



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 9

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 8, 2016

## Lake Pleasant's Turn? Town Hears Master Plan for Rutter's Park Project

By MIKE JACKSON

**LAKE PLEASANT** – “All of our playground equipment is hand-me-down. When other parks get improved, we get the old equipment, if we're lucky,” says Deborah Frenkel, secretary of the Lake Pleasant Village Association.

“We're a small village – we don't have a lot of resources, so we've been resourceful.”

For years, Lake Pleasant has played the part of Montague's secret

fifth village – a neighborhood of about 200, split in half by a ravine, tucked away off of Route 63 on the edge of a small, placid lake.

The onetime summer campground seldom sees much in the way of planning and development attention from the town, and much of the improvement it does see tends to be at the hands of the village's volunteers.

All that might soon change. Montague's Parks and Recreation department supports a plan to use an upcoming round of community development block grant (CDBG) funding to completely make over Rutter's Park, a stretch of land between Broadway and Montague Avenue currently home to some aging play structures, a small veterans' memorial, and a badly potholed basketball court. “I don't even think they're the same height, those two hoops,” Frenkel says.

see **PARK** page A8



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Rutter's Park, between Broadway and Montague Avenue in Lake Pleasant.

## Local Researchers Seek to Measure Health Benefits of Access to Farmshares

By JEN HOLMES

**GREENFIELD** – Ever wondered just how much eating fresh vegetables regularly could actually impact your health?

Thanks to an upcoming research program to be carried out by Just Roots, the Community Health Center of Franklin County, and Dr. Seth Berkowitz of Massachusetts General Hospital, we may soon be closer to that answer. Their research proposal, titled “(Im)Proving the CSA Model – A Scientific Study to Demonstrate the Health Impacts of CSA Participation to Insurers,” was recently awarded the Farmers Market Promotion Program Grant through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and will be underway this spring.

“I think this was probably a very different grant than what the USDA was expecting,” says Jessica Van Steensburg, executive director of Just Roots, a farming-based community nonprofit located in Greenfield.

“It went beyond, you know, just posters or things to attract people to a farmer's market,” she says.

### Measuring an Impact

The study concept is indeed innovative, and very collaborative. Through the Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHCFC), based in Turners Falls, patients who meet the study requirements – in this case, anyone with a body mass index over 25 – will be sent a letter explaining the study, and letting them know that they can opt out of participation.

CHC staff will then randomly recruit 120 participants

from those who did not opt out. (Random recruitment is a common practice in scientific research, an attempt to diminish the possibility of skewed results.)

“We're beginning that process now, and are hoping to get recruitment rolling by March or April,” says Ed see **STUDY** page A4



JUST SEEDS PHOTO

Just Roots customers pick up their CSA shares last summer.

## Sullivan: Return of the Chop “Unfortunate”

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – “Should the Indian logo/mascot remain,” GMRSD superintendent Michael Sullivan wrote to the school committee on Monday, “the district will need to develop clearer related policies, rules, and expectations.”

Sullivan was reporting on the aftermath of a Thanksgiving Day football game at Greenfield, which the Turners Falls Indians won 36-0. The team's waterboys wore a mock Plains Indian headdress, and the team did the tomahawk chop, both in and out of the locker room.

“This is unfortunate,” Sullivan wrote, “as the district and school committee are working hard to set a tone of civility, respect, growth, and open dialogue during this challenging process.” Sullivan was referring to the school committee's current revisiting of the team name, logo, and sometimes mascot.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A6



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

TFHS' Jack Darling, his helmet covered with tomahawk decals, carries 33 yards to the Maynard Tigers' 3 on the Indians' opening drive of the November 19 state semifinal game.

## Crossings and Stone Walls



SUZANNE LOMANTO PHOTO

Author Evan Pritchard presents his “great configuration” idea to a September audience at the Great Falls Discovery Center.

By ROB SKELTON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – I was fortunate, in the past month, to attend historic lectures by the authors Evan Pritchard and Kevin Gardner, at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls and at the Wendell Free Library, respectively.

Pritchard spoke twice recently, sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, whose success getting federal recognition for local native archeological sites is something to celebrate, something to enrich our cultural tapestry and possibly draw tourism.

Pritchard, who opens his talks with Algonquin music, is the author and originator of “The Great Configuration” – a geographic construct which posits that sacred space exists where river crossings (fords) meet double islands, meet tidal limits, meet freshwater falls and streams. Many such places were seats of power for natives, and later became colonial capitals.

Pritchard starts with river crossings, which early humans learned

from animals – where it was shallow and safe enough to ford. Rivers being food sources where weirs could be built to catch fish, they were natural spots for settlements. Where there were heights of land along rivers, forts could be built – much like colonial forts later: sharpened trees driven into the ground to create a palisade within which teepees were erected. Storage depots for corn were often constructed of stone.

The double-island feature, which exists at Albany, Concord, Hartford, Harrisburg and Turners Falls, was important because “if there was a meeting on one of the islands, you could get across the river using the other island,” Pritchard said.

The Algonquin word *pawtucket* means “fresh water entering tidal river,” and Pawtucket Falls on the Merrimack River in Lowell was an important native site.

Horseshoe Island, on the Merrimack at Concord, was the sachem seat of the Penacook confederacy.

see **CROSSINGS** page A5



RIVERCULTURE PHOTO

Turners Falls RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto writes: “Santa's helper, Jack Nelson, created this wonderful magic mailbox. The design is based on an English mailbox, but these letters only go to the North Pole. Children and adults alike are encouraged to drop in a note for Santa or well-wishes for friends, family or the world! The magic mailbox is located at Spinner Park, on the corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street in Turners Falls.”



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## Aiming Higher?

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee is between a rock and a hard place.

Its members are elected to three-year terms in an embattled, diverse, and underfunded rural district. They're responsible for approving budgets, setting policy, and hiring (and retaining) administrators.

The district is challenged by low test scores, and is attempting to recover from a period of high superintendent turnover. Given a sticky reputation, it struggles to make its schools, in particular its high school, attractive to a tier of families whose parents are the right combination of engaged and disloyal to opt to send their kids elsewhere.

The committee has made strides in recent years. A budget "compact" with the towns has kept the fiscal peace each spring, though spending is austere. A conscious effort to focus on the positive has paid off to some extent. And the committee itself has emerged from a period of dysfunction.

But the bottom line is hard to work with. To put the enrollment decline in historic perspective, let's look at the Class of 1987 yearbook. The class trip was a cruise to Bermuda. 78% of seniors had jobs. Of the 81 seniors, 65 were from the various villages of Montague.

By comparison, last year there were 54 seniors, 32 from Montague. That's a full 50% drop in a generation, even as the town's population has slightly grown.

The high school's athletic department has been one of its selling points. A strong booster culture, energized by a large core of the town's multi-generational families, and expert coaching have made multiple teams the pride of the town.

The team name is old-fashioned, harkening back to an era in which teams were generally named after wild animals and Native Americans. The intent, of course, was not to denigrate. Jumping back another 30 years, we can read a dedication in the Class of 1957 yearbook:

"To our ideal and inspiration... the Turners Falls Indian, symbolic of freedom, loyalty, and perseverance. This bronzed American, his soul fearing nothing but the shame of fear has been rightly called a stoic of the woods. His erect form, his bravery, truthfulness and love of freedom will forever be our guideposts along our own trail of life."

There's no reason to expect this kind of absurd caricature to hold over for much longer in an era of expanding tribal membership, and growing cultural and political ad-

vocacy. But there are still dozens of high schools around the state, and hundreds across the country, with similar names, logos and mascots.

Since one of the obstacles is cost, the shoe company Adidas has made the offer to reimburse districts that take the step. It's not clear to us how comprehensive this offer really is. But when community members brought it to the GMRSC's attention last May, we could almost hear their internal groans.

It was a troublesome and divisive topic when last broached in 2009, and there's little to indicate the community is better equipped to handle it now. The committee's decision to approach the issue gradually, intended to encourage all perspectives to be heard, is instead seen as wasteful foot-dragging, needlessly prolonging a community's division and shining a spotlight on some of its shortcomings.

The athletic program is its own center of power, and it's unclear whether the administration is even capable of enforcing its existing policies if parents, staff and fans were to encourage athletes to rebel against them.

And beyond that, there's a very real possibility that a district constituency that by and large ignores the difficult and continuous work done by school committee members would mobilize around this single issue to unseat them, as punishment either for decreeing a change to the team name or even for considering it too carefully.

Unfortunately, there's just no reason to expect or demand Turners Falls High School should be ahead of the curve in the state on this issue. "Why Turners Falls? Why now?" asked Lew Collins at the first informational forum last month, and Lew had a point.

This policy shouldn't have to be determined one school district at a time. And certainly not by shrinking districts in working-class towns, which have every right to worry about preserving unity and pride.

It's disappointing, but maybe the school committee is politically incapable of doing the right thing at this time. Maybe the issue should be brought back to the MIAA, or to the state Commission Against Discrimination. If all the remaining schools are required to change, none would feel unfairly singled out.

And for Native American opponents of the mascots, surely this strategy would be easier. Why waste a year convincing Turners Falls to come into the modern era, only to have to start from scratch in Athol?



## Letters to the Editors

### Earnestly Imploring

**Dear President-elect Trump,**

I implore you to take a serious look into what's been happening around our world.

Please call the Mayor of Miami and talk to him about the \$400 million he is spending on pumps and storm walls to protect his city from rising seas. Look at the footage of the water coming up the streets every day where it never used to. They found an octopus washed up inside a parking garage. No joke.

Call NOAA, our National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which was created by President Nixon. Ask them about the receding ice shelves. They have records going back two hundred years. All that ice is now water, in the ocean, raising the sea levels. Ask NASA how that happened. NASA has the data. Remember Miami. It's happening.

Please believe the hundreds and hundreds of climate scientists and organizations all around the world, instead of the paid shills of the oil industry, both in the media and our congress.

Follow the money. The trail is there. You know where it's coming from, and why.

And, beyond the rising seas, think about air pollution. Do you remember NYC during the summers of 1970s? What did we do then?

Fact: even in 2013, eight times as many New Yorkers died from air pollution-related health issues as from murder. We still have work to do.

Talk to Arnold Schwarzenegger about what he did in California. Ask him about how the economy also improved.

The next generation of this country is watching you. How do you want to be remembered? As the president who saw what was happening around us and did the right thing before real disaster struck? Or as the president who did nothing, or made things worse, just to help line the pockets of oil executives while our coastal cities sank?

Be the president who reinvigorated the American economy by making us the undisputed global leader in renewable energy technology, while also cleaning the air, and halting the growth of carbon the world over.

You know China or Japan will do it if we don't. People want it. Here. There. Third world countries. Everywhere.

By the way, there is no such thing as clean coal. It just doesn't work. It doesn't.

**Michael Muller  
Greenfield**

## A Teachable Moment

We write to offer a veterans' viewpoint different from those dominating the events at Hampshire College. We are members of chapter 95, Veterans for Peace ([veteransforpeace.org](http://veteransforpeace.org)), an international veterans' organization whose mission is to build a culture of peace, expose the true costs of war, and heal the wounds of war.

