



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 12

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 5, 2017

## History, and Eggs,

## at a Little Neighborhood Cafe in Erving

*Erving's Red Lantern Cafe is a step back in time.*

By NINA ROSSI

**ERVING** – Inside the Red Lantern Cafe, once a neighborhood bar dating back to the 1930s, Robert Shufelt keeps himself busy dishing out coffee, home fries and eggs for early morning customers who often walk to the little restaurant overlooking the Millers River in Erving.

Just north of the bridge going out of Millers Falls on Route 63, the tiny building is easily overlooked when it pops up just after a broad curve in the road, but heading south on this road one morning, the bright red OPEN signs in the window caught my eye in time to pull over and check it out.

I parked on the opposite side of the road, then crossed over to open a door to the past. All that

was missing was the smell of cigarettes to make it authentic to what I remember of a 1970s-era diner. There's Bob wiping the counter while network news blurs from a TV. Betty Boop looms by the doorway to the dining room, and dozens of clocks tick merrily along beneath the announcer's voice. Outside the large picture window, the timeless Millers River winds through snow-covered trees. Take your pick of counter stools and chairs to perch on under the glow of Tiffany-style lamps.

I am the only one in the place at 9:30 in the morning. Bob opens up at 6 a.m. and closes at 11 a.m. By 9 a.m. every day, he says, he and his customers "have solved the world's problems" while downing his ever-popular home fried potatoes in the

see LANTERN page A3

## Dryers Down For Four Weeks At Downtown Laundromat

By ANNA FORBES GYORGY

**TURNERS FALLS** – Nearly a month after a fire in the dryer ducts of Suzee's 3rd Street Laundry, all the business's dryer units remain inoperable. Though the washing units are still in working condition, and the fire did no damage to the interior of the building, there were no customers at the laundromat on Tuesday evening.

Suzee's, located on Third Street,



"Out of Order" signs still mark the dryers at Suzee's 3rd Street Laundromat.

is the only laundromat servicing downtown Turners Falls.

The fire that damaged the ductwork occurred on the evening of Wednesday, December 7. The fire began in one dryer unit and moved into the shared ductwork. After it was extinguished, Turners Falls deputy fire chief Leon Ambo referred to the damage as "minimal," and predicted that the business would have to close its dryers for a couple days.

Owner Chris Janke, reached by phone on Tuesday night, said that he is hopeful the dryers will be back in service by this weekend. "All the repairs are finished, as of mid-day Friday," he said. The business is waiting on the office of the Montague building inspector to give the go-ahead on re-opening the dryers.

According to Janke, there have been unexpected delays in the inspection, which he speculates could be a result of the department dealing with the aftermath of the fire at the abandoned Railroad Salvage building on New Years Eve.

"All the necessary repairs are

see DRYERS page A3

## RAILROAD SALVAGE BURNS Town Hall Eyes Demolition

By JEFF SINGLETON  
with MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – A spectacular fire severely damaged the remains of the Railroad Salvage mill building on the morning of December 31. A large pile of wooden timbers from a roof and walls that had collapsed over a decade ago burned for over three days.

Crews from six other fire departments – Greenfield, Montague Center, South Deerfield, Northfield, Bernardston, and Orange – were present at the scene, soaking the smoldering pile with water pumped from the adjacent power canal. The operation was interrupted by another fire in Holyoke on Sunday.

The cause of the fire, which was reported shortly before 2 a.m. last Saturday, is still under investigation. The state fire marshal's office, in consultation with Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman, has labeled the fire "suspicious," and rewards of up to \$5,000 have been offered for helpful tips made to the state arson hotline.

Zellman said that a process of



*The fire smoldered for nearly three days.*

elimination is used to categorize a fire as suspicious. "There was no electric hook-up or heating system, so that eliminates two possible causes," Zellman told the *Reporter*. He also noted that it was not a "one hundred degree night," and that there was no lightning.

According to Zellman, three homeless individuals have been known to periodically occupy the structure, and two of them have

been located. The location of the third remains unknown as of press time.

The Montague selectboard will hold an emergency meeting on Thursday to approve a plan for emergency demolition. Power Street remains temporarily closed to through traffic.

### Work Ordered

On Tuesday, Montague building inspector David Jensen sent a letter to Millers Falls resident Jeanne Golrick stating that "As you are aware, your mill building at 11 Power St. burned on the early morning of December 31, 2016... The building is now in near totally collapsed state....

"I order you, as the owner of the building... to: 1. Immediately secure the area fence around the building from approach and entry. 2. Furthermore the east wall and the remaining portions of the 'ell' walls and the elevator shafts must be removed."

Attempts to reach Golrick, including via a public telephone number listed on a 2015 list of town meeting members, were unsuccessful as of press time. It is not known whether she considers herself the owner of the property.

According to the registry of deeds, the building was purchased for \$200 in August 2013 by a limited liability corporation called Solutions

see BURNS page A6



*The building is located between the river and power canal, in the Patch neighborhood.*

### WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Solar Farm Dispute: Electricity Discounts, Talking Stick Healing Process Offered

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Haskell Werlin of Solar Design Associates met the Wendell selectboard at its December 28 meeting, and formally offered a 20% discount on the town's electric bills after a solar farm is built on property owned by Dave Arsenault off Wendell Depot Road.

The original plan would have covered 20 acres and generated 2 megawatts of electricity. That plan was reduced to 1.5 megawatts after meetings with Wendell's conservation commission, but Solar Designs Associates found that the wetland delineations, and the conditions required by the con com, were prohibitive. They began the process of suing Wendell.

They also appealed to the state, and the DEP worked on the wetland delineation, and mitigation plan, dealt with storm water runoff, and shade management. DEP issued superseding conditions, and the size of the project was reduced again, to one megawatt.

They hope to meet with Wendell's con com and get

their approval as well. The solar farm would have a 20-year contract, with two 5-year extensions possible, and the town would get \$12,500 a year in PILOT payments along with the discount in electricity cost.

The two board members present, chair Christine Heard and Dan Keller, voted to accept the 20% discount on electricity costs.

Gail Mason and Lisa Hoag offered their services in forming a "talking stick" reconciliation circle to resolve differences between proponents and opponents of the project. The con com has restricted it, and neighbors and abutters to the property have opposed it. Some have argued that clearing a forest for a solar farm is counterproductive. At an informational meeting, Werlin said that the reduced carbon dioxide emissions from a solar farm more than compensate for the carbon sequestering that the forest accomplishes.

As Mason and Hoag described the circle, every voice would be heard and respected, and the outcome could

see WENDELL page A5



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"The Voice of the Villages"

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## A Room of One's Own

As the Massachusetts legislature reconvenes this month, it will return its attention to a set of bills aimed at reforming the use of solitary confinement, known under the euphemism “segregation,” in the state’s prisons.

H.4312 would restrict the use of segregation within the last six months before a prisoner’s release. H.1381 would make correctional facilities publish data about their use of segregation, H.3451 would raise the minimum age for its use from 18 to 21, and H.1475 would guarantee prisoners secluded for disciplinary reasons the right to a hearing within 15 days, introducing a modicum of due process to the prison-within-a-prison.

The state system, which currently holds about 11,300 prisoners, keeps its 640 solitary confinement cells near capacity. This includes the 124-bed Department Disciplinary Unit at Walpole.

In Massachusetts, prisoners are held in solitary confinement for a range of reasons, either “disciplinary” or “administrative,” and for anywhere from a night to ten years. The system has come under scrutiny for a number of reasons, including reform movements in other states; policy changes at the federal level; activism from prisoners, families and their allies; and attention from journalists and policy think tanks.

A recent Spotlight series by the *Boston Globe*, following up on work put forward by the nonprofit Prisoners’ Legal Services, has done a good job of highlighting the Department of Corrections’ tendency to use segregation as a tool for dealing with mentally ill prisoners, and the ways doing so exacerbates the problem.

According to the *Globe*, following the settlement of a 2007 lawsuit in which the DOC was ordered to give seriously mentally ill inmates specialized mental health care, case studies by Prisoners’ Legal Services appear to show a pattern of downgrading their diagnoses in order to permit segregation.

From a policy angle, there are two main arguments for reforming the current system to reduce the use of segregation. One is fiscal: solitary confinement tends to cost the state about twice as much as imprisonment in the general population. The other has to do with patterns of recidivism: nationwide, the data seems to indicate that isolation during incarceration tends to make a prisoner more likely to re-offend upon release or parole.

On the other hand, it is not

too difficult to imagine segregation, in the eyes of wardens and correctional officers, as a useful tool for separating, pacifying, and even in some cases protecting the men and women locked up behind prison walls.

Given all that, it’s important to take a step back from the debate over the utility of segregation, and see it for what it is. Solitary confinement and forced social isolation is, in and of itself, a form of torture. It contributes to recidivism because it damages its subjects, reinforcing fear triggers.

An abstract belief in some fundamental and shared universal deservingness led the drafters of the US Constitution to specify, harkening back to the Bill of Rights declared by the English Parliament in 1689, that there would be no place for “cruel and unusual punishment” in the country they wanted to build together.

Prison in America has for several generations taken a certain form because it combines the possibility of two functions: punishment and rehabilitation. These goals were sometimes at odds with each other, but they could be housed under the same roof, a compromise with mixed results.

Some proponents of segregation might assume that the greater cruelty of this prison-within-a-prison must be deserved by those consigned to it – or most optimistically, that the option could be used to weed out the undeserving incurables in order to improve outcomes for the rest.

But as our culture polarizes, those who wish for rehabilitation and those who thirst for punishment are gradually diverging into two separate camps. For some, it is impossible to view *any* given punishment doled out by the state or its agents to be excessive; a more intense punishment will simply serve as a more effective disincentive to others to commit crime.

If this worldview were correct, humanitarian prison reform would result in rising crime rates. This can be disproven by looking at many states and many countries over time – but the desire to see people suffer punishment isn’t generally the result of careful study.

Science helps us understand more each year about the effects of trauma on behavior, perception, and brain development. We may not know what works best to promote healing, but we know that forced isolation causes damage to the individual – and to society.

We call on the state to end it.



Two friends chat during the lunchtime rush at Scotty's on the Hill.

## Letters to the Editors

### “It Comes To Mind”

It comes to mind that tribal dialogues with various divisions of the National Park Service, representatives of the Wampanoag and Narragansett Tribes of Gay Head and Rhode Island, respectively, agreed to “bury the hatchet” during an observance that was designed to do just that at Turners Falls in May of 2004. A ceremony of reconciliation was performed in Turners Falls on that date and accepted by the National Park Service representatives and by the Town of Montague.

Currently, various delegate Indian groups have seemingly *broken* that “treaty” they were so desirous of obtaining by demanding the Turners Falls High School logo (it is a logo, *not* a mascot) be changed or removed.

