



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 24

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 30, 2017

## For Wendell Selectboard Candidates, Love of the Town Runs Deep

By JOHANNA BARTLETT

*Incumbent selectboard member Dan Keller faces a challenge in this year's town election from Ray DiDonato, another Wendell resident with experience in town government.*

*Both men have a love of Wendell and an appreciation for its unique culture, which shows in their enthusiastic participation in town affairs.*

*There will be a forum to introduce both candidates Friday night, April 14, at the town hall.*



Ray DiDonato

Ray DiDonato enjoys living in Wendell because it is “a community of independent thinkers who also enjoy a supportive relationship.”

Ray met his wife Lori in graduate school at Boston University, and after taking a job in Amherst, came to love the landscape and the quality of life in the Pioneer Valley. He now works at home as a product specialist for a life sciences company based in California.

He appreciates the diversity of opinion in Wendell, and loves living in the middle of nature, as well as bringing up his boys, Aidan and Liam, in that environment. Having served on several town committees, Ray believes he has a lot to offer as a selectboard candidate.

Because he has served on the open space committee, the planning board, the school committee, the finance committee, the website committee, and the broadband committee, DiDonato believes that he is “fluent” in many aspects of town government. Ray believes that his communication skills will enable him to “bring more open and inclusive engagement of town committees as well as of the public” into the governing process. He thinks it will be important to be able to bring

see DIDONATO page A5



Dan Keller

Dan finds in Wendell a place of diversity where the social fabric consists of many different threads woven together to support each other. There is a sense of community here, where people pitch in to create institutions like the Full Moon Coffee House and the Wendell Free Library, which he considers an extraordinary accomplishment and a hub for many town activities. Furthermore, his children, Clara and Caleb, live close by, so that he gets to enjoy his grandchildren, Alioun and Solomon.

Keller attended Amherst College in the late sixties, and chose to remain in the area, creating a life for himself that reflects his values of responsible stewardship of the land, farming, community, and participation in local government. He has also worked with Green Mountain Post Films, creating documentaries, and has an archive service called Footage Farm. He has been on the selectboard for over 15 years, and was on the finance committee for 17 years before that.

One of Dan's prime concerns in town government today is “civility.” He has a sense that lately the tone of discourse is changing, and not for the better. He is afraid that a current of disrespect prevalent in politics today is being felt in Wendell. He feels that such

see KELLER page A5

## North Quabbin Residents Hear Report on Changing Climate

By DAVID DETMOLD

ATHOL – Nathanael Fortune took 14% of the vote in Franklin County in 2010 running for state auditor on the Green Rainbow ticket. A physics and environmental science professor at Smith College, Fortune is making a name for himself now as an auditor of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere, and as an incisive speaker on the climate change circuit.

Fortune addressed an audience of about 75 environmental activists, locavores, energy committee members, plastic-bag-banners, land preservationists, and no-till farmers on Sunday at the Millers River Environmental Center in Athol.

He told them, “We are filling up the atmosphere with carbon dioxide twice as fast as the Earth can absorb it.” Approximately “24 years from now, the planet will be as warm as it has ever been in the 200,000-year history of our species,” he said.

Absent corrective climate action now, the concentration of greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere will reach a level where Earth's mean temperature will exceed (by two to four degrees) the two-degree-Celsius target unanimously agreed to by 192 nations in the 2015 Paris climate accords.

Fortune said a 20-foot rise in sea levels would follow such a change in temperature.

He said cascading feedback loops from melting ice sheets, consequent reduction in Earth's thermal reflectivity, and the gradual but certain heating up of oceans will produce climatic conditions “not seen since the end of the dinosaurs, when alligators swam through the North Pole.”

“We are subjecting our children to an experiment they cannot control,” he added.

Fortune ran through a recap of modern climate science, starting with Joseph Fourier, who first postulated a greenhouse effect from

see QUABBIN page A8

GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Board Seeks Input On “Criteria” for New Team Name; Calls Open Meeting Law Complaint Unfounded

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Tuesday night's Gill-Montague school committee meeting marked the end of the committee's break from discussing the Turners Falls High School sports team name, taken after voting on February 14 that it would no longer be the Indians. The committee heard once again from supporters and opponents of the change, disputed an open meeting law complaint filed by an opponent, and planned a special meeting April 4 to brainstorm criteria for a new name.

Committee members shared their thoughts as to first steps toward finding a new team name. Most agreed that the most important would be settling on criteria for the name,

drawing the public into the process, and creating a subcommittee to lead the process of recommending one.

That subcommittee might include students, staff or members of the general public. “I just don't know if this is a whole school committee thing, from beginning to end,” Heather Katsoulis said.

The committee scheduled a special meeting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 4 at the high school, and is calling for public input before then. It plans to “brainstorm” the criteria during that session, but not take a final vote on them. Valeria “Timmie” Smith said she hoped for an “informal, public, open, televised brainstorming work session.”

see GMRSD page A7



Chris Pinardi (center) accused the school committee of secrecy and conspiring to circumvent the law.

## Erving Considers Options For International Paper Mill Site

By KATIE NOLAN

ERVING – On March 22, a cold and windy day, about a dozen people gathered in the parking lot in front of Building 2 at the former International Paper Mill property on Papermill Road. From the upper levels of the five-story historic brick building, graceful second-story windows peeked out over a more modern utilitarian first-level addition.

Inside, without electricity or heat, the ground floor rooms were dark and cold. Water dripped from ceilings, leaving puddles on the floor. Massive paint chips were peeling off the walls. In one damp, moldy-smelling room, eviscerated computer hulks lay scattered across the floor. Upstairs, sunlight poured in through the large windows. A pigeon flew up, startled by the curious visitors.

A feasibility study prepared by town consultant Tighe & Bond, Inc. and presented to the selectboard in February 2016 noted the attributes of the former IP Mill: good access to Route 2; more than 40 acres of space; a natural setting on the banks of Millers River; and infrastructure for water, sewer and elec-

tricity already present. At that time, Tighe & Bond engineer Josh Fiala called Building 2 “a hidden gem with all the hallmarks of a historic mill structure,” including “exposed interior timbers, lots of natural light and an open floor plan.”

In March 2017, to the untrained eye, Building 2 looks abandoned and in disrepair: gutted of wiring and plumbing by metal thieves, an eyesore with plywood covering broken windows, a danger to trespassers and the police who respond to reports of trespassing, a hot spot for vandalism, and a property at risk for arson, as happened at the town-owned former Usher Mill.

After completing the building walk-through, participants re-grouped at the warm and inviting senior and community center. Tighe & Bond project manager Rebecca Sherer presented options for the property, developed with the selectboard.

One option is the demolition of all the buildings at the property, except Building 2 and a small pumphouse near the river. The 1966 one-story addition and 1990s loading dock would

see IP MILL page A4



The mill closed abruptly in 2000, and the town has owned the property since 2014.

# The Montague Reporter

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## Gary Bourbeau’s March 20 Statement to the Gill Selectboard:

“In Massachusetts alone, the cost of illegal immigration is \$1 billion for education, \$214 million for healthcare, \$252 million for justice and law enforcement, \$175 million for public assistance, and \$312 million for general government services.<sup>1</sup>

“Generally, across the nation, the cost of illegal immigration – numbering, no one knows the number for sure, 11 to 14 million – to its citizens in dollars, doctors, justice systems, jails, rape counseling, reconstructive surgery, human grief and suffering is incalculable.

“You wouldn’t know it if you read the study by Tom Wong, associate professor of political science, who published for the Center for American Progress this statement: ‘Crime is significantly lower in sanctuary communities compared to non-sanctuary. Moreover, economies are stronger in sanctuary communities, from higher median household income, less poverty and less reliance on public assistance, to higher labor force participation and lower unemployment. The study also showed that sanctuary communities build trust between law enforcement and the community, which enhances public safety overall.’<sup>2</sup>

“I have no idea how that can be confirmed. And I didn’t get this from the *Onion*, or National Lampoon – this is the Center for American Progress, so you know it’s reliable.<sup>3</sup>

“Following the death of Kathryn Steidle in San Francisco, a sanctuary city, by an illegal immigrant, then-candidate Hillary Clinton told CNN the city made a mistake not to deport someone that the federal government should have deported: “I have absolutely no support for a city that ignores the strong evidence that should be acted upon.”

“The following day her campaign stated, ‘Hillary Clinton believed that sanctuary cities can help further public safety, and has defended those policies going back years.’

“Kate Steidle’s murderer had been deported five times, and had seven felony convictions. As a sanctuary city, San Francisco refused requests from ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and released him a short time before he shot her.

“This is just one of thousands of similar stories.<sup>4</sup> I am certain that Kate’s father, in whose arms she screamed for help, would be quite moved by the compassion of those wishing to provide safe haven for the likes of her killer. Imagining myself in his place inspires me to oppose this insane idea every step of the way.

“The designation ‘sanctuary city’

has no precise legal meaning, but generally applies to cities that do not allow the use of municipal funds or resources to assist in the enforcement of national immigration laws, and may forbid their police or municipal employees to inquire about a person’s immigration status or share such information with immigration enforcement, and by ensuring that all residents have access to city service regardless of immigration status.

“Top 10 countries of foreign-born New York inmates were from Mexico, Central and South America, and Caribbean nations, totaling the thousands. Those from Europe were from Denmark, Czechoslova-

kia, Netherlands, Switzerland, Ireland, totaling 11.<sup>5</sup>

“Interestingly, from the UK, there were 49. Coincidentally, at the same time, ‘Muhammed’ overtook the top spot in English baby names!<sup>6</sup>

“Run a Nexis search for the words ‘fraud,’ ‘food stamp,’ ‘Medicare,’ and ‘insurance,’ and if your computer doesn’t implode, it will produce enough difficult-to-pronounce foreign names to fill a Howard Zinn book. A sanctuary city is nothing more than a foreign-born criminal magnet.

“Of course, halting and preventing illegal immigration is a first step in preventing crime by illegal

immigrants. The first thing you do when the tub is overflowing, creating expensive repairs, is to shut the water off.

“But giving those whose misguided compassion promotes this proposal, and will try to convince you that America’s greatness rests in its ‘diversity,’ rather than in its freedom and Judeo-Christian foundation, the benefit of the doubt, I propose a compromise.

“Rather than establishing Gill as a sanctuary city, the town should allow sanctuary residences. Those homeowners would be responsible for the following: Pursuing and assisting and establishing legal immigration

status. Determining criminal records, if any, can be made available to federal and local law enforcement agencies. Feed, house, clothe, and provide medical care without federal or state assistance until legally able to work. Regularly report progress toward employment and obtaining legal status to INS, the Commonwealth, and the town of Gill. Agree to be co-responsible legally, and civilly, for any criminal activity while housed in a sanctuary residence.

“I ask my fellow residents of Gill to aggressively oppose this dangerous initiative, and work toward replacing any member of this board who supports it. Thank you.”

## The Reporter Checks the Facts:

1. The figures Bourbeau cites for the “cost of illegal immigration” in Massachusetts trace to the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), a lobbying group that seeks to reduce immigration to the United States. FAIR does not make its methodology easily available, but we can try to reverse-engineer it by looking at some of the “State Cost Studies” it has published for other states.

FAIR says it starts from its somewhat liberal guess at our state’s “illegal alien population” in 2010 – 190,000, or about 2.9% of the state population of 6.54 million. It then tries to estimate the share of public spending accounted for by this segment of the population.

Let’s look at education. The state of Massachusetts itself spent \$5.2 billion on education in 2010, with another \$13.4 billion coming from the local level. FAIR says it reached to its “\$1 billion” figure by taking \$839.3 million – which could be reached by multiplying \$13,454, Massachusetts’ average 2010 per-pupil cost, by about 62,000 kids – and then adding \$168.8 million in spending on English language learners. (It is entirely unclear to us where the last figure comes from, or that it’s not already included in the per-pupil figure.)

FAIR says it includes citizen children of undocumented adults when calculating the “cost of illegal immigration.” Furthermore, the organization’s figures do not purport to be net costs – simply total public expenditures.

On their website, they do gesture at providing a “net” figure by subtracting an estimate of state tax revenue paid by undocumented

residents, but this makes no sense in the case of education, which is funded primarily from local coffers. Nationwide, 35% of undocumented immigrants are homeowners, according to a 2009 Pew Hispanic Center study, and the money tenant households spend on rent contributes directly to the local tax base by providing revenue streams for landowners who pay property taxes.