Though we wouldn't burn the flag, we applaud and support the work of Hampshire College students and administrators in creating a teachable moment. We believe in the right to free speech, to listen, and to protest. We find the threats to Hampshire students and administrators, and to reporters, to be reprehensible and contrary to values we served to protect.

Mayor Sarno says the flag represents "freedom, democracy, strength and hope." As veterans, we served our country with the hope of protecting such values. But we also recognize that those values – spoken so easily on days like Veterans Day – are not all that the flag symbolizes.

It cannot be denied that horrible things have been done under the flag. In the US, we often ignore and erase the truth: unending immoral wars and occupations; denial of Native American sovereignty; repression of many Americans' civil rights; as well as betrayal of service members and veterans. As veterans of moral conscience, we choose to see the full impact of our country's choices.

Howard Zinn said, "There is no flag large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people." To be proud of being an American without seeing our darkness is a deadly sin.

Our flag represents multiple truths – both inspiring and terrible. We must work on seeing and acknowledging where we fall short of our ideals, not just seeing what we want to believe.

Although flag-burning is free speech that we are pledged to defend, instead we wash the flag – metaphorically and literally. It's time to wash the flag so that we can fly it proudly, without stains and tatters.

The work of setting right the wrongs done under the flag will take a long time, so we must do it every day. The first step of mending the social fabric is not ignoring the harm done by some of our country's choices.

**Daniel Ritchie  
Easthampton**

**Eric Wasileski  
Greenfield**

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**  
*Every other week in July and August.  
No paper last week of November,  
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Don't forget that **It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls** takes place this Friday, December 9. The event runs from 3 to 9 p.m. and includes live music, holiday shopping, kids' crafts, a scavenger hunt of sorts, art exhibits, hot chocolate, and a visit from Santa himself at Spinner Park at 6:30 p.m.

For a full schedule, see [turners-fallsriverculture.org](http://turners-fallsriverculture.org).

And your favorite nonprofit community newspaper, the *Montague Reporter*, is holding a **fund-raiser dinner** at the Great Falls Harvest restaurant. Tickets are \$30, which includes a three-course meal and live entertainment. For more information or to RSVP, contact Lyn at 863-4779.

Have fun, avoid holiday shopping, and eat treats all at the same time: the Montague Common Hall is hosting **Make and Take Craft Day** this Saturday, December 10, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

People of all ages can make and take home lovely gifts, enjoy homemade breakfast and lunch, and weather permitting, hang out by the outdoor fire pit. Admission is free. Crafts cost between 1 and 10 tickets to make; tickets are \$1 each, or 25 for \$20.

Craft day proceeds will be split between the Franklin County Community Meals Program and the

Common Hall restoration fund. The Hall houses the Historical Society, yoga classes, dances, concerts, weddings, birthday parties, theater rehearsals, workshops, and much more.

The Hall is located at 34 Main Street in Montague Center, across from the town common. Visit Montague Common Hall on Facebook for more information.

Show your creativity! Come and make a gift at a **Mosaic Workshop** with Edite Cunha on Saturday, December 10, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls.

Mosaic is an ancient decorative art made with small pieces of glass, stone, minerals and fragments of pottery or other material. This is an introductory workshop during which Edite will introduce the participants to basics such as design, technique, materials, tools, and the process itself. Mix this all up with a bit of history and take away a beautiful art form! To make your decorative tile more personalized, feel free to bring in some of your own broken pottery, shells, sea glass or materials.

GSB will host Edite as she works with a group of eight lucky folks, who must register for the unique experience. While all are welcome to call in and reserve a seat, youngsters under 10 need to be accompanied by an adult.

Please call Hilary at (413) 775-8267 to reserve your spot. As a courtesy to others who call to secure this opportunity, notify the bank of any cancellations to this limited seating event.

Also on Saturday, December 10, the town of **Northfield's "Special Day"** celebrates its 11th year with old-fashioned holiday fun for all ages from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Travel around the beautiful, historic town in true New England style with free horse-drawn hayrides and enjoy musical performances, crafts, and local shopping. Families with children 4 years or older are invited to visit Northfield Mountain staff to create your own holiday gift for the birds at Green Trees Gallery, 105 Main Street, from 12:30 until 2 p.m.

A community bonfire, caroling, delicious snacks, history, art and more all round out this Special Day in Northfield. For more info, contact Kim Noyes at Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center: (413) 659-4462.

And as if that weren't enough options for Saturday activities, the National Spiritual Alliance invites the public to attend their **Medium & Psychic Fair** on Saturday, December 10, from 12 to 4 p.m. at the Guiding Star Grange, 401 Chapman Street, Greenfield.

This special event offers readings with mediums, psychics, tarot, oracle card, and Akashic records readers, as well as aura photography and spiritual and Reiki energy healers. Sessions will cost \$25 for 25 minutes. Call (413) 367-0138 with any question

*Clinical Notes*, Baystate Franklin Medical Center's women's a

cappella chorus, will perform its annual holiday concert, *Songs for the Season*, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13 in the hospital's main conference rooms at 164 High Street, Greenfield.

The concert is free and open to hospital staff, patients and visitors, and the general public. Contributions to help defray the cost of music are welcome.

The popular *Kidleidoscope* program returns to the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls for three Fridays in December, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Come learn about our animal neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed: ducks on December 16; deer on December 23; and rabbits on December 30.

These programs include a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. Meet in the Great Hall. For ages 3 to 6. Siblings and friends welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

The Carnegie Library in Turners Falls will host a **Gingerbread Party** on Saturday, December 17, starting at 10:30 a.m. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to come make easy gingerbread houses. Candy, graham crackers, and icing will be provided for this fun, free program.

The **Wendell Open Space Committee** is looking for new hike and workshop leaders and ideas. Over the years, the WOSC has sponsored educational events for the community on topics related to ecological stewardship and the natural world. Past topics have included vernal pools, mushrooms, wild edibles, tracking, permaculture, integrated

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If you are interested in leading a hike or workshop, or have recommendations for others who might be interested, please contact Rowan Gay at [rowan1692@gmail.com](mailto:rowan1692@gmail.com) by December 18.

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

Another Letter to the Editors

Open Letter to the GMRSD School Committee

First, let me congratulate you for providing open forums on the issue of the High School mascot. It is important for people to feel heard, and I believe that by providing open forums on more than one night anyone who wanted to had the opportunity to speak. Of course, not everyone was convinced. And, you will still have to make a decision that will garner resentment.

By now you've heard from everyone. You have heard actual native people and almost immediately, and laughably, tragically close after, people who complained that the town should ask real Native Americans because they guessed that "real" natives would be okay with the mascot.

You've heard from students and educators, professors, sociologists, and athletes, and you've also heard from 50-year-olds, for whom the most important thing they have ever done was score a touchdown when they were seventeen.

While I am not a religious man, I do often turn to the Bible teachings of my youth for secular advice, and this verse from the Book of James seems good advice right now: "A man that knows what is right to do, and does not do it, to him that is a sin." (James 4:17)

The thing is, school committee you know what is right. People have cited money as a reason to not change, but major companies like Adidas provide money to help

with transitions. People have said the school ought to focus on other things, as if a school only does one thing at a time, people have said let's ask Native Americans and then they kept saying it when Native Americans did not provide the answer that they desired.

The thing is, you know. One thing that could happen is that you vote to change the mascot and a town of single issue resentful voters vote you out of office next election. That will be unfortunate if it comes to pass, but if it does, you will forever be able to take pride in the knowledge that you paid a price for doing the right thing.

One potential result is we make the change, honoring native people

properly by listening to what offends them and changing, and nothing else happens. That is most likely.

The third option is that fearing losing a seat on the school community you bow to ignorance and selfishness and you vote to maintain an offensive, racist mascot. My friends, you will have to live with that as well. Can you?

In the realm of national politics, I often joke that if I'm not sure what to do, I just look at what the KKK is doing and vote the opposite. It's a joke, because in reality I make up my mind using the tools of facts and empathy. It just turns out that I'm 98% on opposite sides of the Klan.

It is, however, instructive to understand that across the country, the

most violent and vocal opposition to changing school mascots is the KKK. They are the opposition.

Obviously members of the KKK tie their shoes, and if we tie our shoes, it doesn't make us them. But this is different. This is refusing to change because your voice somehow matters more than others. Because you think something offensive "shouldn't" be offensive because they do not understand, or do not care about the offense.

As a town, who are we? Who are our allies? The choice is clear. There is only one right thing to do.

I only hope you do it soon, so we can recover soon.

David Bulley  
Turners Falls

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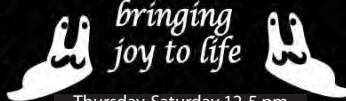
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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving to Create Capital Planning Committee

By KATIE NOLAN

Joe Markarian, financial management specialist at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, told the Erving selectboard on Monday night that he had discussed capital plans for each town department with department heads, and developed a spreadsheet showing a 20- to 25-year schedule of capital projects by department.

Markarian stressed that the plan is an informational projection, not a binding document. With his guidance, the board and finance committee decided to create a capital planning committee by town bylaw. The committee, which would be composed of one selectboard member, two finance committee members, and two residents, would develop and manage the town's capital plan. The selectboard plans to set procedures for the committee with official policies.

The board discussed the definition of "capital item," and decided it would be any expenditure that

costs more than \$5,000 and lasts five years. The committee will have the flexibility to make exceptions to this definition.

The board discussed funding the capital plan with a single annual allocation. Finance committee member Eugene Klepadlo said that, in the past, Erving residents would "pay ourselves first" by raising money from taxes to put into stabilization.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said that, after funding stabilization from taxes, "we use free cash to buy stuff." Bastarache called that system the reverse of good financial management, saying, "we should meet our needs first, and save what is left."

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said the board is trying to improve town budgeting so that there is not so much free cash left at the end of each fiscal year.

Markarian said he would continue to work with administrative coordinator Bryan Smith on a draft bylaw and policies for the capital planning committee.

Treasurer's Office Hours

Based on information provided by treasurer Margaret Sullivan, the board voted for a temporary increase in hours for treasurer's office staff. The purpose of the increase is to provide for staff training time, and meet new documentation requirements.

The board approved an additional ten hours per week for the payroll clerk and an additional 7.5 hours per week for the treasurer's assistant from December 27 to January 31. The board also said it would re-evaluate the need for additional hours after January.

In September, Sullivan had requested additional staff hours to complete tasks associated with preparing the treasurer's office for the next elected treasurer, meeting reporting requirements for the Affordable Care Act and the Franklin County Retirement System, and new requirements for records storage.

In November, Sullivan also requested additional staff hours to prepare for a planned medical leave.

Cost of Living Adjustment

After reviewing the town's salary expenditures, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith estimated the cost of a 1% cost of living adjustment for town employees at \$12,300. Klepadlo said the finance committee would consider the COLA at its next meeting.

Jacob Smith said that the board was leaning toward a 2% COLA for FY'18.

Other Business

The board signed the Erving Paper Mill's wastewater discharge permit for March 2017 to March 2022.

The board signed approximately 60 business licenses for 2017. Several license renewals were held, pending additional information.

The board will hold a public meeting regarding the Analysis of Brownfields Cleanup Alternatives grant for the former IP Mill on Papermill Road at its regular meeting on December 12.

