



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 25 also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell \$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 6, 2017

Planting With Native Pollinators

By CARO ROSZELL

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Earlier this March, the Internet turned some of its ire on the cereal brand Cheerios. The brand had recently been getting into trouble over the publication of findings by the independent organization Food Democracy Now, which tested common grocery-store items for glyphosate residue.

Glyphosate, a ubiquitous herbicide (also pesticide, biocide, and fungicide) is the main ingredient in Monsanto’s “Roundup,” though it is used widely in industrial agriculture from pre-emergent to post-harvest handling.

Cheerios, it turns out, topped the list for highest concentration of glyphosate of all sampled grocery items. Glyphosate is a known endocrine disruptor, damages gut microbes, and is also a probable carcinogen, though this last point is controversial.

This time, though, the articles were about the brand’s recent mass mailing of seed packets containing

pollinator-friendly plant species. The company has faced criticism for failing to consider, in the rush to distract from recent bad press, that North America contains many bioregions, and some plant species appropriate in one region may be invasive in another.

In a story for CBC News, the director of sales and marketing for the seed company Veseys – providers of the seed mix – contested this claim, stating, “Some species within the mixture have the potential to become naturalized, adding to the biodiversity of the area without negatively impacting the environment.”

Essential Native Pollinators

Regardless of whether the recent Cheerios marketing effort was well executed, it can be credited for addressing a crucial issue. Native pollinators are ecologically essential, and are under threat from multiple fronts, including agricultural pesticides.

Yet much more attention is being paid to honeybees – a European import – and their increasing mor-



Lupinus perennis, or sundial lupine, thrives in dry, well-drained soil.

ortality due to the not-well-understood “colony collapse disorder.”

But honeybees are just one of at least 2,000 known species of bees, worldwide. The eastern United States hosts about 450 native bee species, according to the Xerces Society, an organization dedicated to the protection of invertebrates and their habitats.

see POLLINATE page A5



Left: *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*, or New England aster. Note the variation in coloring, a benefit of seed-grown plants. Right: *Asclepias tuberosa*, or butterfly milkweed. Milkweed is the only food source for monarch larvae.



SHE LED BY EXAMPLE



We were saddened to hear the news that Sandra (Facto) Johnson, known to many as Sandy Facto, has passed away. Sandy was a fixture in downtown Turners Falls, an artist, a keen wit, and a guiding light of civic participation. She went to great lengths to keep Avenue A beautiful, and recruited many helpers along the way, though few could keep up with her. In the early years of this newspaper, she contributed a regular comic, “Mabel Zoble.” She was also a convincing activist for accessibility, and the mastermind behind the downtown Wheelchair Parade. A celebration of her life will take place in the summer. We extend our sympathies to Sandy’s family and many friends.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Four Citizen-Petitioned Articles To Cap Epic May Town Meeting

JEFF SINGLETON

At its April 3 meeting, the Montague selectboard approved the May 15 annual town meeting warrant. Selectboard member Michael Nelson read every article on the very long agenda, with the exception of two very long petitioned articles that appear near the end.

One of these asks town meeting to pass a resolution “Supporting State and Federal Legislation to Provide Greater Transparency in Political Donations and Limit the Influence of Money in Politics.”

The article contains six “whereas” clauses, and three “therefore it be resolved” clauses.

The gist of these resolutions is to support state legislation to close “loopholes” in Massachusetts campaign finance laws, and to support something called “The American Anti-Corruption Act.”

Another article deals with the hot topic of immigration. The article contains six “whereas” clauses and one long “be it ordained” clause. The latter, reading like a piece of state or federal legislation, begins

see MONTAGUE page A4

Wendell Solar Array Okayed

By DAVID DETMOLD

WENDELL – Haskell Werlin’s 27-acre, 1-megawatt Sunnectivity solar photovoltaic project on Dave Arsenault’s Wendell Depot Road property got the go ahead on Tuesday, with a 3-0 vote of approval from the Wendell conservation commission.

Originally planned as a 2-megawatt project, Werlin had reduced the size in order to meet the con com’s concerns, which centered on the number of trees that would have to be cut down or topped in order to provide unshaded solar ac-

cess for solar panels in what is now a thickly forested area.

Arsenault’s land, formerly a working farm, has since grown up with mature second-growth pine, oak, birch, hemlock, beech, maple and other species, with a 70- to 80-foot canopy. A number of wetlands and vernal pools are within the impact area of the reduced project.

Although Werlin resisted giving an estimate of the number of trees that would be cut down, almost five acres of land in the wetlands’ buffer zone would be either clear-cut or selectively cleared or topped in the

see SOLAR page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

Board Hears Again of Used Dump Truck’s Fume Woes

By KENT ALEXANDER

The Gill selectboard had a conversation Monday night with John Miner, mechanic/operator in the highway department, regarding issues related to the department’s 2009 Sterling dump truck – in particular, continuing exhaust fumes and carbon dioxide leaks inside its cab.

Miner referenced a February 15 memorandum to the selectboard from highway superintendent Mick LaClaire outlining that these issues with the truck have been ongoing since it was purchased, used, for

\$30,000 in July 2015. Porter’s Diesel in NH, the sole “certified Cummins repair shop,” has repeatedly tried to correct the problem of leaking gases, to no avail.

Because of his employees “getting sick,” LaClaire stated in the memo that he was not “comfortable in any one of us driving this truck until we can be assured that no fumes will enter the cab and make any one of us sick. I strongly believe that this is a liability issue regarding potential long term health.” He was also concerned that the town

see GILL page A7

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Officials Brainstorm Guidelines for Replacing the Indians

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The Gill-Montague school committee held a special session on Tuesday to hone in on the criteria it will set for a new high school team name, after having voted in February to discontinue use of the “Indians.” No decisions were made, and though both public input and attendance were invited for the meeting, no suggestions were heard from the audience.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan facilitated the discussion, and started off by handing the half-dozen

observers notecards “in case members of the public had questions they wanted to submit to the school committee, or thoughts or ideas for future consideration.”

Montague member Christina Postera recommended the district create a “frequently asked questions” document about the process on its website, following the example of Amherst College, which this week announced its new mascot would be a “Mammoth.”

“To be open and transparent, we really would need to give the public

see BRAINSTORM page A7

The Montague Reporter

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Step Right Up

March 2. I am calling for one of the largest defense-spending increases in history.... America's military will ensure that even though the darkest nights and throughout, a bright and glowing sun will always shine on our nation and on our people.

March 7. We're going to be planning a major tax cut. I know exactly what we're looking at – most of us know exactly the plan. It's going to put our country in great shape and we're going to reduce taxes for companies and for people, and I can use the word again – massively.

March 13. We're going to help a lot of people, but we are going to be very much free market people....

It will get better. If we're allowed to do what we want to do, it will get better – much better. Hopefully it will get very good.

March 15. America will be respected again, and you, as workers, will be respected again. Believe me, you will be respected again. Soon. Now. I think it's already happened....

Seventy-five years ago, during the Second World War, thousands of American workers filled this very building to build the great new airplanes – the B-24 Liberator. At peak production – listen to this – it's not the country that we've been watching over the last 20 years – they were building one B-24 every single hour. We don't hear that. We don't hear that anymore, do we? We'll be back. We'll be back soon.

March 16. A new optimism is sweeping across our nation. You see that when you look at the numbers – the optimism is at the highest level in many, many years.

March 24. We're embracing a new economic model: the American Model. We're going to massively eliminate job-killing regulations – that has started already, big league – reduce government burdens, and lower taxes that are crushing American businesses and American workers all over this country.

And we are really in the process of announcements and you're going to see thousands and thousands and thousands of jobs, of companies, and everything coming back into our country. And they're coming in far faster than even I had projected.

March 28. We're going to talk about infrastructure. We're going to talk about fixing up our military, which we really need. There has been a depletion, and we're going to make it so good and so strong. And there's, I think, never been a time

where we needed it so much....