With that said, how can this so-called “bury the hatchet” resolution be valid? I wonder if the various objecting representative Indian factions would care to re-hash the Indian concern to change or remove the TFHS logo. Or are they (the Indians) ostensibly vetoing that agreement.

There is no intention to put blame on the National Park Service, but as we’ve heard and read numerous times by various Indian representatives or Indian groupies, “If any Indian-defined objection offends one Indian, it offends all Indians.”

Mike Cadran, TFHS ‘68  
Turners Falls

Ed Gregory, TFHS ‘63  
Greenfield

### Bennett Memorial

Thank you so much for the articles on my husband Dan Bennett – I was really moved and reminded again of his contributions to life on this planet.

There will be a celebration of his life at the Leverett Crafts and Arts on Saturday, January 28 at 2 p.m. We are hoping folks will come and share stories, laugh, and generally have a good time – this is what he wanted. I am grateful that I live in this community.

Julie Shively  
Leverett

## Response to Cadran and Gregory

In Trump’s new America, where discourse about social/political topics is drenched in rude, condescending dialogue, perhaps Mike Cadran and Ed Gregory’s comments do not seem unduly disrespectful, at least to Mike Cadran and Ed Gregory. Such sweeping racial generalizations and offensive wording: “bury the hatchet” (two times), “broken the treaty,” “Indian groupies,” might even be everyday jargon for them.

Unfortunately Mr. Cadran and Mr. Gregory have forgotten what Mr. Trump, many Trump supporters, (and many Trump antagonists) have forgotten: that we are all human and we must attempt to negotiate in a civil, respectful manner with other humans.

I am a public school teacher and I attempt to teach by example, so I will give it a try here.

Mr. Cadran and Mr. Gregory, I am sorry if you’re unaware or unclear that much of your publicly stated language very much offends other humans – me among them.

Now knowing this, would you consider changing your word choice and tone, at least in public? You can use whatever language you want, even your racial slurs, in private amongst yourselves, but publicly airing this kind of rude, offensive language is... oh... uh... offensive.

I do not know you but I would bet that you are both compassionate, respectful humans who care about other humans, so of course you would change what you say and how you say it in public so as not to offend others.

The beauty of language is that you could make your point, and still be non-offensive! As social beings, we do this all the time; it is called self-censoring.

And just as you would alter your choice of words and tone so as not to offend a race of humans who live right here with you, so should Turners Falls High School alter their choice of logo/mascot so as not to offend a race of humans who live right here with them.

In the coming years, you, I and many, many Americans will have plenty of opportunities to discuss and publicly state opinions that are very different. It is our duty as humans and American Citizens to choose our words carefully so as to avoid cruel, offensive, rude words and tone. Ironically, a civil, respectful, well-stated argument is more likely to be persuasive.

“Abuse of words has been the great instrument of sophistry and chicanery, of party, faction, and division of society.” – John Adams

Jonathan Byerly  
Colrain

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Come one, come all! **Bingo is back** at Greenfield Savings Bank, Turners Falls this Saturday, January 7, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Tracey Bellville will be our guest caller. GSB will provide cards, prizes and light refreshments; all you need to bring is yourself!

Due to limited space, no one will be admitted without a reservation.

Seating will be on a first call, first reserve basis. Call Hilary or Kerri at 863- 4316.

The Great Falls Discovery Center is hosting an **Artist Reception for "River Rooms,"** by Alice Thomas, on Saturday, January 7 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Come view this unique series of paintings by Alice Thomas on dis-

play from December 23 through March 2. See the "rooms" and meet Alice to ask about them. She'll be joined by Zoar Outdoor with a water craft and their informative and action-packed video about river fun.

Come make a lovely lace-covered, **decorative Mason jar candle holder** with Maggie Fidanza at the Erving Public Library on Sunday, January 8, from 1:30 to 3:30. All materials are provided, and the event is free.

All are invited to listen to the **Seasonal Sounds of Leverett** this Sunday, January 8, at 2 p.m. at the Leverett Library.

Mary Alice Wilson writes: "We will hear the spring sounds first, and then it's time for thunder and katydid as we listen to and reflect on

the sounds of summer. There will be CDs and thumb drives of the sounds available for you to borrow from the library so that you can download the sounds to your electronic device or make a copy on your own CD."

Wilson expresses special thanks for the volunteers who recorded the sounds, to Peter Marvin for his technical expertise, and to the Leverett Cultural Council and the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust for their support. If you want to help record the sounds of winter in Leverett, go to [www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org](http://www.rattlesnakeguttertrust.org) for more information.

A special evening of **antiques appraisals** with Douglas Bilodeau of Douglas Auctioneers will be held at Tilton Library in South Deerfield Wednesday, January 11, from 5 to 8 p.m.

Community members are invited to bring up to two items for appraisal. There is no charge for the event, but donations are welcome. Participants must pre-register for a time slot in the library. Snow date is January 18.

Exhausted from the holidays? Blown your budget? Good news, there is a free show for the whole

family. Come help **Ja'Duke celebrate its 20th Birthday** with the biggest bash of the New Year.

This is the celebration show you don't want to miss and all tickets are free. Saturday, January 14 at 7 p.m. at Greenfield High School, 1 Barr Ave., will be a night filled with remembering the past, celebrating the present and looking toward the future. With over one hundred performers, this show promises to be exciting, entertaining and exhilarating.

Ja'Duke will take you back in time reliving some of their greatest moments including selections by the original casts of *Rent* and *The Sound of Music*. The audience will be led in on some trade secrets including what makes Aladdin's magic carpet fly and how plants talk in *The Little Shop of Horrors*.

The audience will be treated to selections from Ja'Duke's original works, including the recently published *Fairy Tea Party*. Other highlights include the unveiling of Ja'Duke's 20th anniversary season, based on popular vote.

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



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### DRYERS from page A1

complete.... Kleeburg Metal Company has done all their work," said Janke, who indicated that the inspection should be done by the end of the week. Once the inspection is complete, use of the dryers can resume.

Janke stressed to the *Reporter* that it is his goal to have the dryers available to customers as soon as possible. "We're really gunning for the weekend," he said.

*Editor's note: As this issue was being prepared for publication, building inspector David Jensen told the Reporter that he had just given his approval of the repair project.*



## Downtown Cultural District: Discussion

The Town of Montague and Turners Falls RiverCulture announce a public meeting to discuss the formation of the Turners Falls Cultural District, Wednesday, January 11 at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

The goal of the MCC Cultural District Initiative is to establish an area of town with a concentration of cultural facilities to: foster cultural enterprises, encourage business development, promote tourism, preserve and reuse historic buildings and enhance property values.

The Massachusetts Cultural Council offers funding programs and technical resources to benefit these cultural districts. The MCC's Cultural Districts Initiative was authorized by an act of the Massachusetts state legislature in 2010. Currently there are 32 Cultural Districts in the Commonwealth. Two are in Franklin County.

The Turners Falls Cultural District proposal will be available to the public after January 6 on the RiverCulture website: [turnersfallsriverculture.org](http://turnersfallsriverculture.org).

### LANTERN from A1

cozy cafe.

Shufelt has gradually repaired the building and enlarged the business over the last nine years. He bought it as something to keep himself busy when he retired from working at Walmart's lawn and garden department.

"I started repairing it four years before I retired," he says. "The place was really down in the dumps - they almost demolished it, but it was known as a landmark, so they wanted to keep it."

Perched as it is over the river watershed, some of the repair work ran up against environmental regulations. For instance, a new foundation was dug out by hand, taking about a year to complete, because equipment couldn't be brought in. He wanted to build a deck overlooking the water, but could not cut the trees to make it happen - instead, he put in the large picture window.

"Funny thing is, when I went

to record the deed, I found out there was a condition on it that you couldn't park horses down there in the river," Bob laughingly recalled, looking out the window.

"I said to the lady at the deed place, what is this about? She looked at me real seriously and said, 'You can't let horses wade in the water out there. That is still in effect.' I said, 'Okay, I promise I won't.'"

He chuckled and then explained, "They used to log the trees up here, and they'd float 'em down the river to the Greenfield sawmills, and the guys would put their horses up and come up and have a beer here at the bar. So of course the horses were out there, peeing and everything in the water that they were drinking. So they put it in the law on the deed that you can't put horses in the river."

Shufelt grew up in Vermont and hails from Orange. He went to college for cooking, afterwards deciding he didn't like it because what he was doing was institutional: cooking

for hospitals and nursing homes inside cement boxes without windows wasn't for him. "I got into auto body and had my own shop and ran that for twenty years, then went to Walmart for the last eight or nine."

His daughter had a little antique business in part of the building he has expanded into a dining room. "She was selling candles, antiques, and primitives. She did well, but her law school kept demanding more time, and she left when she got her degree and moved everything to Athol."

Bob and his wife love old things, and there's quite a few interesting vintage items throughout the cafe, many of them clocks that he has collected and repairs on the side. He owns a rare 1957 Ford Skyliner, which he enjoys parking outside in the summer.

But primarily, "I just wanted a little coffee shop here... and it turned out pretty good! It's been open about six years now. It's all locals. It's fun! We get a lot of people walking here from the neighborhood, they love it."

When renovations are completed, the dining room will have a "build your own sandwich" bar for customers, and soft serve available during the summer. The hours will expand to accommodate the lunch trade until 4 p.m., and he'll stay open for summertime ice cream sales until 7.

The little pit stop has even attracted attention from visiting movie stars. Both Kate Winslet ("I had no idea who she was when she came in here!") and Robert Downey Jr. were fascinated by the place when they stopped in during the filming of "Labor Day" and "The Judge" in 2012 and 2013 respectively, according to Bob. Producers had already chosen other locations in Millers, however, so the Red Lantern didn't make it into either film.

Someone from *Yankee Magazine* also spent some time solving the world's problems with Bob one day, but he doesn't think the Red Lantern earned mention in those pages.

At any rate, the Red Lantern gets its due here as one of this area's homiest little local coffee spots, with a genuine vintage ambience: a "one kind of coffee, three kinds of eggs" type of place.



Bob Shufelt and Betty Boop.

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## NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Raises, and Praises, for Employees

By KATIE NOLAN

On January 3, the Erving selectboard approved 2% merit raises for fiscal year 2018 for town accountant Deb Mero, highway foreman Glenn McCrory, water and wastewater supervisor Peter Sanders, police chief Christopher Blair, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, fire chief Philip Wonkka, and senior center director Paula Better. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that each of the employees had “gone above and beyond,” and that “teamwork is at an all time high.”

