feinstein) goes through a lot of misery himself, even appears to die at one point, but magically returns unharmed except for the minor damage resulting from his surgically removed testicle.

In the end he helps her beat the Doctor (played by John Sieracki) into submission, cage him, and gets Stella the scissors she needs to “cut the cord” (so subtle!) and get free.

What is it all about? Learning to find your own voice? That is a writer's construct, an objective of the intellectual. Iris struggles to be free of what could be her father's voice, the voice in her head, as the off-stage System voice guides her to find her own way.

While she struggles to symbolically free herself from the cord – which is a very real kind of long blue stretchy bungee cord – that binds her, it never seemed Iris said anything that was her own private thought. In fact, as the play went on, she spoke less and less, her ideas faded, and she couldn't even remember who she was.

If there was humor, it was offered by the waitress/nurse played by McAlpine, and the off-stage System voice played by Klein. Their banter contributed much of the lighter moments.

There is always a matter of taste, and much art is subjective. So while this was not to my personal liking, it does not mean it does not have merit.

I would hope that the author go on to explore her intentions, which I assume are not just to shock and confuse, and find a theme that speaks to her heart, and then use her skill with language to speak in a clear voice that will communicate more fully what she has to say.

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Shannon Madigan - Property Manager

**GARDENERS** from page B1

presence allows a letting go of worry and the effort of needing to be on top of things, whatever that may mean. These few days away will not demand anything; everything will be possible.

After a working career of exactitude, attention to detail and interpersonal interactions, it has not been easy as a "Type A" to let go. One of the hardest pieces was to come to the saving revelation that, although I spent much time listening to concerns, complaints and needs, rarely did anyone expect fixes or solutions: they just wanted to be heard.

Now in retirement there is time and need to listen to myself and to choose what the next piece of this life might mean. This is the right place for that contemplation. The ocean goes on in its steady way, high tide and low, smooth water and rough; it is a disinterested party.

Already we consider our options for next year's garden. They are many, including a couple of new crops: corn and potatoes; more peas and more dahlias. We look forward to another wonderful tomato harvest as well.

The fall is a beautiful season, the favorite of many who do not cherish the heat of summer. Its crisp, clear air refreshes and energizes. The clarity of light leads the mind in new places with new enthusiasms. A new season, a fresh start, a novel direction, with all things possible.

Like the spring, it is a season of hope, of completion, and of the gathering of new energy for what is to come. What better time to imagine new projects, new ventures and the next piece of life full of surprises and pleasures.

Happy end of season harvesting to all!



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Mail Theft; Cut Leashes; Loose Horses; Malfunctioning Railroad Crossing**

**Monday, 9/26**

11:12 a.m. Caller complaining of subjects leaning on the mechanical horse ride outside of Family Dollar; speculates that they are dealing drugs. When asked if she saw any drug use, paraphernalia, or anything changing hands between subjects, she said no. Area checked; subjects gone on arrival.  
6:18 p.m. Caller states that his son was at the skatepark and another child punched his son in the face. Caller's son is now hiding in alleyway behind Cree-mee; father is looking for son. Officer made contact with victim behind Cree-mee. Summons issued.

**Tuesday, 9/27**

5:34 p.m. Caller reporting that there is a fully naked man with a shaved head hiding along the tree line on the bike path near the Farren. Officers on scene; unable to locate.  
8:49 p.m. Caller states that a motorcycle flew by him and turned up Greenfield Road; caller then saw motorcycle off in woods as if it had crashed. Caller helped operator, who appeared uninjured, out of woods. Neighbor came out and gave operator ride somewhere. Bike left where it had crashed. Officers located owner/operator and brought him back to crash site. Summons issued.

10:46 p.m. Caller reports that he is from a repossession company and the owner of a car on Church Street is trying to start a fight with him. Peace restored.

**Wednesday, 9/28**

7:57 a.m. Caller from FirstLight property near Railroad Salvage reporting at least one tent set up in area. Officer checked area; no one around, but tent is set up in woods with a couple of chairs and miscellaneous items around it. Caller will put a letter on the tent to give owner time to remove it before they take it down.

11:48 a.m. DPW reporting that someone appears to be taking shelter in Peske Park again; request PD respond and have responsible party pick up his belongings. Unable to locate male party. DPW called back to advise party has returned. Officer spoke with male and advised.

1 p.m. While cleaning Carnegie Library, caller discovered what appeared to be a partial heroin packet wrapper. Turned over to officer, who confirmed no residue remaining.  
4:34 p.m. [redacted] was arrested on a straight warrant.

**Friday, 9/30**  
7:52 a.m. Party into station reporting that their child received an inappropriate picture on their phone. Officer met with high school about issue; DCF will be contacted as well.  
9:32 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that while she and her husband were out in front of the house, somebody came into their back yard and cut their dogs' leashes, allowing dogs to run away. Caller did get dogs back but is concerned about cutting of leashes. Investigated.

12:09 p.m. Chief Dodge received email from party reporting that she and her daughter were harassed following the school committee meeting Tuesday night. Incident on file.  
3:51 p.m. Caller states that his 3-wheel electric vehicle was kicked over and thrown down the street while he was at the skatepark a few days ago. He would like to make a report.  
6:34 p.m. Caller states that two males are shooting each other with what appear to be Airsoft guns at Unity Park around other children. Responding officers found nothing showing in area.  
8:42 p.m. Off-duty officer states that a group of people at the football field is being rude to others as they walk by.

**Saturday, 10/1**  
12:21 p.m. Caller advises that a woman came in to the Salvation Army to inform them that another woman pulled up behind her and stole several items that she had just donated. Simultaneously, received call from woman accused of stealing; woman identified herself and admitted to taking a dollhouse but thought that items were free for the taking. Officer spoke with caller and assisted with return of item.  
12:58 p.m. Report of approximately 11 syringes in alley behind Between the Uprights. Items retrieved and disposed of.  
10:03 p.m. Officer off with male subject at Fourth Street and Avenue A; requesting MedCare for facial lacerations. Male transported to Franklin Medical Center. Officer reports that party was jumped by a group of males and females. Area checked extensively; unable to locate. Report taken.