STUDY from page A1

Sayer, chief executive officer of the CHCFC. Sayer explains that the study is aiming for a total sample size of 100, but that the center is overshooting to account for likely attrition, i.e. participants dropping out.

Of the 120 initial participants, 60 will be offered a subsidized share of weekly vegetables from Just Roots, which has offered a community-sponsored, monthly payment program for their CSAs for the past four years. The other 60 will not receive this option.

Both participant groups will be asked to answer questionnaires regarding their diet and lifestyle habits over the course of the study, as well as have blood samples collected, along with other basic health indicators, such as weight and blood pressure. Both groups will receive a stipend for participating in the study, which will run for 20 weeks from mid-June to the end of October, the duration of Just Roots' farm share program.

According to Van Steensburg, the study will span two seasons, during 2017 and 2018. The data from questionnaires and healthcare visits will be collected by the staff of Just Roots and CHCFC, respectively, and will be analyzed by Dr. Seth Berkowitz, a primary care physician and public health researcher based at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH).

"We're not scientists," says Van Steensburg. "So that's where [Dr. Berkowitz] comes in."

Berkowitz has published a number of research studies, supported by MGH and Harvard Medical School, on the topic of "food as medicine" and how diet and fitness can actually act as preventative

healthcare, with a particular focus on how effective, and difficult, these lifestyle changes can be for low-income people.

"We met [Dr. Berkowitz] through a public forum on food and health held in Greenfield," explains Van Steensburg.

One of the Just Roots team members, Jay Lord, connected with Berkowitz over a shared interest in the intersection between health and food, and they stayed in contact.

"When this opportunity came up, we called [Berkowitz] about participating, and he was like, 'Yes, I am totally on board,'" says Van Steensburg.

"He's done a lot of projects like this," says Sayer of Berkowitz. "I was certainly impressed."

Dr. Berkowitz has helped with the specifics of the research program's design, including sample size, recruitment methods and what measure to track. He could not be reached for comment as of press time, but according to Van Steensburg and Sayer, he will play an integral role in the study's development and implementation, and then carry out a "rigorously implemented analysis" to determine whether CSA participation can indeed "improve health outcomes."

Showing a Savings

At this point, you may be asking yourself: what are some practical implications of this study? Or, to put it more bluntly, what's the point of all this?

Most of us believe that eating more vegetables would indeed improve one's health, so is this just proving an already commonly held belief? The answer is partially yes, but also, so much more than that.

"We knew that from a long-term sustainability standpoint, and to really make a difference in CSA affordability for all people, it really needed to come down to figuring out how to engage the health insurance agencies to buy in to help towards the affordability," Van Steensburg explains.

**If a significant  
difference is seen  
in health outcomes,  
then insurance  
agencies may  
decide it's enough  
evidence to justify  
approving "wellness"  
reimbursements for  
CSA shares.**

"Not to say that [insurance agencies] are not making the linkage between healthy foods creating a healthy person, but at the same time, we're not really seeing healthy programming that speaks to their investment in that," she says. "We thought that if we can actually run a study that allows us to look at what happens to someone's health over a long enough period of time to see a difference, then we could maybe 'prove' the impact of a CSA on someone's health."

The hope, for the entire research team, is that if a significant difference is seen in health outcomes between the participants and non-participants in the CSA, then insurance agencies may decide it's enough evidence to justify approving "wellness" reimbursements for CSA shares, like many already do for gym member-

ship and exercise classes.

"Why not a 'food as health' program?" Van Steensburg asks. "Do both of those things," - fitness and CSA reimbursements - "and you've really changed the paradigm."

Part of convincing insurance agencies that such a reimbursement would be worthwhile comes down to providing evidence that increasing access to CSAs improves health outcomes, particularly in ways that decrease healthcare expenditures.

"Our hypothesis is that we'll see health improve, habits shift, and that we're going to see health expenditures decrease," says Van Steensburg. "That's what we think we'll see based on our own years of experience with a subsidized CSA program."

She emphasizes that results for the "impact on health expenditures" will be the most instrumental in beginning conversations with agencies about reimbursement programs.

"Health New England and Harvard Pilgrim have already expressed interest in how this study shapes out," she adds.

Education and Access

In terms of overall study results, both Sayer and Berkowitz believe that changes in health will be seen in those in the CSA participation group, even with a sample size of only 60 individuals and over the course of only a few months.

"We don't expect measures like lipids and glucose to show a lot of difference, because it takes a little while to change those guys," says Sayer, "but we should see some improvement."

"We're also hoping that people who have access to the CSA will see **STUDY** next page

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**CROSSINGS** from page A1

Schodack Island, south of Albany, was the grand capital of the entire Mohican tribe. Green Island near Troy – the tidal limits of the Hudson River – was also an important settlement.

Augusta, Maine was once known as Cushnock (Head of Tide), on the Kennebek River.

On his second visit, Pritchard delved into stonework of uncertain provenance, such as “monks’ caves,” which he charted as often being at the heads of watersheds, and concentrated in a swath between Pelham and Worcester.

“All headwaters are sacred spaces,” said Pritchard, whose book *No Word for Time*, about the Algonquin language and worldview, was for sale and which I bought.



Pritchard returned for a second presentation during Nolumbeka’s Beaver Moon Gathering in November.

actor. This explained, somewhat, his schtick, which is: he stands at the table in the front of the room and talks about the history of New England stone walls, while constructing a miniature wall before him.

In Wendell, the packed house had difficulty seeing the model, but were enthralled by the savorant-like didacticism of this learned man.

Gardner credited two authors who preceded him in publishing stone wall books – Susan Alport and Robert Thorson – and displayed their books to the group.

Gardner’s book and talk were less “how-to” than “what was.” He spoke to the decline of New England agriculture, post Civil War, but at least one audience member I know, Cathy Stanton, felt that he overstated said decline.

His patter, so spiced with Ums and Ahs, reminded me of Ted Kennedy, but his content, well-researched and comprehensive, kept me on the edge of my seat.

After an hour he opened the discussion to audience members who, to their credit, did not hijack the program, as happens so often in these forums.

Someone from the edge of New Salem asserted that native peoples started building linear walls, and later finished them under colonist enslavement. Gardner expertly deflated this conjecture by flatly stating that native peoples did not build linear walls because they had nothing to fence in.

He did not speak to the possibility of a race of

**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**

*week ending 12/2/2016:*

**Grade 6**  
Ian Farrick

**Grade 7**  
Olivia Stafford  
Elizabeth Whitney

**Grade 8**  
Audrey O’Keefe

giant people who created big New England stoneworks, as posited by the Ashfield stonemason Jim Viera, and no one asked.

**STUDY** from previous page

show some improvement in lifestyle, and their perceived health,” he adds.

In addition to the possible implications for insurance benefits, Sayer says he feels the study is important in its representation of where healthcare is heading.

“It’s not really about just food or just doctors – or just ‘this’ or just ‘that,’” he explains, “but that in order to really take care of the population of Franklin County, it’s about collaboration across agencies.”

According to Sayer, the CHCFC tries not to focus on “conventional ideas of health and healthcare,” aiming instead to give patients the means and knowledge “to steer their own direction of health.” This research program certainly fits within that mission, which is why, he believes, Just Roots contacted them initially to partner in the study.

Improving access to CSAs and improving the health of residents of Franklin County may seem a lofty goal, but the teams at Just Roots and Community Health Center of Franklin County don’t seem daunted. Both Van Steensburg and Sayer discussed applying for additional grants and funding to offer health interventions, such as food preparation and cooking courses, and are creating literature that to help inform both the study participants and the general public.

Van Steensburg also emphasized the impact that a CSA reimbursement program could have on the “health of the local economy, and the farms that shape it” by opening up the market of CSAs to new customers who otherwise could not afford it.

Whether or not the study confirms the hypothesized results and grabs the attention of health insurance agencies, the collaboration helps set the tone, both for participants and the community at large, that healthcare is about more than prescriptions and check-ups.

Making sure insurance and healthcare settings not only emphasize healthy food, but also support access to it is, as Van Steensburg says, “key to the future of people’s health.”

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Board Decries Records Law’s “Unfunded Mandates”

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At its November 30 meeting, the Wendell selectboard continued its effort to accommodate the new Massachusetts public records law, which will require a town to furnish any public record within ten calendar days, making no allowance for holidays, or for small towns with essentially volunteer and part-time boards.

Both town clerk Gretchen Smith and town coordinator Nancy Aldrich accepted to share the responsibility of the role of public records officer. “The way they wrote it up,” Smith said, “the town clerk is the default public records officer.”

Selectboard chair Christine Heard said she would talk with police chief Ed Chase about police records, which have their special issues, although Chase does not relish computer work.

The selectboard is responsible for writing a job description for the records access officer by June 1, 2017.

Town officials have communicated using personal email accounts, and may have leaked classified information to the enemy. Selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said that practice will have to stop, and town officials will need to use special email addresses for town business. He also suggested that Wendell residents pay their state income tax into an escrow account, and after the extra expense of this and other unfunded mandates is taken from that account, the remainder can be sent to the state.

Part of the vision of the town website was that each board would put minutes on its page of the website, and directing a request to the website might satisfy the law’s requirement. But not every board has maintained the practice of posting minutes online. The website committee held classes on how to do that, but the procedure is easy to forget, and not

every board has kept up with it.

Pooser asked, “How do you force a town of volunteers?” It should be simple for a board clerk, he said, to forward minutes to a website committee member, and for that committee member to put those minutes on the website.

Aldrich said that part of the job of the officer will be to help a person requesting information to refine their requests. Concerns were raised about hackers, people who are just fishing, out-of-state requests, and harassing requests. Selectboard member Dan Keller said maybe town volunteers and workers can tell the state, “we have done the best we can,” and that will be enough.

Heard said she would give Smith blanket permission to talk with town counsel, and Smith said that putting more information on the website would be good.

### Security and Supervision

The town sent out an request for proposals (RFP) for computer network security and supervision, though the RFP did not include provision for the public records law. The town received three responses, with different costs and scopes of work.

Aldrich will forward them to the finance committee and the technology committee, then schedule an interview and hire someone soon.

Town facilities engineer Jim Slavas has reservations about his qualifications and time to do that job, but if no good proposal comes in he might reconsider, at least temporarily.

### Other Business

Aldrich reported that Colonial Power’s bid to aggregate household electricity rates is complete, with a six-month lock on price. Notices will be mailed out, and participating residents will save approximately one cent per kilowatt-hour. A household will be included in the program unless the bill payer actively chooses

to stay out.

The open space committee recommended that Kathy Becker be appointed to their committee, and so board members signed her appointment slip.

The sodium level in the water at Swift River School dropped again after the recent rain. Sodium spiked in August, at the height of the drought, and has dropped since then.

The inclination of school principal Kelly Sullivan is to continue keeping track of the sodium content, and to wait before doing anything drastic. A new well could very easily tap into the same water and have the same sodium content.

Nan Riebschlaeger asked if she

could use the office building meeting room for meetings of her writing group, a private group. As chair of the energy committee, she has a building key.

The town has not needed a policy for such non-town use, and Pooser said he felt that allowing her requested use might start the town along a “slippery slope” that might continue anywhere.

Heard said she would contact Riebschlaeger and try to learn more, suggest the Marion Herrick room in the library, and contact former selectboard member Ted Lewis and see what he remembers about any policy discussions from when the office building was constructed.