Jacob Smith said that Mero had showed “engagement and a positive attitude, improving our budget success.” He praised McCrory, who he said was “thrown into a leadership role” and took on additional responsibilities “without complaint.”

According to Smith, Sanders was also thrust into leadership and had “done very well.” He called Sanders “creative and cost-conscious,” and said he had taken the lead in testing town water for lead and in organizing wastewater hauling. Smith said that Blair brought “organization and skill” to the job of chief, and that he had made Erving the first department in the state to use body cameras for all officers, and was a leader in camera installation on the French King Bridge.

Bryan Smith was praised for “jumping right in and working through the backlog” after starting work in June 2016. Jacob Smith said that Bryan Smith had “a strong role in making the town successful,” and that he had worked “many extra

hours – late hours, weekends.”

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache, the liaison with the fire department, said Wonkka had told him “I don’t need anything” in way of a raise. However, Bastarache said Wonkka deserved a raise because he had become chief “at a very contentious time,” and has “ability to lead and keep morale up.”

Selectboard member William Bembury, the senior center liaison, said that Better “puts in a tremendous amount of hours” and had increased attendance at the center. He said that she was “all over the place,” going above and beyond, doing things that aren’t part of her job description. He said she is also working on the senior housing committee.

At the December 12 meeting, the board had discussed the need for merit raise requests to be well documented. In December, the board and finance committee approved a 2% merit raise for the wastewater operator, and 1% merit raises for the municipal clerk, payroll clerk, treasurer’s assistant, cemetery maintenance worker, one equipment operator, assessors’ assistant, and assistant tax collector.

## Executive Sessions

The board started the meeting with two executive sessions. One was with Wonkka, lasting approximately 15 minutes, for the reasons listed in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(3) “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.”

The other was an unexpected and unannounced session with McCrory,

lasting approximately 40 minutes, for the reasons listed in MGL Ch.30A Section 21 (1): “to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition, or mental health... of an individual or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer.”

## Records Access

Bastarache recommended using the Hadley records access policy as a template in developing Erving’s records access policy. The state’s June 2016 *Act to Improve Public Records*, which places new records access requirements on cities and towns, went into effect on January 1. Bastarache said that Hadley’s policy was clear and informative.

The board asked administrative coordinator Smith to work with town clerk Richard Newton, the chief records access officer, to develop Erving’s policy and procedures.

## Special Town Meeting

The board reviewed draft articles, and set a tentative date of Tuesday, February 7 for a special town meeting. They asked administrative coordinator Smith to provide the draft articles to the finance committee for review.

The board plans to finalize the STM warrant at the January 23 meeting.

## Correction

Renee Tela did not resign from the recreation commission, as reported in our December 22 issue. Keriann Bastarache was the member who resigned from that commission.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was January 4, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

### Skate Park Readied for Reopening - At Last

In April 2006, a new day seemed to be dawning for the padlocked skate park in Turners Falls, which had been shut down in May of 2003 due to deteriorating ramp conditions. The decision to close the park at that time was meant to be a temporary measure, and was made by a joint agreement between the parks and recreation department and a committee of local teens.

Efforts to reopen the park stalled in April around the requirement to fix up the fence around the skate park, which was in need of replacement on one side. It was first thought the fence was required to be 8’ high, but later investigation by Brick House employees revealed that “A 6’ fence is a reasonable deterrent to unauthorized entry,” according to an insurance company representative.

L&L contractors arrived to

install the fencing on Tuesday, January 2.

According to Brick House teen center coordinator Jared Libby, “The park needs to be open and active to prove to the town it is needed. We hope this year people can prove they enjoy it and treat it respectfully.”

### G-M School Budget Outlook Improves

On Tuesday the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee’s budget subcommittee received new numbers for the preliminary FY’08 operating budget for district schools.

A revised estimate was offered for the amount the schools will spend on debt service for the renovation to the Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School. During public hearings last fall, the GMRSD used a figure of \$1,509,451 for debt service, which was the amount spent in 2007, in calculating the projected budget gap for fiscal year ‘08.

On Tuesday GMRSD busi-

ness manager Lynn Bassett noted a \$1.2 million discrepancy in the estimate for debt service. The new, lower figure for 2008 debt service is \$267,654. The error was noted after the school closure process wrapped up late December.

### Tight Squeeze in Wendell Fire Station

At the December 28 selectboard meeting, Dan Keller told fire chief Everett Ricketts he thought the equipment room at the fire station seemed a mite crowded when he went in to fetch a ladder for repairing the roof of that building recently.

The town’s six fire trucks share close quarters beside the highway garage. The vehicles include the new Smeal pumper/tanker, the old pumper, the brush truck, the tank truck, a trailer holding an inflatable boat for ice and cold water rescue, and a pumper from Lake Pleasant that still has the Lake Pleasant decals on its doors.

Ricketts said all the vehicles are working, and the department has a use for all of them.

## January 14: NOFA Conference

Start 2017 with organic immersion at the 30th Northeast Organic Farmers Association (NOFA) Mass Winter Conference, on January 14 at Worcester State University.

Every January, hundreds of growers gather to cultivate their knowledge of organic agriculture from local experts across Massachusetts

and beyond, including health, advocacy and tips for navigating federal, state and local policy landscape.

This conference will feature 70+ workshops for all experience levels across a variety of subjects. Learn proven practices for planning, planting and harvesting.

Register at [www.nofamass.org](http://www.nofamass.org).

## January 23: Free Legal Advice

On January 23 from 5 to 7 p.m., the Franklin County Bar Association will hold an “Ask-an-Attorney” free legal advice phone-in program.

Any Franklin County resident can call and get free, brief and basic legal advice. The number to call is (413) 773-9839 or toll free (888) 351-8038.

Lawyers who are members of the Bar Association will volunteer

their time. This is an opportunity for people who have legal concerns but are not sure what to do. Referrals to community resources and private attorneys will be available.

All calls will be answered, but the event is geared to meet the need of those in the community who cannot afford an attorney.

Information about the event is on [www.franklincountybar.org](http://www.franklincountybar.org).

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**WENDELL** from page A1  
be a “win-win” shared solution. Mason pointed out that after a “win-lose” result, the loser will always try to overthrow the result.

Werlin said that the pending lawsuit is a “lose-lose” conclusion.

If the project goes through, residents with good credit (a record of paying bills regularly and on time) can sign up and get a 10% discount.

#### Tech Sector

Alistair MacMartin asked board members to sign, by January 6, a letter of support for Crocker Communications internet plan. Keller said he felt Crocker is better than Comcast, and Heard said the broadband committee also preferred Crocker.

The selectboard chose Peter Golrick, a.k.a. PJP Enterprises in Millers Falls, as IT consultant for the town. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said he has already come to the office building, checked the computers and their back up. He discovered that Aldrich's computer was sending information for back-

up, but there was nothing accepting that information.

#### Power, Liquor, Light

National Grid submitted their herbicide spraying plan for 2017. Keller said they now spray plant by plant, but Heard said they still spray in wetlands. Keller said that, years ago, “we cut everything by hand,” because the power lines drain into a stream on their property, “and when we got too old,” National Grid continued the hand clearing.

Kinder Morgan is considering further buildout of natural gas pipelines; both board members present agreed to sign an internet letter opposing that construction.

Also online, board members approved a liquor license renewal for the Deja Brew pub and the Wendell Country Store.

Neither Jonathan von Ranson nor Bob Shulman objected to the proposal by Harry Williston, now no longer a town official, to pay for a solar-powered light for the flag on the common. Selectboard member Jeof-

frey Pooser had spoken with Apollo, who does not like the idea because it would shine in his window.

#### Mapping

The 1986 town meeting discontinued some roads in Wendell, with the end point defined as the last house on those roads. Now, a survey done in the process of putting a conservation restriction on land owned by the Keller family found that the location described when the road was discontinued is short of the Keller home, which was there in 1986. There is no place for a plow truck to turn around at the official end point, and trucks have gone forward to the Keller yard to reverse direction.

At this meeting, Dan Keller said this is a legal distinction that should be corrected at a town meeting. He added that the selectboard should start thinking about scheduling a special town meeting, because there are other items that also should be attended to.



#### NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

## From Body Cameras to Birdhouses, Gill Board Wraps Up Year

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard held its last meeting of the year last Tuesday, December 27. Selectboard member Randy Crochier stepped in to chair the meeting, due to the absence of John Ward.

The first order of business was a report from Sergeant Chris Redmond regarding the police department's budgetary need of \$22,000 to upgrade its camera systems. Redmond said the department would be using the recent \$5,000 grant received to help defray the cost of installing cameras in a newly built police cruiser. This would still leave approximately \$17,000 to outfit the police station with cameras, as well.

Redmond explained that it was more practical to install a camera that could store information from within the police station. This camera would need a separate server to store any visual information needed for such things as interrogations and not have to utilize the body camera footage should a case go to court.

Crochier asked if the current expense was solely for the body camera, to which Redmond replied, “Yes” – along with the necessary cord connection to offload the information.

A brief discussion ensued about how long the camera system would be useable. Redmond said the video would be stored in HD but that like any equipment, the body and cruiser camera would need regular updates, particularly since the body cameras would be out in the elements.

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker then made the motion to approve the remainder of the needed money from the Mount Hermon fund. Crochier seconded the motion, and it passed.

#### Road Left Private

Next was a discussion about a request for the Town to take on the responsibility of Deer Run Road. While Catherine Becklo, who made the request, was not present, highway superintendent Mick LaClaire spoke to the fact that the road was only 16 feet wide instead of the needed width of 26 feet.

LeClaire also spoke about the need to bring the current grading up to spec, and detailed the necessary steps needed before the town could take over the road, which he believed to be in bad repair.

Snedeker asked if Becklo was representing all the residents on the road, to which the answer seemed to be she was not. The board spoke briefly about the dilemma of asking the town to take on the project, and the possible costs for things like snow removal.

Crochier then suggested that since Becklo was not present, the selectboard should wait until she and any other concerned residents show up to discuss their need. The general sense of the selectboard and of LaClaire was that the town should not take on Deer Run Road as its responsibility.

#### Plow Drivers

The next order of business was administrative assistant, Ray Purington, seeking and receiving ap-

proval of his temporary appointment of Eric Vassar and Michael Hastings as “On Call” snow plow operators for the highway department.

LaClaire inquired about using several non-CDL B drivers to plow with a 1-ton truck. Crochier stated that he was not adverse to the decision for the two drivers who had worked for the town in the past, but advised LaClaire to go out with the other driver to insure that he knew exactly how to do the job properly.

In the end, the selectboard agreed via consensus to permit LaClaire to use the drivers he might need to get the job done, as long as they are covered by the town's insurance.