**Sunday, 10/2**  
3:44 a.m. Following a motor vehicle accident at Seventh and J Streets, a party was transported to Baystate Franklin Medical Center for medical and psychological evaluation.  
8:01 a.m. Report of brick thrown through pas-

senger side window of a vehicle on L Street overnight.

**Monday, 10/3**

9:30 a.m. Caller expressing concern for wellbeing of animals (chickens, turkeys, etc.) at a Greenfield Road address as well as for the elderly person who resides there. Caller advises that house and property are in poor condition and animals appear to be neglected/unhealthy. Animals are frequently in the road, and at least 1 or 2 have been struck by vehicles recently. Animal control officer advises that animals seem to be all right and in good health.  
3:52 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road reporting a male with red shorts and black shirt is going up to people's homes and taking their mail. Officer out with male near old Stewart's Garage. Miranda rights read to involved male. Postmaster contacted about incident; they will send somebody out to gather the mail. Male transported to station where he will be picked up by parents.  
5:29 p.m. Clerk from Avenue A store advising that a male is sitting on a bench out front drinking beer. Male taken into protective custody and later released.  
7:01 p.m. Caller from Grand Avenue complaining of nearby train that idles for hours at a time. It is very loud and right near her home. Officer checked area and found no noise and no trains.

**Tuesday, 10/4**  
8:20 a.m. Multiple calls reporting 4 loose horses on Turners Falls Road. ACO en route. Someone in area advises horses have been loose for past 3 days. With assistance of good Samaritans, horses were corralled for now. A couple of people are en route to repair the fence. Cousin of owner will remain there until owners arrive.

**Wednesday, 10/5**  
9:04 p.m. Caller advises that he struck a dark colored long-haired cat that ran out into the road. Cat is no longer alive. Officer will check area.  
11:20 p.m. Caller reports that railroad crossing arms on Lake Pleasant Road are malfunctioning. Officer advises that a train is parked 25 feet from the crossing; arms and lights are malfunctioning. Railroad advised. Engineers on site; problem to be fixed.

**Thursday, 10/6**  
12 a.m. 911 caller reporting that he was accosted by males who wanted to sell him drugs in front of the Millers Pub. Caller and associated parties evasive in response to questions. Officer en route; spoke to bartender, who does not know who was outside the pub and did not see a fight. No further action needed at this time. Officer will follow up with a detective.  
10:58 a.m. Caller from X Street states that someone has been throwing and ripping open his mail. Advised of options.  
8:47 p.m. Caller states that a car has been circling her neighborhood and will every now and then stop and face her home. Caller's fiancé approached car a while back; operator stated he was reading a book. Officers on scene; staying in area; negative finding.  
11:37 p.m. Caller reporting group of kids near the "fenced-in storage area" on Eleventh Street; group appears to be going through building materials in area. Officers clear; area secure; no one around.

**Friday, 10/7**  
4:43 p.m. Caller from G Street advises that he found his neighbor's wallet in his driveway and also found that his and his neighbor's cars were broken into.  
5:14 p.m. Caller from Grand Avenue states that a dune buggy is speeding up and down the street; ongoing situation. Officer located buggy and advised operator to keep it on property.  
8:48 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that a band is playing loud music in the area; would like officer to shut door at Shea Theater. Spoke to manager at Shea; they will shut the doors.

**Saturday, 10/8**  
7:54 p.m. Group of 8-10 kids attempting to tip over porta-potty at Sheffield Elementary School. Possibly another group of kids by Hillcrest. Officers advised kids regarding their behavior. No vandalism done.

**Sunday, 10/9**  
12:17 p.m. F.L. Roberts clerk reports that a motorist just went up on the curb and struck a pole/column that supports the roof. Clerk advises that woman did not come in to report damage but got in line to get gas. Clerk came out to speak to woman, who denied that she had done anything. Simultaneously, operator called on 911 to report the accident; advises that she tried to maneuver around a car at the gas pumps and ended up striking a column. TFFD advised and will respond to check integrity of column.

**MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!**

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**October is...**

**Adopt a Shelter Dog Month**

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

October, besides being for Halloween and National Breast Cancer month, is also Adopt a Shelter Dog Month. The month was established in 1981 by the American Humane Association, an organization that has worked for the safety of children and animals since 1877.

There is also Be Kind to Animals Week that has been going on since 1915, in the first full week in May. The Humane Association states that the week is "the longest-running commemorative week in US history," and describes it as "the most successful humane education campaign ever."

I asked a couple of people what they think about Adopt a Shelter Dog Month. A woman named Kathy Dwyer, who volunteers at the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter in Montague, said "I think every month should be Adopt a Shelter Dog Month."

She also explains that when it comes to adopting a dog, "It's not difficult. We have an application to fill out. We'll have a meet and greet session. In other words, the person and the dog have to match up." "The person has to tune in to the needs of the dogs, and if other dogs are involved, the dogs should do a meet and greet with each other here."

A woman named Anne at the MSPCA in Boston had this to say about what types of dogs are there, along with her opinion: "It's a good way to advertise. There's a lot of

homeless shelter dogs to adopt. People normally go to a breeder for a specific breed. So, if people are looking specifically, they may also find mixes and purebreds at the shelters. There are always mixes and purebreds at the shelters."

If that is an actual fact when it comes to what types of dogs are at the shelters, then people don't have to spend a small fortune on a purebred from a breeder if they want one.

I got one of my dogs for \$9 at an Alabama shelter. Besides, who wouldn't also like to give a dog without a home one? That is one thing you would be doing if you got a dog from a shelter.

I have adopted dogs from a shelter. It was a very good place to do that, and I have been very happy with the dogs that have been in my home.

The two dogs I have now are named Apollo and Shiloh. Apollo got hit by a car, and has a leg that doesn't work so well. But I assure you he is quite happy in our home, and is a very active dog.

Shiloh is the dog I got for \$9. We got her because Apollo was lonely, and used to having other dogs around him. I know this because he stopped whimpering when she arrived.