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# NatureCulture: The Science Page

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Lisa McLoughlin, editor

## The Future of Preservation: Saving Places that Matter

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

**DEERFIELD** – David Brown thinks creatively about preservation. “It’s about identity,” he says – “who we are as a people, and a nation.” Rejecting the misconception of preserving the past as simple nostalgia, he instead practices it as a political agenda that promotes continuity, “meaning for the present and hope for the future.”

Brown, who gave a talk in October at Historic Deerfield, is the executive vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation. He puts this philosophy into action in the properties the National Trust manages.

One of their estates belonged to the nephew of George Washington. Getting people to visit it was “a hard sell” with Mt. Vernon right down the road, Brown said, until the Trust focused on its historic role in promoting innovative agriculture.

The property has been revived as an experimental farm to teach students and veterans organic farming techniques, and provides healthy food to low-income



*David J. Brown, executive vice president of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, spoke last month at Old Deerfield.*

neighborhoods through farm-to-table and farmers’ markets initiatives. Its focus on food inequality is also based in its history as a place for social justice, as for a while it was a Quaker farm where freed African Americans worked as paid laborers during the period of slavery.

This innovative approach exemplifies the Trust’s commitment to people, rather than buildings. Brown believes that when attention to nature and culture come together in historic preservation, they strengthen one another.

This tying together of natural

and cultural issues has been working well in the UK, with England’s National Trust being the second largest landowner in the country, right after the crown. They focus not just on individual houses or places, but entire villages and their surrounds.

The banner photo you see across the top of the NatureCulture page every month is one result of this holistic approach: it is a view from an ancient village site – the edge of the site is in the foreground, but the view itself is also protected.

Environmental and historic preservation are stronger together, and more meaningful when they focus on special places that people value as part of their lives, as the fight against the NED pipeline highlighted for us locally.

Where we live means something. Whether it’s a Right to Farm community, a state park, or a special boulder beside a stream, cultural preservation helps us remember that “This Place Matters” – where we live defines, in part, who we are.

October 15 marked the 50th anniversary of the National His-

toric Preservation Act. (For more information on the National Trust, see [savingplaces.org](http://savingplaces.org)) The organization that works on historic preservation locally in your community is your town’s historical commission (if you have one, not all towns do), or historical society. A historical commission is an official town body that gets its mandate from the Massachusetts Historic Preservation office, while a historical society is a volunteer organization of people interested in history. Both are staffed by volunteers, and your involvement could help protect where you live.



*LISA McLOUGHLIN PHOTO  
The First Church of Deerfield.*

## Moon Calendar for December 2016:

Wednesday, 12/7: First Quarter

Wednesday, 12/14: Full Moon

Wednesday, 12/21: Last Quarter

Thursday, 12/29: New Moon



*NASA Galileo spacecraft took this image of Earth’s moon on December 7, 1992 on its way to explore the Jupiter system in 1995-97. The distinct bright ray crater at the bottom of the image is the Tycho impact basin.*

## Indulge Your Mind in Play

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

Minds enjoy play. Why should the only options be work, pabulum, or sleep? Number and logic puzzles offer our brains a chance to solve mysteries.

Here are two especially fun examples:

**Calculudoku** (a.k.a. KenKen, or Kendoku) can be found at various places on the web, including this excellent site by Patrick Min: [calculudoku.org](http://calculudoku.org).

It is a Sudoku-like game that is, in my opinion, much harder, and therefore much more fun. Besides having the logic elements of Sudoku, it has calculations to do, and up to 15 by 15 number grids.

Complete directions are available on Min’s site, where you can play online for free and see how many people from the U.S. and other countries solved the same puzzle. By creating an account you can get special very difficult and larger puzzles. These are



*Screenshot of Monument Valley, shared by Flickr user TheVRChris.*

inexpensive, but not free, though I think they’re worth the price.

For electronic game players, **Monument Valley**, which won Apple Game of the Year in 2014, is available for iPhone and iPad (\$3.99). In it, you walk around fantastic 3D structures and figure out how to modify them to access various portals. The graphics are beautiful, and it stretches your logic and spatial skills.

**Free Apps from NASA** [nasa.gov/connect/apps.html](http://nasa.gov/connect/apps.html)

NASA scientists and engineers like games so much they design them and make them available for free for iPad, iPhone, and/or Android. Here are some examples:

**OFFSET**, by Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Description: “Take matters into your own hands and help cut back on carbon emissions to slow the pace of global warming. Part pong, part resource-management, and 100% retro, this game is challenging, exciting, and educational. Players learn how the global carbon cycle works, about different sources of carbon, and about the ways

alternative energy and reforestation can help offset those sources. And if a player wants to succeed, they will also learn the importance of having quick fingers and strong multitasking skills!”

**NASA Science: A Journey of Discovery** by NASA

Description: “NASA leads the nation on a great journey of discovery, seeking new knowledge and understanding of our planet Earth, our sun and solar system, and the universe out to its farthest reaches and back to its earliest moments of existence. This NASA Science application brings you the latest information from NASA’s Science Missions, including the spacecraft, their instruments, the data, and what we are learning about the questions we seek to answer. Join us on our quest to learn...”

**Rescue 406** by NASA

Description: “A distress call from an emergency beacon goes off somewhere in the world. Satellites orbiting high above earth receive the signal and relay the person’s location to search and rescue crews on the ground. Using the information from these satellites,

## EXHIBITION

## Natural Selections: Flora and the Arts at the Flynt Center

**DEERFIELD** – This exhibition explores how nature has inspired, impressed, and enlightened society long before the publication of Charles Darwin’s *On the Origin of Species* in 1859.

Using three themes, the exhibit explores the subject of flora and how it inspired the decorative arts. “Botanizing” looks at the movement to classify, study and teach through a selection of educational books and prints detailing floral anatomy and stages of life.

“Art in Nature” delves into the museum’s rich collection of decorative arts to see how plants and flowers have influenced designers and craftspeople in fields as diverse as textiles, ceramics, furniture, and architecture.

Finally, “Bringing the Outdoors In” showcases ceramic and glass vessels which

brought colorful, fragrant flowers and plants indoors for personal enjoyment and study.

On exhibit until February 12 at the Flynt Center of Early New England Life at Historic Deerfield. Open 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekends until the end of December; closed January to mid-April. For more information: (413) 775-7132.



## Winter Solstice Is Coming Up

The winter solstice on December 21 is the longest night and shortest day of the year in our northern hemisphere. At solstice, the sun seems to stand still; that is, it rises and sets at about the same place in the sky for a few days, and at winter solstice that place is the farthest south it will be all year.

After the winter solstice, the sun will start rising and setting farther north until it reaches summer solstice, at which point it will stand still for a few days again and then start trudging south. This is of course not the sun moving, but rather our orientation to the sun. For more information with some excellent videos visit [archaeoastronomy.com](http://archaeoastronomy.com).

### Solstice Science Event

For an excellent informal lecture, and to view the sun rising or setting over stones in an astronomically-aligned circle, visit the UMass Sunwheel in Amherst on December 21 at 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. The event lasts about one hour. Free, with donations appreciated.

The UMass Sunwheel is located south of the UMass football stadium. See [umass.edu/sunwheel/pages/gatherwinter.html](http://umass.edu/sunwheel/pages/gatherwinter.html)

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## OPEN HOUSE

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## “Powering Forward”

**TURNERS FALLS** – On Thursday December 15, 2016, NewLeaf Consultants will hold a public meeting to present their Canal District Vision Plan for the Turners Falls Canal District.

The Canal District occupies the area historically known as “Power Island.” It includes all properties between the Indeck Property Bridge and the former Railroad Salvage Yard Annex building.

At this presentation, NewLeaf will present the overall concepts of the Canal District Vision Plan in a PowerPoint presentation. This is a visual presentation only, and the full textual report will be available in February.

The Canal District Vision Plan is a collaborative effort between the Town of Montague, the UMass-Amherst Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional Planning, and the UMass Design Center.

NewLeaf Consultants is comprised of senior graduate students in the Regional Planning Studio class of the Master of Regional Planning Program. The purpose of this collaboration is to create a vision for the Turners Falls Canal District.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Montague Public Safety Complex at 180 Turnpike Road in Turners Falls. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

**PARK** from page A1

On Monday night, a delegation from all the groups involved in the project’s design – the Village Association, Parks and Rec, the Franklin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA), and consulting firm GZA Geoenvironmental – paid a visit to the town’s selectboard to present the progress they have made.

The HRA administers the block grant program for the town. With funds remaining from FY’15, they hired GZA to work with village residents to develop a master plan for the Rutter’s project. The plan took shape over the course of four meetings, and on Monday, GZA landscape architect Anja Duffy unveiled the results.

The plan includes a pavilion, pergola, and information kiosk; a new half-basketball court, and a fenced-in play area with structures for two age groups; community garden beds, picnic tables and parking spots.

“It looks like a great plan,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

After a brief discussion of practical matters – lighting, parking, and drainage – the board asked Bruce Hunter, the HRA’s infrastructure co-

ordinator, about the proposed project’s cost and timeline.

“It’s the exact same process we went through at Unity Park,” Hunter told them. “The whole timeline is three or four years.” The HRA needs to host public meetings before making the decision to prioritize the Rutter’s project in the town’s upcoming CDBG application.

If it is included, the first phase would be to fund bid-ready plans, at a cost of \$55,000 to \$57,000, in Hunter’s estimate. The park project itself, which could also be broken into phases, could cost \$500,000 to \$550,000.

Hunter describes the grant program as “really competitive.” The town would hear back next August the results of an application submitted in March.

The Rutter’s Park project was originally conceived as going along with a redevelopment project at Norma’s Park on Lake Pleasant Road, which the town leases from Ever-source. The Norma’s project had to be abandoned due to uncertainty over the parcel’s future; the money set aside for its master plan was re-allocated into housing rehab, ear-

marked specially for Lake Pleasant.

The plan for Rutter’s is to make it both a gathering place where neighbors can hold parties and events, and an everyday hub for children’s activities.

“There are a lot of grandparents in the village who do full-time childcare,” Frenkel explains. “When we were in the early stages of the design, we counted all the children who don’t necessarily live there, but might spend the day with their grandparents. It was like 60 kids under the age of 15!”

The town as a whole must now decide whether to move forward with the half-million dollar proposal, or whether to apply the federal money toward other priorities.

Frenkel reports that Lake Pleasant residents are, for the most part, “really excited” at the prospect of a redeveloped park. “We have a good cohort of people in the village who put a lot of time and effort into keeping things beautiful,” she says, “with a lot of elbow grease, and blood, sweat and tears....”

“And now we have an opportunity to really have something beautiful.”



*Detail from the “Master Plan for the Redevelopment of Rutter’s Park,” prepared for the town of Montague by GZA, Incorporated and presented at Monday night’s Montague selectboard meeting. Used with permission.*

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## In the Studio with Tim DeChristopher

By ALICE THOMAS

**TURNERS FALLS** – Every piece fits for sculptor Tim DeChristopher as he creates “what was” into “what is!”

Tim has been working in his studio since May of this year, when Turners Falls RiverCulture awarded him the opportunity to design and create a visual representation of “Rock Paper Scissors,” which will be installed on the corner of Third Street and Avenue A next April.