All of our citizens have the right to live in safety and peace. We will work every day to remove the gang members, drug dealers, and violent criminals from your communities – and we already are. They're being moved very quickly....

March 31. Earlier this week, I signed an executive order to end the war on coal. We had coal miners up at the office. It was an amazing scene. You had very tough, very strong, very powerful men that were crying actually; and they were crying with happiness.... The well-being of America and the American worker is my North Star.

April 3. We are very much – and as you and I will be soon talking – we're building up our military to a level that will be the highest – probably the highest that we've ever had – plane orders, ship orders, aircraft carrier orders.

April 4. [G]etting a building approved in New York is a horrible, horrible thing. And that's nothing compared to when you get into the highways and the dams – they don't even talk about dams anymore.

Hydropower is a great, great, form of power – we don't even talk about it, because to get the environmental permits are virtually impossible. It's one of the best things you can do – hydro. But we don't talk about it anymore....

I think you're going to see a very much different environment than you've been used to over the last, again, 20, 25 years. We're going to unleash the country.... The era of economic surrender has come to an end. It's come to an end. We have surrendered as a country to outside interests. The era of economic victory for our country has just begun. You will see....

We've done so much for the worker. Done so much for the military. We've done so much for the police officers, our men in blue and women in blue who are not treated fairly. ...

We're the nation that built the tallest skyscrapers on what was once the Hudson River, and put neon lights of Las Vegas in the middle of the desert. But if government continues to punish America's builders, then we will not be that nation any longer.... It's happening, you watch. When we rise above the cynics and critics who live only to defend the status quo, and to defend themselves from failure, then we, too, will *construct a lasting monument to national greatness.*

Arts Partnership Assesses Its Prospects

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Following the end of a major funding stream, the town of Montague is beginning to assess its options for the future of the Turners Falls RiverCulture program.

The town launched the program in March 2006, after receiving a John and Abigail Adams Arts grant for up to \$42,500 from the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), which required local matching funds. The Adams grant, which then-town planner Robin Sherman applied for, aimed to “promote economic development, job creation, and downtown revitalization through the arts, sciences, and humanities.”

That first year's match was largely reached with support from the WMECO, the Hallmark Institute for Photography, and federal community development block grant funding. Montague hired Lisa Davol as a “cultural coordinator.”

In 2011, the project won the MCC's Commonwealth Award under the “creative community” category. The Council cited a UMass-Dartmouth study that had found that “more than 92% of respondents report they have a more positive perception of Turners Falls because of RiverCulture.”

Funding from the MCC and various local sources has continued since the outset, though the Adams match dropped by about half last year.

It was no surprise when the other shoe dropped. “The Adams grant was discontinued on a state level,” director Suzanne LoManto, Davol's successor, told us today. “All recipients were notified in February. RiverCulture is considering how to make up this loss.”

Since receiving the news, LoManto and town planner Walter Ramsey have held two facilitated meetings with the program's stakeholders, and both indicate they intend to see it continue, though perhaps in an altered form.

“Part of these meetings has

been about revisiting our mission statement from 11 years go,” said Ramsey, “figuring out how far we've come, and if we're still headed in the same direction.”

According to Ramsey, a pivot from an exclusive focus on downtown Turners Falls and toward the entire town of Montague – or at least other parts of it – was “a theme that kept popping up” in discussions.

“RiverCulture has outlasted the Adams program,” Ramsey mused, “which is great news.”

“Even though this loss of money is a little scary, frankly, I'm now free to expand the program,” LoManto said. “And I am looking forward to branching out.”

Though both officials said conversations with the project's stakeholders were preliminary, they were candid about where they imagined Montague's focus shifting.

“I would like to start relationships with people in Millers Falls,” LoManto told us. “There's a really nice

group of artists that are working right on the corner of Bridge Street, and Rick Widmer is doing a lot for the village, including a mural project.”

“I see Millers Falls where Turners was 10 or 15 years ago,” said Ramsey. “There's a lot of good things happening in Millers that could blossom with support from a program like RiverCulture.”

In the meantime, the town is pursuing an official designation of a section of downtown Turners as a “cultural district” by the MCC (see accompanying article, page A8), which could open up opportunities for other forms of state investment.

The Adams Arts Program match will continue through June, and the project has enough reserve funds to continue through October. It is unclear whether a successor to the Adams grant might be a source of renewed support, or if the full burden would need to shift to local businesses – or even to the town of Montague itself.



Meagan waits on the lunch tables at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls last week.

Letters to the Editors

Appreciated the Closer Look

Bravo to the *Montague Reporter* for its thorough fact checking of Gary Bourbeau's statement to the Gill Selectboard on March 20.

It turns out that Mr. Bourbeau's statement was not just incredibly xenophobic, but also incredibly incorrect. Thank you for your work sorting the alternative facts from the actual facts.

Joanna Frankel
Portland, Maine
(proud former resident of Gill)

Thanks very much for your careful coverage of the assertions made by Gary Bourbeau to the Gill Selectboard, of Sue Kramer's response, and most especially for the careful analysis of the probable sources and the lack of accuracy in those statements that may have been behind Mr. Bourbeau's assertions.

I had seen these types of extremely broad statements that essentially blame all sorts of illegal activity and dramatically added tax payer costs on recent immigrants. They have always seemed to be at least suspect, and more probably total fabrications in that they are completely at odds with my own experiences with peoples of the various backgrounds who are targeted by the assertions.

I very much appreciate your careful analyses of some of the more extreme of the claims, laying bare their total inaccuracies.

George Drake Leverett

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No paper last week of November,
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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Take some time and visit the **Easter Bazaar** at Our Lady of Czestochowa Church, 84 K Street, Turners Falls, on Saturday, April 8 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Coffee and donuts will be served, and there will be Polish food for sale, a bake sale, crafts, a giant raffle, religious articles, lunch, and much more.

Stop by and visit with the folks from **Valley Eye Radio**, which broadcasts out of Springfield for our local listening audience, at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 8, stating at 10:30 a.m.

Valley Eye Radio is a group of dedicated volunteers who broadcast news and information to reading impaired listeners. From enjoying the morning news, lottery numbers, sports scores, best deals on groceries and other essentials, Valley Eye Radio keeps its listeners informed. Join in and get the details on this valuable program from executive director Barbara Loh, and a dedicated staff of volunteers.

Also on display at the Greenfield Savings Bank are 3D printed objects created by children and teens at the **MakerSpace Workshop** at the Carnegie Library. These workshops are presented by Arthur Evans and allow children, teens and adults to explore a variety of technology tools such as 3D printing, robotics and virtual reality.

The artists' creativity is displayed

along with their first names, so any friends and relatives of the makers can come during GSB's normal lobby hours.

This program was supported in part by a grant from the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency, which in turn is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. The display will be in the bank lobby until April 14.

Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls will be holding **Palm Sunday Masses** on Saturday, April 8, at 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 9, at 8 and 10 a.m.

Palms will be blessed during each service, which will include a procession that features both palms and the donkey that recalls Jesus' solemn entrance into Jerusalem. The Liturgy of the Word will feature the Passion according to St. Matthew.

Continuing during Holy Week: on Good Friday, April 14, the church will be open for private prayer from noon to 3 p.m. The service of the Passion of the Lord will begin at 5:30 p.m. A simple meal will follow in the Fr. Casey Hall.

For the entire Holy Week schedule, please contact the church at 863-2585.

The **Greenfield Community College Chorus** will continue its spring semester concert series on Saturday, April 8 with a full performance of "Morning and Evening". The concert will take place at 7:30 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 8 Church Street in Greenfield. The

GCC Chorus will be under the direction of Margery Heins, with Marilyn Berthelette, accompanist, and soloists from the chorus.