Shiloh was shown to be happy when she stopped looking bug-eyed because she was very scared. She is now a terribly affectionate dog to me and my family. They are both very good guard dogs for our family. I believe my dogs are proof that shelters will give you very nice dogs.

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**CONNECTIONS** from pg B1

For more information, search for “Guatemala Art and Culture Connection” on Facebook, or visit [GuatemalaArtAndCultureConnection.blogspot.com](http://GuatemalaArtAndCultureConnection.blogspot.com)

The excitement and pleasure that the families feel as they share their culture with their neighbors is a tribute to their heritage as well as an opportunity for the rest of us to experience the beauty and exhilarating expressions of an ancient and sophisticated culture.

Lorna and Imre write on their blog that “this happens to be a very opportune time to be bringing attention to Guatemala. The country is now at historic cross roads. The president was forced to resign due to a popular uprising and is standing trial for corruption. It is uncertain whether the ruling oligarchy will retain their power and there will be continued repression and corruption or if the people will be successful in uniting to move their country towards a true democracy and justice.”

There will be a closing celebration at the Center on Friday, October 28 from 3 to 7 p.m. Included are authentic food and children’s activities from 3 to 5. Ecuadorian dancers and Grupo Folklorico, a children’s dance troupe from Turners Falls, will perform from 5 to 7 p.m.

**The Big Read at GCC**

The themes of Sense of Place and Migration have also been taken up by the the Connecticut River Valley NEA Big Read this year. The book *Into the Beautiful North* by Luis Alberto Urrea has been chosen as the focus book for this project.

Bill Moyers has said of Urrea, “No one writes more tragically or intimately about border culture than this son of a Mexican father and Anglo mother.”

The NEA Big Read review of *Into the Beautiful North* on their website goes as follows “The US-Mexico border is not just a line on a map; it is a dream-like destination

and departure point, surrounded by desperation and expectations. Urrea invites us to think of the border as more than a stark divide between nations; he reminds us that it is a place of convergence where meaningful conversations, and even love, between cultures begins.”

The theme kicks off with Mary Lyon Foundation’s “Spirit of Place” Big Read family-focused Community Event at Greenfield Community College on Saturday, October 15 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The day begins with a performance by two-time Grammy award-winning storyteller, musician, and educator, Bill Harley, followed by a morning of place-making: hands-on learning stations exploring our community’s traditions through art, music, dance, history, and literature.

Place-making stations include Bernardston’s Meadowedge Art for Children leading a pop-up art exhibit inspired by the children’s book, “Abuela,” Craig Harris with a soundscape of native music; Senegalese dancer Abdou Sarr teaching African dance; Hands-on History Touch-its and Timeline led by Deerfield’s Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association; and the Art Garden’s River of Poetry.

Six families from Turners Falls will present a traditional “Dia de los Muertos” altar that morning at GCC as well. The altar will travel to the Discovery Center, where it will become part of the MIGRATION exhibit.

All morning activities are free. There will be a free community meal for all at lunchtime.

An afternoon conference for adults and older students will explore our sense of place in the valley through the lens of immigration and migration. A group of scholars and artists will explore issues around sense of place, immigration and migration through an interdisciplinary perspective and panel format. GCC Dean of Humanities, Leo Hwang, comments, “Spirit of place is always evolving – with

**OYSTERGIRL** from page B1

I’ve tried to recreate them, when I’m sick at home. Here’s my current recipe.

*Note: Hot toddies are traditionally made with sugar. But if you’re trying to feel better, to strengthen your immune system, that’s not ideal. I make mine with honey, which soothes the throat.*

- Irish whisky (1 shot; to taste)
  - lemon wedge (to taste)
  - cloves (3–5, to taste)
  - honey (1–2 teaspoons; to taste)
  - water
1. Boil some water.
  2. While water is boiling, pour whiskey and spoon honey into a mug.
  3. When the water has boiled, add it to the mug, and stir until honey has dissolved.
  4. Add lemon and cloves. (In Amsterdam, my toddies were served with clove-studded lemon wedges. Every time I make them, I get a little closer to getting it right, so the cloves don’t fall out so quickly.)
  4. Serve and enjoy. You may need to drink several of these.

**Homemade Egg Nog Recipe**  
(with chai spice variation)

You might think it’s a tad early for egg nog. But since making my own, I’ve been considering egg nog a year-round staple. Try this and you’ll see what I mean!

The first two ingredients I highly recommend getting from Upinngil Farm in Gill.

- 6 farm-fresh eggs – literally farm-fresh eggs, not just eggs you buy in a store labeled “Farm



Homemade egg nog.

Fresh” (which is usually a lie; a topic for another column). You’ll be consuming these eggs raw, so for me that means trusting where they come from.

- 3 cups milk – whole and, if possible, raw
- 1/4 cup natural sweetener of your choice – I like coconut palm sugar or grade B maple syrup the best. Local unfiltered honey is also great, but if it’s gritty, it may not blend well.
- 3 teaspoons vanilla extract – or 1-1/2 tsp vanilla bean powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

*Add for chai-spiced egg nog variation:*

- 2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
  - 2 teaspoons ground ginger
  - 1 teaspoon allspice
  - 1/2 teaspoon cardamom
1. Put all ingredients in blender.
  2. Blend. All done!

Usage Notes: shake heartily before serving, as seasonings may settle, plus it’s nice when it’s frothy. Optional: A dash of freshly-grated nutmeg on top.

It’s great in tea or coffee, instead of milk or cream. It’s great on desserts that are meant to be served with cream or ice cream, like apple crisp and Indian pudding.

Now if you’ll excuse me, I need to go spend some time in my kitchen!

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



**Using Native Wood for Home Building: Woods Walk and Tour**



COURTESY FRANKLIN LAND TRUST

**GILL** – This Saturday morning, October 15, from 9 a.m. to noon, Brian Donahue and Faith Rand, co-owners of the conserved Bascom Hollow Farm in Gill, will host a woods walk and tour of their beautiful farmhouse, built with lumber harvested from the family’s own woodlands.

Working with local foresters, harvesters and builders, the house is an extension of the “slow food” or local agricultural product movement. The benefits of local wood ripple outward. Good woodland management can create wildlife habitat, improve forest health, and also support the local wood economy.