Even if, like FAIR, we could stretch to amass a billion dollars in annual transfers associated with educating Massachusetts children whose parents are unauthorized immigrants, the resulting figure cannot be described as a “cost” in any meaningful sense of the word.

2. Wong’s quote actually ends at “unemployment.” Bourbeau, or someone, seems to have transcribed the next sentence from the Wikipedia entry for “sanctuary cities.”

Wong’s January 2017 paper, “The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Environment,” provides his data and methodology, and we recommend readers check it out.

3. Trust is a subjective thing. But if he were truly curious, Bourbeau could have followed Wikipedia’s citation trail through to such papers as Nik Theodore’s “Insecure Communities: Latino Perceptions of Police Involvement in Immigration Enforcement” (U-Illinois Chicago Department of Urban Planning and Policy, 2013), or Mai Thi Nguyen and Hannah Gill’s “Interior immigration enforcement: the impacts of expanding local law enforcement authority” (*Urban Studies*, 2015).

Both studies, unlike FAIR’s, provide methodology that can be examined, weighed and contested.

4. This echoes President Trump’s assertion that “thousands of Americans have been killed by illegal immigrants.”

Without a timeframe or citation, this is a meaningless statistic, and it is unclear whether it should be viewed as any kind of notable problem. After all, hundreds of thousands of Americans have been killed by American citizens. Even the conservative Cato Institute has concluded that “[w]ith few exceptions, immigrants are less crime prone than natives or have no effect on crime rates.”

Every tragic murder could have been preventable by some prior policy or action, but this does not help us deduce what sort of policies or actions would be effectively targeted to reducing murder.

As a point of comparison, two-thirds of homicides are committed with firearms, but it would widely be considered an impingement on liberty, and an exercise in collective punishment, to attempt to remove firearms from the country.

5. These figures are pulled from “The Impact of Foreign-Born Inmates of the New York State Department of Correctional Services, July 2008,” which gave a head count as of December 31, 2007.

By this point in his argument, Bourbeau is not attempting to distinguish between legal and illegal immigrants. This sample of incarceration reflects relative rates of crime, but also differential law enforcement outcomes, and more than

either of those, differential distribution in the general population.

Currently, 48.6% of immigrants in New York State are from Latin America and the Caribbean, while 1.4% are from the UK.

What’s interesting to note is that 22.9% of New York’s residents are foreign-born, but only 10.4% of its prisoners in this sample are. The other 89.6% of the prisoners come from the native-born 77.1% of the state population, meaning that per capita, US-born New Yorkers were 2.6 times likelier to be in these prisons than their foreign-born counterparts.

From the data we could round up, it looks like these native-born Americans were also incarcerated in New York prisons at a higher rate than most of the “Top Ten” birth nationalities on the list: lower than Jamaica and the Dominican Republic, but higher than Mexico, El Salvador, and Colombia.

So what is Bourbeau hoping we infer from this random 2008 prison roster? If he’s implying that our immigration policy should be determined by the relative desirability of nations of origin, he should realize that the data he has cherry-picked could just as inane be used to illustrate Mexican and Salvadoran arrivals bringing New York’s crime rate down.

6. The most popular baby names in England and Wales in 2015, for boys, were Oliver, Jack, Harry, George, Jacob, Charlie, Noah, William, Thomas, and Oscar. (Source: Office for National Statistics.)

Muhammed did become the most popular baby name in 2015 in London. London is actually a city.

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# ... Sue Kramer's Actual Response to Bourbeau:

"I don't think this is the venue for a debate about immigration, which I think you're trying to make it. That's not what we're doing here. We're talking about states' rights versus the federal government.

"When we control our police department as a town, and decide what we want our police to do: that's what we're talking about.

"I was really glad to hear the police chief say that he just wants to enforce the law, and I think that's great. And when you pull somebody over, and you ask them if they're an immigrant, and you take them away because they're an immigrant – that's not our business; I don't think it's our business.

"And I think we're going to find out it's unconstitutional to be attacking groups in this country the way we are right now. And it's unconstitutional to be taking our state rights away from us.

"So, that's going to be settled in the courts, and we're not debating that. I think what we're trying to say is that our town – our country – has always been a certain way. And you're saying, you know, it's bad that we're diverse, and it's bad that too many people are named Muhammed.

"But it's patriotic to welcome people to this country. It's always been our thing to welcome immigrants, and to welcome people. And they built this country.

"To say that immigrants are creating most of the crime – if you want, I didn't come here with my statistics; I could probably come up with statistics that counter your statistics. But that's not what we're doing tonight. That's a debate: who's creating the crime, and I don't really think it's mostly immigrants creating the crime, the way you're trying to project it.

"So immigrants have build this country, and they have businesses, and they are adding a lot – and even if they're illegal, a lot of them are having children here and are taking part in our society, and are helping this country be what it is. And I think we just need to show our children that we are an open, accepting society.

"I was a teacher my whole life, and the main thing I'm worried about is what kids are going to think. That we're already hearing about all of these people – there's been a lot more anger toward different people since this new president came in. And children are confused by it. What is going on? Kids in classrooms are picking on other children by the way they look, and what their name is.

"And we need to be showing children that we are a kind country, and that the patriotic, Christian thing to do – which we've always done – is to welcome people here.

"I just can't stand the thought of what this is doing to young people

who are hearing all this anger being directed at people because they're different. And this isn't what I was going to talk about, but I guess I'm reacting to you, Gary.

"What I feel is that the police should be able to just do their job, pull somebody over – they do a great job, they find the people who are breaking the law, they punish them for it.

"There's no reason for the cop to say to the person, "where do you

live, where do you come from, how long have you lived here?" That's not their job! And I think they're going to find out, when they challenge the Constitutional thing, that it's not their job. I think we'll find out soon enough.

"But in the meantime, I think it's making the cops' job easier, to not have to get into that. Just do your job the way you've always done it! That's my feeling."

## And then Chief David Hastings said:

"We still ask people for their addresses and all that – don't misunderstand. Doing our jobs includes knowing where you're from, what you're doing, things like that. I just don't want any misconception.

"And people have been picking on each other for years. I don't care where you come from or what you look like."

## So Kramer asked him:

"But when you look at that person and find out – you go back in your car and check out any outstanding warrants, that's what you do, right?

"You know that that person's illegal, then you don't now have to do anything about that – you just have to challenge what law they've broken."

## Hastings replied:

"We in Gill aren't going to place them under arrest. That doesn't mean the federal government can't arrest them."

## Kramer:

"But you don't have to bring them to the federal government either..."

## Hastings:

"We would not bring them to the federal government."



## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

**Anybody been hankering for an ice cream?** Help is on the way. The Country Creemee, on the corner of Second Street and Avenue A in Turners Falls, re-opens for the season this Saturday, April 1. That's no April Fool.

**Town finances and budgets** got you scratching your head? John Hanold and Michael Naughton from the town of Montague's finance committee will try to explain on Saturday, April 1, starting at 10 a.m. at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls.

Hanold and Naughton are experienced, longtime members of this most important branch of our town government. With the May 6 annual town meeting fast approaching, and the constant increasing costs vs. shrinking revenues, here is the opportunity to bring questions, concerns and engage in conversations with these appointed volunteers, keeping watch over our public treasury.

Also on Saturday, from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the First Congregational church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield, Racial Justice Rising presents Ashfield Attorney Buz Eisenberg speaking on **racial inequities in our criminal legal system**.

Eisenberg has practiced law for over three decades and has handled a variety of criminal, civil, and civil rights cases. He has taught courses in law and government at Greenfield

Community College for 16 years.

Doors open at 9:45, and light refreshments will be available. Donations are most welcome. For more information, visit [www.racial-justicerising.org](http://www.racial-justicerising.org).

**Free Tech Help** will once again be available weekly at the Carnegie Library, starting April 1. The service will be offered Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Scheduling an appointment is suggested, but walk-ins will also be welcome, if the schedule allows.

Topics can include ordering library books, downloading tax forms, word processing, internet use and security, online shopping, help with applications, downloading e-books, Excel, Facebook and other social media, and email. The instructor is Bridget Mientka.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call 863-3214.

**Former Montreal Expo player, Greenfield High School star athlete,** and current LA Dodgers scout **Peter Bergeron** will speak about baseball at 1 p.m. on Sunday, April 2, at the Greenfield Public Library.

Bergeron will draw the winning ticket for the Friends of the Library's current Red Sox Raffle, which benefits the Janice Bohonowicz Memorial Fund. Tickets cost 1 for \$5 or 3 for \$10, and are available at the library.

Is your computer making you crazy? Are your devices driving

you nuts? Veronica Phaneuf will be teaching a series of **free technology workshops at the Gill Montague Senior Center** at 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls on Tuesday mornings through May.

The April 4 class will be on Windows 10, and the April 11 class will be about smart phones & tablets. Subsequent classes will cover online banking, internet safety, accessing services and agencies online, social media, and online shopping.

These classes are free and open to the public, with funding from the state Executive Office of Elder Affairs. To sign up for one or more topics or for additional information, call the Gill-Montague Senior Center at (413) 863-9357.

As the sun begins to set, the stage is ready for the **woodcock to perform his courtship** flight. An unusual bird, also known as the Timberdoodle, it performs an airborne ritual accompanied by a variety of unique sounds.

On Wednesday, April 5, from 6:30 until 8:30 p.m., join Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center for "Woodcocks at Twilight". It is a spring tradition not to be missed!

The program will begin with an indoor introduction, followed by a twilight walk to experience the courtship flight of the woodcock. Dress warmly, wear boots and dark clothes, and bring a blanket to sit on and binoculars if possible. Please be prepared to sit quietly outdoors for 30 minutes.

This free public program is appropriate for anyone age 10 and older. Please call to pre-register at 1 (800) 859-2960.

"**Parenting in the Age of Legal Marijuana**" is a free evening at the Franklin County Tech School for adults who raise, care for, and edu-

cate young people. The event is held on Thursday, April 6, with a free light dinner from 5:30 to 6 p.m., and a presentation with questions and answers from 6 to 8 p.m.

Dr. Jennifer Michaels of the Brien Center for Mental Health and Substance Abuse, an assistant professor at the UMass Medical School, will cover numerous topics including marijuana's effect on the teen brain, speaking to your child about legalization, and what to know about vaping and edibles.

If you require childcare, please call Kara at (413) 863-7512.

**The Speaker Sisterhood**, a network of public speaking clubs for women, is hosting two open houses for women who want to be more confident public speakers.

The Northampton Club open house will be held Thursday, April 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Click Workspace at 9-1/2 Market Street in Northampton and will be led by Cathy McNally, a corporate communication trainer with a background in standup and improv comedy.

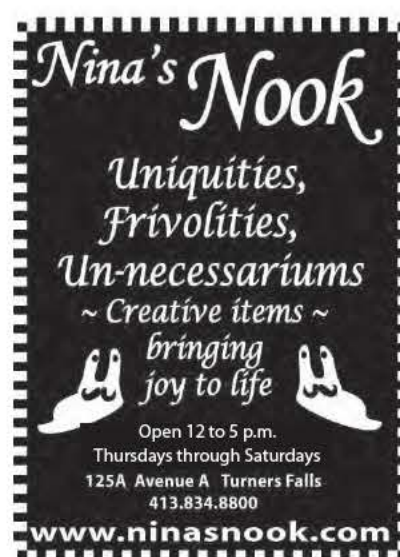
The Greenfield open house will take place Tuesday, April 18, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at 170 Main Street, Greenfield and will be led by documentarian and communication coach Carlyn Saltman, innovator of the "Video Mirror Feedback" coaching method.

**The Friends of Sheffield School** are holding a Trivia Game Night at the Montague Elks, 1 Elk Drive, Turners Falls on Friday, April 7. Doors open at 6:30, contest starts at 7 p.m. with a \$10 per person fee. For more information, email [friends\\_of\\_sheffield@gmail.com](mailto:friends_of_sheffield@gmail.com).

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## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF LEVERETT, MASSACHUSETTS

Notice is hereby given that the Leverett Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Wednesday April 12, 2017** at 8 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall to review proposed zoning by-law changes.

These changes involve:  
(i) substituting in many instances the Zoning Board of Appeals for the Planning Board as the Special Permit Granting Authority, (ii) permitting accessory apartments of increased size and in more single-family structures, (iii) deleting Section 3700 Rate of Development, and (iv) changing the requirement for small-scale ground-mounted solar electric systems greater than 9 feet high and not greater than 20 feet high from special permit to site review approval and permitting, with a special permit, such systems in excess of 20 feet high and not greater than 35 feet high, and (iv) deleting the words "Site Plan Review" in section 4970.12.c.(ii).