The Montague Historical Society presents a nostalgic look at the Franklin County Fair, the Montague Inn, and other goings-on in Montague Center. The 1920s-era films have been skillfully re-mastered by Chris Clawson of the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage in Greenfield. Chris brings to the screen via **archival footage from the Montague Historical Society**, an enjoyable viewing presentation bound to rekindle fond memories of the title event and places.

This event is free and open to the public. Held at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls, on Tuesday, April 11, starting at 1 p.m.

Neal Sanders, local mystery writer, popular public speaker, and blogger, will share his unique and humorous observations on gardening and gardeners in his talk, "**Gardening is Murder**," at the New Salem Public Library on Thursday, April 13 at 7 p.m.

The program, sponsored by the New Salem Agricultural Commission and Friends of the New Salem Public Library, is free and open to the public. For more information, contact nsagcommission@gmail.com.

Sanders, who lives and gardens in Medfield with his master gardener wife Betty, is the author of several books which combine intrigue, gardening themes, and settings that might sound vaguely familiar to local audiences. His books include *Murder Imperfect*, *The Garden Club Gang*, *A Murder in the Garden Club*, *Murder for a Worthy Cause*, *Deal Killer*, *The Accidental Spy*, and the recently published *Cecelia's Friends*. To learn

more about Neal and his writing or to read excerpts from his books, visit www.thehardingtonpress.com or his blog www.ThePrincipalUndergardener.blogspot.com.

Families are invited to **12th Annual Peter Cottontail's EGG-stravaganza** on April 15, from 1 to 2 p.m. at Unity Park, in Turners Falls. Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in this great community tradition.

Your kids will have an opportunity to have their picture taken with Peter Cottontail, enter into a bunch of raffles, and of course enjoy the Egg Hunt where they will have the challenge of finding approximately 5,000 candy- and toy-filled eggs strewn throughout the park. Participants must bring their own basket or bag for their eggs.

Unity Park is bordered by First Street, Third Street, and Williams Street in Turners Falls. While you are at the park, check out the new state of the art skateboard park, and all the other new features at this great downtown family resource!

The **Franklin County Regional Transit Authority (FRTA)** will be hosting a series of meetings to allow people the opportunity to comment on **proposed fixed-route changes** for July 1, 2017, including possible partial Saturday service.

The closest meeting for Gill and Montague residents is set for Tuesday, April 18 between 2 to 4 p.m. at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Meetings will also be held at the JWO Transit Center in Greenfield at 12:30 p.m. on April 19, 3 p.m. on April 25, and at noon on April 26, as well as at the Deerfield Town Hall at 4 p.m. on April 27.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Board Seeks To Thwart Whackadoos, Ignores Marijuana Fishing Expedition

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard debated the merits of switching its town clerk position from elected to appointed, at its April 4 meeting. Leverett is the only town in the commonwealth which still allows nominations from the town meeting floor, thus an "unknown" candidate could conceivably win office by this method.

"We have Lisa; we can sleep peacefully in our beds," said selectwoman Julie Shively, referring to longtime town clerk Lisa Stratford, who also doubles as secretary to the selectboard. "But what if some whackadoo raises his hand and gets the position?"

A warrant article has been prepared to pave way for this shift,

which requires town meeting approval two consecutive years. Lisa Stratford herself, though, remains unsure, weighing the accountability shift from voters to selectboard.

"I was told the [town clerk's] hourly rate is high," said board chair Peter d'Errico. "It's clear the position has become increasingly professionalized," he said. "Town clerks are elected all over the state; find out what other towns are doing."

When asked who was driving the issue, the board indicated Stratford, who claimed to have twice been denied a raise by the town personnel board. Stratford, for her part, was ambivalent about including the shift on the warrant, sensitive to public perception.

The board sought more information before deciding on warrant inclusion.

Also on the town meeting warrant is an impeachment resolution proffered by a syndicate of Moore's Corner residents.

Shively was appointed selectboard rep to the police contract negotiating committee.

The landfill monitoring contract was awarded to ECS from Agawam, \$500 up from last year to \$23,930. "Ten years. \$300,000... close to half a million and counting, and no solution in sight. Wow," d'Errico sighed.

"Can we get a grant for this?" Shively asked.

The cost of new sprinkler heads for the school's fire suppression system has increased from \$25,650 to \$27,950. D'Errico said he hoped

someone knows what's actually going on with this spiraling expense, and asked for clarification from the facilities manager.

A mailed-in inquiry from a Neil Phelan about a medical marijuana dispensary in Leverett, described as a "fishing expedition" by d'Errico, was ignored.

Ruth West of Briggs Road complained about timely snow removal. D'Errico directed that road boss David Rice be cc'd. Shively said that while West and her partner Carole King could "trudge their way out," the same could not be said for Bertha LaClaire – elderly and on the same road.

The date for the annual town meeting is April 29.



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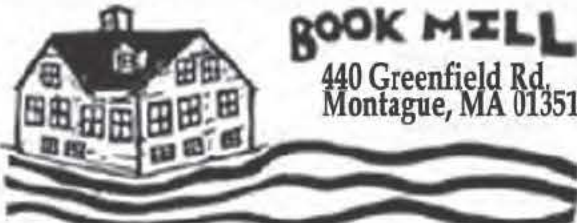
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SOLAR from page A1

name of “shade management” for the solar panels, including many trees within 25 to 50 feet of wetlands.

Toward the end of the two-and-a-half hour meeting, con com chair Robin Heubel said, “This project could have gotten permitted a lot sooner if we had known how many trees would be cut down.”

Werlin said he had already given up on producing much power at the site in winter, in order to save trees from being felled, but resisted giving even an estimate of how many trees would be lost to allow full sun on the solar panels as measured at the summer equinox.

Con com members compromised on wetlands protection within the buffer zone to permit the project to proceed.

But they conditioned the project in a number of ways to compensate for the loss of mature trees, and the species that depend upon them for habitat – such as deer and bears whose presence on the land has been observed, along with rare or threatened species such as box turtles, or

MONTAGUE from page A1

with a number of “definitions.”

The resolution recommends guidelines for responding to requests from federal immigration officials that local police departments continue to detain immigrants “eligible for release from custody.”

The law also calls for an annual report from the police department to the selectboard. The report would detail requests from federal immigration officials and the actions taken by the department.

There are two other petitioned articles, which Nelson read in their entirety, on the warrant. One calls on the town to use something called “Greenfield Community Energy and Technology” as its model for the town’s recently created municipal light plant. The article does not originate from the Montague broadband committee, which has proposed the light plant as a venue for the creation of a fiber-optic cable network.

A final petitioned article proposes that town meeting appropriate \$1,500 for “community building activities” in Millers Falls.

The *Montague Reporter* will provide more extensive coverage of these petitioned articles in the coming weeks.

Town meeting has not always looked favorably on petitioned articles, particularly on state or federal policy issues. However, a petitioned article did play an important role in opposing the transfer of the town’s local access station to Greenfield back in 2001.

Another petitioned article, opposing the construction of a natural gas pipeline through Montague, passed town meeting two years ago by a wide margin.

The First 46 Articles

The warrant begins with the usual appropriations for the “several town departments” (\$8,993,941), the Water Pollution Control Fa-

cility (\$2,384,214), the Franklin County Technical School assessment (\$747,340) and the Gill-Montague School District assessment (\$9,356,560).

The warrant contains no fewer than nine capital requests from the Water Pollution Control Facility, three from the Library department, four from the Department of Public Works, and two from Parks and Recreation.

There is a request for \$65,000 to improve access to Dry Hill Cemetery. Four articles deal with transfers of revenues into various trust and stabilization funds.

Two articles call on town meeting to approve a lease agreement and a tax agreement with Keasarge Energy, which hopes to construct three solar arrays on the landfill area off of Sandy Lane.

With a total of fifty articles, it should be a long day at the office for town meeting members.

Other Business

The selectboard approved the addition of Mary Melonis and Peg Bridges, both of Montague Center, to the historical commission. The appointments will only last until June 30, when all board members are annually reappointed. Town administrator Steve Ellis said he had recently met with Melonis, who is also a member of the Montague Historical Society, to view the society’s holdings at the Montague Common Hall.