He describes this work as “an

idiom – a precursor of a sort” for the overall Time Capsule Project, a long-term project to inform Turners Falls’ inhabitants and visitors of the town’s origins and timeline.

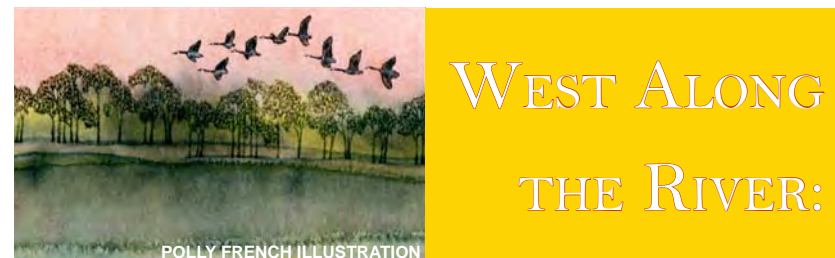
“This project fits into the idea, as a look at the past: the history of Turners Falls,” he says of the current work, adding that it’s “integral.”

Tim, a lover of history as well as an artist and sculptor, talked with me about his exciting views on the historical side of his work. “Rock Paper Scissors” is an historical

see **SCULPTURE** page B6



Tim DeChristopher in his Second Street studio next to the limestone “Paper” factory he is carving. The sculpture along with two other pieces, “Rock” and “Scissors,” will be installed next spring in the new park at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street.



*In the confrontation of opposing ideas, where the tension is: that’s where learning takes place.*

– Fundamental principle of experiential learning.

By DAVID BRULE

**TURNERS FALLS** – The confrontation over whether to keep or not to keep the Indian logo has triggered a polarization in our towns that needs to be bridged and healed, and that will take time. And yet, at this early stage of the debate, many encouraging signs have become evident.

Questions and assumptions swirl around perspectives of our earliest history in this place. We need to remain optimistic and acknowledge that in spite of all, learning is taking place.

It has become evident that those who wish to keep the Indian logo are not racist. It serves no purpose to hurl that kind of accusation. Most are people who are feeling that change, as well as what some label erroneously as political correctness, are forces altering their lives

without their permission. Digging in their heels and creating solidarity around their stand is their response to offensive allegations. Most do believe they are honoring the first inhabitants of this place.

It is also evident that, at long last, tribal people who have always been here are re-emerging into the political and cultural arena of our consciousness. They are reclaiming their right to be respected, honored, and welcomed. They are refusing to be left out of this logo process. They have always been here, have been marginalized but have persisted in our midst, almost invisible, but they refuse to be overlooked, co-opted, and denied respect.

In Montague, beginning with the 2004 Reconciliation Ceremony on the banks of our eternal river, we began a sequence of events that provided potential for the first

see **WEST ALONG** page B4

## Jinx: Chalky Cheeks, Cheats, and Coins for Clapping

By JERRY COLLINS

*This excerpt is from “Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin’s Life, the Depression through 1952” written by Jerry “Jinx” Collins about growing up in Turners Falls.*

*Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present “not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren’t so favorable.” This week, we’ve excerpted some school time memories.*

*A copy of this book is available at the Carnegie Library.*

During Jinx’s years in the Turners Falls school system he was fortunate to have some of the best that Massachusetts had to offer. He had been told that, at least in the 1940’s and 50’s, Turners High was ranked in the top ten percent of all schools in the state. The following are stories of his most memorable (not necessarily favorite) teachers.

### “The Powder Puff”

Now seven years old and starting third grade, which at the time was located in a large cul-de-sac across from St. Mary’s Catholic Church rectory on L Street, Jinx’s brother Smeeks, upon learning that he would be having the elderly Mrs. Shea as his teacher, began laughing and related to this gullible third grade urchin a story concerning the afternoon head-on-desk nap that would become part of the daily routine.

The story as told to him was that, during the afternoon rest period and all the children’s heads – eyes closed



*This undated image from the Carnegie Library archives shows the “old” and “new” Eighth Street Schools. This is now the vicinity of the Elks Lodge.*

– were buried in their folded arms, Mrs. Shea would take a powder puff from her purse, go to the blackboard, dab some chalk dust from the bottom tray, and proceed to powder her cheeks. Smeeks told Jinx that was how his teacher became known as “Powder Puff Shea.”

Now, he would not believe his older brother, who was always playing tricks on him. Still, after a couple of weeks had passed in the beginning of the school year and afternoon naps occurred regularly, curiosity got the best of Jinx. He just had to sneak a peek to find out for sure.

As he stealthily raised his head, just enough, he did see his teacher take a powder puff out of her purse and walk to the blackboard, but he did not see her powdering her cheeks.

Was it really chalk dust (as his brother had said), or regular powder from a compact? Jinx never found out, but from that day forward, he continued the spread of the “Powder Puff Shea” tale.

*This story may seem to be silly but, hey, it gives insight into what can stick in a little boy’s memory bank. “Bad, bad boy, what are you going to do when they come for you?”*

### “Hablo Espanol?”

In order to complete the college prep program in high school, at least two years of Latin plus two additional years of a foreign language were obligatory. As New England borders the Province of Quebec, Canada, most students elected to take French to fulfill the program’s mandate. You’d think that Jinx, whose mother was of half French-Canadian ancestry, would naturally follow the masses.

Nope! He marched to the tune of a different drummer and signed up for Spanish. The primary reason was that Bill Connelly, the teacher, was his third cousin on his father’s side and he thought he would get an easy grade. Wrong! In fact, Cousin Bill expected more from him. *Looking*

see **JINX** page B4

## A Carpenter, a Chair, and a Piana

By NINA ROSSI

**COLRAIN** – Dennis Martin Piana is now living with the Poet’s Seat, a handcrafted chair that serves as a first place award for the annual Poet’s Seat Poetry Contest sponsored by the Friends of the Greenfield Library. Announced in April, the first-place winners of the contest suddenly grapple with getting the honorary chair home at evening’s end, and inevitably have to make a variety of adjustments to accommodate this quirky prize into their circumstances.

After submitting to the contest several times since moving to the area in 1991 from Cambridge, Dennis’s poem “In Elounda” won the coveted First Place prize in the adult category this year. His name is now engraved on the chair, taking its place on the brass plaque at the end of a long list of 24 writers. He also won a special ceramic plate made for the contest by the Asparagus Valley Pottery Trail Potters.

Perhaps it is Dennis’s background as a filmmaker that allows him to see the chair as the main character in a story he wants to pull together, a story told in the many voices of Poet’s Seat Poetry Contest winners who have hosted this Poet’s Seat for a year. His vision is taking the shape of a 25th anniversary anthology to be published this spring, in time for the 26th annual awards ceremony.

The project is well underway already, with submissions from most of the 17 extant first-place winners. Dennis, who has taught film studies for several decades

see **PRIZE CHAIR** page B3



*Dennis Martin Piana sits in the Poet’s Seat chair. He is working on the publication of a “Silver Anniversary Anthology (featuring) Prized Poems and The Adventures of a Chair and the Winning Poets Who Carried it Home to Live with Family and Friends for a Year.”*

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# Pet of the Week

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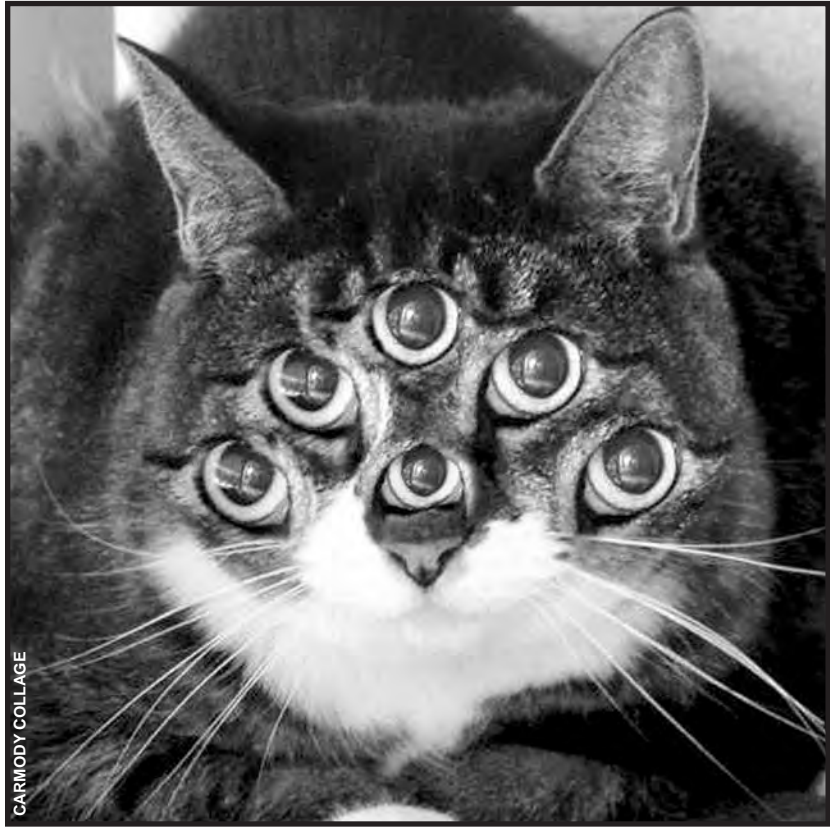
I'm a curious cat who enjoys chasing laser pointers and hunting down bugs. I'm also a talkative girl, and would love to help you decompress with a chat about your day.

Just be careful where you leave the ice cream. That stuff's delicious!

My last family adopted me as the runt of a litter, and I lived peacefully with their dog and cats. It's been a big adjustment spending days and nights at the shelter!

Please come to Dakin and see how purrfectly wonderful I am.

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



“LOLA”

## Senior Center Activities DECEMBER 12 to DECEMBER 16

### 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 & Thurs Noon Lunch**  
**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

**Monday 12/12**  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 12/13**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
**Wednesday 12/14**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
1 p.m. Carols & Cookies (no bingo)

**Thursday 12/15**  
9 a.m. Tai chi  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 12/16**  
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 congregatemeals.

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

Bettters, 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.

*The following events are based on a typical schedule. Call the center to confirm all activities.*

**Monday 12/12**  
8:30 a.m.–2 p.m. Holiday Bazaar  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance  
**Tuesday 12/13**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch  
**Wednesday 12/14**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 12/15**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
Noon Brown Bag Pick up  
**Friday 12/16**  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Pizza, Salad & Dessert  
12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn

### 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

It's time again for the weekly news from MCTV! We'd like to start off by reminding you of this week's warmth-giving local events.

This Friday, December 9 is It's a Wonderful Night in Turners Falls. From kids crafts, Santa's arrival and a family fun dance, to a 21+ tasting, a *Montague Reporter* fundraiser and music at Brown Cow Music Bar, the festivities, which run from 3 to 9 p.m., include events for all ages.

And the Welcome Yule Midwinter Celebration will be December 9, 10 and 11 at the Shea Theater – buy tickets at the door, or in advance at [brownpapertickets.com](http://brownpapertickets.com).