The full texts of the proposed changes are available at the Leverett Town Clerk's Office during her regular hours.

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IP MILL from page A1

be stripped off Building 2, and the interior cleaned and renovated. Then, a second structure – a new light industrial building – would be constructed at the property.

The second option is demolition of every building on the site, including Building 2 and the pumphouse, and the construction of two new mixed-use commercial/industrial or light industrial buildings.

Because much of the property lies within the riverfront buffer zone and has steep grades, new construction is restricted. Sherer suggested creating a park or trails on the less developable portion of the property.

The first option, with an estimated cost of \$20 million, would result in more available building square footage, because the current Building 2 footprint would be used. The estimated cost of the second option, the complete demolition of all buildings, is approximately \$10 million.

Millers Falls resident and Arts Bridge director Richard Widmer said that Building 2 itself tells a story: of good times at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when the building was constructed and nearby factory work supported the village of Millers Falls, of an expansive mood in the late 1960s and again in the early 1990s, and then of abandonment and decay in the 2000s.

According to the Tighe & Bond feasibility study, the mill closed abruptly in 2000. The town acquired the property in June 2014 for non-payment of taxes. Widmer commented, “Mill jobs fueled

Millers. Without the mills, Millers is dying away.”

Judging by the people who attended the March 22 walk-through and discussion, some people in Erving and beyond are determined to create a new chapter in the story of the former mill.

The entire selectboard, finance committee member Daniel Hammock, police chief Christopher Blair, fire chief Philip Wonkka, planning board chair Jacqueline Boyden, highway superintendent Glenn McCrory, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, Franklin Regional Council of Governments director of planning and development Peggy Sloan, and senior economic development planner Jessica Atwood all attended the meeting.

Four MassDevelopment senior staff also attended the walk-through and discussion. According to its website, MassDevelopment is “the Commonwealth’s economic development and finance authority.” To stimulate business and economic growth, MassDevelopment “partners with banks to provide a wealth of financing solutions. We also provide extensive real estate expertise and offer highly targeted programs aimed at specific audiences.”

Julie Cowan, MassDevelopment’s western region vice president of business development, told the meeting that their agency can support the town with ideas and connections to other funding programs.

Frank Cannon, western region vice president for investment banking, told the group that MassDevel-

opment works with commercial lenders, and may provide loan guarantees for housing and manufacturing projects. He said that where housing is part of the mix of uses, tax-exempt bonds could be issued.

Pat Sluder, senior vice president for new markets, spoke about New Market Tax Credits, a highly competitive federal program used as an incentive for private developers to invest in redevelopment. She called the estimated costs of either option for the site “very doable.”

And Richard Griffin, western region vice president for community development, gave an overview of loan programs targeted to both developers and to municipalities. He said that matching grants are available for collaborative workspaces – development where, instead of one large business moving into a redeveloped property, a number of smaller businesses share a building.

After the MassDevelopment delegation and FRCOG staff left, selectboard member Scott Bastarache said he had asked Cowan to let him know about potential funding sources, expecting her to say she might get back to him within the month. He said she surprised him when she offered to email the information within the next three days.

Development of the former mill is an expensive project, potentially \$10 to \$20 million as estimated by Tighe & Bond. It’s a very expensive project even for a financially sound town such as Erving. Bastarache said he felt optimism on hearing that, to MassDevelopment staff, the cost



Last Wednesday’s walk-through was followed by a meeting at the senior center.

seemed nothing out of the ordinary for redevelopment of an old mill.

The selectboard, Erving citizens, and Widmer continued the discussion until past 12:30 p.m., apparently unwilling to leave while brainstorming ways to move forward. Several participants munched on the cookies provided by the senior center and remarked that they should leave to eat a real lunch.

Jacob Smith, who had taken time off from his day job, had to leave to work at that job. Bastarache said he had taken vacation time to attend the walk-through, but he had promised to meet his wife for lunch – and he was running late. The board asked administrative coordinator Bryan Smith to add the IP Mill discussion to the next selectboard meeting agenda.

The brainstormers agreed that

hard work and obstacles lie ahead. The board needs to answer the question “where will the money come from?” It needs to develop a vision and design for the property, prepare grant applications and loan applications, provide explanations at public hearings, survive town meeting votes and market the site to potential developers.

The participants remaining appeared to be optimistic, engaged and determined as they left the meeting room and walked out to the parking lot.

At Monday night’s selectboard meeting, Bryan Smith said that Cowan had contacted him on Friday to say that MassDevelopment staff were “reviewing everything in the [feasibility study] document, and reviewing what they can offer us.”



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Erving Sends TFHS Team Name Poll to Ballot

By KATIE NOLAN

At Monday night’s selectboard meeting, Erving Elementary School principal James Trill presented a final FY’18 budget of \$2.93 million, \$22,000 higher than the draft budget presented in January.

The reasons Trill cited for the increase were: loss of a \$13,000 early childhood education grant, planning for increased early childhood enrollment, an increase in the instructional coordinator position from 0.6 to 0.8 full-time equivalent, and staff professional development costs. Both the board and the finance committee voted to approve the elementary school budget.

With the school budget finalized, the board approved the annual town meeting warrant, with a FY’18 budget of \$9.9 million. The warrant for the May 3 meeting will be posted and sent for printing in the “Around Town” newsletter this week.

## Weighing In

The board approved putting a non-binding, advisory referendum on the May 8 town ballot supporting use of a graphic portraying a member of a local indigenous tribe for the Turners Falls High School athletic team

logo. The referendum also requests increased curriculum attention to Native Americans.

Erving has a tuition agreement with TFHS and sends a portion of its middle and high school students there. The Gill-Montague school committee voted last month to discontinue the use of the “Indians” team name and logo.

The petition, signed by more than ten registered voters, as is usual for placing a referendum on a town ballot, was presented to town clerk Richard Newton.

However, Newton sent the petition to the selectboard because fewer than 10% of registered voters had signed the petition. Newton provided citations to Massachusetts General Laws stating that, to place a non-binding advisory referendum on the ballot less than 90 days before the election, it must have the approval of “the governing body” – that is, the selectboard – unless the petition is signed by 10% of the registered voters.

The board took no position on the subject of the referendum, but approved putting the referendum on the town ballot, “so the public can weigh in,” according to the selectboard chair Jacob Smith. A notice of the referendum

was also placed on the annual town meeting warrant.

## Senior Housing

Bruce Hunter, infrastructure coordinator for the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, recommended moving money from the housing rehabilitation revolving loan fund to pay for planning stages of senior housing.

The board approved moving \$15,000 from the rehab fund for studying senior housing, and another \$5,000 for senior housing planning.

Hunter said that a senior housing study would establish existing conditions at the proposed senior housing site near the senior and community center, and provide options for the type of building and the number of units to be built. Hunter said the revolving loan fund has a current balance of \$125,927, and approximately \$126,000 out in loans.

## Other Business

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith reported that the advertising for an April-to-October park maintenance employee produced only two applications, one of them incomplete. “Should we consider it a fail and re-advertise with a new job de-

scription?” he asked.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said that highway foreman Glenn McCrory had said he would be able to get the town athletic fields ready for this season, so the town had “a little bit of time to step back” and reconsider how to staff the position. The other board members decided to discuss the position at a future meeting.

The board received the layout plan for Care Drive, which was never officially accepted as a public way. Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said the planning board would meet and decide whether to approve the layout on Thursday.

The board approved “seeding” the proposed Council on Aging food service revolving fund with \$3,000, transferred from the Medicare ride program.

The board approved buying a \$1,133 liability policy for the property at 34 Northfield Road.

The board signed a contract with the Lower Pioneer Valley Educational Cooperative for bulk purchase of heating oil, at a rate to be locked in when the market price is favorable.

Michael F. Brown was appointed assistant water operator until June 30, 2018.

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**DIDONATO** from page A1

different stakeholders into the decision-making process earlier, rather than later.

DiDonato thinks it's the job of the selectboard to "implement the will of the voters" at town meeting. He feels that there should be an effort to better inform voters before town meeting, to offer feedback on complex issues.

He states that "I have heard feedback from residents that they would like to hear a little bit more from the selectboard when an important article comes up." He would like to see more input from committees before the point that their work turns into

items on the town meeting warrant.

Ray also feels that the town needs to do a better job of communicating information to the citizens, although he knows that this is not easily done. He suggests a possible e-bulletin to be sent to members of the town periodically. He believes in public forums, although he acknowledges the challenge of getting people out to attend them. In spite of the difficulties, he says "we can always do better."

Ray identifies several important issues facing Wendell today. Among them are universal broadband, town finances, climate change, energy, and conservation. Broadband is a

critical part of infrastructure, especially for town children. The school budget is always a challenge, as costs continually rise.

Ray sees energy and conservation issues linked, requiring a balance between providing clean energy and at the same time conserving land and protecting it from development. He believes that it is worth the extra time to explore these issues before making decisions, in order to produce better outcomes.

Ray is an energetic, articulate, and involved member of the community, and promises that, given the chance, he won't let the voters down.





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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Conservation Corridor Grows

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Four people met the Wendell selectboard at its March 22 meeting: two with conservation issues, one with a zoning concern, and one with a hope to light the American flag through the night, as required by the flag code. But before any of them spoke, Becky Sokoloski met the board and accepted an appointment to the open space committee. She was sent to the town clerk right away to get sworn in.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that a request for quotes on dismantling the shed behind the meetinghouse needed rewriting, in view of the fact that little if any of the boards in the structure have any value.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that the next meeting should have a prepared request for proposals for taking soil out from the crawlspace under the town hall, replacing it with sand and a plastic vapor barrier, and insulating the town hall floor. The cost may be covered by grant money from the town's status as a Green Community, and the whole project may be divided into its smaller parts.

Aldrich reported two emails from facilities engineer, Jim Slavas. The office building circulation pumps for the heating system seized again to be replaced by smart ECM pumps. The glycol in the heating system is 10 years old, and ready for replacement.

Slavas also recommended putting aside \$5,000 a year for three years to pay for replacing the Johnson Control thermostat system with something that is more dependable.

This CR, along with one on the Diemand farm, another on property owned by Paul and Melinda Godfrey, a third on the farm of Bill and Laurel Facey, and a fourth on Hunting Farm in Montague are forming a land partnership trust that was facilitated by an \$800,000 state grant.

The two selectboard members present voted to accept Wendell's share of the CR.

Also with land preservation in mind, Kate Buttolph from Mass Audubon met the selectboard to discuss the 212-acre property around Bowens Pond, on the west side of Wendell Depot Road. The family that owns the property wants to keep the house and its lot, but allow the rest to remain open space.

Wendell's open space plan also favors preserving the pond. The pond has served as a water supply for Wendell's fire department, one of three dry hydrants in town.

The pond exists because of a dam, and no one wants to own the dam: not the town, not Mass Audubon, and not the family. It is in good condition now, and downstream of it there is little that would be destroyed by a breach, but a dam requires regular inspection by an engineer, which is expensive.

**Illumination**

At its February 8 meeting, the selectboard had read a proposal by citizen Harry Williston to install and shine, at his own expense, a night time light on the flag on the south end of the north common.

Apollo, the neighbor into whose window the light would shine, objected, and at that meeting selectboard member Jeoffrey Pooser said the town had other citizens who thought that adding to the light pollution in the center of town was a bad idea. The selectboard decided to decline on the offer.

Williston came to this March 22 meeting and made his offer again, saying he disagreed with that decision. He said that the flag code, which is not enforceable, says that if the flag is flying through the night it must be illuminated. It is only decent respect for the flag, he said: for

what it stands for, and for the sacrifices made for it.

He said he lights the flag at his house with the same kind of light that he proposed for the town flag, mounted at the top of the pole and shining straight down, not out or up. It requires almost no maintenance, maybe a battery change after several years.

Pooser said that a non-scientific informal questioning brought out more objections to the light.

Keller suggested an open hearing on the flag issue – not at the next regular scheduled selectboard meeting, April 5, because at that meeting a \$160,000 increase in Wendell's Swift River School assessment, coupled with a \$100,000 increase for New Salem, will be discussed by selectboard, finance committee, and school committee members.

The hearing was set for the following meeting, April 19. Williston agreed to meet then.

**Documentation**

After the March 16 special town meeting returned to the planning board the article that would have created special zoning for a meetinghouse lot, planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger met the selectboard to find out what can be done to give the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse clear enough ownership of the building and its lot, so they can apply for grants, and continue to restore the building.