The board approved dates for summer concerts of the Montague Community Band. These will be in July and August.

Ellis announced that the state had approved \$493,562 for Chapter 90 highway aid for Montague. He noted that this was slightly lower than the previous year. The formula for highway aid, he stated, is heavily influenced by eligible road miles, of which Montague has 107.

The board’s next meeting will be held April 10.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

County Towns to Study Regional Dispatch System

By KATIE NOLAN

On April 4, the Erving selectboard signed a letter supporting a grant application to study the feasibility of an all-Franklin County regional emergency dispatch service. Fire chief Philip Wonkka told the board that Greenfield police chief Robert Haigh, Jr. is preparing the grant application.

Erving and other small Franklin County towns are already part of a regional dispatch service operated by the state police, but Greenfield, Montague, and Orange have separate dispatch services.

The board accepted a proposed layout for Care Drive, which was never officially accepted as a public way. The planning board approved the layout at a meeting last week. The next special town meeting will be asked to vote on whether to accept Care Drive as a town road.

The board approved a \$58,617 project with Metro Area Planning Council, in which the town’s 163 cobra-head streetlights will be retrofitted with LED lights. The town will be eligible for a \$13,000 state grant towards the cost, as well as a \$7,400 utility company incentive payment.

They also signed a contract with Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for assistance in updating the town’s open space and recreation plan. Having a current plan is a requirement for some grant applications. FRCOG’s \$20,750 fee will be offset by a \$7,000 “direct local technical assistance” grant from the state.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache, who is a member of the open space and recreation plan committee, expressed the hope that the plan will be completed sooner than June

30, 2018, the completion date provided by FRCOG. He said he was willing to meet more often to get the plan written “as soon as possible.”

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith agreed that FRCOG and the committee should “try to accelerate it.”

The board reviewed the town’s employee performance review form, and several alternate forms. Selectboard member William Bembury called the town’s current form confusing and time-consuming. Board members decided that a new form was needed that emphasizes setting clear, measurable goals for employees and provides a tool for managers to determine whether goals are being achieved.

Bastarache said, “There’s growing trend to a narrative format, with goals set at the beginning.”

Selectboard chair Smith said that the form should encourage “two-way dialogue” between employees and supervisors. The board will review a narrative form at their April 11 meeting, and expects to have a working draft by April 24.

The board approved the capital improvement program request form developed by administrative coordinator Bryan Smith. The form, which will be used by town department heads for requesting capital purchases, includes drop-down menus and standardized fields for entering data. Selectboard members stressed that they would be asking department heads for input about how to improve the form after it has been in use.

Bryant Stewart of Maple Street was reappointed to the cemetery maintenance position.

The board approved extending the Duseau Trucking contract for hauling trash for one year, ending June 30, 2018.

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

week ending 3/31/2017:

- Grade 6
Lindsay Davenport
Morgan Dobias
- Grade 7
Brandon Pollard
- Grade 8
Isabella Johnson

How Healthy is Franklin County?

GREENFIELD – Local health planners are inviting residents to join local agencies and State Rep. Paul Mark this Friday, April 7 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the John W. Olver Transit Center for the release of the 2017 National County Health Rankings data, to learn how our region measures up in terms of health outcomes and health factors.

According to FRCOG director of community services Phoebe Walker, the County Health Rankings make it clear that health is influenced by many factors beyond medical care, including housing, education, jobs, access to healthy foods, and more.

Using data from the County Health Rankings and other national and state sources, as well as local

data such as the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment and annual Teen Health Survey, local agencies representing a variety of sectors have banded together to develop our region’s first Community Health Improvement Plan, which looks at the many ways in which our community addresses health-related issues, and identifies where we can be doing more.

Friday’s lively meeting will include discussion of: information on our region’s urgent health needs, and who is most at risk; state health policy updates from our legislators; and what we can do, individually and together, to improve the health of the region.

Refreshments will be served.



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POLLINATE from page A1

Native insects can also pollinate food crops – roughly a third of which depend on pollinator insects, according to Xerces – but food crops are not the only plants that require the services of wild pollinators. Wild native plants rely on the symbiotic relationships they’ve evolved with wild insects, hummingbirds, and other pollinators.

Some can be pollinated by only a single specific species. Likewise, some insects require a specific plant to host a phase of their life cycles. Famously, milkweeds (*Asclepias*) are the only food source for the larvae of the monarch butterfly.

If one member of this delicate partnership goes extinct, so may the other – and a collapse of a few native species can trigger further ecological losses, as each strand in the web of life tugs at the others.

Helping In Your Backyard

Fortunately, we in Franklin County do not need dubiously-intentioned major corporations to lead us to action. It’s actually relatively easy to get started, since the best way to help pollinators is right in our backyards.

The first step is to reconsider any use of pesticides, herbicides, or fungicides. If you must use a spray on your property, first research its impact on pollinators. A product doesn’t have to be labeled as a pesticide to kill insects – even products marketed for controlling plant diseases can potentially harm wild insects.

Once you’ve put away your chemicals, take a look around your yard. Our yards are a front line in the battle between wild plants and the imported, exotic, domestic and invasive plants conventionally used in landscaping. Habitat loss is the major threat to native pollinators, according to multiple speakers at a March 25 seminar presented by the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS).

Increasing urbanization and suburbanization has fractured the natural sweeps of New England forest, bog, and meadow into impervious constructed landscapes and blank, chemically treated lawns bordered with domestic, imported plants, such as the ubiquitous hydrangea and hostas, which have little value to native insects.

Just as easily as a lawn can be created, it can be ripped out to make room for native habitat – or, less drastically – to at least reduce the size of your lawn.

“Most lawns are food deserts for pollinators,” says Cayte McDonough, nursery production manager for the New England Wild Flower Society. NEWFS is dedicated to conserving wild plants in our region, and along with her staff, McDonough grows native plants at two non-profit nurseries – Nasami Farm in Whately, and Garden in the Woods in Framingham – for use by landscapers, homeowners, and ecological restoration projects.

To add a wildflower border or

bed to your yard, start by cutting your turf into sections and pulling it up like old carpeting. If you have a season’s lead-time on a section, try smothering the area with cardboard or tarps to kill the sod. Put your sod sections root-side up into your compost pile, or use them to replace sections of damaged turf in the parts of your yard you’re keeping.

Amend the area with finished compost as needed. It’s a good idea to have some mulching material (wood chips, cardboard, or straw) on hand before you start planting, because covering the soil keeps the roots of sensitive transplants at a more even moisture and temperature level than exposed soil.

But don’t cover it too well: 70% of native bee species are actually ground-nesting, and require access to patches of bare soil to make their tunnels.

Plants for Pollinators

McDonough advises that when setting out to plant wildflowers in your home garden, “plant a variety of species that will flower from early spring to late fall,” and “choose a variety of flower shapes and colors to support different types of pollinators.”

The accompanying chart gives plant recommendations from both McDonough and Wendell landscaper Adam Kohl, whose gardening business, Kohl Gardens, focuses on native plants. They chose plant selections appropriate for beginning gardeners, and suited for a range of conditions. These plants are relatively easy to grow, but have a big impact for local pollinators.

Before you go out and buy plants, though, take into consideration your site conditions – sun, shade, soil saturation (is it moist or dry?) – and keep them in mind when you make your plant list.

When buying plants, McDonough advises, buy sets of five to seven plants of one species at a time. Groups of odd numbers tend to be most pleasing to the eye, and “pollinators are better able to find a large swath in flower and can feed more efficiently on the abundance of flowers.”

When shopping at your nursery, watch out for “nativars” or cultivars of native plants. Some plants that are marketed as natives may in fact be hybrids of different native species to produce a flashier color, a doubled, bigger or longer-lasting bloom, or other characteristics pleasing to humans – unfortunately, these changes may reduce their utility to pollinators.