Bascom Hollow Farm is a historic homestead, home to Moses Bascom, who moderated the inaugural Gill town meeting in 1793. The land has been continuously farmed, and was permanently conserved in 2007 with the assistance of Mount Grace Conservation Land Trust, the USDA, and the MA Department of Agricultural Resources.

The house was designed by local architect and farm co-owner Tom Chalmers, and the head carpenter was Toby Briggs of Gill.

The timber for their home was

harvested by local low-impact operator Ed Klaus of Leyden, fitting into a set of ambitious 50-year aspirational goals for the conservation, wise active management and wild-land reserve set-asides for the forests and woodlands of Massachusetts.

The walk will feature discussion by forestry professionals who made the responsible harvest and hyper-local building project possible: Brian Donahue, Mass Woodlands Institute board member and teacher; Fletcher Clark, and Sean Mahoney of MA DCR, who will discuss the Working Forest Initiative; licensed forester Lincoln Fish, who will share how timber harvesting at the farm creates long-term habitat for birds and other wildlife; and David Bowman, a local sawyer and builder.

The walk will be followed by a tour of the Bascom Hollow farmhouse, as well as refreshments and discussion.

Sponsored by the Massachusetts Woodlands Institute, Franklin Land Trust, and Bascom Hollow Farm.

For more information, and to register for this event, contact Melissa Patterson at [melissa@masswoodlands.org](mailto:melissa@masswoodlands.org) or (413) 625-9151, or visit [masswoodlands.org](http://masswoodlands.org).

**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ERVING POLICE LOG**

**Twenty-Six Reported Incidents, Seventeen Involving Automobiles**

**Tuesday, 9/20**  
8:10 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a revoked license, subsequent offence.

**Wednesday, 9/21**  
9:10 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for operating under the influence of intoxicating liquor, negligent operation of a motor vehicle and marked lanes violation.

**Thursday, 9/22**  
3 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for probation warrant.

**Friday, 9/23**  
11:15 a.m. Well-being check at Forest Street residence. Found to be fine.

12:30 p.m. Alarm at French King Motel. Found to be false alarm.  
3:58 p.m. Medical emergency on Pleasant Street. Assisted on scene.

7 p.m. Arrested [redacted] for default warrant and operating a motor vehicle with suspended license and revoked registration.

10:34 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for attaching plates, operating on a revoked registration and uninsured motor vehicle.

**Saturday, 9/24**  
1:10 p.m. Report of vandalism to a motor vehicle at French King Highway. Report taken.

1:31 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

9:18 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating after suspension, subsequent offense and excessive noise/altering exhaust.

10 p.m. Noise complaint on Forest Street. Advised to keep noise down.

**Monday, 9/26**  
6:50 a.m. Report of smoke emanating from Erving Center fire station. Found to be faulty furnace.

12:28 p.m. Report of er-

atic tractor trailer, Route 2 and Prospect Street. Unable to locate.

3:15 p.m. Loose dog running Route 2 Farley area. Animal control officer took same to kennel.

7 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Erving Center at Freight House antiques. Found to be waiting for a friend.

**Tuesday, 9/27**  
9:15 a.m. Walk-in to station regarding erratic operation of motor vehicle.

8:20 p.m. Disabled vehicle at West Main Street. Not a hazard. Owner will remove in morning.

10:58 p.m. Suspicious person at Greenfield Auto on French King Highway. Found to be resident out for fresh air.

**Wednesday, 9/28**  
6:50 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted] for operating with a suspended registration.

**Thursday, 9/29**  
7 p.m. Criminal application issued to [redacted]

new people, new experiences, and the resonance of new and old histories.”

For more information on these two events, visit: [mcsmcommunity.org](http://mcsmcommunity.org), [greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org](http://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org), [turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://turnersfallsriverculture.org) and [marylyonfoundation.org](http://marylyonfoundation.org).



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# The Children's Page

YONDERBOD ILLUSTRATION

Here is an alphabet from an 1892 book, *Mother Goose's Nursery Rhymes, Jingles and Melodies!* (Edited slightly.)



**A** is the APE, who is dressed very well, Though he is not too wise, as most people can tell.



**B** is the BULL, very stubborn is he, Although he's enjoying himself as you see.



**C** is the CAT, looking round very sly, At a journeyman Dog, who is passing hard by.



**D** is the DOG, steadfast, honest and true, I hope he'll get married don't you?



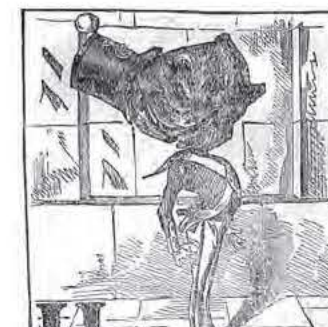
**E** is the ELEPHANT, and very few Are so learned, so big, and so slovenly too.



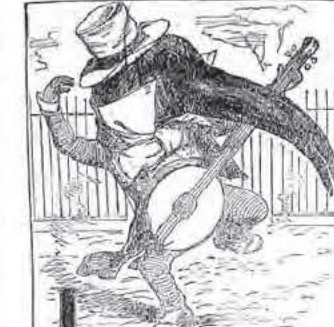
**F** is the FOX, who, as sharp as a knife, Looks out for Miss Goose, (he's in want of a wife.)



**G** is the GOOSE, who is proud to be seen, In her very best frock, and her new crinoline.



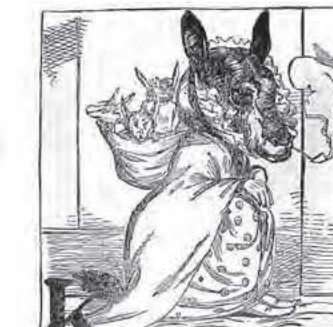
**H** is the HERRING, a Soldier just made, I hope when in battle, he'll not be afraid.