The meetinghouse was built in 1846, when "if you built it, you owned it." Through the end of the twentieth century the congregation shrank, and eventually could not afford to maintain the building. In 2002 they gave it to the Friends, but with an erroneous deed, which was not registered.

Riebschlaeger wanted to consult town counsel to clarify the situation, to find out if the Friends could legally build on the non-conforming meetinghouse lot after it is separated from the town-owned cemetery.

Pooser cautioned that research into the background would be expensive, but he said a few questions on the telephone would be allowable.

**KELLER** from page A1

lack of civility has a chilling effect on discussion, making people hesitate to speak up, preventing honest communication among citizens. He believes that it is important that discourse be conducted on a professional level, so that different points of view don't become reduced to personal attacks, and that the selectboard has a role in maintaining a positive atmosphere.

When asked what it takes to be a good selectboard member, Dan says it takes being a good listener, someone who will hear both sides and sympathize with and understand where both sides are coming from. For him, respect is "huge."

The selectboard member is called upon to "tie together disparate elements of town government and facilitate the working together of all groups in a harmonious way." He must be able to "foster collaboration" and consensus.

Although he admits that this is a difficult job, Dan says that, "We are blessed that it works most of the time," in reference to the relative lack of friction in the day-to-day workings of the board with the public.

Keller also identifies other issues at the forefront, such as money, and in that category, the difficult deci-

sions that the town must make about broadband service. In his mind, the question is not whether, but how to pay for it. Another money issue is school funding, which costs more every year, in large part because of increased enrollment and mandated spending for special education services, among other things.

He points out that revenue streams such as federal revenue sharing that towns have historically depended on are drying up, or at least remaining flat. One state program is PILOT, or "payments in lieu of taxes," which awards money for the maintenance of roads through the town forest, and has decreased dramatically over the years. Recently, the fund has begun to come back to some extent, but he says it takes energetic lobbying of state legislators to ensure that such state aid continues to be funded.

His concern is that more and more, the only real source of revenue is property tax money.

Many years ago Dan settled here with a group of friends hoping to get back to the land and live in community with artists, farmers, musicians, and idealists, seeking a more meaningful life. Wendell has given him a home, and he has given Wendell his own faithful service for over thirty years.



## Notes from the Wendell Town Clerk

It is time to renew your **dog or kennel license** NOW. The deadline is April 1. Licenses and tags are available between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and noon on Monday, Friday, and Saturday mornings, and 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday evenings.

The fee is \$4 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$8 for an intact dog. Every dog must have a valid rabies vaccination certificate presented to the Town Clerk at the time of licensing. If we have your certificate on record from last year, and it is still valid, you do not need to bring in the paperwork.

Dog owners age 70 and up and owners with a service dog do not pay a fee, but must still license their dogs. If you need the dog license and tags mailed to you, provide a double stamped self-addressed envelope with your written request.

The **Town Rabies Clinic** will be held on Saturday, April 1, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Town Highway Barn. The cost is \$20.

Dogs must be on leash and cats in a carrier. Dog Licensing will also be available at the Barn that day. Call the Dog Officer at (978) 544-7773 for more information.

**Town Election** this year is on Monday, May 1 and polls will be open from noon to 8 p.m.

The 2017 ballot includes nominees Raymond DiDonato for selectboard (contested position), Amy Palmer for school committee (to fill a vacancy), and Phil Delorey for road commissioner.

Other open positions in need of a write-in candidate include 3-year positions on the board of health, cemetery commission, and school committee, and 1-year positions on the planning board, cemetery commission, and tree warden.

Candidates for reelection include: Daniel Keller, selectboard; Chris Wings, board of assessors; Gretchen Smith, town clerk; Penny Delorey, tax collector; Carolyn Manley, treasurer; Heather Reed, planning board; Kathleen Nolan, moderator; Johanna Bartlett, school committee; Judith Putnam and Sylvia Wetherby, library trustees.

The return rate for the **Annual Street Listing** form is at 70%. A second form will be mailed out April 1 to give the stragglers a second chance to respond.

Please fill out the form for every individual in your household including children of all ages. Correct any mistakes, and include new address information if a family member has moved away. Don't forget to have the Head of Household sign and date the form before returning it to the Town Clerk at P.O. Box 41.

If you do not receive a form in the next few weeks, please call the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x2, and leave your name and contact information, and we will mail you a blank form to complete.

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the poetry page

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

- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
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Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

April's  
Featured Poet:  
Laura Rodley

Slush

So strange, snow on the ground turning to slush.  
Yesterday it had a rock-hard crust.  
Even the stars are asking why,  
even the moon, her shining through  
even though half full.  
We, the keepers of the earth  
have our hands full of her stars,  
full of her promises,  
we are braiding them into blankets  
for our children, for the earth's children,  
we are carrying the light,  
no need of oil or lamps, just our love,  
the strongest beacon.

Pathway

Ampules of grace  
wanting me to drink them,  
amber, resin of rocks, dried insects.  
I live in the modern world  
but rocks turn to dust before me,  
boulders trips water for me to drink,  
coyotes leave prints  
to show me where to walk,  
then backtrack to follow me,  
icicles full of nectar, not sweet,  
not sour, but quenching.  
I only walk with grace;  
she follows me, melting.

Resurrected

Green rabbit ears emerging from the ground  
as tulips listen, if it's safe, the sound

of their breaking hard ground silent to us  
but to the buds' light inside, tremendous,

and there the ears reach up, sun's radio  
turned way down low, but all they need to grow

tall sturdy, burst open their tulip hearts,  
even through snow and ice cap cement, false starts.

They heave their lush beauty, tall black stamens,  
petals fringed or softly curved; as night turns in

closing up their subtle fragrance, then open,  
mirrored in their inherent gloss, each fin

of petal floating through air, catching rays,  
sun's radio turned up so loud it brays.

Return of the Tigers

Steadily placing padded paw on parched plateau,  
stripes hiding his hauteur, his intent,  
shadows of banyan trees shield his black stripes,  
as he steps into the clearing to taste the dusty sky  
nilgais raced through quarter hour ago;  
tiger inhales the estrogen levels of their stress,  
the cortisol and protein released in molecules of their breath.  
He strides, stretching out his length as though yawning  
while the nilgais stampede, tiring out.  
One falls, which is what he wanted,  
though fully capable of leaping and breaking necks.

The land gives him everything he needs:  
he barely has to want it  
and the nilgais and wild boars appear.  
He barely has to feel rumbling in his long belly  
to note rumbling of their past stampede,  
the width of his paws feeling their tremble,  
how they shook the ground.

It is all so easy,  
living on the edge, as he does,  
the edge of hunger with no refrigerator.  
If it rains, he crouches under banana grove leaves,  
and licks his paws to quench his thirst.

If he is lonely, he stretches open his wide mouth  
and roars.  
God hears.

The Distance

To travel on your tongue  
cross hot sand, tidal pools,

is that not the work of snails,  
periwinkles, conchs and whelks,

constantly lifting the edge  
of your tongue, your feet,

the snail climbing over crystalized dirt,  
up the tomato plant's leaf,

or leaf of an eggplant and devouring it.  
The taste of the earth your entrée, your dessert,

the sharp lemon tang of tomato leaves your perfume.  
Does the earth tell you her secrets as you linger?

Does she exhale the heaviness of oil and radiant heat?  
So brave you are to trundle across stones, or sand

while I sleep, so secure, for there's  
nothing else you must do.

California's Rose

Ponderosa, too proud to beg,  
will not beg for water;  
instead she thickens her trunk,  
reaches deeper with her roots,  
drenching for water underground  
without a holding tank  
to maintain it, the phloem  
between bark and her heart,  
the motivation for living,  
how she stands with others  
bracing the forest, holding  
the mountain ledge in place.

Ponderosa, a tree of dreaming,  
though forest fires stream  
around, and through her,  
sometimes surviving with charred bark,  
sometimes not, the intense heat  
accelerating her growth, decades  
of timed growing whittled to minutes;  
if her heart can sustain it,  
she'll outlive the fire;  
if her heart cracks,  
she'll be fodder for its burning.

Visitor

The bear follows me,  
flushes himself out  
without my seeing him,  
just hearing his breaking brush,  
always to the left, never to the right.  
He climbed up the maple tree  
to cry at my window,  
mewing sounds,  
barely audible  
with scars or new wounds  
raked down his glossy coat  
that shone back grey in the flashlight,  
the double-paned glass  
hiding his eyes.  
He looked down, up,  
how much farther could he climb,  
barely fifteen feet away,  
as though he'd forgotten  
how to climb down,  
mewing, staying long enough  
for me to get a second flashlight  
to see him better,  
then he descended,  
scampered back into the woods.  
And here, on the train,  
a bear embossed on a plaque  
reading, this car refurbished  
by Amtrak Bear Delaware,  
the town where my grandfather lived,  
where he was a minister.  
He wouldn't have done the refurbishing,  
but he could have ministered  
to any one of the workers;  
is he following me, flushed up  
ahead, furnishing grace,  
allowing me solace at every turn?

We are pleased this month to feature the work of Laura Rodley from Shelburne Falls. Laura's awards are many: Pushcart Prize winner; quintuple Pushcart Prize nominee; quintuple Best of Net, in Best Indie Lit NE. Publisher Finishing Line Press nominated *Your Left Front Wheel Is Coming Loose* for the PEN L.L.Winship Award. *Rappelling Blue Light* was a Mass Book Award nominee.

Former co-curator of the Collected Poets Series, Laura teaches As You Write It class, edited and published *As You Write It: A Franklin County Anthology*, Volumes I through V, nominated for a Mass Book Award. She has also been a consecutive participant in "30 poems in 30 days," writing a poem a day for 30 days to raise money for Literacy Project.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Airport Search, Election Warrant, Stage Ramp Job Highlight Brief Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of March 27 lacked drama and controversy, although it dealt with some very large appropriations and the warrant for the town’s May annual election. The meeting also lacked a live audience, beyond two members of the press and several officials speaking for specific agenda items. And for some reason, all the agenda items appeared under the heading “Town Administrator’s Report.” So, in essence, the entire thirty-five minute meeting was devoted to a report by town administrator Steve Ellis.

The first item on the agenda-report was a vote by the board to “execute Clean Water Trust Interim Loan Note” of \$1,541,745. This borrowing is being used to pay for two completed sewer pump station projects, one on First Street and the other on Poplar Street.

According to Ellis, the original town meeting appropriation for this project was approximately \$3 million, so the projects “came in well under that.” The final tally for the project, according to Ellis, is just over \$2 million, since \$500,000 has already been bonded.

Next the board approved a service order-quote of \$4,071.50 from Crocker Telecommunications for “Executable Network Services” at

town hall. This involves the purchase of new telephones at a cost of approximately \$3,000, installation of the phones, and the installation of new broadband.

“It’s been a long time since we’ve had a phone upgratd,” noted Chris Boutwell.

“I am really looking forward to getting email notification of a phone message if I am away,” replied Ellis.

Next Ellis presented an update on the search for a new Turners Falls airport manager. The previous manager, Mickey Longo, had abruptly resigned when he found a job with benefits. The airport manager’s hours are limited to nineteen per week, which is just under the threshold for benefits.

Ellis stated that the airport commission had formed a search committee that includes two members of the commission, a pilot, a member of the Franklin County Radio Control Club, and a citizen named John Reynolds.

Ellis said the committee had already received two applications for the job. The deadline for applications in April 7. There is a posting about the job on the town’s website.

Next the board executed the warrant for the May 15 annual town election. This consisted of reading all the positions up for election, including town meeting members in

the six precincts, as well as the precinct locations for voting.

Also read onto the warrant was a non-binding public opinion referendum question on whether to retain the Turners Falls High School Indian mascot or logo. The school committee has already voted to eliminate the logo but the selectboard recently voted to keep the question on the town ballot. Erving will also vote on the issue, while the Gill selectboard rejected a request to put the question on their spring ballot.

The board appointed Steve Ellis to be the Montague representative on the board of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and Rich Kuklewicz to serve as the alternate rep.

Next the board considered a request from the Gill-Montague Regional School District to add \$20,000 to a previous appropriation of \$60,000. These funds, voted by last September’s special town meeting, are to be used to renovate the Hillcrest Elementary School auditorium stage to house classrooms.

GMRSD business manager Joanne Blier explained that the increased cost was due to an “enlarged” plan, which requires extending the stage so that a ramp could be along the wall instead of at the front of the stage. The original frontal ramp was not the architect’s “favor-

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ite idea,” according to Blier.