(The biologist Annie White has been doing research on the effect of hybridized and otherwise domestically bred “nativars” on pollinators. Her work is available at pollinatorgardens.org.)

“Personally,” McDonough says, “I opt for the straight species whenever possible. Most cultivars are clones, meaning they are genetically identical to one another, leaving them vulnerable to problems like disease. By choosing seed-grown

plants, you ensure some level of genetic diversity.”

To ensure that you do get the straight species, read the tag carefully. If the species name (e.g., *Echinacea purpurea*) is followed by a trademarked variety name (e.g., *Echinacea Sombrero*® “Balsomsed”), it is a cultivar. If it has a variety name in quotes without a trademark (e.g., *Echineacea purpurea* “Sundown”), it may just be a selected variety of the true native – but it may also be aggressively bred to change its color, form, or growing habit.

If you want to be totally sure you’re getting the true native, look for plants with just the species name.

At Nasami Farm, you can purchase plants grown from seed sustainably collected from wild populations. You can shop there starting on April 29 on Saturdays and Sundays through mid-October, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

You can also grow natives from seed, but many are a bit more complicated than vegetables to start – they may require months of strati-

fication (exposure to cold) or have a very long germination period.

Adam Kohl seeds flats of native plants in the fall, and keeps them in his dark, unheated garage for the winter to stratify, occasionally moistening. In spring, once exposed to warmth and light, they germinate.

Protect Pollinators Politically

Gardening isn’t the only thing you can do to support native pollinators. On a political level, you can help support Massachusetts house bill H.2113, “An Act To Protect Massachusetts Pollinators,” filed by representative Carolyn Dykema.

The Massachusetts chapter of the Northeast Organic Farming Association is supporting this bill, and according to policy director Dan Bensonoff, it focuses on neonicotinoids, another class of pesticides that severely impacts pollinator insects. “Neonics” are used in a wide range of products that can be purchased off-the-shelf, but this bill would limit their availability in Massachusetts, requiring a license for application.

The bill would also “ensure landscapers educate their clientele about pollinator risks before use,” according to Bensonoff, and it would direct the Mass Department of Transportation to identify opportunities for the introduction of pollinator habitats on DOT-owned property, such as highway medians. (To get involved in helping the bill pass, email dan@nofamass.org).

If you hire a landscape company to manage your property, choose accredited organic landscapers, and ask them to use native plants in their design. You can search for a local organic landscaper at OrganicLandCare.net.

It is my hope that you will, after reading this, put away your landscape chemicals (if you use them), and plant at least two native species on your property this year. Together we can make Franklin County a sanctuary for pollinators in an increasingly hostile world.

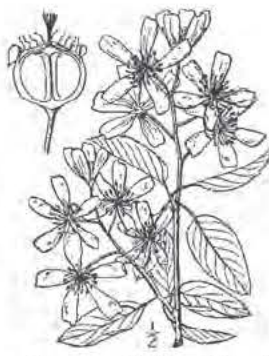
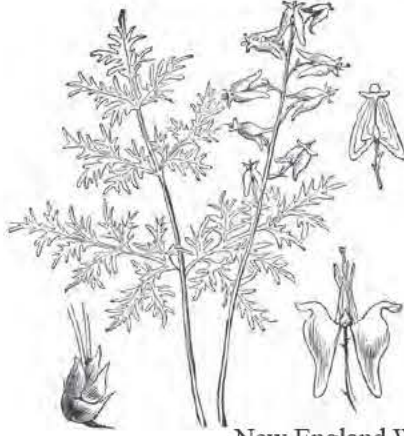
Caro Roszell is the owner of New Wendell Farm.



Plant Recommendations

Bloom Time: Soil:	Early flowering	Mid-season	Late flowering
Moist, heavy soil	<i>Lindera benzoin</i> (northern spicebush) Shrub, part sun to shade.	<i>Asclepias incarnata</i> (swamp milkweed) Sun, part shade.	<i>Symphotrichum novae-angliae</i> (New England aster) Sun, part shade.
Moist to well-drained soil (tolerates a range)	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i> (Dutchman’s breeches) Part sun to shade. <i>Zizia aurea</i> (Golden Alexanders) Full sun to part shade.	<i>Pycnanthemum muticum</i> and <i>tenuifolium</i> (mountain mints) sun, part shade <i>Asclepias syriaca</i> (common milkweed) sun, part shade <i>Monarda fistulosa</i> (wild bee balm) Sun to part shade.	<i>Symphotrichum cordifolium</i> (heart-leaved American aster) <i>Eurybia divaricata</i> (white wood aster) Sun to shade. <i>Solidago caesia</i> (blue-stemmed goldenrod) and <i>Solidago odora</i> (licorice goldenrod) Sun to shade.
Dry, well-drained soil	<i>Amelanchier canadensis</i> (Canadian serviceberry) Shrub, light shade to sun.	<i>Asclepias tuberosa</i> (butterfly milkweed) Sun, part shade. <i>Lupinus perennis</i> (sundial lupine) Sun to part sun, well drained, acid.	<i>Solidago sempervirens</i> (Seaside Goldenrod), Drought- and salt-tolerant; full sun.

Above plant suggestions from Adam Kohl and Cayte McDonough. Left: *dicentra cucullaria*; right: *amelanchier canadensis*. (Britton & Brown, *An Illustrated Flora of the Northern US*, 1913.)



Information on Native Plants
Xerces Society: xerces.org
New England Wildflower Society: www.newfs.org
Pollinator Gardens (research by Annie White): pollinatorgardens.org

Local Resources:

- Nasami Farm, Whately.
- Many local nurseries like Hadley Garden Center, Laurentis Farm, and Greenfield Farmers Exchange provide native plant selections, but it’s best to call ahead about the varieties you’re seeking.
- New Wendell Farm will offer a limited selection of native plants at the Wendell Farmers Market starting in June 2017.

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NatureCulture: The Science Page

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Sun Science

Compiled by LISA
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- The sun is a yellow dwarf star composed of mainly hydrogen and helium, and produces energy by nuclear fusion when the nuclei of light hydrogen atoms fuse together to form heavier helium atoms, releasing energy in the process.
- The sun was formed from a rotating cloud of gas and dust called a solar nebula, and is held together by gravitational attraction.
- The sun has used up almost half its hydrogen; it has about another 5 billion years' worth, after which it will start working on burning up its helium for another 130 million years. During that time it will expand in size to become a red giant star, and in the process will consume Mercury, Venus, and

Earth. It will then shrink down to become a white dwarf star.

- Temperatures inside the sun can reach 27 million degrees Fahrenheit, with surface temperatures of about 10,000 degrees Fahrenheit.
- The sun is very active magnetically, which can affect satellites, pipelines, and power grids.
- The sun has always been of interest to people. Currently, several spacecraft watch the sun constantly; many ancient cultures built stone structures to keep track of the sun's motions.
- Without the sun's energy there would be no life on our planet.

For more information on the sun visit: theplanets.org/the-sun or solarsystem.nasa.gov/planets/sun.

Going Solar: Our Experience

By JULIA BLYTH

NORTHFIELD – When my husband and I first became homeowners, one of the things that excited us most was the ability to control our electric use and its source.

A little research yielded what we should have known already: the cheapest energy – in environmental cost, as well as dollars – is the energy that isn't used. We wanted to go solar, but it was clear that the most sensible first step would be to make our house as energy efficient as possible, so we wouldn't need as many panels.

We signed up for a free home energy assessment from Mass Save (1). Our "energy specialist" swapped out most of our old incandescent light bulbs for LEDs during the audit. He also made recommendations regarding insulation, air sealing, and upgrading appliances, provided information about grants to help fund those upgrades, and provided a booklet of lifestyle changes that could also help save electricity.

We added about a foot of insulation to our attic, as well as taking some of the lifestyle changes to heart. We haven't turned on our clothes drier in almost two years; we use a laundry line or drying rack instead.