Last week the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee hosted its first inquiry event to gain more insight on the question of keeping or changing the Turners Falls High School team logo, currently the “Indians.” This event featured a historical presentation by Professor Peter Thomas, who is a retired history professor at University of Vermont, as well as an area resident who has contributed to the Battlefield project. A video of the event is now available on our website, and will show on our TV channel on Thursday, December 8th, at 7 p.m.

Watching this video is a valuable opportunity to better understand the historical context of the Turners Falls massacre, looking at the different worlds of the European colonists and the Native American tribes in New England during the 1600s, King Philip's War, and the massacre at Turners Falls. The question posed by the November 30 event was, “Does an understanding of King Philip's War shed light on the community's discussions of keeping or discarding the Indian logo?”

The School Committee had a chance to ask questions at the end. Much of the inquiry addressed the claim by many supporters of keeping the logo/mascot/team name that it is meant to honor Native Americans. Questions were brought up about the relevance of the logo (a



“Plains Indian”) to the town's history, about the historical concept of the “noble savage” and racist conceptualizations of Native American people existing primarily as mythical/historical figures, and about the historical context in which many teams across the United States and the eastern U.S. in particular adopted “Indians” as a name/logo/mascot in the early 1900s.

Questions were also asked about the town's track record for honoring Native Americans through gestures such as honoring sacred sites.

The board will continue their inquiry and host more forums in order to understand opposing opinions on the subject. They plan to make a decision by the spring.

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, [infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

## Millers Watershed Council Meeting to Feature Black Bear Presentation



**ATHOL** – The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) will hold its Annual Meeting on Thursday, December 15 at 7 p.m. at the Athol Town Hall, 584 Main Street in Athol. The meeting will feature a slide presentation by highly regarded regional wildlife photographer William Fournier on “The Secret World of the Black Bear.”

“The black bear symbolizes true wilderness,” says Fournier, who is based in Gardner. “They survive by stealth. Their jet black coat enables them to hide in the dark shadows of the deep forest and they are rarely seen. They possess tremendous physical strength and speed.”

Although generally shy and secretive by nature, going out of their way to avoid humans, they can on rare occasions be extremely dangerous when confronting people. If you were ever confronted by a bear, do you know the difference between a defensive attack and a predatory attack? How do you de-escalate the situation?

“Nature guards her secrets well,” Fournier added. Come discover some of those secrets on December 15. A short business meeting will precede Fournier's presentation. The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information, visit the MRWC website at [www.millerswatershed.org](http://www.millerswatershed.org), call (978) 248-9491, or email [council@millersriver.net](mailto:council@millersriver.net).

*At left: one of Fournier's bear photographs.*

## Monthly Safety Tips from the TFFD

By LUKE HARTNETT

As we enter the home heating season, here are a few tips to keep your home safe from fire and carbon monoxide:



*Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives!*

- If you heat your home with a wood fireplace or stove, have your chimney cleaned and inspected annually to prevent chimney backups and chimney fires.
- Pellet stove exhaust pipes should be cleaned annually as well, to ensure proper smoke displacement.
- Allow ashes to cool before disposal from your fireplace, stove or pellet stove. Use a metal bucket with a lid and keep ash container at least 10 feet from the home and other structures.
- Home space heaters should be plugged directly into wall outlets, never using an extension cord. Have

a safe minimum of three feet of clearance around the unit to prevent fires.

- As always, if you have a Christmas tree in your home this holiday season, keep it continuously watered to prevent drying and a possible fire.

Home heating equipment accounts for 16% of all home fires. Following these few steps can help you prevent a fire in your home.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the Turners Falls Fire Department at any time at (413) 863-9023.

*Luke Hartnett is a Turners Falls firefighter.*

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PRIZE CHAIR from page B1

at local colleges, observed that “unlike students, poets are hard to gather together. They are very independent, sometimes cleverly so.”

Nevertheless, he has persevered and is ready to call together his production team. He asked each poet to send in a copy of the original, winning poem, a short biographical sketch, and their observations about the poem and prize and living with the chair. Dennis sees the chair as something with a lot of character, “being somewhat dinged up and well worn by now. And however people feel about it, that’s the narrative tension.”

Not every winner was able to accord the Poet’s Seat a place of honor in their home. “A lot of the women who won the prize had young families, living in crowded conditions,” noted Dennis. Sometimes the chair spent a year covered with a quilt, or piled with laundry, in an attempt to keep it out of harm’s way in a busy household.

I certainly fit the pattern when I suddenly was the host of this piece of furniture back around 1997 – not something I had considered would happen when I entered the contest for the first time. With two boys aged three and seven, and a car mechanic husband, the chair lived in a corner of our bedroom under a sheet for the entire year.

I could have pulled it out and insisted on the primacy of poetry in the midst of our busy, dirty lives; I could have made the effort to sit and write in this chair once a day, once a week, once a month – but I was unable or unwilling to pull myself away from being a mother, an artist, and a wife for long enough to make a mindful commitment to the Poet’s Seat. I both regret and understand this choice, the ambition covered up with a sheet and tucked out of the way.

The most dramatic story in the book is undoubtedly Andrew Vannon’s experience with the prize chair. Andrew’s friends played a trick on him by “stealing” the chair.

“I know of no ransom, details or names of those involved,” reported Dennis. “But gnome-like postcards were sent. The pranksters were Andrew’s jealous friends. They had a hardy laugh. I believe the friendships survived.”

Writes Dennis about his own experience, “I wrote a carefree ode to the chair after discovering the maker’s name – John Carpenter – on the underside to the chair. I slid it into the living room corner and stared down at the motif of piled books on its upholstered seat. I read and

translated the titles on the binders, one of which was scatological and another was *Ode*, which I first perceived as *Code*. Both made me laugh. Next thing I knew I was thinking of Johns Keats along with John Carpenter – and jotting down an *Ode to two Johns*, beginning with the line ‘No Grecian urn you, but a prize nonetheless...’”

In October, Dennis Piana was asked to read at the Greenfield Annual Word Festival. Serendipitously, the day of this reading he found an obituary in the newspaper for John Carpenter, the man who built the Poet’s Seat chair.

“I was stunned, as if visited by a ghost,” recalled Dennis. “My response was to rethink what I would be reading that evening at the Greenfield Word Festival. Instead of reading a Halloween story I had prepared, I dedicated my reading to John Carpenter and read some of the poems I wrote and submitted to Poet’s Seat contests in pursuit of the first prize chair.”

The anthology will run backwards in time, from Dennis’s observations, “Ode” and sketch of the chair as a character, to the earliest winner who has responded, and then homage to the “In Memoriam” authors.

The first edition of this anthology is to be 200+ copies. All money from sales of the book will go to the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library. Dennis envisions a series of readings at area libraries to promote the book release in the spring, with several poets from the anthology being featured at each.

I visited the Poet’s Seat at Dennis’s home in Colrain the other day, to spend time absorbing the character and vibe of it in preparation to creating an illustration of it for the cover for this anthology. It looked perfectly at home next to the wood stove in his cozy antique farmhouse, rather like a faithful, good-natured yet knackered old dog resting its bones.

This will be the central character binding together a diverse group of poets, men and women of varying degrees of notoriety and obscurity, who arose out of the herd to receive this chair for a year in what has become a unique Franklin County tradition.

I’m looking forward to the challenge of creating a visual ode to this chair character, a “Yankee Modern”: resilient, a bit obscure, cantankerous, well-read, sturdy, enduring with a touch of outhouse humor, a character who might be slinging around poetic rhythms while stacking the woodpile, or quoting poetry while cracking eggs on the grill at the Glen.



December 17: Wendell Yule

**WENDELL** – Francis Doughty and the Wendell Community Chorus will perform at the Wendell Yule Concert, Saturday, December 17 at 7:30 at the Wendell Town Hall. The chorus will be joined by guest vocalist Moonlight Davis. This night of song is a fundraiser for Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse and the Wendell Community Chorus.

This is a rare opportunity to see Francis Doughty, a fingerstyle guitar instrumentalist who is often compared to Leo Kottke. Francis captivates audiences with his own evocative music as well as thrilling Kottke covers. Praising his “virtuosic handling of his instrument” the Hampshire Gazette writes: “Doughty uses his strings to get where he’s going... in songs that demonstrate great range

and tone... [they] come slowly with feeling, or they come in torrents.”

The Wendell Community Chorus is a multi-generational group who learn and perform songs from all over the world. Their enthusiasm and energy shines through, carrying their audiences along with them in their celebration of song. Directed by Morning Star Chenven, they have been singing together for over five years. Moonlight Davis brings his powerful voice to the chorus performance. This Holiday concert features songs by local songwriters, Bob Marley, Sly and the Family Stone, Sufjan Stevens, and world music selections.

The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. – doors open at 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$10 adults, \$6 kids.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Four Deer Struck by Vehicles; Hunters on Posted Land; Dumping Near Railroad Salvage; Deere Left Running

Sunday, 11/27

4:53 a.m. Caller from Central Street reports an unwanted white male wearing a blue sweatshirt that says “Jesus Saves” on the back; advises party has blood on his hands; caller does not know why. Units advised to use caution. Units off with male on corner of Unity and Park streets. MedCare and TFFD requested. Officer advises male is highly intoxicated and has a laceration on his left wrist. Party transported to hospital.

8:53 a.m. Report of a male subject who is threatening another party with part of a bicycle (appears to be a pipe; possibly part of the frame) at Fifth and K streets. Officer located subject at Fifth and K. Parties separated and advised of options.

10:23 a.m. Officer requests message be left for FirstLight advising of trash and miscellaneous household items dumped on their property behind Railroad Salvage; this is a courtesy call, as FirstLight has expressed in the past that they’d like to keep their property free of illegally dumped items.

12:25 p.m. Report of past hit and run at Montague Machine. Female came to MPD reporting that she struck a vehicle in the parking lot next to the DPW last night; stated she does not like the dark, so she did not get out to check the damage and did not report the accident. Caller returned to the accident site today and obtained the license plate of the vehicle she struck, which matched the vehicle from the reported hit and run. Officer contacted initial reporter of hit and run. Report taken.

3 p.m. Report of water pipe cover out of place on Montague City Road before the General Pierce Bridge. Cover replaced by officer. Message left for TF Water Department advising of this ongoing issue.

5:38 p.m. Caller reporting that she struck a deer while approaching the center of Millers Falls. She is not hurt, but is afraid to get out of the car.

Monday, 11/28

8:28 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that somebody has filled their dumpster with old carpeting. No police response needed; just wants on record in case it happens again.

3:09 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states that there appears to be a pipe burst in front of her home. Officer confirms water coming up through the street. Water department contacted; advises that leak is slow and they will wait until morning to address it.

5:31 p.m. Car vs. deer on West Mineral Road. No injury; no hazards.

Tuesday, 11/29

5:32 a.m. Report of neighbor disturbance on Griswold Street. Nothing out of ordinary upon officer’s arrival; noise appeared to be normal morning routine. Advised of complaint.

6:43 a.m. Caller reporting vehicle vs. deer on Federal Street between Swamp and Center. Minor damage to vehicle. Deer alive and in road impeding traffic. No fluids or injuries. Caller advised to remain in vehicle at side of road with hazards on until officer arrival. Responding officer advises deer already removed by DPW. Damage less than \$1,000; operator able to drive vehicle away.