#### Firefighters and Auto Dealers

Purington then announced two firefighter appointments. The first was Mitchell Waldron, who will move from Junior Firefighter to Firefighter upon his 18th birthday in January. The second appointment was Kaeden Soquet as a Junior Firefighter, pending receipt of the consent form and his health evaluation.

The selectboard approved both appointments, noting that Soquet's appointment was contingent on receiving the outstanding two forms.

Purington then listed the various auto dealer licenses up for renewal in 2017. The selectboard quickly approved all renewals, humorously wondering if the licenses expired on 12/31/16 or on 1/1/17.

#### Elementary School

The state DEP has given the town permission to move ahead

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#### MEETING NOTICE FY 2017 CDBG PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL MEETING Town of Montague

The Town of Montague will hold a public informational meeting on **Monday, January 9, 2017 at 7:01 p.m.** in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA in order to solicit public response to the Activities that the town should apply for in the FY 2017 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the application process and activities that the town should apply for. Representatives from Town, Social Service Agencies and the Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) will be present at the hearing to discuss the application and potential activities.

The Town of Montague will contract with the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the FY 2017 Community Development Block Grant Program.

The Town of Montague encourages residents to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity.

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Board of Selectmen  
Town of Montague

with building the water treatment system on the Gill Elementary well, and issued an amendment extending the installation deadline until July 31, 2017.

Purington asked for a motion to sign the extension, which he received. Both Crochier and Snedeker noted that they were happy to see the project moving forward.

Purington stated that the Quintus Allen Trust Fund's 2016 distribution totaled \$1,841.43. By comparison, the town last year received \$140 more. Purington noted that he already let the district superintendent, elementary school principal and the business manager know about this total.

#### Other Business

Next on the agenda was an offer by a resident of Gill to install and

maintain a purple martin birdhouse for the town common.

After a brief conversation, the selectboard agreed that, despite Purington's suggestion that a better location for the birdhouse was the North Cemetery, where there was more “open area” for the birds, no one had an issue with the birdhouse being placed in the common, and they expressed their gratitude for the kind and generous offer.

The final order of business was a public service announcement by Purington noting that the state Department of Energy Resources launched an “energyCENTS” website for energy savings opportunities. He went on to say that he had provided a link on the Gill town website for folks to check out to see if they might get some well-deserved rebates.

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**BURNS** from page A1

Consulting Group LLC. The LLC, made up of Golrick, two other members, and a “resident agent” in Chicopee, was created to “harmonize their specialties to provide creative solutions to individuals.”

In September of that year the tax collector – then Patricia Dion – put the property in a category known as “tax title.” According to current treasurer/tax collector Eileen Seymour, this initiated a process whereby the town attempts to work out a payment schedule with the property owner to avoid foreclosure. If this fails, the town brings the property to land court.

By August of 2014, Golrick was the sole remaining partner, according to papers filed with the Secretary of State’s Corporations Division, and the property did go to land court in October 2015.

But in a March 2016 letter to the directors of the *Montague Reporter*, Golrick objected to a headline that named her as the building’s owner, citing the existence of the LLC. “Classifying the property as a ‘death trap’ clearly fails a fairness test,” she added.

On July 30, 2016, her LLC was “involuntarily dissolved” by the state.

“It’s still in land court,” Seymour told the *Reporter* this week. “We don’t own it.”

“Typically, LLC assets dissolve to members,” said Jensen. “She’s the only member.”

“The building code is clear,” he added. “Anyone in control is considered an owner.”

Golrick was seen at the site on the morning of the fire taking pictures or video of the building, as well as of various town officials consulting with one another. She spoke briefly with Chief Zellman at the scene.

**Dangerous Conditions**

The building inspector’s letter ordered Golrick to secure the site and begin demolishing unstable walls by noon on Thursday. If she fails to respond, or appeals the order, the town will immediately begin the work, according to the letter.



A ladder truck from the Northfield Fire Department helps wet down the burning rubble, late Sunday morning, with water pumped from the nearby power canal.

The selectboard has posted a meeting for Thursday at 3:30 p.m. According to town administrator Steve Ellis, the board has sufficient funds, primarily in the “unsafe and unhealthy building fund,” to undertake the initial demolition.

A full clean-up will require an appropriation from a special town meeting.

The January 5 meeting may also ratify a decision made by two selectboard members,

Mike Nelson and chair Rich Kuklewicz, at the site of the fire on Saturday morning. “It is possible there may be a body within the structure,” noted the minutes taken from this unscheduled meeting.

Comprising a quorum of the selectboard, the two authorized the fire chief at that time to engage in “any necessary emergency demolition” of the building “for the safety of the public.”

Also on the agenda is an executive ses-

sion to discuss the town’s strategy for litigation concerning the property.

**144 Years Old**

Built by Colrain-based cotton magnate Joseph Griswold in the late nineteenth century, the factory, called the Turners Falls Cotton Mill, produced cotton cloth and gauze. Residential blocks for mill workers stood across the canal, and a rail spur terminated right at the mill itself.

In the 1950s and ‘60s it was transformed into a retail store known as Rockdale, and in 1973 became one of the discount department stores in the Railroad Salvage chain.

Railroad Salvage closed in 1994. Since then, the building has been occupied by a series of owners, whose proposals for its redevelopment ranged from a flea market to a teen dance club.

When the structure’s roof collapsed over a decade ago, the town brought the owner at the time, who had proposed an 88-unit apartment building, to housing court. “That didn’t work out too well,” current town planner Walter Ramsey told the *Reporter*.

Since then, the building had been refuge for the homeless, and an inspiration for the emerging arts community in Turners Falls. Solutions Consulting Group did not publicly announce any plans for the building’s redevelopment.

Behind the building, a smaller “annex” building, originally a storehouse, still stands along the canal, undamaged by the weekend fire. This building was acquired by the town in 2015 for back taxes owed.

On November 1, the selectboard approved a proposal by local contractors Obear Construction to rehabilitate it through the town’s commercial homesteading program, though the arrangement has not been finalized.

The office of the state fire marshal asks anyone with information about the fire’s origins to call its confidential arson hotline at 1 (800) 682-9229.



MIKE JACKSON PHOTOS

Early on, the building’s main south-facing wall collapsed. The west wall, along Power Street, was held in place by these beams. The fire spread eastward.

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# NatureCulture: The Science Page

## Systematically Greening our Environment

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – There are several approaches to improving the health of our environment including waste prevention, cleanup, regulation, and engineering design. A local example of cleanup is the annual Source to Sea Cleanup of the Connecticut River basin, in which volunteers who care about nature make up for people who think of it as a dumping ground.

In September 2016, an estimated 2,500 to 2,700 volunteers participated in this annual event, organized locally by the Connecticut River Watershed Council (CRWC), and cleaned up literally tons of trash. This does a lot to keep our watershed healthy, and brings together volunteers from all walks of life with the common concern of environmental health.

**Waste prevention** – keeping trash out of the environment – has a policy component which the CRWC is also working on.

According to their press release, “In addition to coordinating volunteers to pick up trash, CRWC also collects data from cleanup groups about the amount and types of trash they find. This data supports year-round advocacy efforts and informs policies and legislation that will keep waste out of our rivers. CRWC is working with river states on establishing extended producer responsibility (EPR) systems that hold producers responsible for free and easy disposal of items like paint, tires, mattresses, electronics, batteries and more. This will reduce the incentive for illegal dumping.

“CRWC also supports phasing out and finding replacements for Styrofoam products – especially Styrofoam dock supports, in favor of enclosed foam or non-foam dock materials – as well as reducing the use of, and increasing the recycling of, plastic bottles and plastic bags.”

Targeted advocacy works: for example, beverage container litter is reduced by half in states that have bottle bills.

**Making the manufacturer responsible** for their products from

“cradle to grave,” a concept originally conceived to hold hazardous waste producers accountable, is one innovative way to promote more responsible design on the part of manufacturers. Even better is an approach that is implemented much more frequently in Europe, promoting recycling and reuse as in “cradle to cradle.”

Since recycling costs energy, reuse is superior to recycling. The zero-waste movement seeks to recycle or reuse all material involved in manufacture as well as the product itself after its use.

Some examples, according to the Pachama Alliance ([pachama-ma.org](http://pachama-ma.org)), include people in France bringing their wine bottles back to the vineyard to be refilled, and in at least one grocery store in Germany everyone brings their own bags and even boxes and bottles to the store to shop: everything is in bulk, and must be packaged by the consumer. In the US, nontoxic carpeting can be reused in the garden. (Does this count as outdoor carpeting?)

**The goal is to get everyone to pay their share and reduce waste. But what if manufacturers were more involved?**

**Regulation at the municipal level** also helps our society move toward more responsible waste disposal. Greening Greenfield is an especially robust local effort which includes prevention, such as a proposed ban on plastic bags and one that passed on Styrofoam take-out containers, and so much more including locally-sourced food and energy. Check out their website at [greeninggreenfield.org](http://greeninggreenfield.org).

In waste disposal, Northfield has adopted a common economically-driven approach that lets residents recycle for free and pay for trash disposal by the bag, with bulky waste disposal days for big items.

The goal is to get everyone to pay their share and reduce waste. But what if manufacturers were more involved? Manufacturers taking responsibility for the disposal of the products they create would encourage responsible design and more efficient recycling, as those products would end up all in one place.

The electronics industry, which uses many rare elements, has started working on this project. For example, robots have been designed to disassemble cell phones. Engineers can come up with other ways to reuse and recycle chemical and

mechanical products, but as a new field, this is not often taught in engineering schools.

Architecture is a bit further along the curve, with innovative programs for buildings (see, for example, MIT's Sustainable Design Lab, which is calculating the energy consumption of every building in Boston). I once read about a medical aid society that would send ahead bamboo seeds and a floor plan. People grew the seeds in the indicated pattern, and by the time the medical professionals arrived, they had formed the walls of a hospital building. This is definitely thinking outside the box.

**Shared use** of big-ticket items is another way that greening happens. Northfield's tool lending library allows households to borrow equipment that would otherwise have to be manufactured, purchased, and then disposed of. I've used it to avoid buying a weed whacker and an extra extension cord. This is a very innovative way to prevent waste and save money.

Greening the environment takes effort from each person to reduce his or her carbon footprint. But it also takes an infrastructure to support larger efforts. This is enhanced when the initial infrastructure investment is in **green technologies**, such as locally, cooperatively owned solar farms (see [cooppower.coop](http://cooppower.coop)).

Going off-grid is a solution for some, but using solar energy within the grid is an option for more, as is using public transportation or bike paths, reusable bags for all our shopping, recycling all recyclable material, sharing tools, and repurposing communal space for gardening, composting, and other earth-friendly uses.