At that point, our electricity usage was respectably low, but we wanted to contribute to what we see as "the solution," rather than continuing to demand energy produced by fossil fuels. We did some online searches to try to get a cost estimate for solar.

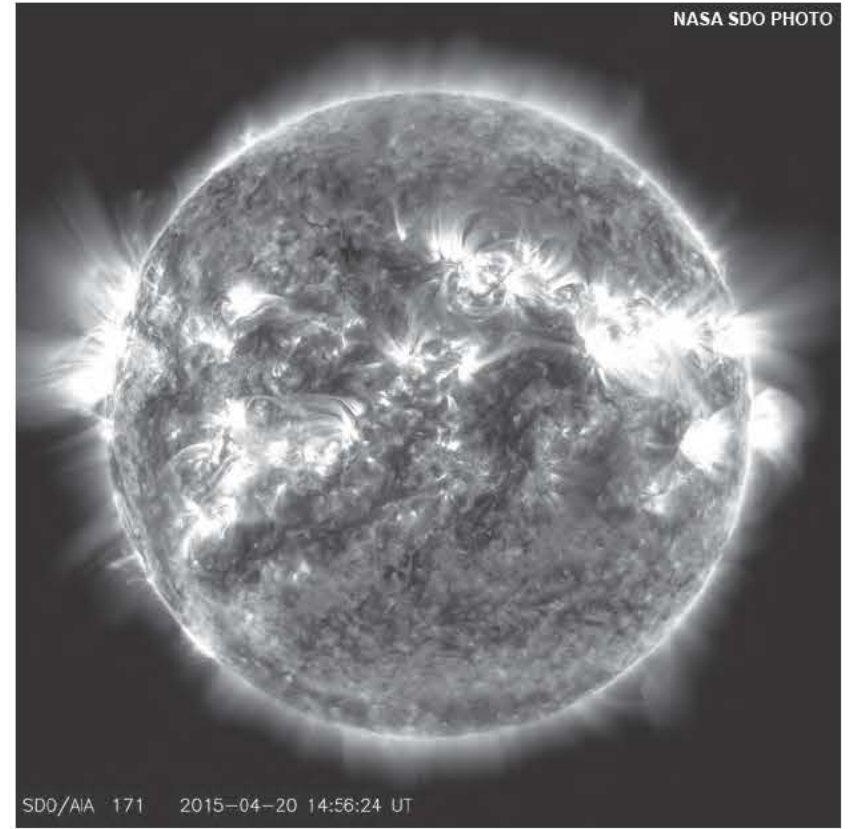
There are two main ownership models. In one, a company owns the system and gets the incentives, leasing it to the homeowner for a monthly fee – there are no maintenance or upfront costs to the homeowner. In the other, the homeowner buys the system and receives the incentives, including no longer paying a monthly utility bill.

Owning the system instead of leasing it, while more costly upfront, was a better deal over the long term. For us, the investment will break even in about seven years. We also realized that we wanted to use this process as an opportunity to support a local installer who shared our values.

In the end, our installer helped us size and site our system appropriately, catered to our ownership ideals, and helped us understand financing options. Additionally, they dealt with all of the local permits and utility interconnection, lined up courteous workers, and helped us understand how the whole process works.

Solar and the Grid

An important thing to know about electricity is that it can't just hang around, even for a minute, which is why storage is such an important piece of the puzzle of our regional transition to renewable power. Right now, most grid-connected solar producers (including us) are using the grid as a battery, which is frustrating to the utility companies because they have a hard time accurately predict-



Caption: Our star, the sun.

ing when they can rely on solar and power down their gas and oil plants.

Fortunately, some of the highest-demand times are just when solar is most productive: afternoons on bright hot summer days when a lot of people are running air conditioning, or cold, clear, bright winter afternoons when people are using heat and light. (Surprisingly, one of our highest production months is March.)

Technology is catching up, but it can take grid operators time to adopt. One example is "demand response" technology, like my parents' hot-water heater, which can be turned off by their grid operator's computer for a few minutes at a time, in rotation with their neighbors, balancing demand against production without any of them even noticing.

Financing in Massachusetts

Currently, there are a number of financial incentives that help people afford solar. These include a solar loan, tax incentives, net metering, and SRECs.

The solar loan program, run by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (2), generally offers 10-year fixed rate loans with an interest rate of less than 5%. Depending on a household's income, there may be a 20-30% loan principal buy down offered.

There is currently a federal tax credit for 30% of the cost of the system. On top of that, Massachusetts offers a tax credit of 15% of the cost of the project up to \$1,000.

Net metering allows solar producers to use surplus power produced to offset power demanded when the sun isn't shining. While our meter doesn't literally run backward, the utility company tracks how much we are pumping into the grid, as well as how much we use from the grid; our bill represents the difference.

In the two years since going solar, we have not yet had to pay a bill, though by the end of the winter our credit becomes small. Utilities do

not pay small-scale solar producers, but credit our accounts with the retail rate of electricity. Subtracted from our credit are several use fees, between \$6 and \$30 per month depending on our production and use; these fees help pay for grid maintenance.

Solar Renewable Energy Certificates (SRECs) are available to homeowners in MA for 10 years. Each megawatt produced yields one certificate. This can be sold to utility companies, enabling them to meet their mandated percentage of "green" power supplied.

Of course, this is about to change; a new incentive program due to be rolled out later this year will not include SRECs, and net metering may be altered, but it will still pay solar owners for production for a set number of years.

Being an Advocate

Massachusetts is on the cutting edge of solar policy, which means the legislature occasionally needs an extra push to be a bold leader whose programs other states can emulate. MassSolar(3) is a non-profit advocacy group that provides guidance for people who want to push for even better clean energy policy.

We love our array. We love watching the production meter, and we love knowing that we are no longer lining the pockets of fossil fuel companies.

We hope that by advocating for conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable power at all levels of government, we can help others to benefit from the opportunity of owning their mode of power production – and just maybe tip the scales in favor of a livable climate.

Resources

Mass Save: masssave.com or (866) 527-7283
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center: masssolarloan.com
MassSolar: SolarIsWorking.org

Moon Calendar for April 2017:

Monday, April 3: First Quarter

Tuesday, April 11: Full Moon

Wednesday, April 19: Last Quarter

Wednesday, April 26: New Moon

Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA's GSFC). NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory observing the moon traveling across the sun.

Local Energy Efficiency Advice

In addition to free Mass Save energy assessments available across the state, most towns have energy committees made up of passionate

volunteers who are well-versed in energy efficiency measures and are eager to offer suggestions to homeowners who ask.

Don't Have a Good Solar Site?

Go Green on your Electric Bill!

MassEnergy.org works with local utility companies, including Eversource and National Grid, to supply local renewable energy to consumers who pay a few extra cents per kilowatt hour.

You can buy local wind for an

extra 3.8cents/ kWh, or a mix of wind, solar, digester gas (think cows), and low-impact hydro for 2.4 cents/ kWh on top of your regular rate.

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GILL from pg A1

had “invested several thousand dollars of repairs to the truck,” and asked, “How much money spent is too much?”

Miner explained that the department had spent, at present, an additional \$35,000 trying to fix the problematic dump truck. He dejectedly added that, in his opinion, the department could go easily find themselves in the hole to a tune of \$100,000 and still have no resolution.

He added, for emphasis, “I’m not getting back in that truck. I’m done being sick.”

The board decided to table the matter until LaClaire, who was out of town, returned and could substantiate Miner’s claim that another \$10,000 in repairs would be needed. Selectboard chair John Ward also stated that he would “volunteer some of his time” to speak directly with staff at Porter’s Diesel in an attempt to get more detailed information.

The board thanked Miner for bringing the matter forward. Before he left, board member Randy Crochier asked Miner about the condition of the bucket truck jointly owned by Gill, Northfield, and Stoneleigh-Burnham. Miner stated that the 1-ton truck was in “dire need of repair,” though the bucket itself was in good shape.