8:40 a.m. Caller reports that a package delivered on Sunday while she was not home has been stolen. Officer spoke with male from first floor, who brought in the package for safekeeping. Package not broken into; no wrongdoing; all set.

10:19 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reports that an adult neighbor is threatening to assault her young daughter. Officer spoke with neighbor.

5:37 p.m. Report of disturbance on Central Street; 3 to 5 people, unknown weapons. Caller reports no injuries but states that children are on scene. Officers responded; incident number assigned.

11:39 p.m. 911 caller reporting motor vehicle vs. pole on Montague City Road; one female occupant reporting injuries. Lines are low-hanging from pole to house. Officers, TFFD, and MedCare en route. Power lines found to be involved. MedCare assisting patient. Road closed temporarily. Ever-source on scene.

Wednesday, 11/30

8:19 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City; subject reportedly stole a package of bacon and put

it in his jacket. Subject is still in store in the meat aisle. Officers located subject in front of Rite Aid and verbally trespassed him from Food City.

12:40 p.m. Caller saw a skunk in his yard approximately 5 minutes ago. Skunk did not appear to be afraid of people and had started to walk toward caller. Animal control officer advised; same checked area; unable to locate.

4:37 p.m. Caller states that there is a lot of trash from illegal dumping across the street from the old Railroad Salvage. Caller and others from neighborhood were going to clean it up to the best of their ability. Officer advised; message left for DPW to check area for any remaining trash.

8:49 p.m. Caller states that there is an injured hawk in front of the Faren Care Center by the crosswalk. Message left for animal control officer.

Thursday, 12/1

12:12 a.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant reporting idling train outside her house; same has been there since approximately 8:30 p.m. Caller advised that there was no action MPD could take to make the train move along. Caller requesting that MPD call railroad to find out how long train would be there, but did not want call back with info.

3:54 p.m. Caller states that she has not heard back from an officer regarding a bullying situation with her grandson, and now the situation has escalated into the school. Officer calling back to speak to caller about situation.

4:39 p.m. Caller states that her neighbor took his and her parking spot, and now she cannot park. Caller highly agitated and states that this is an ongoing dispute. Officer responding.

Friday, 12/2

12:37 p.m. Copied via radio that Greenfield PD is responding to their side

of the General Pierce Bridge for a suspicious package that appears to be duct taped to the bridge. Officer advised; clear; no further action required.

Saturday, 12/3

8:52 a.m. Party into station to report a breaking and entering into party’s vehicle on Millers Falls Road yesterday. Report taken.

11:50 a.m. Caller from Orange reporting that someone known to her has been using her Cumberland Farms credit card without her permission. Unauthorized purchases made in several locations, including Turners Falls. Caller referred to Orange PD.

2:10 p.m. Caller requesting to remain anonymous complaining of a snowblower that has been running for several hours on the tree belt on G Street. Noise is disturbing caller’s peace; requests that an officer contact the owner and ask him to turn it off. Officer advises that it was a John Deere tractor and that the owner stated he had been running it to charge the battery. Owner was cooperative and turned off the tractor.

4:06 p.m. Caller from East Mineral Road reporting three hunters with rifles walking around on his property, which is clearly marked No Trespassing. Unable to locate.

6:08 p.m. 911 caller reporting vehicle stalled in middle of Federal Street; unresponsive male party inside. MPD, MedCare, and TFFD en route. Officers broke windows to gain access to vehicle. Male party breathing but unconscious; transported to hospital. Officer reports strong odor of alcohol on driver’s breath. 6:22 p.m. Caller struck a deer on Millers Falls Road; left scene, but another man pulled up and was going to take the deer. Caller would like officer to look at damage to vehicle.

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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

<i>Here's the way it was December 7, 2006: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.</i>		
<b>Wendell Unanimous: Impeach Bush, Cheney</b>	<b>Laundromat Fashion Show Walks the Edge</b>	<b>Northeast Biodiesel Expects \$650,000</b>
The Town of Wendell spoke strongly to its representatives to Congress Wednesday night, to instruct them that President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney “warrant impeachment and trial, and removal from office and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust or profit under the United States.” The vote, at a special town meeting attended by 60 voters, was unanimous. One participant, Gloria Kegels, reminded that, “Law is part punishment, part deterrence. If we don’t proceed with impeachment, future presidents could take that as	Was it a surrealistic dream or did it actually happen in a sleepy, working class town called Turners Falls? Perhaps a collective hallucination? Any casual observer wandering past the laundromat on Third Street on December 2 at 11 p.m. would have caught a glimpse of wild, glittery folks dressed in trash bag gowns sashaying along a makeshift runway above the washing machines. The second annual lost and found laundromat fashion show, the brainchild of Chris Janke and Emily Brewster, owners of Suzee’s Third Street Laundry, took place in conjunction with the Open Studios and Downtown Walking Tour,	Northeast Biodiesel, the embryonic manufacturer planning to build in Greenfield’s industrial park, expects to receive another \$650,000 in development money, this time from the state, via a community block grant to Greenfield. That brings the level of critical investment so far to about \$2.8 million for the recycled vegetable oil projects, in the works now for many years. Northeast reached its most difficult milestone of \$2 million in private investment in late September. The final phase of financing is now in the hands of the banks, said Northeast president Lawrence Union.

JINX from page B1

back on it now, subliminally, another potentially strong reason goes back to Anna Daley's geography class (especially regarding Mexico) and just maybe it was part of God's future plan for this urchin who would end up living in Arizona with its large Hispanic population – but more on that in future memoirs.

Miss Daley not only taught what was in the textbooks used in that class, she lived it through her own summer travels from which she would bring back objects from the various cultures. She didn't just lecture, but told stories about real people and events that she had personally witnessed.

The students would make scrapbooks containing actual samples of cotton, nuts, minerals, and printed information concerning country holidays, music, and so much more. Jinx believes it was the most fantastic class he ever had, and that it probably came at the right time in the life of a young boy who was affected by what seems to be the mysterious adventures of travel. It started his dreaming of what his future could hold in store.

Thought: Let's hope that the world will always be full of "Anna Daleys" who motivate their students to dream about and actually explore the wonders of the world we live in.

Mr. Connelly, as Jinx had to call him in school, made the class very interesting and arranged to have members of Spanish II correspond with students in Uruguay. Boys had to write to girls and vice versa with U.S. students writing in Spanish and Uruguayans in English. Jinx is sure that this really increased his desire in future years to lean more about Latin America.

Although Cousin Bill made him toe the line more than the others in the class, he did let Jinx get away with one thing – or did he?



We found this photo of Jinx in the Class of 1952 TFHS Yearbook!

GERALD JOHN COLLINS  
"Not simple conquest, triumph is his aim."  
Jinx was active in sports, playing football, basketball and track for three years, tennis two years and baseball one year. He sang in the Boys' Glee Club and belonged to the Art and History Clubs. He displayed his acting ability by participating in Junior Prize Speaking and portraying "Leo" in the senior play. Jinx also served on various class dance committees. He also found time to be one of the sports editors on the "Netop" and yearbook staffs.

Seated at the last desk of the window row behind "Jocko" (a year ahead of Jinx in school) and handling Spanish II quite well, Jinx would help him with tests at times. They had worked out a system whereby if "Jocko" needed the answer to a particular question, he would scratch the back of his head and show the number of fingers that corresponded to that question. Jinx would casually lean forward and whisper the answer. They really thought they were getting away with it – "Bad boys, Bad boys!" – but it probably was because Cousin Bill knew that "Jocko" needed to pass the class in order to have enough points to graduate that he looked the other way.

As Jinx looks back on this, he can't help but realize that Bill Connelly was a teacher with a big heart. Who knows what the world-renowned marine biologist shark expert "Jocko" would have become had he not received those credits?

"Punishment"

Mrs. Murphy, his fourth grade teacher, was really a sweet old lady who taught all of the young urchins the basic 3R's – "Readin', 'Ritin', and 'Rithmetic,'" as some called them – with her whole heart. She was particularly demanding when it came to penmanship. Trying as hard as he could, Jinx was to prove to be a great disappointment to her.

So much so that one particular

where local artists opened their studios to the public, and put their talents on display.

WEST ALONG from page B1

inhabitants of our shores, woodlands, and plains to feel safe and secure enough to step from the shadows. "We are still here" is the declaration of their persistence.

Learning is taking place. Through the Battlefield grant, we have uncovered the details of the massacre by colonial settlers, and of the counterattack by tribal soldiers. This event gave one of our villages its name.

We know the names of those people on both sides who fought and died at the Falls 340 years ago. For some of us, that is ancient history, and the book is written and closed. But for tribal people, we have learned that the trauma associated with this place still lingers; they can feel the pain and wounds of their ancestors still. Once we learn that, we must respect that. We cannot unlearn it.

We have seen young people, students from the Middle School and the High School, do their research in developing their opinions. This is the way democracy works. This is a good lesson for all of us, and young people are exercising their education and skills, learning how to defend their positions.

We have learned also that tribal people base decisions on the collectivity, on consensus, in contrast to the absolute tyranny of the raw majority.

We have learned that the term "Indian" can be used in many ways that are not injurious to Native Americans, many of whom prefer to be called American Indian. Oftentimes then, Indians use the term "Indian" to describe themselves, and many non-tribal people use the term with no disrespect.

We do need to acknowledge that the juxtaposition of Turner and Indian in the same two-word soundbite is ironic and troubling to many.

We have heard the voices of people living a tribal existence who say that the use of the term "Indian" as a sports logo is hurtful and offensive to them. We need to respect that.

We have also heard from Turners sports fans that they mean no harm,

that this is a way of honoring and keeping the memory alive.

We have heard multiple non-tribal individuals declare that they have an Indian somewhere in their family tree, and they don't mind having a sports team use the name. But it is not up to them. They do not have the right to declare what it means to actual members of our local tribes – those of the Abenaki, the Nipmuc, the Narragansett, the Wampanoag, the Mohawk, and beyond. They are speaking up for themselves, and we should listen and hear.

We have learned that just as white people have multiple positions on the topic, so do tribal people have a multiplicity of points of view on the question, with neither side having a unified, single position.

For many of us who call ourselves educators, the process should be inspiring. Everyday citizens are debating history, are learning of events in our deep history that continue to shape our learning, our relationships with one another, and in fact, our futures. It is a positive development that we are debating, challenging, and confronting past events that made us who we are, living in this beautiful and spiritual place in our valley.

People on both sides of the issue have called for curriculum focusing on the Native American presence in this part of the valley. This should not fill a void simply by focusing on the somewhat stereotypical traditions of hunting, fishing, wigwam-building and basket weaving, etc. Focus should be on what it means to be an Indian in modern society, and what kinds of attitudes, discrimination, and multi-generational trauma are shaping the lives of contemporary tribal people.

Education is the key to resolving the conflict arising from the challenge to the name and logo. We have already come quite a distance in a few short months, but we need to take the long view. We need to continue to learn and then know, and move forward together.



Tell the World How You Feel About Animals

TURNERS FALLS – The Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter (FCRDS) is proud and thankful to announce that for the third year in a row, we have received a grant from the Massachusetts Animal Coalition (MAC).

This grant will help with the cost of spaying and neutering shelter dogs.