As a society, we could agree to spend our money on these things, and invest in our long-term future. It will take a cultural shift, but we can form new habits with the help of our neighbors and local businesses – many in town will allow you to bring your coffee mug to fill up to go – and some of these new ways are delightfully fun.

For example, last year in Athol, in addition to the beautiful sculptures made from standing dead trees, someone planted tomato and other plants between the sidewalk and the street with a sign that welcomed anyone to harvest the food. Creative reuse of common spaces for food and energy production rather than grass or pavement is a nice blend of nature and culture.

We can change our relationship with the earth toward greener and more sustainable ways by encouraging engineers, architects, businesses, government, and our neighbors to think outside the box.

The Science Page is Powered by the Solar Store of Greenfield.



If you have a scientific idea you'd like to write about, a science-related book to review, an activity to advertise, or would like to share your experiences with science or any related field, please be in touch: [science@montaguereporter.org](mailto:science@montaguereporter.org).  
Lisa McLoughlin, editor

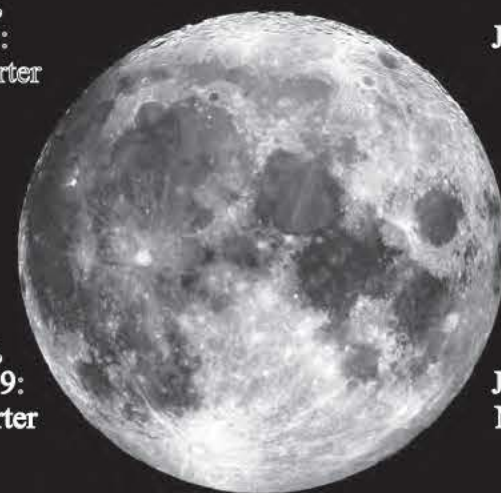
## Moon Calendar for January 2017:

Thursday,  
January 5:  
First Quarter

Thursday,  
January 12:  
Full Moon

Thursday,  
January 19:  
Last Quarter

Friday,  
January 27:  
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.  
[photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PLA00405](http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/catalog/PLA00405)

## Standing with Standing Rock

By LISA McLOUGHLIN  
and REPORTER STAFF

There have been many local efforts to support the Standing Rock Sioux tribe who are trying to protect their water supply from the Dakota Access Pipeline, a situation eerily familiar to us in Franklin County. Deb Tyler of Wendell, and Emily Voltz are two of the many people who have travelled to the Oceti Sakowin Camp to lend their support.

Others who have not been able to travel have demonstrated. In Northfield on Indigenous Peoples' Day, there were people with signs of support in front of the town hall, while on November 15 there were much larger local protests in support of Standing Rock in Turners Falls and Greenfield.

A January 1 article written by the Indigenous #NoDAPL coalition at [sacredstonecamp.org](http://sacredstonecamp.org) who have been organizing at Standing

Rock states that the winter camps will stand their ground as long as DAPL construction equipment remains on Oceti Sakowin treaty land. The public can call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at (202) 761-8700 to ask when it will open the Environmental Impact Statement process to public comment. You may also email from this web page [usace.army.mil/Contact/](mailto:usace.army.mil/Contact/).

Pressure is being put on the banks invested in DAPL to divest through this international campaign: [defunddapl.org](http://defunddapl.org).

There are several other pipeline projects designed to cross indigenous territories in Canada, the U.S. and Mexico. Ten of these are listed on the Sacred Stone Camp website along with ways that you can support the struggle to defend these territories.

For the latest information about Standing Rock visit: [standwith-standingrock.net](http://standwith-standingrock.net)

## Whoops!

There was a captioning mix-up on the December 8 NatureCulture page! The screenshot of the game Monument Valley is the one in the lower left corner, but its caption ran under a photo of the UMass sunwheel, intended to accompany a notice of the winter solstice. Our apologies for any confusion this may have caused!



Protestors in Northfield support the Standing Rock camp during Indigenous Peoples' Day last October.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

# Police Job Offered; Records Law Decried

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard interviewed police officer candidate Sean Sawicki at last Tuesday's meeting and offered him a job, salary details to be negotiated.

Officer Sawicki, currently employed by the Shutesbury PD, was endorsed by both outgoing and incoming Leverett police chiefs Gary Billings and Scott Minckler, and also by Leverett resident and Greenfield detective David Rice.

Rice attested to the candidate's strong showing at the police academy, recognized by both his trainers and peers, and to Sawicki's good reputation among the Amherst firefighters, where he previously worked.

The selectboard took turns asking the same questions of Sawicki that Minckler faced in his interview last month – heavy on conflict resolution and computer literacy, but not so much on opioids misuse and breakings and entering.

On a question hinting at favoritism around a hypothetical "field sobriety" test, where a driver was allowed to leave without taking a "breathalyzer," Sawicki described what he'd do, concluding with "I'm not going to lose my career over someone else's bad decision."

Sawicki is married with two kids aged 1 and 5, enjoys woodwork-

ing, and recently bought a house in Shutesbury.

The selectboard also approved the appointment of Chief Billings to part-time status, pending a physical.

### Internet Guy Hired

The selectboard voted to contract with Mik Muller of Montague Webworks to establish a town website, plus create a system which complies with the new public records law (unfunded state mandate) requiring timely town responses to public records requests. Costs include one-time set-up fee of \$3,400, and \$60 per month for maintenance and ongoing training as needed.

"He'll do what we need to create functionality," board chair Peter d'Errico said, adding that Muller is a known factor with years of website development and community involvement under his belt.

Selectwoman Julie Shively asked if there was any possibility of grants for this unfunded mandate; d'Errico directed the town administrator to draft a letter to state auditor Suzanne Bump decrying the unfairness of this recent law to small towns already suffering under economic strain.

### Other Business

The selectboard re-appointed animal control officer Roberta Bryant.



Driving down Greenfield Road during last Thursday's snowstorm, Lynn Pelland spotted two barred owls, and took the time to photograph both to share with our readers. We welcome reader-submitted content, be it writing, drawing or photography!

A pick-up truck used by the highway department has a broken frame and may need: 1) immediate repair and 2) eventual replacement. The capital planning committee already has a new pick-up plow truck on its list.

The Shutesbury road intersection remediation is set to get started, with d'Errico, road boss David Finn, resident Don Robinson, and fire official Stewart Olson as the committee of oversight. D'Errico

acknowledged the process may involve "land takings," but noted that some property owners would end up with more land, as the current wide-open road becomes more delineated with re-design.

On Tuesday, January 10 at 6 p m., there will be a potluck for the two police chiefs – welcoming Scott Minckler and wishing well to Gary Billings – at the town hall, before the next board meeting at 7 p m.

## The Montague Reporter

is seeking writers to cover local board meetings. Modest compensation and editorial guidance provided. For information, contact (413) 863-8666, or [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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## From Cotton and Gauze to Taxes and Liens: *The Life of the Railroad Salvage*

By ANNE HARDING

**1792:** Governor John Hancock signs legislation creating a corporation called the Proprietors of the Locks and Canals of the Connecticut River, charged with improving the navigability of the river.

**1794:** Massachusetts legislature splits the Proprietors, creating a new corporation called the Proprietors of the Upper Locks & Canals on Connecticut River in the County of Hampshire to develop navigable waterway from mouth of Deerfield River north to the state boundary.

**1794-1798:** Dam and transportation canal built.

**1800:** First boat passes through the canal system.

**1801:** Alvah Crocker born.

**1806:** Joseph Griswold born in Buckland. His father, Major Joseph Griswold, moved there in 1800 from Connecticut and was a carpenter who ran a cabinet-making shop. Young Joseph attends local schools when in session, then Sanderson Academy in Ashfield, where he studies Latin with the intent to become a physician. One of his classmates is Mary Lyon, founder of Mount Holyoke College. Griswold later teaches in Buckland and then Colrain – one of his students is Louisa M. Dennis, his future wife.

**1826:** At the same time the railroad system was beginning to spread through the country, Griswold travels west, visiting Utica, Rochester, Buffalo and Detroit. It is on this trip he first saw the machinery for making blinds and sashes. He decides to set up his own company in Buckland rather than pursue medicine.



One hundred years ago: The building in 1917, under the Griswoldville Manufacturing Company.

**1828:** Griswold moves his factory to Colrain and shortly after marries Louisa Dennis. He branches out making “lather boxes” with Louisa working by his side.

**1831:** Griswold starts manufacturing gimlets and augurs. Along with the lather boxes, Griswold’s goods are sold in North Adams, where he is first introduced to the cotton industry.

**1832:** Griswold opens his first cotton mill in Colrain, in a wooden building containing 16 looms. According to local lore, Griswold purchases a Lowell loom and dismantles it so he can build his own looms.

**1835:** Griswold starts construction on a

massive brick mill building in Colrain, 100 feet long by four stories high, raising the total to an estimated 100 looms between the two buildings.

**1837-1840:** Griswold endures difficulties during the 1837 financial crisis, and by 1840 reorganizes as the Griswold Manufacturing Company to avoid bankruptcy.

**1850-1856:** The railroad business puts the transportation canals out of business, and in 1856 the last boat passes through the Turners Falls canal.

**1865-1868:** Alvah Crocker buys the Proprietors’ stock and builds a new dam and canal to harness the water power for

mechanical power to run industrial mills. His first mill auction is held in 1868. Having suffered floods at his Colrain mill sites, Griswold holds off buying into the Turners Falls canal until the dam has been shown to withstand the spring freshets.

**1873:** Griswold buys a site from Alvah Crocker and starts construction, manufacturing all his own brick with an on-site kiln and harvesting the lumber from his wood lots around the county.

**1874:** Crocker dies unexpectedly.

**1879:** The Turners Falls Cotton Mill opens for production with more than 300 looms.

**1883:** Joseph Griswold dies at the age of 77. The Turners Falls mill continues, with Griswold’s son operating the business.

**1917:** Company reorganizes as the Griswoldville Manufacturing Company.

**1924:** Rueben “Rubie” Vine is born in New Haven, CT.

**1932:** Griswoldville name changes to Colrain Manufacturing Company. Two months later, the Turners Falls mill is sold to the Kendall Company.

**1933:** Colrain Manufacturing Company dissolves.

**1941:** The *Turners Falls Herald* proclaims “Kendall Mill Gauze Binds Wounds of Warring World,” with the mill producing more than half a million yards of cotton gauze per week.

**1943-1945:** Rubie Vine enlists in the military; captured at the Battle of the Bulge.

**1952-1953:** Kendall Company sells the mill to Crescent Company. Crescent Company sells to Rockdale Company.

**1954:** Rockdale changes name to Ethan

see RR SALVAGE page B2



By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – It is thirteen degrees at 6:45 a.m. We are two of a hearty, heavily bundled group of a dozen standing on the snow pack at the UMass sun wheel. It is unbelievably cold.