Blier also said that she had spoken to town accountant Carolyn Olsen, and was told the new appropriation can probably be financed by unexpended funds from two previous town meeting appropriations – one for the boiler of Sheffield Elementary, and the other for “school security.”

Under questioning, Blier told the board that the cost might go as high as \$84,000, with an additional \$24,000 appropriation required. The board then voted to place the article on the warrant without a specific dollar amount. The details will be worked out for the motions that appear on town meeting floor.

Bruce Hunter of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority requested that the board execute a contract with the electrical contractor M.L. Schmitt to extend the lighting on Avenue A and into Peskeompskut Park. The amount of the contract, which the selectboard

approved, was \$198,700.

Hunter said there would be a “preconstruction meeting” on Thursday, March 30 to which the police, fire department, water department and “anyone else who would like to come” had been invited. The start up date on the contract, he said, was “tomorrow” (March 28). “They want to get it done as soon as they can, weather permitting,” stated Hunter.

At the end of the meeting, Ellis announced an event at the Greenfield Savings Bank (282 Avenue A in Turners Falls) on Saturday, April 2 at 10 a.m. “We’re referring to it as the ‘budget dance,’ apparently,” said Ellis. It will consist of long time finance committee members John Hanold and Mike Naughton discussing and answering questions about the Montague budget. “Light refreshments” will be served, and “no reservations will be required.”

The next scheduled Montague selectboard meeting will be on Monday April 3 at 7 p.m.

## GMRSD from page A1

“I want to be very careful about creating some sort of process that we won’t be able to follow through with,” said Lesley Cogswell.

April Reipold, who is running for re-election in May, suggested the criteria should be set after the election, but no one else agreed with that. “Setting the criteria really should be us,” Smith said.

## Early Suggestions

Student representative Riley Wood shared the results of a survey the student council took at the high school. The 137 students who participated, out of a student body of 227, overwhelmingly favored retaining the Indian name, though Wood noted that “a larger margin than I thought didn’t care.”

The most common answer respondents gave when asked for as an alternative to the Indians was the Indians. The next most popular names suggested were the Titans, the Tarigrades, the Blue Wave, the Blue Jays, and Powertown.

Wood also reported that the senior prom would be held on May 13, at a country club in Holyoke, at a cost of \$60 per attendee. The theme this year, he said, was something about romance.

The meeting’s public comment period was taken up entirely by the sports topic. Student Emily Young asked why superintendent Michael Sullivan had not met with middle schoolers about the issue after some participated in a walkout February 15. Sullivan said that he had met with high schoolers, but committee chair Michael Langknecht cut him short with a reminder that public comments would not be used for back-and-forth discussion.

Mike Cadran pointed out that

state legislators were considering a bill to ban Native American logos and mascots statewide, and suggested that the committee should defer to their decision. “Wait and see what the lawmakers do,” Cadran said. “If the state of Massachusetts feels it’s okay to keep said logos and mascots, so be it.... why don’t you just take a few more weeks, or a month or two, and wait and see?”

Rachel Baker, a former teacher, reported that an online fundraiser she had started on *GoFundMe.com* to defray the district’s costs for new equipment and uniforms had so far raised \$5,915 from 135 donors. “I don’t think that everyone who’s donating necessarily wants the logo to change,” she noted, “but I think that people want to support the students.”

And Chris Pinardi read a statement about a recent public records request and subsequent open meeting law complaint he had filed.

## Open Meeting Law Complaint

Massachusetts open meeting law prohibits a quorum of any public body from deliberating in private.

Pinardi’s complaint pointed out that according to March 8, 2016 school committee minutes, it was “stated that information that is confidential should not be sent through email because once that is done it becomes a public record,” and he argued that “this is an intentional act by the GMRSD to circumvent the open meeting laws.”

The complaint also cited a reference to a discussion at the same meeting clarifying whether superintendent Michael Sullivan may share information with only one member, and requested that “all information shared with any member of the committee be likewise

shared with ALL members of the committee and refrain from email, telephone, and text chain mail (which are prohibited by law)”.

“The timing of these two statements,” Pinardi read Tuesday, “seems curious, given the proximity to the meeting that was to follow shortly after.” (The committee was first approached in May 2016 with a public request to reconsider the Indian team name.)

Later in the meeting, the committee discussed the complaint, as it was required to send a response to the state attorney general.

Smith said she reviewed the video of the meeting Pinardi’s complaint cited, and that she had been the one to warn against sending confidential information over email. The context, she said, was a policy discussion over the handling of material from executive sessions; she had voiced concern over health insurance negotiation minutes that had recently been emailed to her and to town counsel.

The minutes from the executive session in question were ultimately placed on the public record in November.

“This was not in any way, matter, shape, or form, a violation of the open meeting law,” Smith said.

Sandy Brown said that according to the law, school committee members may communicate with one another, as long as they “don’t deliberate with a quorum,” and avoid doing so in effect by communicating in a “string.”

“There is no reason why I can’t call up someone and ask for clarification on something,” she said. “I think the person doesn’t really understand what it means to violate the open meeting law.”

Langknecht pointed out that Sullivan is not an elected official, and so

committee members may communicate with him without violating the law. “The issue that was questioned [in March 2016] was whether some members get information and other members don’t,” he said, and the committee didn’t feel “that was a good way to operate.”

Langknecht also wondered if Pinardi had conflated open meeting law and public records law.

District counsel at the Dupere Law Offices had reviewed Pinardi’s complaint and wrote: “In my opinion, none of his complaints have merit, and all are untimely.” The committee voted to share this opinion with the attorney general, and take no other action in response to Pinardi’s complaint.

The committee also voted unanimously to renew Dupere’s retainer through June 2018, at a cost to the district of \$1,400 per month.

“They have to work so hard for their money,” said Brown.

“This is a killer of a year,” Smith added.

## Administrators Report

A delegation from Sheffield School – principal Melissa Pitrat, vice principal Christine Limoges, literacy coach Kirsten Levitt – was joined by Gill-Montague Community School Partnership coordinator Jen Audley to give an in-depth report on progress toward improving literacy at the elementary school.

The report stressed the increased use of Responsive Classroom behavioral strategies, as well as deepening engagement with parents, but acknowledged that the school’s goal of having 50% or more of students score at least “proficient” on the PARCC exam had not been met.

Sullivan announced that the district and the Four Rivers Charter

School had partnered to win a Massachusetts Mathematics and Science Partnership grant for \$34,667, to support high school science teachers collaborating and learning new curriculum standards.

The committee discussed Sullivan’s monthly promotional radio spots on WHAI and Bear Country, which cost the district \$3,250 a year. Members said they enjoyed and supported the spots, but a conversation opened up about other ways to do public relations. The topic was referred to discussion of the district’s strategic plan, which in turn was tabled until a future meeting.

Business director Joanne Blier said bids for extending the stage and ramp at Hillcrest had all come in above budget, but that the Montague selectboard had on Monday agreed to put an article for an additional \$20,000 on the May town meeting warrant. This money, she explained, was left over from the boiler replacement project.

The Montague highway department is working with Tighe & Bond to estimate the cost of removing three underground oil tanks at the Hillcrest and Sheffield schools.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority received more applications than expected this year, and representatives came to assess the Gill Elementary School roof to see if it really needs replacing. They are expected to reach a decision in May or June as to whether that project will be eligible for state reimbursement.

Overall, Blier said, the district is straining to stay within its current year’s budget, especially after reduced enrollment from Erving resulted in lower-than-hoped-for revenue. “We’re keeping the ship afloat,” she said, “but it’s been tough.”



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**QUABBIN** from page A1

Earth's atmosphere in 1827.

In 1861, Irish physicist John Tyndall identified carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas, and theorized that small changes in CO<sub>2</sub>'s atmospheric concentration would cause heating to the planet.

By 1896, Swedish physicist Svante Arrhenius had calculated the degree of planetary warming that would result from doubling the concentration of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>.

Fortune cited the benchmark figure of 300 parts per million (ppm) as the atmospheric concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> circa 1750, the dawn of the industrial era. Today, that level stands at 400 ppm. It is on track to rise toward 450 ppm by 2040.

Fortune said these basic climate facts are not disputed by any physicist. And when EPA boss Scott Pruitt says it's unclear whether CO<sub>2</sub> causes global warming, even the heads of oil companies contradict him.

But the audience at the Environmental Center did not take Fortune's

forecast sitting down.

Steve Kurkoski, member of the Warwick energy committee, got up first, and urged the audience to install photovoltaic panels at home, now, since solar subsidies in Massachusetts are likely to decline under the Baker administration.

He said the average \$25,000 purchase price to outfit a home with solar electricity tends to pay for itself in five years. Or take advantage of prime solar PV locations and an economy of scale: "Buy into a community solar project if you can't build your own," and Don Stone from Wendell's energy committee was on hand to advise folks how to do that.

Heidi Strickland from the Athol Bird and Nature Club spoke next. She said a group of citizens concerned about the destructive environmental impacts of single throw-away plastic shopping bags hope to get Athol's town meeting on June 12 to join more than 40 Massachusetts towns and cities in voting to

ban single-use plastic bags. "They pollute our environment, they burden our landfills, they clog our sewer drains, and they cost millions of barrels of oil to produce" in the United States each year, she said.

Cathy Stanton, board member of the newly expanded Quabbin Harvest food coop (12 North Main Street, open Tuesday through Sunday, 600 members), spoke about the energy saving potential of a healthy local food economy – something North Quabbin towns have had to work hard to establish in recent years. (See: [gofundme.com/lots-more-local-quabbin-food](http://gofundme.com/lots-more-local-quabbin-food)).

Deb Habib from Seeds of Solidarity Farm in Orange, a founder of the annual Garlic and Arts Festival, has been a longtime cultivator of a strong regional food economy. Habib talked about the "CO<sub>2</sub> sink" potential of soil itself, left in its natural state through the more widespread practice of no-till farming and gardening. She held up a

piece of cardboard as an example of how a recycled material could be of use to a no-till gardener. Lay down cardboard between plantings to protect and add tilth to soil.

Leigh Youngblood invited all to join the Mount Grace Land Trust in its efforts to conserve land and enlarge natural migratory corridors. As temperatures rise, more species are on the move. Such corridors could prove vital to the preservation of rare and endangered species, Youngblood, executive director of the Trust, said.

Fortune could have pointed to his own leadership during his tenure as chair of the Whately school committee, when the Whately elementary school reduced energy use by 30%.

Good examples abound of how individuals, communities, and regions like ours can work together to counteract the climate disruption and species extinction now looming from the wasteful use of fossil fuels.

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## Chasing our Tales: An Elastic Catholicism

By LYN CLARK

Nina Rossi's grandparents, Pietro Rossi and Elizabeta (Bettina) Porcelli met in the small northern Italian town of Mazzo at the foot of the Swiss Alps, where Pietro was working for the Italian Custom Service, and Bettina's father owned a restaurant, bar and general store.

In 1910 the couple were married in a little church in Mazzo, and emigrated to America, settling in New York City among relatives who had already made the journey. From the PBS documentary *Destination America*, we learn that "between around 1880 and 1924, more than four million Italians immigrated to the United States, half of them between 1900 and 1910 alone. Today, Americans of Italian ancestry are the nation's fifth-largest ethnic group."

For our third genealogy column, we persuaded Nina Rossi to share

with our readers a short excerpt from her father **Peter Rossi's** lengthy and fascinating memoir.

I was born in Corona, a neighborhood in the Borough of Queens in the City of New York on December 27th, 1921. I was born at home, 32-45 98th Street, with help of a midwife attending the birth. I was the third son and the last child of Elizabeta Porcelli and Pietro M. Rossi.

My mother was a devout Catholic, at least on the surface. Italian Catholicism tends to be high on proclamations of devotion, observance of ritual, but somewhat doctrinally evasive in behavior. When I was growing up, meatless Fridays were the religious rule for Catholics, but my mother held a version of Catholic theology (her own) that claimed it was a greater sin to throw

see **GENEALOGY** page B4



The memoirist at center, circa 1925, with brothers Dennis (upper left) and Max (lower right), mother Elizabeta and father Pietro.



THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Fickle Spring

wine was delicious, described as having aromas of light toast with a vanilla and caramel complexity, and a heavy, rich floral of honeysuckle and gardenia. We can't vouch for the specific flower flavors, but confess to a delicious bouquet that is complex and pleasing.

This fancy bottle will rest in the wine rack for some future celebration, perhaps the advent of true spring weather.