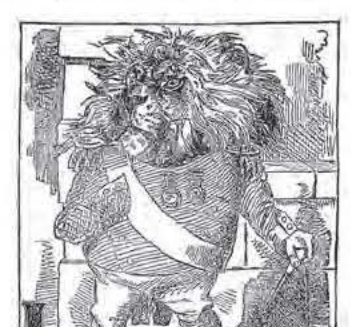
**I** is the IBIS, with banjo to play, He will sing you his silly songs every day.



**J** is the JACKDAW, who looks very sly, When I trust him, I hope there'll be somebody nigh.



**K** is the KANGAROO, ragged and poor, Will you give her a crust, when she knocks at your door?



**L** is the LION, just put on half-pay, He fought for his country, full many a day.



**M** is the MOUSE, see her lustrous black eye, You would like her much more if she were not so shy.



**N** is the NIGHTINGALE, singing a song, I'm sure I could listen for ever so long.



**O** is the OWL, who's as wise as he looks, With his spectacles round, and a couple of books.



**P** is the PARROT, a prosy old man, You'll be glad to get rid of, as soon as you can.



**Q** is the QUAIL, who is running home quick, For his schoolmates have threatened to give him the stick.



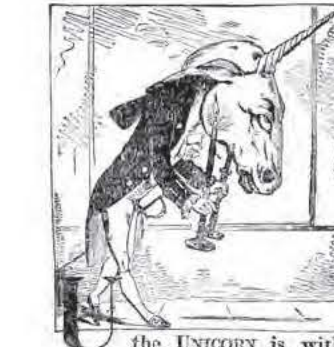
**R** is the RABBIT, slow, stupid, and mild, I'm only afraid he's a silly, spoilt child.



**S** is the SHARK, if he had not been fed, He'd be likely to turn round and snap off your head.



**T** the TURKEY; I'm sure you'd not think from his age, That the best thing he does, is to get in a rage.



**U** the UNICORN is, with his candlesticks two, Walking backwards to usher the Queen, passing through.



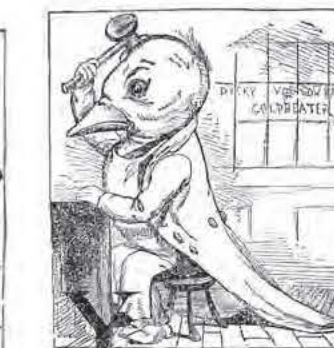
**V** is the VULTURE, fierce, wicked, and old, He'll do any thing vile, that will bring him in gold.



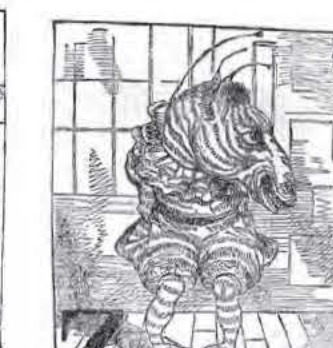
**W** is the WOLF, hungry, ragged, and grim, If you take my advice, you will not go near him.



**X** is EXTINCT; he thinks everything bad, That was not invented, when he was a lad.

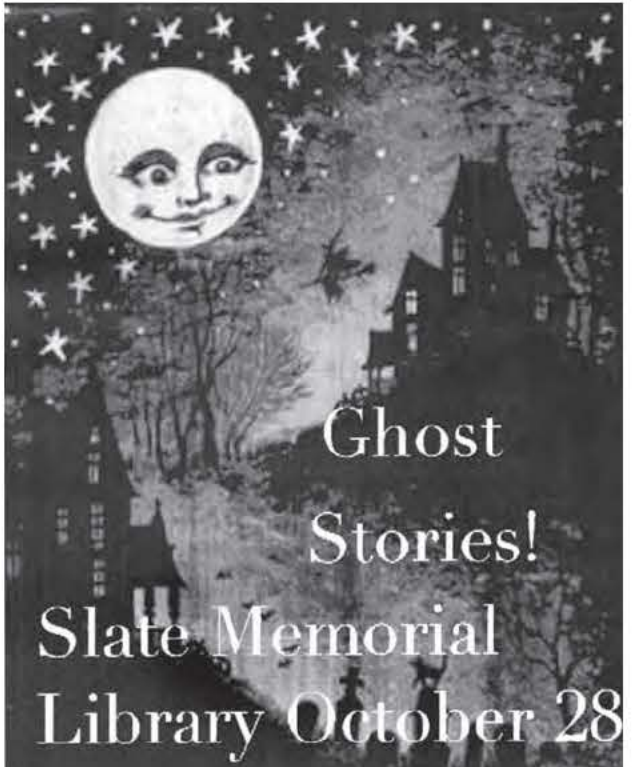


**Y**ELLOWHAMMER, a goldbeater's name, He hammered the gold leaf that gilds papa's frame.



**Z** is the ZEBRA, a zany, and clown, Now we've got to the end, let the curtain come down.

Old fashioned Halloween fun for all ages! At 6 p.m. there will be a ghost-drawn hay ride, a haunted fairy forest, a ghost tent, and more! At 7 p.m., ghost stories in the candlelit library! Including the mysterious and ethereal music of the beyond!



Would you have fun helping with the children's page? Your newspaper crafts, children's drawings and favorite activity suggestions would be a wonderful addition! Contact Beverly Ketch at [kidspage@montaguereporter.org](mailto:kidspage@montaguereporter.org).

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was October 12, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive

### New Wendell Town Offices, Library Project Stalled

At their October 4 meeting, the Wendell selectboard gave an update on the status of the building projects for the new town offices and library. The buildings are behind schedule and construction appears to have stalled.

The contractor, Handford Construction, is working on a state project in Erving that will cost them a great deal of money if it is not completed on schedule, and this seems to be the focus of their attention.

Davenport Construction, builders of the new town septic system in the Center, sent a letter to the septic system's designer, Steve Mason, about the shortage of materials for the septic system, a result of the difference between compacted volume and the delivered volume of sand.

### Sewer Job Finds Tough Going on Avenue A

Ludlow Construction has licked the toughest part of the job on Ave A: Getting the first piece of pipe in the ground. The pipe is 14 feet below the pavement, but the job called for removing an additional underlying five feet of peat and unstable soil to replace it with stone and granular material, to create a solid base.