The sun wheel is a rough circle of twenty-four standing stones which illustrate the variations in the sun’s position throughout the year. The stones are set at the point of the winter and summer solstice sunrise and sunsets, and northern and southern moon rise and moon sets.

Unlike the “doorway” stones at Stonehenge, these large stones are pointed at the top, the tall ones standing out above the smaller, rounder ones. Thus the sun and moon create shadows in the circle. It is to see the shadow of the winter solstice sun that we have come.

We are standing near the center stone, number twenty-five. The temperature has dropped noticeably.

A knowledgeable professor of astronomy is describing the motion of the earth and the sun, as well as

### THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

## The Sun Wheel and the New Year

the creation of the use of the sun wheel. We are gaining a real understanding of the phrase “bone chilling,” and it is hard to stay focused. The sunrise today will be later than seven, more like seven-seventeen, because of the hills and trees in the eastern viewpoint.

We wait.

The sun rises at last, but it is occluded by clouds and there are no shadows. People begin walking on waking toes, hurrying toward their heated cars. When we get back on the highway the sun, now higher in the sky, is casting shadows of the trees on the snow. Perhaps we should have waited just a bit longer.

Still, we would get up early and go again another year, starting the wait later and checking the forecast ahead for clear skies.

That evening we celebrate the solstice with friends, standing around the sunroom-like warm stones, catching up on the lives of old friends some of whom we haven’t seen since last year’s winter solstice. It is a happy occasion of hugs, stories and laughter.

see GARDENER’S page B4

By MATT ROBINSON

This week in Turners Falls High School sports, the boys’ basketball team remained perfect, the girls’ basketball team bounced back, the Hockey team lost two games on late-game surges, and a member of the 1971 undefeated football team passed away.

#### Boys Basketball

TFHS 46 – Greenfield 44

TFHS 76 – Narragansett 64

TFHS 74 – Smith 31

Since December 22, the Turners Falls Basketball Indians have faced three opponents and have won all 3 games. Those wins put the Blue Indians at 6–0, giving them a share of the Hampshire League lead along with Mahar and Hopkins. The first game was won on a buzzer beating shot, in the second, the Indians won by double digits and the third game was a good old fashioned rout.

On December 22, Powertown defeated Greenfield in a real barn burner. The Tribe took a 10-6 first-period lead, but were outscored 12-17 in the second, and went into the break down by a point, 22-23. Turners inched ahead by two points, 34-32, going into the final quarter of the game.

The teams seasawed along in the fourth, and the score was tied 44-all with time running out. Turners came up with a defensive rebound and worked their way up court. They

## The Week in TFHS Sports



Three’s a crowd: Turners’ Emma Miner (left) and Hailey Bogosz apply some defensive pressure against McCann Tech’s Alexis Foley.

missed the go-ahead basket but again came up with a board.

Blue then floated the ball out of the paint and again went for the winning bucket. But that shot was no good either, and it looked like the game was going into OT. But with only two seconds left, Turners once

again grabbed the rebound, and Tionne Brown hit a 2-point jumper to seal the victory.

Brown and Josh Obuchowski were the dual high-scorers for Blue, both chalking up 11 points on two free throws, one 3-pointer and three

see TFHS SPORTS page B6

# Make it happen!

## Registration is now open for Spring 2017!

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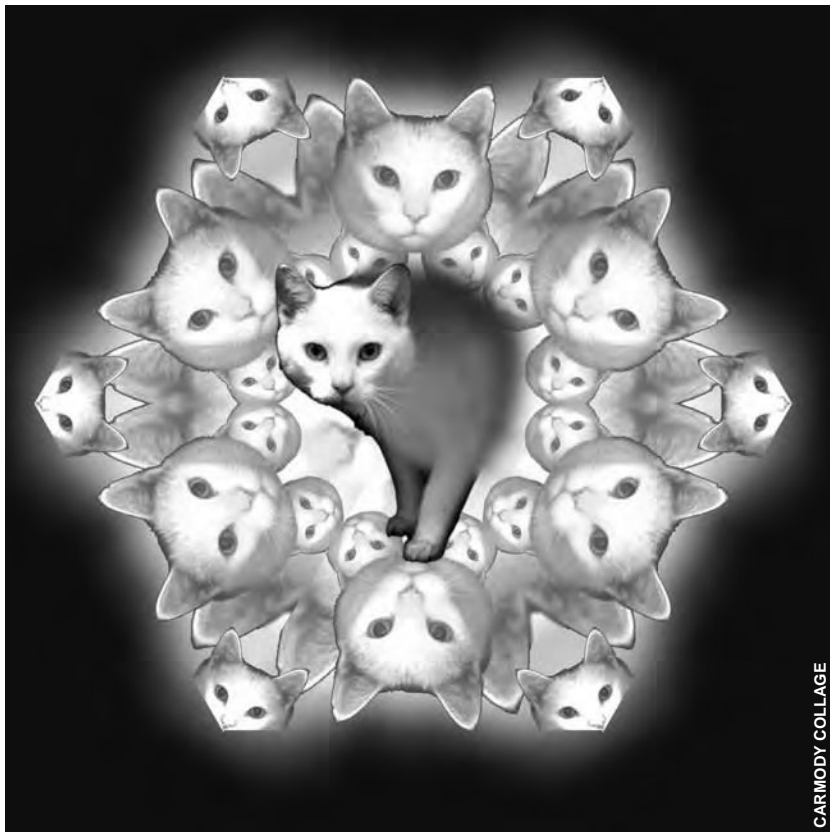
# Pet of the Week

Hi, I'm Snowflake! I'm chatty and chummy with family and visitors alike. When your friends arrive, I'll be there to greet them.

I can provide you with some serious warmth at bedtime by lying on your legs. If you've been standing all day, working, tidying up the house, or running for the bus, you will truly

value this service I perform free of charge. I'd do best living with adults. Unfortunately, my guardian is ill and brought me here. Come on down before this handsome snowflake drifts away!

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



## “SNOWFLAKE”

### Senior Center Activities JANUARY 9 to 13

**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 1/9**  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 1/10**  
9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
**Wednesday 1/11**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
11:30 a.m. Friends' Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 1/12**  
9 a.m. Tai chi  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 1/13**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

Flexibility and Balance Chair Yoga – Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Senior Lunch – Fridays at noon. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday

for a reservation.

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

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 Better, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.

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

**Monday 1/9**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance  
**Tuesday 1/10**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Knitting  
**Wednesday 1/11**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs  
**Thursday 1/12**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors  
**Friday 1/13**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
11:30 Pot Luck; Movie & Popcorn

**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

Montague Community TV wishes you a happy new year! Visit [montaguetv.org/p/55/TV-Schedule](http://montaguetv.org/p/55/TV-Schedule) to learn what's on TV for the week ahead – or check out our latest videos online. We can't wait to show you what we have in store for 2017!

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

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

#### RR SALVAGE from page B1

Ames Manufacturing Company. They operate as a retail store until the late 1960s, when several debtors place liens on the property.

**1972:** The Town of Montague takes the property for back taxes.

**1973:** The property is sold to Rubie Vine.

**1974:** Railroad Salvage opens its Turners Falls location. Rubie and his wife Wanda “Choo Choo” Vine become well known locally for their television advertising antics.

**1977:** “Choo Choo” files for divorce.

**1988:** The federal government files a tax lien against Rubie Vine.

**1994:** Turners Falls branch of Railroad Salvage closes.

**1996:** Rubie Vine sells to Wayne Rogers. Rogers plans to use part of the building to refurbish commercial refrigeration equipment, but says the town's insistence on installing a sprinkler system exceeds his financial means. He “rents” space to Rodney Beauchesne for his salvaged building materials business, though Rogers later claims he never received any actual rent.

**2000-2001:** In late December 2000, Rogers sells to First Mutual Ltd., who sell to Bayshore Consultants Inc. a month later. Various contractors file liens against Rogers and First Mutual for work done but not paid for. Bayshore Consultants sell to Gary Kosuda (Kosudaville LLC) on April 23, 2001.

**2004:** Town of Montague files against Wayne Rogers, Gary Kosuda and Kosudaville LLC for unpaid taxes for 2002, 2003, 2004. The zoning board of appeals gives preliminary approval to developer Mark Kislyuk (Creative Developers, Inc.) for a non-conforming \$4.5 million redevelopment of the mill building, with the stipulation he post a \$500,000 bond. The bond is never posted.

**2004-2006:** The property



This 2007 picture, taken after the roof collapse, shows the former mill and department building from the south side.

continues to disintegrate while Kosuda and Kislyuk wrangle over ownership and development plans. Kosuda pays \$44,000 in back taxes, and in spite of the roof collapsing in the winter of 2005, claims the building is still salvageable. Kislyuk is the subject of multiple complaints by purportedly unpaid contractors on other development projects. Street traffic through the area has to be discontinued, due to falling debris from the building.

**2007:** Creative Developers dissolves.

**2008:** After several court dates and deadlines, Kosuda fails to stabilize the building, and in November the court assigns Springfield lawyer Mark Draper as the receiver and orders Kosuda to pay \$90,000 to implement safety repairs.

**2009-2010:** Kosuda dissolves Kosudaville LLC, and the court approves a PSA to sell the property to James L. Bent, d/b/a Nice n Easy Properties, who acquires the property.

**2011:** Rubie Vine dies at age 86.

**2012:** Bent separates the property into two parcels: Lot 1, the main building, and Lot 2, the annex building. He sells Lot 1 to Peter Champoux.

**2013:** Bent enters into a preliminary agreement with the

Threshold Cooperative for the annex building, and Champoux sells Lot 1 to Solutions Consulting Group LLC: “independent consultants who harmonize their specialties to provide creative solutions to individuals.” Members include Gordon Phillips, Jeanne Golrick and Paul Nolan, with resident agent Scott Smith of Chicopee.

**2014:** Solutions Consulting Group LLC is amended to remove Nolan and Phillips from the organization, and designate Millers Falls resident Golrick as the “sole remaining person with capacity of member-manager authorized to file documents with Corporations division of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and also to execute, acknowledge, deliver, and record any recordable instruments purporting to affect the interest in real property for the firm.”

**2014-2015:** Town of Montague files tax lien against Nice n Easy Properties for Lot 2, takes it, and files tax lien against Solutions Consulting Group for Lot 1.

**2016:** Town of Montague begins taking of Lot 1 from Solutions Consulting Group in March 2016. Solutions Consulting Group is dissolved in June 2016. A fire is reported early on New Year's Eve.



Plenty of fuel for fire: The building's interior, in an April 2016 photograph.