The tasting piqued our appetites, so we drove on to Wilmington as the rain changed to wet snow. When we emerged well fed, the road was wet but not slick, and reminiscing about wonderful motorcycle rides eastward past Hogback Mountain and down the winding road to the Skyline restaurant, my partner opted for the scenic return home on Route 9.

As we climbed the mountain, the snow and sleet increased, building up a slick surface to the long ascent, followed by the curving hairpin turns of the descent. We passed a sports car which had overshot a curve and landed in the snowbank.

It was a long eighteen miles to West Brattleboro. Here, at least, the weather had turned to plain rain again, and we were safely back at home after an adventurous day. We were cheered to find that the wet snow of earlier had turned into poor man's fertilizer in the ground.

Although there are still patches of hard, crusty snow in the yard, and spring seems far away, the tomatoes are flourishing in the sunroom.

see **GARDENER'S** page B3

## Songwriter Extraordinaire John McCutcheon Comes to the Mount Toby Meetinghouse

By JOE KWIECINSKI

**LEVERETT**—Concert-goers are in for a wonderful experience when John McCutcheon performs Thursday evening, April 6 at the Mount Toby Friends Meeting House. After more than four and a half decades as a folk musician, singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, and storyteller, the entertainer connects deeply with his audiences.

"Perhaps our bond," said McCutcheon in a phone interview from Smoke Rise, Georgia, "is as simple as 'What you see is what you get.' My style on stage is very relaxed and conversational. I love my work, and my enthusiasm affects the audience, creating a closeness."

Another factor in McCutcheon's ever-evolving abilities is his continual dedication to his art. "I feel like I'm just learning how to write a song," he said. "In songwriting, you must be able to tell an entire story in three and half minutes or so. I've learned how to say more with less. My writing has become leaner."

In addition, an impressive range of subject matter has played a role in his appeal. The 64-year-old has an eclectic catalog of love songs, historical songs, ballads, topical satire, children's songs, and symphonic pieces.

McCutcheon's new album, *Trolling for Dreams*, is his 38th. These powerful songs still have their origins in traditional Appalachian instruments, storytelling, and rhythms. Yet, the album can surprise the listener as McCutcheon clearly demonstrates his capacity to rock with the best of them.

*Trolling for Dreams* is as real as life. It's a collection of songs that celebrate existence in its luminosity, tough times, and redemption.

Nominated six times for a Grammy, John has received much recognition from his peers and has been the recipient of lofty praise from music critics and luminaries in the



McCutcheon, known widely as a songwriter, has recorded 38 albums and shows no sign of stopping. He is pictured here playing the hammered dulcimer.

field of music. For example, the late Johnny Cash referred to McCutcheon as "the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard."

Among other things, McCutcheon doesn't mention that he is a renowned master of the hammered dulcimer, a stringed instrument of trapezoidal shape played with light hammers.

Meanwhile, the *Washington Post* heralded his work in this way: "Storytelling with the richness of literature." The *Boston Globe* has written: "He is a master at the difficult craft of ballad."

And the late, legendary Pete Seeger said, "John McCutcheon is not only one of the best musicians in the USA, but also a great singer, songwriter, and song leader. And not just incidentally, he is committed to helping hard-working people everywhere to organize and push this world in a better direction."

For instance, McCutcheon helped in the formation, back in 1992, of Local 1000, a union for traveling musicians. The American Federation of Musicians lent their support to the project, citing that hundreds of musicians travel around the nation to make their money by putting

together diverse gigs. McCutcheon served as president of Local 1000 for several years.

Born in Wausau, Wisconsin, a city of 39,000, he has written many powerful songs. One of them, "Christmas in the Trenches," is rated as a classic, and was again accorded a lot of attention with the 100th anniversary of the famous World War One Christmas Truce in 2015.

"To write a song," said McCutcheon, "is one of the most beautiful things in the world. How lucky I am, how incredibly fortunate I am, that it's my job. It's a line of work – along with performing – that brings you much affirmation and satisfaction, and yet so much of it is due to learning from amazing mentors and talented peers."

How does McCutcheon approach songwriting? "A song is a doorway to another experience for the listener. The song is a living document in that it can undergo change. I might change a line or a word or even some notes to contemporize the work, especially if I'm playing overseas. But it's most important that the words

see **MCCUTCHEON** page B3

## MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

### Part VIII (June 25, 1941)

In browsing the archives of the Turners Falls Herald (1940-1942) we were delighted to find the paper had tracked down Antonia J. Stemple, who had worked in various escalating capacities at the Turners Falls Reporter (1872-1922), and encouraged her to submit a regular column of her recollections.

We are reprinting that column, which ran irregularly in the Herald over an eight-month period under the title "Looking Backward," in our own pages.

— Montague Reporter eds.

Once in the early days of Turners Falls, the *Reporter* set the whole town to laughing but a little three or four line "squib." It appears that one of the pioneer families of the town was given to moving from one tenement to another, never staying in one house long. Possibly the reader may guess some of the popular explanations for this constant changing of abode.

At any rate the *Reporter* demurely remarked that the hens belonging to a certain family had grown so accustomed to shifting quarters often that they had gotten into the habit of periodically and voluntarily laying down in front of their owner and extending their legs upward so as to make it easy for him to tie them together preparatory to moving!

As I have pointed out, the editor of the *Reporter* had a most distinctive and engaging literary style. The simplest thing he wrote bore the stamp of his personality.



One of at least three buildings occupied by the Turners Falls Reporter office, above the "N.B. Hall Dining Room," now the Between the Uprights sports bar.

This was strikingly exemplified at the time he inserted for a single time an advertisement for a housekeeper in the classified Help Wanted columns of the Boston *Sunday Globe*.

It was just a small advertisement like hundreds of others appearing in the *Globe* the same day. One would think there could be no possible way to make such a stereotyped thing stand out from its fellows. But Mr. Bagnall accomplished just that. The little advertisement had its sole "punch" in the last line which read simply:

see **STEMPLE** page B6

## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

## This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Spring is in the air! Looking for something to do in your community? The "Montague Favorite Places" exhibit is happening at the Great Falls Discovery Center through April 23.

Looking for new programming from your very own local cable station? This week, check out Gary's Antique Coins, an event at Greenfield Savings Bank this month, now available for viewing on [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org).

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 Falls between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!

## Pet of the Week

I'm S'mores. In the beginning, I'll be shy but once we get to know each other we can be friends. Especially if you brush me with a toothbrush.

Yes, I said a toothbrush.

I didn't even know I liked it until I came to Dakin. It feels like my Momma's tongue felt. Oh brings back memories!

After you brush my head with it I may even let you pet me once or twice – no more though. Let's not go crazy!

I'll need some time but I do enjoy the occasional cuddle too.

So please come to meet me at Dakin Humane Society. I am quite adorable!

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



## “SMORES”

## March 31: GCC Music Department Concert at the Shea Theater Arts Center

**TURNERS FALLS** – This Friday, March 31 at 7 p.m., the public is invited to join students in the Greenfield Community College music department presenting jazz and contemporary works-in-progress at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The GCC Music Department offers an Associate in Arts in Liberal Arts degree with a music concentration

(LA/MUS), commonly referred to as the music major. The curriculum focus is jazz and contemporary music studies. No auditions are required to begin studies, and many students consider the major to be an ideal way to explore music and to explore the possibility of more serious academic music study beyond GCC.

Admission is free, and doors open at 6:30 p.m.

## Senior Center Activities

APRIL 3 TO 7

## GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at Noon.

Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11:00 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 not open.

**Tues–Thurs Noon Lunch**  
**M, W, F** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics  
10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

**Monday 4/3**

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 4/4**

9:30 a.m. Tutorial: Windows 10  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

**Wednesday 4/5**

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 4/6**

NO Tai Chi or Mindful Motion

10:30 – noon Brown Bag

1 p.m. Cards & Games

**Friday 4/7**

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 congregate meals.

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

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

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

**Monday 4/3**

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

**Tuesday 4/4**

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
Trip to VT – no lunch

**Wednesday 4/5**

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs

**Thursday 4/6**

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 a.m. Brown Bag pick up  
12:30 p.m. Crafty Seniors

**Friday 4/7**

7 a.m. Walking  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert  
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

## 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.

## April 2: “America’s Sweethearts” in Athol

**ATHOL** – The New York City-based “America’s Sweethearts,” a swing style female vocal trio, are coming to Athol. Performing in the style of the Andrews Sisters, America’s Sweethearts will be bringing the memorable music of the 1940s to the Athol High School Auditorium, on Sunday, April 2, from 2 to 4 p.m.

Whether this is your music, your parents’ music, or your grandparents’, this show is not to be missed!

Come hop aboard the “Chattanooga Choo Choo” as the Sweethearts take you on a “Sentimental Journey,” singing the timeless classics of the Greatest Generation. With precision choreography and beautiful harmonies, they will transport you back to the days of polka-dot dresses and of longing for loved ones overseas.

In classic USO fashion, the “Sweeties” will also perform a tribute to all the brave men and women who have served in the military. This concert is being sponsored by the Athol Veterans Park Development Corporation (AVPDC), a 501(c) non-profit organization. Bill Purple, a Petersham-based WWII Veteran and President of the AVPDC is the motivation behind this concert



as this music brings back many special memories for him.

The AVPDC was formed in 1998 by Bill, Alan Bowers and Connie Zani, for the initial purpose of building the Athol Veterans Park at the corner of Main and Exchange Streets. Over a period of several years, the AVPDC raised over \$300,000 through fundraising activities and private donations, built the Park, and subsequently donated it to the town of Athol.

The AVPDC has also paid tribute to veterans by running the Operation Kimbolton event at the Orange

Airport in 2012 and 2013 featuring WWII aircraft belonging to the Collings Foundation. Proceeds from the 2015 concert were used to make a \$1,000 donation to the Athol flagpole replacement project.

Proceeds from this year’s show will go to the AVPDC and will be used for future veteran-related activities.

General admission tickets are \$10 and are on sale at Flowerland in Athol, Trail Head in Orange, and the Athol Council on Aging. For questions or further information, contact Cindy Hartwell at (978) 544-5783.

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GARDENERS from page B1

Most of the seedlings are two or more inches high, and are sporting their true jagged tomato leaves.

It's time for the first of several transplantings into increasingly larger containers, which will allow more root room.

The starter cells of the mini greenhouse are about 1-½ inches across. The next size pots we have are three and ¼ inches, so there will be enough room for quite a growth spurt before another transplanting will be needed. We'll continue to use dampened seed starter for easy root spread to ease the transition.

Once these babies are settled in, we'll begin feeding with a very watered down amount of liquid seaweed fertilizer. We'll also keep the tray of pots on the warming pad as the weather continues cloudy and the nights in the sunroom are a cool fifty degrees.

In the meantime, the long-range forecast calls for gradually moderating temperatures and April showers aplenty.

We know what that means. The snow will continue to peel away. We can start seeds for salad greens in the raised beds and the daffodils will continue to press upwards toward the sun.

The buds on the red maples grow larger and the stems of the forsythia have become yellow. Pretty soon, it might as well be spring. We need to hope and especially in these times, we need to believe.

We are optimistic.

*Dead my old fine hopes  
And dry my dreaming but still...  
Iris, blue each spring.*

— Basho Matsuo

Happy gardening!



McCUTCHEON from p. B1

create a fulfilling, rich experience.

“A song is like a book or a movie in extremely condensed form. And good fiction is all about surrendering to the experience, resulting in the listener, reader, or viewer never being the same.” In addition, John McCutcheon feels that sometimes a strong work ethic is required to write songs. “But sometimes,” he laughed, “your muse knocks on the door and tells you to sit down. One thing is for sure, though. A songwriter improves with practice. You’ve got to do the work. Yet, every now and then you’re blessed with revelation.

“The more I write, the more reverence I have for the process.

Writing a song is not sprinkling fairy dust. It's more like meditation. Sometimes it's like wrestling with an angel.”

To illustrate that McCutcheon takes his art but not himself seriously, John grins as he talks about what he's learned over the years: “I know now what songs not to sing in public.”

*Showtime is 7:30 at the Mount Toby Meetinghouse, 194 Long Plain Road (Route 63) in Leverett. Tickets are \$20 and reservations are recommended. For more information, see mttobyconcerts.wordpress.com or contact Diane Crowe at (413) 548-9394.*



## Bowl for the Sake of Kids

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

ERVING – Bowling for Kids’ Sake is a fundraising event for the local Big Brother Big Sisters of Franklin County at two locations, the French King Bowling Center in Erving and the Shelburne Falls Bowling Alley, on April 7 and 8.