Getting the initial hole dug seemed hopeless. Ground water, peat, clay and loose soil made difficult going. Water poured in; silty soil followed, and the edges of the hole slumped. The water table is high here, because of leakage from the power canal.

Beavers have dammed up the old railroad bed and when the canal is drawn down, the water disappears and the beavers wander around bewildered, wondering where the water went.

Had this job been coordinated with the annual canal drawdown, it would have been much easier.

### School Closing Looms

In 1995, the Gill-Montague schools housed and educated 1,640 students. A little more than a decade later, that number has declined by 29%.

The school committee is grappling with a question that has been around for at least as many years: whether to close an elementary school in Montague, and if so, which one.

With the bulk of G-M students now moving through the high school and the numbers of elementary school children entering the district falling, the Montague elementary population now totals 252 students in Sheffield School (grades 3-6), 171 in Hillcrest (grades pre-K through 2), and just 86 in Montague Center (grades K-3).

The school committee has decided not to consider the possibility of closing the Gill Elementary School at this time, though with only 103 students in K-6, its classroom sizes are even smaller than Montague Center's.

## This Friday: Benefit Film Screening for Danny Monster Cruz College Fund



Well known in local music circles, Danny Monster Cruz is training as a visual artist at Greenfield Community College. The event will help support his tuition costs.

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Brick House Community Center, in cooperation with Danny Monster Cruz and the Good Night's Sleep Experimental Film Screening Collective, present a fundraiser for Danny Monster Cruz's continuing education at GCC this Friday night, October 14 at 7 p.m.

Four Five-College film professors who work in experimental and non-commercial modes will screen films, along with a performance and gallery show by Danny Cruz, for a program that celebrates art world outsiders and the importance of accessibility in arts education.

Film makers Baba Hillman, Adam Levine and Sarah Smith, Hope Tucker, and Josh Guilford will screen work.

Danny Monster Cruz is a 24-year-old man dealing with Duchene's Muscular Dystrophy. As a self-identifying outsider artist, he is interested in uncompromising individuality, radical sociopolitical activism, and "surpassing the fame of Basquiat, but in a clean way."

"Who influences my art: Jean-Michael Basquiat, Lady Gaga, Bach, Beethoven, de Kooning, Munch, Jeff Koons, Rodney Madison, Andy Warhol, Danny Monster Cruz, Wesley Willis, Die Antwoord, Leonardo da Vinci, Jackson Pollock, Peggy Guggenheim, and Cathe Janke."

In 2006, at fourteen years old, Danny founded the experimental

psych rock glam outfit Flaming Dragons of Middle Earth, who soon garnered an international cult reputation and continue to play regularly. Interested in accessibility, Flaming Dragons has always had an open enrollment and weekly open practices at The Brick House Community Center.

Aside from musical practice, Danny is a multi-disciplinary artist working in fashion design, video art, illustration, editorial journalism and painting, for which he is receiving formal training at GCC.

"Being at school will change my life," Danny says, "because I can meet more people, and it will have an impact on who I can meet in the creative world. I want to figure out a way to market my art so it can sell for income. I want people to buy the creative work I've been putting my time and effort in – it shows my humanness. I want social change in the world."

As a result of his condition, Danny was unable to finish high school, and is ineligible for traditional financial aid. Raising the cost of Danny's tuition at GCC has been a yearly opportunity for the Franklin County arts community to show their support for Danny, and appreciation for his outstanding work.

This year, we are organizing a fundraiser that is about more than helping a friend expand their practice and level of opportunity – we hope to bring together a community of artists

working in education to stand up for accessibility and the value of arts in academia at all levels.

Historically, experimental film has not been fully embraced or supported by the art world. Avant-garde, experimental (or whatever term you may prefer) film makers have relied on community/labor of love institutions such as The Film Makers Cooperative, underground not-for-profit theaters, and most importantly, academic institutions, for the majority of employment opportunities within the field and financial support through print rentals.

We hope to continue the tradition of grassroots arts communities and artists employed within academia working together to support this experimental tradition.

In an academic context, Danny is an outsider artist interested in exchanging ideas and creativity with the broader art world, furthering his work and focusing it with the support of his professors and fellow artists.

Prior to the screening, this event will feature a solo performance by Danny, and a gallery show of Danny's visual work. By pairing Danny's visual and performance art alongside the work of established professors, we will provide the context for opening bridges and finding common ground within the two worlds.

"I think this medium is important, a film screening is a good event for people to learn about the human experience. Meeting academic film makers, they would really understand the art world, maybe they could understand how to help me thrive, and the audience at this event could see, through watching my performance, the creative side, learn to not be afraid to show true feelings." – Danny Monster Cruz

*The 5 College Film Professors Danny Monster Cruz Benefit will take place this Friday, October 14 at 7 p.m. at the Brick House, 24 Third Street, Turners Falls.*

*To contribute directly to the fund, visit [www.gofundme.com/2te8vdd2](http://www.gofundme.com/2te8vdd2).*

## From a Shared Office in Shelburne Falls...

## Reaching Readers Around the World



Erik Hoffner cruises down Ashfield Mountain on his way to work.

By LAURA RODLEY

If you see someone zooming down Ashfield Mountain on his bike, it may be Ashfield's Erik Hoffner on his way to work at the Bridge of Flowers Business Center (BOFBC). The ride on his Italian-model Jamis bike, and the subsequent shower at the center, work better than a cup of coffee to wake him up to begin work in his office cubicle.

Erik is editor and content strategist for the nonprofit Mongabay Environmental Science and Conservation News, a comprehensive website focused on global and environmental reporting issues, such as "climate change, biodiversity, any number of environmental challenges we have, not just endangered species."

The website, [mongabay.com](http://mongabay.com), has a global readership of 14 million. It was founded by Rhett Butler in 1999, "a real go-getter guy," according to Hoffner. 45, who started his editorial position in July and is a new BOFBC member.

Mongabay is "read by all manner of people, from UN staffers to bureaucrats in charge of forestry in tropical countries to activists and heads of state, like Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who calls on our reporters at his news conferences," said Hoffner.