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MPD from page B3

**Friday, 12/30**  
2:40 a.m. Officer out with male behind the Arc on Avenue A. Male picking up trash. Officer clear.  
5:39 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle.  
5:42 p.m. Officer out with two people chasing each other in the alley between Third and Fourth streets. Officer clear; female was just trying to receive paperwork from male.  
6:27 p.m. 911 call from Taylor Hill Road. On call back, female stated that there was no emergency; her dog

had pressed a button on her phone, causing it to call 911.  
7:43 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that a male and female in an apartment are drunk and being loud. Caller also states that male was spitting in the hallway before entering the apartment. Officer attempted to separate male and female for the night; however, they refused. Male taken into protective custody.  
**Saturday, 12/31**  
1:38 a.m. 911 transfer from state police; operator at Northfield Mountain Project reporting structure fire can be seen on security cameras; believed to be old Railroad Salvage

building. Officers and TFFD en route. Three additional 911 callers reporting same; no additional info or better location.  
9:08 p.m. Caller states that a known male is attacking her father; one of the males has a full bottle of vodka that caller fears could be used as a weapon. Officers responding; MedCare staging. No injuries. All parties separated; no one wishes to pursue matter. After officers cleared, second call received stating that male party was back in the building beginning another argument. Gone on arrival.



GARDENER’S from page B1

Next morning it is bitterly cold again, with a nasty breeze, but we are awakened by the arrival of the roofing crew. They spend the day banging and scraping off the old shingles and tacking down a heavy, oiled paper barrier. The cat, chased off her sanctuary on the sunny bed, fumes in the cellar by the fire.  
This is the first of a long siege of activity, punctuated by the absence of the boss, who broke his pelvis riding his ATV and, a week later, by the departure of another roofer to the lure of greener pastures. We now have a crew of two, very efficient, skilled and meticulous. However, we have resigned ourselves to a project more lengthy than the original projected couple of weeks, weather permitting.  
We do not tell the cat. She darts looks of contempt and irritation in our direction at regular intervals.  
Then the wind, the cold and the snow. We spend hours digging out. We have mentally pushed up our date for the planned trip south.  
The angle of the sun is low, but the light is intense. We share Christmas dinner with family in the sunroom where the temperature is seventy-five just from the sunlight alone. What a treat! Even when we do venture south, we can leave the cat to the pleasure of tanning out there until the cat minder comes to close up the room later on in the

afternoon. It will be her version of the trip to Florida without the hassle of the ride, the nights in motels and the busy highways.  
Now to the end-of-the-year delights of scanning the seed catalogues and ordering up for the next garden season. In addition to our favorite Celebrity, Brandywine, and Sungold cherry, we are trying out three heirlooms touted for size and flavor: Nepal and Church and a sweet bicolored tomato called Big Rainbow. We’ll order these seeds right away and start them in early March.  
Then, as soon as the snow is off the raised beds and the ground can be crumbled, we’ll set in seeds for lettuce and other greens. It doesn’t seem too long to wait.  
Happy plans help us to look forward to the coming of the new year, regardless of concern for the political and international future and the lack of desire to add more age to ourselves. We are positive by nature and always hopeful because the alternative has little to offer.

*Let us not be confused  
With kaleidoscopic reality  
Using wisdom and courage to act,  
Let us not add to the confusion.*  
— Ancient Chinese poet

A healthy and happy New Year to all – and of course, happy gardening!



# The Road to Freedom: Anti-Slavery Activity in Greenfield

**GREENFIELD** – Racial Justice Rising, a local anti-racism organization, presents at its monthly free Saturday program, **The Road to Freedom: Anti-Slavery Activity in Greenfield MA**, with Momodou Sarr and Joan Featherman, Saturday January 7, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Doors open at 9:45.  
In the 1800s, Greenfield was home to an active regional abolition group, the Franklin County Anti-Slavery Society, and was the site of several Underground Railway safe houses.  
The presenters will draw parallels between the multi-faceted strategies used in the 1800s to defeat slavery and strategies we can use now to defeat racism and other injustices.  
The program will be held at the

First Congregational Church of Greenfield, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield. There is free childcare. Please RSVP with number and ages of children.  
For more info: [email@racialjusticerising.org](mailto:email@racialjusticerising.org).  
Coffee and tea and light snacks provided. The program is free and donations are most welcome. This program is supported in part by grants from area Local Cultural Councils, agencies which are supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.  
If the program is cancelled due to weather, check the Racial Justice Rising website at [www.racialjusticerising.org](http://www.racialjusticerising.org).

# JANUARY LIBRARY LISTINGS

*Weather, etc., sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm.*

## PHONE NUMBERS

Montague Public Libraries  
**Turners Falls: Carnegie**  
(413) 863-3214  
**Montague Center**  
(413) 367-2852  
**Millers Falls**  
(413) 659-3801  
**Erving Public Library**  
(413) 423-3348  
**Gill: Slate Library**  
(413) 863-2591  
**Leverett Public Library**  
(413) 548-9220  
**Wendell Free Library**  
(978) 544-3559

## ONGOING EVENTS

Leverett Public Library beginning new Book Club. Book selection and date/time to be determined. Call if interested in joining.

### EVERY TUESDAY

Slate Memorial Library, Gill: *Story Hour*. Stories, popcorn, and a hands-on craft project. New families always welcome. 10 a.m.  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 p.m.

### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time w/Karen*. Story, project, snacks. Young children w/caregivers. 10:15 a.m.  
Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia’s Awesome Play Group*. A sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians. 10 to 11:30 a.m. (Does not meet during school vacations or snow days.)  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science*. Hands-on science for any age

homeschooler. 1 p.m., January 18 through March 29.  
Leverett Public Library: *Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. Developed for children newborn through preschool ages, but all families welcome. 10:30 to noon.  
**EVERY THURSDAY**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson* for children. 10 a.m. Through April, then moves to Montague Center branch.  
**LAST SATURDAY OF MONTH**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Lego Club*. Children all ages and their caregivers build and play with Legos. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**EVERY SATURDAY**  
Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.  
**EVERY SUNDAY**  
Wendell Free Library: *Mostly Yoga*. 10 to 11:15 a.m. \$  
Wendell Free Library: *Free Mindful Eating Program w/ Michele Miller*, starting January 15 through February 5. Introductory session on Sunday, January 8. Participants need internet device. 4 to 5 p.m.  
Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

**EXHIBITS**  
Leverett Public Library: *Nancy Emond and student watercolor class paintings*. Community room. Through February.  
Wendell Free Library: *Green Seen*. You are invited to create an original postcard-size artwork for our mail art exhibit with a sustainability, “green” theme. See library website for details. Exhibit is ongoing online and in the library until March 21,

then goes to Baystate Franklin Medical Center.  
Wendell Free Library: Regular art exhibits on two-month schedule in the Herrick Gallery in the library.

## EVENTS

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 7**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Pirate Party*. “Aaaaargh, mateys. Are ye ready to play like pirates? Games, crafts, grub.” Children all ages and their families. 10:30 a.m.  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 8**  
Wendell Free Library *Free Mindful Eating Program, Introductory Session with Dr. Judson Brewer*. 4 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 15**  
Leverett Public Library: *Artist Reception for exhibit listed above*. 1 to 3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 19**  
Wendell Free Library: *The Expeditions*, movie based on Ray Bradbury’s work, *The Martian Chronicles*. First of three from a 1980 TV miniseries screened this week. 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 20**  
Wendell Free Library: *The Colonists*, second in TV miniseries based on Ray Bradbury’s work. 7:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 22**  
Wendell Free Library: *The Martian*, recent movie starring Matt Damon, part of the Science Fiction/Horror Movie series sponsored by the Library. 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23**  
Wendell Free Library: *The Martians*. Third and final of the TV miniseries based on Ray Bradbury’s work. 7:30 p.m.

# Contemplating the Spiral of History: Richard II by YSP

*I wasted time, and now doth time waste me.”*  
— William Shakespeare, *Richard II*

**TURNERS FALLS** – Can kids ages eight to eighteen do Shakespeare? Yes! – uncut and unbelievable. Witness the Young Shakespeare Players (YSP) East, a non-profit theater program based in Franklin County, where young people tackle full-length, original works of Shakespeare and their season kick-off performing *Richard II*.  
This is the first in a sequence of eight history plays written by William Shakespeare. *Richard II* grapples with themes of conspiracy, uprising, young vs. old, power struggles, familial infighting, legacy and corruption.  
Rehearsal began in September and it has been a fascinating journey for the young actors to immerse in *Richard II* during this election cycle. “Actors have had discussions about whether Donald Trump was more like Richard II or Henry Bolingbroke,” recalls program director Suzanne Rubinstein.  
Parallels have also been made between the conduct of the rich and powerful of today, and those depicted from 1399. The actors were surprised

to find a familiar lack of restraint, empathy or civility in the public forum displayed by some of the nobility in the play. In *Richard II* there is a lot of aggressive, argumentative and accusatory behavior – which never leads to anything positive.  
However, Shakespeare did a remarkable thing with *Richard II*. Instead of vilifying this bad King until his murder (sorry for the spoiler), Shakespeare decided to bring out Richard’s beautiful humanity once the fallen king resigned to being deposed and imprisoned.  
When the weight of ruling the kingdom is removed and he is stripped of his wealth and title, Richard’s humanity emerges.  
Shakespeare reminds us once again that human nature is nuanced and complex. *Richard II* teaches us that people have always been cruel,

corrupt, violent, selfish as well as compassionate, loving, reflective, loyal and caring. Finally, people have the power to change.  
“I am thrilled that these young people have this opportunity to observe, explore, analyze and play with these important themes during this tumultuous time,” remarked Rubinstein. “It is my hope that by immersing in *Richard II* these young people gain a deeper understanding of human nature and the spirals of history, and this knowledge provides them with some comfort and strength.”  
Free performances will take place at The Sloan Theater, Greenfield Community College on January 11, 13, 14, and 15. For more information: [rubisuz@gmail.com](mailto:rubisuz@gmail.com) and (802) 258-7922. Online: [youngshakespeareplayerseast.org/upcoming-events/](http://youngshakespeareplayerseast.org/upcoming-events/)



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## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



Richard Perlmutter, Robin Hoffman, and Marlene Wong, *The Well-Tempered Ukles*, January 13 at the Great Hall, Turners Falls, 7 p.m. \$

### 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.

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.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 playgroup. Grown-ups can chat and connect with other parents and caregivers while supervising their children's play. 10 to 11 a.m.

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

#### 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.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Jazz Series with Ted Wirt and his Hammond B3*. 7 p.m.

#### 3rd 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), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic JAM*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Open Mic starts at 9 p.m. Free.