The mission of MAC is to maintain a leadership role within the Massachusetts animal welfare community using sustainable, effective and widely used forums for dialogue and strategic collaboration to reduce the number of homeless, neglected, displaced and abused companion animals.

MAC's "I'm Animal Friendly" license plate tells your community that you care about animals. By



purchasing this license plate, you will be contributing to a statewide program that directly benefits Massachusetts animals, including direct support to organizations like the FCRDS.

The FCRDS and Adoption Center, a nonprofit corporation governed by the laws of Massachusetts, was established to support the operation of the Shelter. For more information about the FCRDS and MAC, see [www.fcrdogkennel.org](http://www.fcrdogkennel.org) and [massanimalcoalition.com/programs/license-plate/](http://massanimalcoalition.com/programs/license-plate/).

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 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.

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

### FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

Franklin Community Coop/Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-op Jazz*. Blues, Latin, Straight-Ahead Jazz. Balcony. Afternoons.

### EVERY TUESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls-*Play Group*. Unstructured play-group. 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.

### 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.

### 1ST WEDNESDAY MONTHLY

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots at the Root Cellar*. Reggae DJs mixing up roots, dub, dancehall, steppas and more. 9 p.m. Free.

### 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

Arts Block (4th floor), Green-

field: *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 THURSDAY

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Open Mic*. 6 to 8:30 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *Franklin County Pool League*. 6 to 11 p.m.

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

### 2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

Hubie's Tavern: TNT Karaoke. 9 p.m.

### FIRST THURSDAYS

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Nlght*. 8:30 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:

Discovery Center, Great Hall, Turners Falls: *Art Display of Junior Duck Stamp Exhibit*. Through December 22.

GCC Downtown Center Gallery, Greenfield: *Venture/Adventure: Applied Photography Projects*. Photography by students Anthony Borton, Elaine Findley, Cynthia Mead, Elie Shuman, and Shoshana Zonderman.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Annual LCA Resident Artists Exhibit*. Paintings, graphic art, pottery and more. Through December 9.

Little Big House Gallery, Shelburne Falls. Open by appt.; see [littlebighousegallery.com](http://littlebighousegallery.com).

Madison Gallery, Millers Falls: Temporary space while Avenue

A is being renovated. *DeBix Art – Released*, paintings by *Deborah Bix*, and wood turner *Jon Kopera*.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *"Wee the People"* presents little people, pets, and creatures. Includes garden slug figurine, a Frida Kahlo doll, a felted Kibosh creature, a paper robot, and a flying death angel. Great gifts. Through December.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Liquid Edge: Polar Regions, photographs by Sarah Holbrook*. Also *Painting Nature: Botanical Watercolors by Thayer*. Through December.

Sawmill Gallery, Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Light in the Darkness*, winter exhibit through January 1. Also *Mills Not Malls*, holiday shopping.

Shelburne Arts Co-operative, Shelburne Falls: *"Wintery Mix"*, Holiday Group Show. Music by *Uncle Hal* on Saturday afternoons. Through January 23.

South Gallery, GCC, Greenfield: *Memory, Dream and Invention: Recent Work by Anna Bayles Arthur*. Through December 9.

Wendell Free Library: *Paintings from the Road*, oil paintings by *Jack Sikes* at the Herrick Gallery in the library through January 2.

### EVENTS:

#### ALL WEEK

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Junior Duck Stamp Waterfowl ID Quiz*. How many of the birds in the display can you i.d.? All ages, come in anytime the Discovery Center is open. Prizes!

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Plavin's All-Stars*. Featuring this month's special guest. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dave Noonan's Green Island*. 8 p.m. \$

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 9

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: Mohawk Trail Concerts sponsors *"Music at the Arms,"* with cellist *Rebecca Hartka*. At noon.

GCC Lobby. Greenfield: *GCC Chorus*, informal holiday concert. 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.

Throughout Turners Falls: *It's A Wonderful Night in Turners Falls* holiday event including tree lighting in Spinner Park and Santa arrives at 6:30 p.m. 3 to 9 p.m.

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Build Bird Feeders*. As part of the town-wide RiverCulture event. All ages. 3 to 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band*. 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *32nd Annual Welcome Yule Midwinter Celebration* of the return of light – festive family show filled with music, dance, songs and stories. 7:30 p.m. \$.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *5th Annual Shutesbury Holiday Shop*, plus community dinner (6 p.m.) and music by *Jared Quinn & Psychic Friends* at 8:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Gold City Ashes*. Heavy blues rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Soultree*, and *Rebirth*. Soulful acoustic world, electro soul reggae. 9 p.m. \$

#### SATURDAY, DECEMBER 10

Montague Common Hall, Montague: *Open Mic Night #7*. "Big town performance art in a tiny village." 7 to 10 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *32nd Annual Welcome Yule Midwinter Celebration*. See 12/9 for details.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *You Want it Darker? - A Leonard Cohen Tribute*. Donations go to Books through Bars.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Seth Adams & very special guest Steve Rodgers*, formerly of *Mighty Purple*. Pop rock. 8 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *The Pistoleros*, 9 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Danny Pease & the Regulators*. "Dirty punk reggae". 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Free Range*. "Come dance to the amazing sounds of Betsy and Mark". 9 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *32nd Annual Welcome Yule Midwinter Celebration*. See 12/9 for details. 2 p.m.

Trinity Church, Shelburne Falls: *Recital Chorus 21st Annual Holiday Concert and Benefit*. Student and community singers directed by Margery Heins. 7 p.m. Donations.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Karen's Voo Christmas Spectacular*. Traditional songs and sing-a-longs. 7 p.m. *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Steve Crow, Peter Kim, and Joe Fitzpatrick. Warped Americana. 8 p.m.

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu*. Southern String Band. 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth Productions: *New Vaudeville Holiday Spectacular*. Also on Friday 12/16. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The*

*Goodfellows featuring Doug Smith along with Tommy Filiault, Doug Plavin, and Klondike Koehler*. Funky Blues. 8 p.m.

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

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Kidleidoscope! This week is ducks!* For ages 3-6. Siblings and friends welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Show of Cards*. Folk rock. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie and the Pistoleros*.



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FRI. 12/9 6:30pm  
Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band

SAT. 12/10 9:30  
You Want it Darker?  
Leonard Cohen Tribute  
(donations for Books Through Bars)

SUN. 12/11  
7pm - Karen's Voo Christmas Spectacular  
9:30 - FREE TNT Karaoke



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SCULPTURE from page B1

Japanese game based on power and strategy, and is exactly what he wanted to communicate in his work as it relates to Turners Falls.

Tim sees the power and strategy of this work of art as embedded in the three sections of his installation. “Rock” represents the town’s unique geology; “Paper” its paper mills; and “Scissors” both the cutlery and products that made their way into various shops. These were his points of strategy for this unique town, with so much history.

Even Tim’s studio, the former Hermann Sons Hall, seems to have a “voice” in the process of this project. Once a busy location for German newcomers to Turners Falls, the entire space remains functional and strong; it lends a point of view. While visiting, I looked over to where he stores his crane that lifts the heavy pieces of raw material, and noticed his neat working area, with its various highly organized tools lined up like surgical instruments.

It’s there that the limestone that will be completed as “Paper” was already hoisted up, with the necessary cutouts to delineate details of one of the historical paper mills of Turners Falls. A look at his work at this point reveals that the chimney is now in place, and the finer points of “chisel, carve and finish” are in process.

I could see windows along the long wall, window shades, people’s heads bending out, and the striations on the exterior structure. Stunning!

The sandstone section for “Rock” is a brown, pyramidal rock that commands one’s attention by its dark, rugged and uneven slope, approximately four feet in diameter. Interestingly enough, this rock was unearthed from Tim’s land during the process of a recent geological alteration.

Work has already begun at the planning stage for lettering. When I asked Tim about the lettering, he said he would select a sans serif font that will maintain and reflect the general strength of each of the three rock units. When we walked around this piece, Tim called my attention to the footprint of the receiving planter for the entire installation, which he drew on the ground to keep everything in perspective as he works.

The final portion, “Scissors,” has not yet begun, except on paper; Tim wants to move quickly on the two



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Tim poses with a bunk of arkose that was dug out of his land on Second Street. This piece will become the “Rock” in his “Rock Paper Scissors” sculpture installation.

sections he has in progress. The “Scissors” structure will be a replica of an historical shop that may have been located along Avenue A to purchase tools and/or goods that may have resulted from earlier forms of cutlery produced in Turners Falls.

Tim seems a directed, self-disciplined man, even while in the midst of balancing each section of this long-term labor of exposition.

If you ask him how he defines his train-like compilation of three significant sections, which will represent Turners Falls’ history and weigh over four thousand pounds in total, his response would be: “In a world where everything old is new again, I want the digital age to meet the stone age.”

And so he makes that happen!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Black Powder Misfire; Injured Owl; Suspicion

**Friday, 11/4**  
9:50 a.m. Illegal dumping reported on Main Road. Under investigation.  
7:20 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with domestic disturbance.  
**Saturday, 11/5**  
11:15 a.m. Injured male from black powder gun misfire. EPO will investigate.  
12:30 p.m. Missing cat reported on Walnut Street.  
2:40 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with arrest of a female.  
7:15 p.m. Reported scam calls received from Stoughton Place residents.  
**Monday, 11/7**  
7:45 a.m. Court process served to resident on Boyle Road.  
4:50 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with removal of firearms from residence.  
6:10 p.m. Suspicious person reported on FK Bridge; was a photography student.  
**Wednesday, 11/9**  
1:30 p.m. Reported abandoned motor vehicle on West Gill Road.

10:40 p.m. False alarm at NMH.  
**Thursday, 11/10**  
3:40 p.m. Resident from Riverview Drive placed under Section 12 arrest.  
**Friday, 11/11**  
2:35 p.m. Medical on Walnut Street resident transported.  
7:20 p.m. Alarm at residence on Main Road, checked ok.  
9:30 p.m. Found dog on North Cross Road.  
**Saturday, 11/12**  
8 a.m. Dead animal complaint in roadway, Main Road. Removed.  
**Sunday, 11/13**  
8:30 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with arrest of subject with weapons and drugs.  
**Monday, 11/14**  
7:40 a.m. Issued restraining order.  
1 p.m. Suspicious person reported in Riverside area; under investigation.  
1:45 p.m. Suspicious activity in area of Trenholm Way.  
5:20 p.m. Reported suspicious subject on the FK Bridge. Gone on arrival.

**Tuesday, 11/15**  
5:45 a.m. Suspicious person reported on Riverview Drive.  
6:30 a.m. Injured owl reported on French King Highway.  
7:05 a.m. Second complaint of same party on Riverview Drive. Same spoken to.  
7:40 a.m. Medical on Grist Mill Way.  
1:50 p.m. Overdue resident travelling from CA reported.  
**Wednesday, 11/16**  
9:45 a.m. Motor vehicle accident on French King Highway, possibly fatal.  
12:15 p.m. Investigation of overdue resident, subject located.  
1:30 p.m. Welfare check on resident on Main Road, checked ok.  
3:55 p.m. Resident of Main Road reports Craigslist scam.  
10:25 p.m. Arrested resident of Munns Ferry Road, Section 12 status.  
**Thursday, 11/17**  
4:05 p.m. Assisted with 2-car accident with injury, Route 2 in Erving.

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