The local organization has been around for 50 years. The way the funds are raised is that individuals form bowling teams and then try to get donations from their friends, colleagues and families. The minimum amount to get is \$75 for adults, while the minimum for children under 14 who are playing on one of the teams is \$35.

“They do it in all the Big Brother Big Sister organizations in the country,” explained executive director Danielle Letourneau-Therrien, who’s been with the local organization since 2013. The event has been going on for 40 years, nationwide.

Bowlers can also wear costumes related to this year’s event theme – which is Charlotte’s Web – and maybe get prizes for them. I learned that the theme “last year was Alice in Wonderland,” and Danielle also mentioned, “Year before, we did superheroes.”

Besides doing that in connection with the event, the Franklin First bowling team held a bake sale at the bank on March 16 and 17 to help out the local chapter of the organization. Other banks, including Greenfield Savings and Greenfield Cooperative, also entered teams in their names in the event.

Another business that has

participated is Gilmore & Farrell Insurance. In all, 200 people have bowled in the event.

When I asked Eric, the manager of the French King Bowling Center, for his opinion on why they have been hosting it for over 30 years, he said, “We always have! We love the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.”

Danielle gave me her opinion on how successful this fundraiser event has been, on a scale of 1 to 10, as “probably an eight.” She mentioned that “we have raised about \$25,000.” With a sum like that, I would say that rating is very accurate. It would seem that they have hit payday when it comes to this event being a good fundraiser.

The people who bowl also seem to get a lot out of the event. One being helping out a very worthy program. Second, dressing in costumes from a book, or being Superman. An additional perk for the bowlers involved, along with wearing costumes if they are into that sort of thing, is getting “gift certificates to area restaurants by raising \$200 or more.”

I think personally, after all is said and done, that people will have enjoyed dressing as superheroes the most while bowling. Then there is just doing the activity of bowling, which people obviously enjoy – why else would 200 people have done this in the past at the two local bowling alleys? That sounds like more than enough steam for it to go ahead, with the same results, in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## A Bad Week For Doors; Unfounded Vibration; Urn Broken; Owl Struck; Pushy Solar Solicitor

Monday, 3/20

3:26 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Cross Road reporting that he just came home from work and found his door kicked in. He checked the house; nobody else but him inside. Report taken.

5:25 p.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road reporting that they came home to find their back door kicked open and the front door wide open. They have not found anything missing so far. Officer determined that only a can of change was taken. Investigated.

Tuesday, 3/21

12:55 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reports her brother was drunk refusing to leave. When he finally left, he broke her back door and punched her car. Services rendered.

10:43 a.m. Caller from Avenue A states that there is a broken planter in front of this location. DPW notified for pickup. Officer reports that it was someone’s personal planter, not a town planter. DPW cancelled.

2:17 p.m. Caller states that he was in line to wait to pick up his daughter at TFHS and a white Toyota Camry backed into him. Caller states that vehicle then left. Officer states no damage to vehicle. Caller will call if he sees vehicle again.

4:26 p.m. 911 caller reporting a maroon Chevy pickup operating erratically, swerving, crossing lines. Vehicle turned south on Route 63 towards Leverett. Shelburne Control reporting that there is nobody on duty in Leverett. Amherst PD notified.

10:54 p.m. Caller reporting that there is a loudly idling 18-wheeler outside of Keith Street Apartments keeping people awake.

Wednesday, 3/22

8:57 a.m. Walk-in reporting that she struck a cat on Montague Street near Sunrise Terrace. Believes that the cat is deceased. Entire length of road checked; nothing found.

11:49 a.m. 911 caller reporting a break-in on Central Street; she witnessed a party push in an air conditioner that was in a window and then climb through the window.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with breaking and entering into a building in the daytime for a felony and attempt to commit a crime.

5:55 p.m. Caller from Prospect Street states that they tried to serve eviction paperwork to their tenants and they became belligerent. Both sides of disagreement advised of options; will

address through civil avenues. Officer did view eviction notice and lease and reports that homeowners are following the conditions of the lease at this time and are taking the correct steps. Tenants did read notice but refused to sign.

8:15 p.m. Control looking for assistance for a car stop in Erving. Officers, including K9 unit, en route to assist.

Thursday, 3/23

5:16 a.m. Male caller from Wentworth Street requesting options in regards to Facebook messages and verbal confrontations between he and his neighbor. Neighbor is complaining about caller’s family speeding on the street. Advised of options.

8:16 a.m. Employee from Eversource reporting that a fire hydrant has been struck and knocked over on Farren Avenue. Water department notified.

9:53 a.m. Caller reporting that the pedestrian crossing lights at Avenue A and Third Street are not working. Walk signal checked; no problem.

11 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls reporting very loud music playing for two hours, vibrating his home. Unfounded.

2:34 p.m. Walk-in reporting that on Monday around 1 p.m., she heard a knock on her door. By the time she got up and got to the door, a man had entered her home. Report taken.

4:27 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle in T Street area appearing to be part of an active drug deal. Officers en route. Upon arrival, officer reported area was clear, no one in vehicle. Officer waited in area for movement. No movement showing. Unit clear.

5:02 p.m. Anonymous caller states that attached males are in an abandoned building on L Street using the electricity and selling drugs from the second or third floor. Officers report that everyone in the building has residency. Board of health advised by officer and fire; also

advised by officer that there appears to be use of electricity from the building illegally.

6:57 p.m. Caller from Dewolf Road reporting an occupied vehicle parked in front of her home for an extended amount of time. Cancelled en route; caller states vehicle occupant went into a house across the street once they arrived home.

7:01 p.m. Caller reporting two teens around the change machines at the carwash on Avenue A; however, neither has a vehicle. Officer checking area; unable to locate.

Friday, 3/24

2:28 a.m. Officer out checking on vehicle with two occupants parked on Fourth Street for 20 minutes. Clear; male and female having private conversation in front of female’s residence.

4:37 a.m. Female 911 caller reporting that she believes someone has broken into her basement. Caller believes she can hear someone in basement, possible access via bulkhead in rear of house. Caller advises that similar happened recently; she believes alarm company installers may have something to do with this. Officers clear; no signs of forced entry. Spoke with homeowner.

1:22 p.m. Store manager from Avenue A reporting that they had two very large urns out in front of their store. Last night, somebody stole one of them. Officer advising this was investigated yesterday. Item was not stolen, but broken and cleaned up by a neighbor.

1:49 p.m. Caller reporting that his mother left to go to Dunkin Donuts two hours ago and hasn’t returned. Mom returned home just before officer arrived. No problems found.

2:46 p.m. 911 hang up call from TFHS; no answer on callback. Call came from the Irresponsible Behavior Room.

Saturday, 3/25

12:05 a.m. Male caller reporting he was driving on Montague City Road when he witnessed another vehicle hit a large owl that flew across the road from the golf course. Caller and his wife are owl lovers and are simply concerned for it. Caller was unable to stop due to medical issue, but called when he got home. Officers advised to be on lookout for owl in that area. Officer checked area; nothing found. Copy of call left for animal control officer.

12:48 a.m. Officer checking on bicycle with helmet on it parked on side of Hillcrest Elementary School. Area checked; no one around. Building secure. Officer taking bike. Report taken.

9:55 a.m. Report of two-vehicle accident in front of the Montague Grange. No injuries. Written warning issued to one operator for failure to use care in turning.

3:53 p.m. Report of an aggressive Rottweiler loose on Masonic Ave. Caller’s children were outside playing on their scooters when the dog approached them and began growling and barking at them. The children dropped their scooters and ran into the house. Caller advised her children are afraid to go outside to retrieve their scooters. Officer checked area but did not find Rottweiler.

4:03 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from responsible behavior room at the middle school. Officers advise nothing suspicious on site and building secure.

5:23 p.m. Report from Unity Park of Canada goose with fishing line wrapped around its leg; leg is swollen. Provided caller with number for Environmental Police; advised to call back if EP cannot help, and MPD will reach out to animal control officer.

7:11 p.m. Report of solicitor from a solar company going door to door on Union Street, reportedly being overly pushy. Unable to locate.

# MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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## MONTAGUE:

Learn more about your Public Works Facility.  
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The public is invited to a guided tour of the Montague Department of Public Works at 500 Avenue A at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday April 4, 2017. This will be followed by a public information session regarding the proposed Public Works Facility beginning at 6:30 at Town Hall – One Avenue A 2nd Floor Conference Room. More project information at [montague-ma.gov](http://montague-ma.gov)

Ken Morin  
DPW Facility Planning Committee Chairman

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was March 29, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Impeachment and Bio-Engineered Crops Head to Town Meeting

National issues will get a hearing – though perhaps a brief one – at the Montague town meeting on June 2, after citizens gathered the signatures of enough registered voters to place articles on the warrant opposing genetically engineered crops and to instruct state and Congressional representatives to advance articles of impeachment against President George W. Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney.

The GE crop petition, circulated by Alice Armen in Montague Center and Suzette Snow Cobb in Turners Falls, garnered more than 20 signatures. The second petition, circulated by Diane Sicard in Turners Falls, gained at least 80 signatures. Only ten signatures of registered voters are needed to place an article on the annual town meeting warrant.

After brief discussion, the selectboard on March 26 voted to forward the petitions to the town clerk for verification of signatures, and to place the articles on the warrant.

### Repairs Still Needed at Wendell Town Offices

Selectboard member Christine Heard, looking around the cramped trailer office where the selectboard has been meeting for the last year, said, "I notice we are not in the new office building yet." It was March 21, time once again of the board's favorite discussion topic: the building project update.

The town of Wendell is hoping to soon see the end of construction on a new library and new municipal office building in the center of town. The original completion date for the town offices was February 15. Each week that passes without

the town being able to occupy the building leads to extra utility costs for the rented trailers that now house town offices, and extra short-term borrowing costs for the construction loan, at \$4,000 a month.

The town needs to have both projects finished in time to meet a June 29 deadline for completing paperwork for a lower-interest USDA loan for the building projects.

### Odor Traced to Australis Continues to Annoy

What has been described as a "rotten egg smell" has been coming from a three-gallon-a-minute waste stream from the 200,000-gallon manure holding tank at Australis Aquaculture LLC in the industrial park, and spreading via the town sewer line to bother an entire neighborhood for months.

Australis is a fish farm that produces barramundi, an Australian specialty product, for the domestic market. The bad smell, which has been causing complaints from residents of Norman Circle, Millers Falls Road, and Turnpike Road, has been noticeable for roughly the past five months. Although Australis has tried different methods of getting rid of the odor, neighbors of the fish farm say it still is very much in the air.

"We smell it close to daily, since last October," said Alfred Popp, headmaster of the Jonathan Edwards Academy on Industrial Boulevard. "The smell has been getting less intense, but we can still smell it every morning."

Butch Stevens of Millers Falls Road lives near the plant, and has smelled hydrogen sulfide on and off for months. "It hasn't gotten less intense, it hasn't changed at all," he said. "We usually get it at night, that's when they dump it."

Stevens has recently contacted the board of health about the smell, which he said is especially strong on Sunday nights.

## April 18: Annual Turners Falls Fire District Meeting

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – All residents of the Turners Falls Fire (and Water) District are invited to attend and vote in the District's annual meeting at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 18 at the Hillcrest School auditorium.

Seventeen articles are on the warrant this year, with the largest item being a \$996,000 ladder truck.

The District election will be held from noon to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25 at the Fire District offices at 226 Millers Falls Road. Watch the *Montague Reporter* for more information in coming weeks!

## Montague Dems Caucus, Name Delegates

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Montague Democratic Caucus was held Wednesday night at the town hall. Members voted on candidates for the May 15 town election ballot, and nominated delegates to the state convention June 3 in Worcester.

There were no surprises. 35 Democrats attended, and 29 cast ballots to award "D"s to candidates for town office. Double incumbent Michael Nelson fended off write-in challenges from Roy Rosenblatt for selectboard (18 to 4) and Lee Wicks for board of health (24 to 2).

Incumbents Paul Emery, Christopher Boutwell, and Dennis Grader got nods for assessor, soldier memorial trustee (non-veteran), and parks commissioner. Vicki Valley was nominated as a three-year library trustee.

In addition to committee chair Jay DiPucchio, delegates to the state convention will be Chris Wise and



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Ferd Wulkan of Main Street, Cynthia Tarail of Center Street, Elizabeth Irving of Newton Lane, and Francia Wisniewski of Turnpike Road.