After Miner left, the board returned to the dilemma of the jointly owned bucket truck. Both Northfield and Stoneleigh-Burnham have asked Gill to buy them out of the remaining contract for \$3,000. Crochier noted that the truck had been purchased initially for \$3,000 six or seven years ago.

Board member Greg Snedeker added that he was “hesitant” to move ahead with this buy-out, and that the claim by the two other owners that “they didn’t have a say” in buying the truck was “not true.”

After referring to Miner’s as-

essment of the truck’s condition, Crochier noted that should Gill wish to keep it, they might try lifting the bucket and attaching it to a more functional truck, though he “didn’t know how much money this would entail.”

Ward inquired about the existing maintenance account for the truck and if the money in it might be more than \$3,000. Crochier laughed, while agreeing that they should find out what happens to that account if the agreement is dissolved. The board again decided to table any decision until LaClaire could share his opinion on the matter.

Agreements

The board signed a statement for MassDOT concerning the “sidewalk maintenance agreement” between Gill and Summit Distributing, LLC, which is redeveloping the gas station at Main Road and Route 2. The agreement states that Summit and its successors are responsible for the maintenance of, and snow removal from, the sidewalk to be constructed in front of the property.

The board agreed to participate in a feasibility study to establish a centralized Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) that would serve all 26 of the communities in Franklin County, as well as the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office. The study would be paid for by a grant and would cost Gill nothing, nor commit the town to any future agreements.

Memorial Trees

The board then discussed and supported a proposal regarding the Liberty Tree Project received from state senator Stan Rosenberg’s office. This project plants in a public location one tree for every soldier – currently totaling some 37,000 Massachusetts residents - who lost his life while serving his country.

Under the project, each planted tree would have a nameplate, similar to a dog tag, placed on the tree so that everyone would be able to see what soldier is being honored. The trees would also serve to beautify and help protect the environment. The fund asks for no funds from municipalities, just permission and places to plant the trees.

Purinton wondered what kinds of trees might be planted, and if they were indigenous to the region.

Crochier noted that he thought it was “a great program,” while cable committee volunteer Janet Masucci spoke up to say that the board might solicit input from the public as to where to place the trees. All agreed that the project was worthwhile.

Other Business

The board unanimously approved several appointments, including Jacob Dubreuil as fire fighter through June 30, and Daniel Larvey as a part-time police officer through the same date. Judd Greenstein was appointed to the Cultural Council until 2020.

They approved all members the fire department nominated for the Board of Fire Engineers: Marcus Aucoin, Gene Beaubien, Steve Connell, Jason Edson, Stuart Elliott, Mathew McCarthy, Scott Nicholas, Greg Parody, Kenneth Sears, Paul Sweeney, and Eric Vassar.

The board also approved a free bicycle rack provided by FRCOG’s Bicycle Parking Program, before unanimously agreeing to a \$350 sewer abatement request made by Bob Callery of Oak Street, who petitioned the board for the abatement after two broken pipes caused an excessive water reading.

Honoring tradition, the board set May 1 at 7 p.m. for the annual town meeting, which will set Gill’s budget.

**BRAINSTORM from pg A1**

more than just our meetings,” Postera said. “The more transparent we can be, the more collaboration it will result in.”

She suggested that specific groups that support the school community, such as the Elks, the Gill-Montague Education Fund, and the Sports Boosters, could be reached out to for representation on a selection committee.

The board agreed to establish criteria before discussing who would be involved in making the decision, or making final recommendations. Members spent time writing possible criteria on Post-It notes, and then stuck them to the meeting room’s white board, clustering them into ten themes.

After further discussion they distilled these to six concepts: “non-discriminatory,” “marketable,” “relevant to the community,” “inclusive,” “non-gender specific,” and consistent with the district’s of-

ficial values, or else with the motto of the athletic program.

“I also wondered if the audience had any criteria that maybe we should look at, too, while we’re doing this,” asked Montague member April Reipold. “We gave them cards.”

But discussion remained limited to the school committee and superintendent. By the end of the 90-minute session, members had drafted language around each of the six criteria. Along the way, they agreed it would be unwise to change the district’s blue-and-white color scheme.

One working criterion held that the new logo “should be a graphically pleasing icon that is easily identifiable, easy to relate to, easy to love, and unique; that students – and everyone else – will embrace enthusiastically; that will stand the test of time; and that will look great in blue and white.”

Another indicated that it should

“be broadly relevant across the GMRSD community, the student body, and generations of alumni; be representative of the TFHS experience of history, either generally or specifically.”

It was not decided whether the function of these criteria would be to rank team name suggestions or to determine their eligibility for consideration.

Turners Falls resident Alana Martineau asked school committee chair Michael Langknecht what the next step would be.

“You said for tonight you were going to discuss criteria, and you invited the public to weigh in on the criteria,” she said. “So, what next – and what input do you want from the community?”

“At this point, there is no clear next step,” Langknecht answered, adding that the public is “certainly invited” to the committee’s April 11 meeting, “in attendance, at least, if nothing else.”



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Readers Invited to Join Leverett’s “Reading American Communities”

“Reading American Communities” has been inaugurated in Leverett to help understand the divide in our country. Residents of Leverett – and beyond – are welcome to read specified books and participate in discussion.

All are invited to read Arlie Hochschild’s *Strangers in Their Own Land* and join the discussion on Thursday, May 4, at 7 p.m. at 12 Lawton Road, Leverett.

Ta-Nehisi Coates’ *Between the World and Me* will be discussed Thursday, June 1, at 7 p.m. at Dixon House, near the Congregational Church opposite Town Hall.

Copies of books in the series will be available from Amherst Books (for purchase) and the Lev-

erett Library (to borrow). Future books and schedule of discussion dates will be forthcoming.

The reading group is especially interested in works that portray people in vulnerable communities, such as American Indians, African Americans, Appalachian tenant farmers, the LGBTQ community, Mexican immigrants, Muslims. Suggestions for readings as well as films are welcome.

George Orwell’s *1984* was the first book discussed, on April 6 at Dixon House. Leverett residents working on the series are: Judith Davidov, John J. Clayton, Jim Perkins, Paula Green, Dona Wheeler and Sharon Dunn. Contact jclayton@english.umass.edu for further information.

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Motivation for a Spring Cleanup

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – Turners Falls wants what Greenfield, Shelburne Falls, Easthampton, and over thirty other Massachusetts communities have gotten: an official Cultural District designation for the downtown. Since 2011, an MCC initiative has helped dozens of communities across the commonwealth boost their visibility thanks to the benefits that come with designation in the form of additional financial and/or technical support from MCC.

According to the MCC website, “cultural districts help local arts, humanities, and science organizations improve the quality and range of their public programs so that more local families can benefit from them. They enhance the experience for visitors and thus attract more tourist dollars and tax revenue. And they attract artists, cultural organizations, and entrepreneurs of all kinds – enhancing property values and making communities more attractive.”

To that end, in January, the town of Montague and Turners Falls RiverCulture applied for cultural district designation with the Massachusetts Cultural Council. A site visit of the proposed district is planned for Wednesday, April 12.

This is seen as an important “next step” in the revitalization of Turners Falls, as identified in Montague’s 2013 Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan. It is hoped that encouraging and attracting attention



Residents and business owners are invited to spruce up the streets.

to the town’s unique character will strengthen “sense of place” and stimulate economic activity.

Recently, RiverCulture published a business map in the form of a rack card to help visitors navigate the downtown. The map points out places to eat, recreate, and locates businesses and services in the downtown. Another important component soon to be included in the streetscape will be the Tim deChristopher “Rock, Paper, Scissors” sculpture installation in the pedestrian park at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street.