Everyone wants to know how the organization coined its name. San Francisco Bay area resident Butler, 38, named it after Nosy Mangabe, a tiny tropical rain forest island off Madagascar, one of his favorite places. Like his other fellow environmental reporters, Hoffner works from home, forming a wireless bridge with girders in St. Paul, Minnesota, Cairo, Lima, Bangalore, India and Menlo Park.

However, he says, "at the BOFBC, I have no distractions, and everyone is very professional. I need a great printer and the business center has it." BOFBC, owned and managed by Buckland's Michael McCusker on the third floor in the Old Fellows' Building on State Street in Shelburne Falls, offers members a shared working space with high speed internet, a state-of-the-art printer, and committed coworkers.

A member of the Society of Environmental Journalists, Hoffner has worked for The Guardian, National Geographic News Watch, Orion, Pacific Standards, and helped found Co-op Power, a member-owned

cooperative serving New England. Two weeks ago, Mongabay sent him to Hawaii to cover the World Conservation Congress, where he met and chatted with one of their esteemed Advisory Board members Jane Goodall, who professed her love for Mongabay.

Admitting that environmental concerns "can be a litany of bad news: we find the good news. The Tasmanian Devil is doing a lot better now. They were dying off, headed towards the endangered species status, dying from some weird cancer of the snout (called Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumor Disease). They are making a comeback," said Hoffner.

Hoffner is married to Jenny Goodspeed, 45, singer and electric bass player for the lyrical band Boxcar Lilies. "When they are rehearsing, it's good to be able to go to a co-working space," he says, "cause I can't concentrate when they are rehearsing." The only hard part is going home, riding back up Ashfield Mountain.

Other new BOFBC members are Shelburne Falls' Daniel Lieberman, offering delicious spelt recipes on his website [Speltgourmet.com](http://Speltgourmet.com). Lieberman, 64, has "been cooking with spelt for years. My significant other is sensitive to wheat, but can eat spelt." Considering himself a "pretty serious and ambitious" gourmand, when he researched spelt recipes, he "tended to find very healthy food-y, earthy crunching things or people are trying to make Betty Crocker Cupcakes. I'm not interested in making cupcakes. I'm interested in cuisine from around the world, Asian to European cuisines. I'm particularly interested in Italian food and pasta."

So much so, that he is learning how to manufacture spelt pasta. He shares his love of spelt on his website accompanied by mouth-watering photos.

Also at the BOFBC: Tim Staffanson, formerly of Chaska, MN, senior accountant/controller and financial manager with 20 years of progressively responsible experience in accounting, finance, taxes and auditing, Shelburne's Kara Bohonowicz, and Helene Grogan, part-time software tester working remotely for ULTRA Testing in New York City and fledgling iOS app developer hoping to release some new products to the Apple App Store within the next few months.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



*Exploded View: 8 women debut their work during two special art exhibits and word performances at 6 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, October 21 and 22 at 170 Main Street in Greenfield as part of the Greenfield Annual Word Festival.*

## ONGOING EVENTS

### EVERY SUNDAY

McCusker's Co-op Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians of all levels welcome to play traditional Irish music. 10:30 a.m.

### EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Play Group*. Unstructured playgroup. Grown-ups can chat and connect with other parents and caregivers while supervising their children's play. 10 to 11 a.m.

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

### 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

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

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Thematic stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science*. Hands-

on *STEM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) activities for homeschoolers of all ages, with Angela or special guest. 1 p.m.

New Salem Public Library: *Teen and Tweens*. Program for 11 to 18 year olds. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

2nd St. and Ave A, Turners Falls: *Farmers Market*. 2 to 6 p.m.

### 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: *Open Mic*. 6 p.m.

### EVERY THURSDAY

Millers Falls Library, Millers Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers invited. 10 to 11 a.m.

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

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Watchdog Open Mic*. All musicians, comedians, and magicians are welcome! 8 p.m.

### EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. Food carts supplement the local beer. 6 p.m.

### EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

Community Yoga and Wellness Center, Greenfield: *Greenfield Circle Dance*. 6 to 8 p.m. \$

### EVERY FRIDAY

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

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

### FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Montague Common Hall: *Montague Center. Montague Square Dance*. Family fun, October through May. 7 p.m. \$

### EVERY SATURDAY

Highland Park, Millers Falls: *Adult Co-Ed Pick-Up Soccer*, sponsored by Montague Parks and Rec. 10:30 a.m.

### EXHIBITS:

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Live and Die in Dixie. New Works by Charles Shaw*. Through October 21.

Bernardston Unitarian Church, Bernardston: *River Rooms Art Exhibit by Alice Thomas*. Artist

Talk & RoundTable, October 23, 1 p.m.

Deerfield Academy's von Auersperg Art Gallery, Deerfield: *"Cryptonyms" by Fafnir Adamites*. Sculpture exhibit by Turners Falls artist. Through October.

Discovery Center, Great Hall, Turners Falls: *Migration - Connecting through Art and Cultures of the Americas*. Guatemalan art display curated by local artists. Artist reception Friday, October 28, 3 to 7 p.m. Through October.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Surface: Texture & Transparency*. Abstract paintings by Martha Braun. Through October.

Memorial Hall, Deerfield: *Relics and Curiosities in Memorial Hall*. Interesting objects such as wreaths made of human hair and weapons made from sharks' teeth. Through October 30. Also at Memorial Hall, *Farmers' Castles by Robert Strong Woodward*, including barns that Woodward painted in Charlemont, Colrain, and Buckland earlier in the 20th century. Through October 30. \$

Rhodes Art Gallery, NMH, Gill: *"akin" by Whitney C. Robbins*. Through October 15.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Paintings by Q Holmes: Birds and Circles*; paintings by Kerry Stone: *Flower Power*. Both through October.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery at The Montague Mill, Montague: *"Art Meets Verse: An Exhibit Honoring Emily Dickinson"*. Through October 16.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"Birds, Beasts and Bugs"*; creations by Marian Ives. Reception Sunday, October 16, 2 to 5 p.m. Through October.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Straw Weavings by Kathy Morris*. Exhibit through October.

### EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Screaming J's*. Boogie Woogie from S. Carolina. 8 p.m.

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

#### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Falls Coffeehouse presents *Polly Fiveash & Anand Nayak*. 7 p.m. \$

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *5-College Film Professors benefit for Danny Monster Cruz*. 7 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Production of *The Compleat Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. 7:30 p.m. \$

St. Patrick's, Northfield: *Coffee-*

*house. Santana with Rick and Rico, Dave Cofey and Drew Bligh*. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*, Hick rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Hilary Chase & Friends*. Blues, Rock, Soul & Folk. 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15

GCC, Greenfield: *Spirit of Place*. "Exploring our sense of place through the lens of immigration and migration." Music starting at 10 a.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Moose with Mass Wildlife*. Ralph Taylor presents the current moose status in Massachusetts, moose natural history and ecology. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Book release party of *Jedi Academy: A New Class!* with author Jarrett J. Krosoczka. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: Silverthorne Theater Production of *The Compleat Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*. 2 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: Chillith Fair 8 feat. *Amber Wolfe, Beverly Ketch, Hollow Deck, Jennifer Gelineau, Lauri McNamara, Long John, and Tara Toms*. All ages/substance free. 4:30 p.m. \$

Mt. Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Ellen Bukstel*. Singer/songwriter "from menopause to marijuana". 7:30 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Calico Blue, Fissure Cat, The Sleepwells*. 8 p.m. \$

Moca Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Tara Greenblatt Band*. World Folk. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Barrett Anderson*. Hypno Boogie Blues. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Heroes, and Ruby's Complaint*. 9 p.m. \$.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluu-Groove Organ Quartet*. 9:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 16

K Street, Turners Falls: *K Street Porch Crawl*. Starts at 1 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Juliet Simmons Dinallo*. Country folk. 2 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Daniel Bachman, Green Hill Builders, Anthony Pasquarosa*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Dale Reynolds*. Singer/songwriter. Folk/Rock/Alt-Countryland. 8 p.m.

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

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

Arts Block, Greenfield: *2016 Greenfield Word Festival* at various venues throughout Green-

field, "to celebrate words". Tuesday through Sunday. See [www.gawfest.org](http://www.gawfest.org) for details.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19

New Salem Library, New Salem: Book Group discusses *Boys in the Bunkhouse* by Dan Berry. 7 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

5 Church, Millers Falls: *Phantom Erratic #10* feat. *Chris Corsano, Aya Yamasaki Brown*. 8 p.m., \$

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

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## Montague: Open Space Survey

The Montague Planning Department is updating the town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, and has released a public survey to gather feedback from residents. The survey is available online at [www.surveymonkey.com/r/MontagueOSRP](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MontagueOSRP), or as a hard copy at the town hall, all three libraries, and the senior center.

The deadline to complete the survey is November 1.

The previous Open Space and Recreation Plan was completed in 2010 and will expire in 2017. Having a plan enables the town to apply for grants for land conservation and recreation facility improvements.

For instance, the 2010 OSRP enabled the town to obtain a \$272,000 PARC grant for Unity Skate Park, as well as grants to improve hiking and bike paths in town. The plan outlined strategies for the town to work with private landowners, businesses, and organizations to accomplish open space and recreation goals, and has guided the protection of over 325 acres of open space since the last update in 2010.

For more information contact Walter Ramsey, town planner and conservation agent, at (413) 863-3200 x112, or at [planner@montague-ma.gov](mailto:planner@montague-ma.gov).

**LONG TRAIL** from page B1 shelters she described as rustic. (Mice and chipmunks scurry about throughout the night. This did not strike me as cute.)

An interesting feature of the trail is that it passes through lovely Vermont towns, making it possible to hike all day in rugged surroundings, then leave the trail to hitch into town and enjoy dinner at a French restaurant. Leigh and her friends did just that, and on the day Emily was leaving to return to Montague, she and Leigh treated themselves to a hearty breakfast. I saw the picture. They consumed a huge stack of pancakes and eggs. Leigh said, "It's one of the challenges of the hike. You just can't get enough food to fuel your body when you're hiking. I watched a fellow hiker eat three whole dinners at the Killington Inn."

Trail mix, wraps with nut butters, chocolate and dried fruit eaten throughout the day keep a hiker going, but the calories get burned as fast as they are consumed. Leigh and her hiking buddies also enjoyed prepared freeze-dried meals at night, and a few restaurant meals when they left the trail.

The planning alone is a challenge. Leigh and Emily did fast walks up Mount Toby to train. They also walked around Taylor Hill road at an impressive speed. Since you can't carry everything you will need for more than a month—Leigh left on August 19 and returned to Montague on September 24— you



Leigh Rae (left), with fellow trail walker Emily Monosson (right).

mail food to yourself, and hitch to village post offices along the way.

"Hitchhikers are commonly seen along the roads, and people willingly offer rides," Leigh said. Between August 19 and September 24, Leigh took two breaks from the trail and returned home to wait for hiking companions, first for Marina and then for her husband John. "I was happy for the breaks," Leigh said, and that was easy to understand. A hot shower must have been heavenly.

It was so cold at the top of Jay Peak that people thought of taking the gondola car back down the mountain. Then the sun came out. Then a small café opened, and she drank hot chocolate and braced herself for another day.

Hiking the rock face of the Chin at Mount Mansfield, the tallest peak on the trail and characterized by having the shape of a face with the chin as the northernmost section, was so frightening that Leigh cried

when it was over. Yet her advice to anyone considering this hike was, "Do it. Anybody who can take the time can do this."

Normally we avoid hitchhiking; normally we are not sweaty and smelly and hungry, and desperately finding purchase on a steep rock face. There were no guardrails, no way to signal for help. What would happen if someone got hurt? I asked. Leigh said there are other hikers always willing to help. She seemed confident that resourceful kindly people would figure out what to do.

It is just this vulnerability that attracted her to the challenge of the Long Walk and what she remembers most. "It's such a beautiful way to get to know people. You are vulnerable and there is discomfort. Everything is stripped down to just walking. Forever I will cherish that unburdening. You think about food, water, weather and your feet, and that is all."

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