The caucus picked as alternates Ben Letcher, Mary Jane Stephenson, and Judith Lorei, all of North Street.

Every nominated delegate and alternate hails from the 01351 zip code.

### GENEALOGY from page B1

out food, than to eat meat on a Friday: if we had any meat leftovers on Friday, we ate it.

She had several abortions (illegal) and claimed that the only reason I was not aborted was because she had an active case of tuberculosis when she was pregnant with me. Her reaction to the church's teachings on birth control and abortion was another theological pronouncement: that she would obey the church, if priests would bear children.

Nevertheless, she went to church every Sunday and on religious holidays, and attended novenas (several week long nightly religious observance which ask for special favors) despite the fact that she had nothing but contempt for the Irish immigrant priests who ran our local parish and their thundering puritanism.

There were religious oleographs – bleeding hearts, Christ crowned with thorns, a simpering Madonna holding a chubby Christ – in her bedroom, and crucifixes all over the house.

When I was drafted into the Army, she sewed religious medals into my toilet kit and into a sweater she sent me. (Of course, they were St. Christopher medals, honoring the patron saint of travelers and the military.)

I have a greater appreciation of her particular brand of Catholicism now, than I had when I was a child under the influence of Irish puritanical priests. It was an earthy religion that made many compromises with the evils and faults of life. Her Catholicism could absorb hard knocks and mistakes, softening the harsh blows of the world. Sinners are forgiven, especially through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin.

Indeed, God and his son Jesus were distant, misty figures in her views. It was Holy Mary, Mother of God, who was powerful, whee-

ling her son, Jesus, and father-in-law (God) and obtaining forgiveness time and time again for her errant devotees. Mary made my mother's version of God into a merciful, forgiving, and just God.

In contrast, the Irish brand of Catholicism that I got through our local church, St. Gabriel's, portrayed an angry, niggardly God, who was more concerned with vengeance than with mercy or justice. The Irish version got mad and stayed mad: The Italian version of God got mad – but then his daughter-in-law talked him out of it.

I loved my mother very much all through infancy and early childhood. I still feel waves of warmth and deep love when I remember my early childhood and her deep, hearty, bell-like laugh.

All that changed as I shifted out of infancy into late childhood and adolescence. Then, I began to realize that all was not what it seemed when I was a child. Sure, she laughed a lot with her friends, but not with her family. With us, she was a terrible gossip, a continual nag, constantly scheming to obtain the respect and honor which always eluded her. Her good humor and hearty laugh was highly dependent on having people around her, especially friends and neighbors.

I came to realize that she did not like herself, or things that were hers, including her children. In a way, she was a female counterpart to the schnook played by Woody Allen in *Annie Hall*, who wouldn't want to belong to a club that would have him as a member.

After my brothers had left home by the time I was 14, I got the full brunt of her self deprecation that extended to things and persons that were hers: there was nothing I could do that was right. My mother was a grand mistress of the put-

down. For example, her response to my excited news that I had been appointed at Harvard was to ask whether it was a steady job.

But the major problem I had with her from age 10 to 20, after my brothers left home, was her constant maneuvering to get me to become her ally in daily guerrilla actions against my father and his drinking. She asked me to enter into alliances calling for duties that were far beyond what can and should be asked of a child of 10.

For example, there was the time when she got me to put padlocks on the wine cellar and then I was supposed to hold the key and dole out wine to my father every evening. I did it for a few months, hating the degradation I was inflicting on him, and hating him for being degraded.

I still find it hard to forgive her for trying to enlist me in her struggles with my father: I was sent out to get him out of the saloons and back home. I remember picking my father up off the streets outside a local saloon where he had passed out, and half-carrying him home. No one should have to experience that. No love for a father can survive the humiliation to either the father or the son.

*Nina Rossi has lived in Turners Falls for many years, and owns Nina's Nook on Avenue A. Both her father and mother wrote extensively about growing up Italian – and in the case of her mother, German Lutheran – in New York during the 1920s, '30s and '40s, and we will share more of their recollections in future.*

Please email your stories to [genealogy@montaguereporter.org](mailto:genealogy@montaguereporter.org). Your ancestors are waiting, albeit silently, for you to honor them by telling their tales.



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ONGOING EVENTS

### EVERY SUNDAY

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

Underdog Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

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

### EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session; come join the community chorus. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact [mcbass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbass@vermontel.net) for location and details.

### EVERY TUESDAY

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*: Stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and 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.

### 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 p.m.

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

### FIRST THURSDAYS

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Night*. 8:30 p.m. \$

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

### 2nd AND 4TH THURSDAY

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

### EVERY FRIDAY

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Story Hour with Dana Lee*. For pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

### EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

### FIRST SATURDAY MONTHLY

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *Harry Potter book discussion*; trivia, activities and a snack. Each movie will be shown the following Friday evening. 1 to 3 p.m.

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

### FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

### EXHIBITS:

Artspace, Greenfield: *Pastel Studio Spring*. Through April 23.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Montague Favorite Places Exhibit*. Fans of Montague created art about their favorite places in all of our villages. Come see the results! Through April 23.

Hope & Olive, Greenfield: *Anja Schutz exhibit "Photographs"*, landscapes, portraits, still lifes, and dogs. Through May.

Leverett Library, Leverett: Beginning April 1, *The Kings of Leverett*, honoring Gordon and Frances King. Opening reception, Saturday, April 1, 1 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spring Mix Fine Art and Craft* by area artists. Through May 10.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Nathan Hanford: Friendship Thread*; portraits of friends

and artworks by Veterans of Soldier On. Embroidery, mixed media. Through April. Also, Lower Gallery: *Mohawk Trail Middle & High School Visual Arts Showcase*. Reception: April 8th, 4 to 6 p.m. Music by *The Paperweights*, and Mohawk student performers Through April.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery: *Guest Exhibit by Lana Fiala*, featuring recent paintings focusing on children. Through April 2.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Framing Faces* a year long exploration of oil painting and faces by Kate Troast of Amherst, MA. Exhibit April 1 through May 23.



"Motherbones: Tribute to Alice S. Rossi," part of the exhibit Nina Rossi: Recent Works at the Burnett Gallery in April. See April 6 events listings.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Better Than Taxes*, a group show by member artists. Through May 1.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Jane Litwin Taylor's Catching The Light*. Mosaic art and beadwork. Also in the Herrick Gallery, *After the Fair*, photography by Jessica Star, taken at night at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Both exhibits through April.

### SUBMISSIONS:

Call for Art: *Exploded View* is curating a community art show at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls in May. Artists living in western Massachusetts can submit wall art on the theme of rivers and water for this "Catch and Release" exhibit. Deadline April 22. Submit up to three jpegs to [explodedviewma@gmail.com](mailto:explodedviewma@gmail.com) Questions? (413) 834.8800.

Conway's Sestercentennial (250th birthday). Request for Proposals for one act plays to be performed on Friday, June 9, and Saturday, June 10th, 2017 at the Sportsman's Club Pavillion. Send all proposals and questions to Mike at [verybratty@aol.com](mailto:verybratty@aol.com).

GCC's literary journal, *Plum*, announces the Michael Doherty Writing Contest, open to writers from W. Mass and southern VT and NH. Cash prizes. Deadline April 20. Submit to [plumeditors@gmail.com](mailto:plumeditors@gmail.com). Questions?: [mwilliams-russell@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:mwilliams-russell@gcc.mass.edu).

Slate Roof Press announces the 2017 Elyse Wolf Prize for their annual poetry chapbook contest. Deadline June 15. Details at: <http://slateroofpresscontest.submittable.com/submit>.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, MARCH 30

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Hill & Friends*. Original Americana with *Jen Spingla*.

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Dave Dersham*, 7 p.m. *Patrick and George*, 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MARCH 31

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *And the Neighbors*, 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *Young Frankenstein*. 7:30. Music by Jim Egan, solo guitar and vocals, at 7 p.m. \$

ArtsBlock, Greenfield: *Newpoli*. World Music fundraiser for the Center for New Americans. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Troll 2*. Folk-punk and Alt Blues. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Adynkra*. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 1

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Lars Young*, 7:30 p.m.

The Pushkin, Greenfield: *Umbra's Multi-Psychedelic-Media-Album-Release-Spectacle* 8 p.m. \$

Mocah Mayas, Shelburne Falls: *Lonesome Brothers*, hick rock, 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Shadow Twisters*. Classic Rock 9 p.m.

The Wheelhouse, Arts Block. *Hip Hop Ain't No Joke* 9 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 2

The Arts Block: *Lich King Album Release*. 1:30 to 9 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Amandla Chorus*, 2 p.m. \$

Undersogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Walt Chapman and Kerry Blount*. Piano and sax: Jazz, boogie-woogie. 6 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Dale Reynolds Foot tapping, heart and mind provoking singer songwriter...from folky rocked alt country land. 8 p.m.

### THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Burnett Gallery, Jones Library Amherst: *Nina Rossi, Recent Works* Artist Reception during Amerst Art Walk, 5 to 8 p.m.

Shea Theater: *Faustina, Messenger of Divine Mercy* St Luke Productions, sponsored by Our Lady of Czestochowa Church. 7 p.m. \$

Mocha Mayas, Shelburne: *Collected Poets Series: Joshua Edwards and Dora Malech*, 7 p.m.

Mt Toby Concerts, Leverett: *John McCutcheon* 7:30 pm. \$ (see article this issue for full write-up!)

Deja Brew, Wendell: Eric Love 60's & 70's Gold with Smilin' Steve. 9 p.m.

Arts Block: *Ask Wanda: A Night of Dancing* 9 p.m. \$

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**SUN. 4/2 9pm**  
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**STEMPLE** from page B1  
“Husband hunters not wanted. We know ‘em!”

The results of that advertisement were monumental for Monday morning’s mail brought in no less than 650 letters in reply from all over the country.

They covered every strata of society and culture, the applicants ranging from those who claimed they “could preside equally as well in the drawing room as in the kitchen” to those who palpably belonged in the ranks which the advertisement said were not wanted but who considered that last line either a challenge or an insult and so insisted upon taking up the gauntlet.

That mountain of letters made diverting and illuminating reading. Some of the epistles were amazing in their forthrightness. Others were dramatic, pathetic or silly. I preserved them for a long time.

Whenever I was assailed by the blues or needed diversion or inspiration I would read over some of these human interest documents and thus effectually change the trend of my thoughts. Beside the first avalanche of replies others came in subsequent mails so that the total harvest was almost 900 letters.

Mr. Bagnall delighted to “get back” at Shiretown people. It was

pure delight for him to hold one or all of them up to ridicule or to expose their schemes and clay feet or to show “what fools these mortals be.” He always hit them in their tenderest spots and however they resented his remarks, what he said could seldom be successfully decried or repudiated.

Yet he had many staunch and loyal Greenfield friends some of whom secretly furnished him the inside facts as ammunition in his broadsides. Unhappily the Shiretownites were too vulnerable and laid themselves open to further punishment whenever they attempted to refute what the *Reporter* said.

Occasionally some hardy soul tried to crush him but Mr. Bagnall always had the devastating last word. Yet he never was abusive or colored facts. That’s what made him so terrible an adversary. His chief weapons were the truth, sarcasm, ridicule, irony, humor, and cold common sense and logic.

A characteristic and classic clash of arms took place with one of Greenfield’s veteran newspaper men. He was a good friend of Mr. Bagnall, admired him and called on him quite often for exchange of views.

This gentleman was of the orthodox newsgatherer type, faithful and wonderfully efficient. But he sometimes innocently allowed himself to be used by individuals with axes to grind. Being the soul of friendliness and anxious to

please everyone he occasionally failed to see the holes in the skimmer and so unwittingly played into the hands of the schemers.

This at times led to tilts between the two men, which did not, however, diminish their friendship, although the Shiretown writer did think the *Reporter*’s business methods were antiquated and that the editor should adopt a more modern point of view and be more up to date in the conduct of his newspaper.

Well, on one occasion the Greenfield writer made an address at some community gathering in which he made an oblique reference to the *Reporter*, the manner it was conducted and the way opportunity was muffed.

Mr. Bagnall instantly detected the inspiration back of that address, so he sailed in and made a blistering reply in the next issue of his paper and a hot war was immediately on. It raged savagely for a number of weeks and the gentle spokesman for the Shiretown had all the props knocked from under him and had so much fun poked at him that he was utterly flattened out and incapable of another word.

Happily he knew when Dunkirk was in sight and he begged the hard hitting *Reporter* man to end the bombardment. He never entered into controversy with him again! He’d had his lesson.



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