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners 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 Night*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Open Mic*. 7 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.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It's Kidleidoscope!* Each week (except Jan. 13); includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce you and your child to the natural world. Program recommended for ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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. \$

#### EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River Rooms by Alice Thomas*. "A unique series of paintings by Alice Thomas that brings metaphor and poetry to our rivers." Artist reception Saturday, January 7, 1 to 3 p.m. Through March 2.

GCC Downtown Center Gallery, Greenfield: *Venture/Adventure: Applied Photography Projects*. Photography by students. Through January 19.

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. Great gifts.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Liquid Edge: Polar Regions*, photographs by Sarah Holbrook. Also *Painting Nature: Botanical Watercolors by Thayer Tomlinson*. Through February 28.

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

#### SUBMISSIONS CALL:

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, for their February show: *Small Works Art Exhibit and Sale*. No entries larger than 6" x 6". No jurying. Register by January 14. Reception Saturday, February 4, 11:30 to 2:30.

#### EVENTS:

##### THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Collected Poets Series with feature poet TBA*. Poetry reading. 7 p.m.

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

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Open Mic*. 6 - 8:30 p.m. *The Snaz*. 9 p.m.

##### FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It's Kidleidoscope!* This week it's owls! Includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce you and your child to the natural world. Program recommended for ages 3-6 with a parent or guardian. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Charles Neville and the New England Nevilles*. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Lovewhip w/ The Fawns*. Psychedelic. 9 p.m. \$

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

##### SATURDAY, JANUARY 7

Brick House Community Resource Center, 2nd floor, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Creative Movement hosts a Free Day of Dance/Movement*. Class for 3 to 6 year-olds will be held from 10 to 10:45 a.m., for 7 to 10 year-olds will be held from 11 to noon and a class for 11 year-olds to adults will be offered from noon to 1 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Artist reception for *Alice Thomas* and current exhibit *River Rooms*. 1 to 3 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Strip66 acid/jazz/funk*, and special guest *Boketto*, progressive hop. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Old Pam, Crank Sturgeon, Schactlingus, Bobbie Seashack, and Eye in the Sky Guy*. All ages, substance free. 8 p.m. \$

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Juke Joint Jazz with Stephen Page & Bob Ferrier*. Jazz repertoire. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Shadow Twisters*, classic '60s and '70s rock. 9 p.m.

Pioneer Tavern, Millers Falls: *First Saturday Dance Party*. '90s pop and hip-hop dance mix. 9 p.m. Free.

##### SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Arts Block, Greenfield: *The New England Jazz Trio Series, Part Two with Wayne Roberts, Michael Zsoldos, Tim Gilmore*. 5 p.m. \$

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

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

##### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Peace & Rhythm Presents: Rumba Psicodélica*. DJs Andujar, Studebaker Hawk, and Bongohead bring back the tropical funk party. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Shout Lulu* Southern string band. 8 p.m.

##### THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

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

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Mohawk "Story Slam" Makerspace Fundraiser*. Fundraiser. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Doug Plavin All Stars*, featuring special guest. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Wet Tuna (MV / PG Six duo); John Shaw;*

*Galacto Fidelity (Coley / Krefting / Nace trio); Crystalline Roses; Frozen Corn; Pigeons*. 9 p.m. \$

##### FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Great Hall Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Great Falls Coffeehouse presents The Well Tempered Ukles*. They'll be playing hit songs of the last 500 years. Donations to support educational programming at the Center. 7 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Jen & Willie, Ginger Cooky, Night School*. All ages, substance free. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Staff, Scott Kuzmeskus*. 9:30 p.m.



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**TFHS SPORTS** from page B1  
from inside the arc.

Nick Croteau hit three 3's for 9 points. Both Javonni Williams and Anthony Peterson had 6 points, while James Vaughn hit two foul shots and Kyle Bergmann hit one.

On Tuesday, December 27, the team defeated the Narragansett Warriors 76-64. Turners outscored the Warriors 19-13 in the first period, expanded the margin to 15 by the half, 42-27, stretched it to 19 after three quarters, 59-40, and ended up winning 76-64.

Brown led Powertown with nine field goals and a free throw, for 19 points. Tyler Lavin made a couple of 3's and four 2-pointers for 14. Josh Obuchowski hit six buckets for 12 points.

Kyle Bergmann also scored in double digits, with four from the floor and two from the line for 10. Ricky Craver (7), Nick Croteau (5), Anthony Peterson (4), James Vaughn (3), and Javonni Williams (2) also helped out.

On Monday, January 2, Turners defeated the Smith Academy Purple Falcons 74-31.

In this game, Coach Mullins used some interesting combinations on the court. He started the game with Lavin, Peterson, Bergmann, Obuchowski and Brown – a sophomore, a freshman, a junior and two seniors – on the floor. And throughout the game, Mullins freely switched his players around, trying different combinations.

At one point, he loaded the court with shooters, and at another point, he put in two tall players and three quick guys. Then, with 3:49 left in the first half, he switched out all five players at once. This strategy led to fresh legs on the floor, and made it difficult for the Falcons to adjust to different players with unique talents.

But the game was never in doubt, as Turners took a 19-point lead after just a quarter, 28-9. In the second, it was more of the same and Blue expanded the lead to 32 points, 51-19. Then in the second half, Powertown held Purple to just 12 points, winning by a final score of 74-31.

Ten different Blue Men scored in

the game, with Craver leading the way with 15 points, 9 of which were from outside the arc. Vaughn put up 11 on five field goals and a freebee.

Tionne Brown put up 8 on two foul shots and three from the floor. The interesting thing about Brown is that he's the one who calls the plays. Even from the bench, he was heard announcing the plays to the players on the court.

Peterson, Bergmann and Obuchowski added 7 points each. Lavin and Jeremy Wolfram both had 6, while Marcus Sanders put up 5 and Ian Moriarty sunk a 2-pointer.

**Girls Basketball**  
*Greenfield 44 – TFHS 23*  
*TFHS 49 – Frontier 38*  
*TFHS 47 – McCann 14*  
*TFHS 58 – Smith 31*

Lee, Hopkins, Greenfield, Frontier. What a way to start a season! Hopkins is undefeated, Lee has lost one game by a single point, and both Greenfield and Frontier are ranked in the top 20.

The Turners Falls Lady Indians played these four teams to open up their 2016/17 season. But after starting out 0-3, they managed to square their record at 3-3.

After losing to powerhouse Hopkins 51-47, the Blue Ladies had to face one of the best teams in Western Mass, the Greenfield Green Wave. On Friday, December 23, Greenfield held the Blue Tribe to just 6 points in the first half while scoring 28 of their own. In the second, Turners only made up 1 point, and fell 44-23.

Maddy Chmyzinski led the Indians in scoring with 7 points. Aliyah Sanders added 5, Chloe Ellis put up 4, Hailey Bogusz got 3, and both Abby Loynd and Emma Miner scored 2. Kylie Fleming, Lexi Lacey and Sarah Waldron also saw playing time for Turners.

The loss put the Indians at 0-3, but their next game would be their redemption. On December 28, the Turners Falls Lady Indians beat 19<sup>th</sup>-ranked Frontier. It was the Ladies' first win of the season, and it made headlines on the MassLive website.

The Tribe shot out to an 11-6 first quarter lead, then expanded the lead

to 12 at the half, 26-14. By the time the final period started, Powertown was ahead by 17 points, 42-25 and they cruised to a 49-38 victory.

Although Turners scored 49 points, it was the defense that kept the Red Hawks in check, and it would be the defense that propelled the Blue Ladies in their next two victories. Chmyzinski scored 18 points in the victory and Fleming added 9. Also contributing for Turners were Loynd (7), Sanders (6), Ellis (6), Lacey (2) and Miner (1).

On Friday, December 30, Turners defeated the McCann Hornets 47-14, extended their streak to two. Turners' D was again key, holding the Hornets to 6 points in the first period, 4 in the second, 3 in the third, and 1 in the fourth.

Chmyzinski again was the high scorer for the Tribe, outscoring the entire McCann team with her 17 points. But Maddy didn't do it alone; all the Blue Ladies got into the act. Steals, rebounds and smart passing kept McCann off the scoreboard while Turners used teamwork to put up points of their own.

Also scoring for the Tribe were Loynd with 8, Sanders with 7, Taylor Murphy with 6, Fleming 4, Ellis 3, and Miner 2.

On Tuesday, Turners defeated the Smith Academy Purple Falcons 58-31. Powertown benefited from consistent scoring – 13 to 16 points every quarter – tight defense, and six 3-pointers from Ms. Chmyzinski.

Coach Ted Wilcox instituted a full-court press early on, and his Ladies responded. They charged after the ball from the inbound pass to the rebound. McCann couldn't adjust, especially in the third period, when they only managed to score 2 points. On offense, Turners passed around the circle or inside until they found an open man, and if the shot missed, they were in position to snag the rebound.

Chmyzinski who is only a Junior, scored 24 points in the game, giving her a career total of 734 points. Sanders scored 12 points, Loynd and Ellis got 6 apiece, Fleming – who made some remarkable steals – finished with 5 points, while Murphy



Turners' Kyle Bergmann snags a rebound during the second period against Greenfield High School on December 22.

and Miner each had 2 points. Hailey Bogusz sunk a free throw.

**Ice Hockey**  
*St. Mary 7 – TFHS 3*  
*Greenfield 6 – TFHS 4*

On Tuesday, December 27, the Turners Falls Ice Hockey Indians fell to the Saints of St. Mary 7-3. The game was tied at 2 after the first period, and tied at 3 after the second. But in the third, the Saints scored four unanswered goals to stifle the Tribe 7-3.

In goal, Nathan Pelletier made 28 saves. Turners made 30 shots on goal with Zach Smith, Bryan Baumann and Adam Coffin scoring the three goals, with Ethan Laffleur (2), Aurel Pydych, and Doug Hanieski giving assists.

On New Year's Eve, Greenfield scored five unanswered goals to defeat Powertown 6-4 and win

the Montague Elks Steve Upton Cup. Turners was leading 3-1 when Greenfield went on a tear, and put the game out of reach 6-3. Turners did manage to score one last goal but dropped the match 6-4.

Turners slapped 24 shots on goal. Bryce Jordan scored two for Blue, Michael McGoldrick had a goal and an assist, Adam Coffin scored the other one for Turners, and Laffleur, Whiteman and Camden Barnes each gave assists. Goalkeeper Jordyn Lavallee made 20 saves.

**Other Sporting News**  
On a somber note, on Tuesday, December 20, Roy W. Niedbala, the father of Coach Jay Niedbala and member of the 1971 undefeated football squad, passed away. Best wishes to you and yours, and may you have a “Shady Rest.”



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