With all these good things happening, the town needs to scrub its face after the long, dirty winter. Snow has melted, leaving behind sand and dirt and worse in places it

doesn’t need to be. Liquor bottles, cigarette butts, and other trash has accumulated over the months in layers of snow, now revealed in the spring melt with random sightings of non-plant objects throughout the potential cultural district.

A coordinated community cleanup is planned for this weekend, **April 8 and 9**. Volunteers are needed in preparation for the site visit to prune dead plants, rake planters out, rake up leaves and trash, spread mulch on planters, and sweep sidewalks.

The DPW will donate landscaping bags for debris, and they will do street sweeping in the downtown zone on Monday, April 10. Suzanne LoManto, the town’s RiverCulture director, has asked business owners for help sweeping sand into the street in front of their business. Sticks, leaves, and plant debris must be bagged for removal by the DPW.

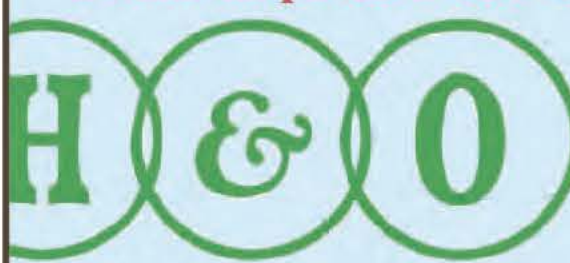
Volunteers meet at Spinner Park at Avenue A and Fourth Street on Saturday for **cleanup from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** On Sunday, they’ll meet at the same place and work **from noon to 3 p.m.**

Readers are encouraged to head down to work for any portion of those hours that you can help out: Please bring gardening equipment if you can, such as rakes, wheelbarrows, shovels, and push brooms. Especially push brooms. Did we say *push brooms*? **PUSH BROOMS.**

If anyone has questions they can email LoManto at riverculture@gmail.com.

NINA ROSSI PHOTO

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A Life as a Ranger

BERNARDSTON – Kathleen O’Rourke, author of *What I’ve Seen: Animal, Nature, and Ranger Tales*, will be visiting Cushman Library, at 28 Church Street in Bernardston, at 4 p.m. on Sunday, April 9 for an author’s visit and talk.

O’Rourke will share stories of life as a Park Ranger, along with the wildlife and people she met along the way. Copies of O’Rourke’s book will be available and she will be happy to sign copies. Refreshments will be available also.

“Traveling in the west, working as a naturalist at several national parks, as well as on Mount Greylock in Massachusetts, Kathleen O’Rourke encountered large animals and wild weather, park visitors and native peoples. She writes as a storyteller and pulls the reader along into her experiences as a greenhorn ranger who learns to overcome a fear of snakes, mountain lions and bears

by talking to them and being curious about their lives.

“When she was lonely, or needed to learn about a new environment, or maybe just looking for some fun, it was often the other rangers, Indian friends, as well as the locals in small towns that provided meaningful companionship.

“Kathy’s background as an herbalist, nurse, teacher and outdoor leader adds to her appreciation and fascination with the natural world. She’s written nature columns and articles regularly for several publications over the past 30 years.”

Cushman Library is open Mondays 2 to 6 p.m., Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Questions can be directed to cushmanlibrary@gmail.com, and interested folks can find Cushman Library on Facebook, which is a great way to stay up-to-date on Cushman’s program offerings.

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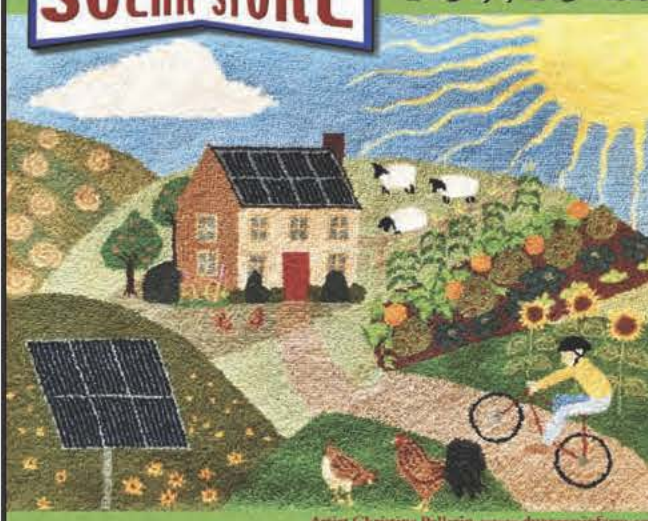
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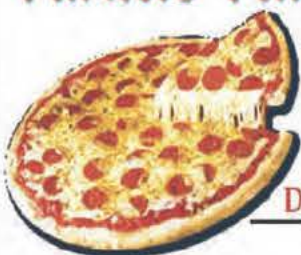
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POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

You never know when an unusual story will turn up. And when an unexpected story crosses your desk about an ancestor from long ago who has a fascinating and harrowing story to tell, you sit up and pay attention.

In genealogy searches, one thing leads to another, that's the whole point: to push as far back into the family past to see what was going on back then, and what the ancestors were up to.

Recent sleuthing turned up a well-documented story about Catherine Annennontak



Cornelius Krieghoff's circa 1868 painting, "Huron-Wendat Hunter Calling a Moose."

WEST ALONG THE RIVER: INDIANS IN THE FAMILY TREE

(Anenontha), one of our great-grandmothers who lived in Québec many generations ago.

Climbing up through the branches of the family tree, the connection to Catherine came from one Victoire Durand who was grandmother to Joe Brule, my own grandfather who lived most of his life in Turners Falls. Grandpa Joe once told me, in his *québécois* accent: "*Il y a des sauvages dans la famille.*" ("There are savages in the family.")

As an historical side note, I have read that in the old French used by Champlain in the 1600s, the term was *salvages* from the Latin word *silva* for forest, hence meaning that the Indians were "People of the Forest." It came to have other derogatory meanings later in history.

Now, like a lot of French Canadians who have stories about Indian blood running through their veins, we had heard these tales too, but now we have proof.

Up in Québec, records were kept primarily by the parish priest, eager to have converts to Catholicism. Indians were often given Christian names when born, and certainly when baptized. The most preferred names (by the priest) were Joseph and Marie. Those first names almost always figured in the lineage, generation after generation, making sorting out the family line quite difficult, and causing original tribal names to be lost.

But in Victoire Durand's case, and for Grandfather Joe and descendants of my generation, we were able to follow the line all the

see **WEST ALONG** page B3

d'VISION: Franklin County Artists to Hold Exhibit at Easthampton BookFest

NINA ROSSI PHOTO



d'VISION artists John Landino, Jack Nelson and Eric Garb have been working together with Erica Knerr to create a show for the Easthampton Book Fest in April.

By REPORTER STAFF

EASTHAMPTON – Art books, art projects, and artistic experimentation by John Landino, Jack Nelson, Erika Knerr, Eric Garb and others will appear in the MAP gallery at Eastworks this weekend and throughout April. Launched in 2015, the Easthampton BookFest highlights the rich literary culture of the Pioneer Valley, with city-wide events this Saturday, April 8.

Eastworks, the large factory complex at 116 Pleasant Street, will host a Lit Marketplace from 12 to 5 p.m., featuring poets, authors, essayists, comic book makers, illustrators and crafters.

The MAP gallery is positioned in the center of this activity, and the Turners Falls artists have planned a month of "happenings" to bring a fluctuating stream of art through the space, with a group show called d'VISION.

Landino reserved this same gallery during last year's event for a show called Altered Books. This year, he felt that "the political system has become tighter, less compassionate, so we will be more open, more compassionate, and allow artists to express themselves with more than book art. There will be people contributing from all over: Japan, Washington D.C., New York City, and locally."

Nelson's studio on Canal Street in Turners Falls became the locus of weekly art meetings

for the quartet.

"All winter, from 7 to 10 p.m. or so, we were creating work," explained Landino. Trump's victory spurred on the artists' creative activities. There will be sculpture, video installation, paintings, drawings, mixed media arts, and more in the 20' x 30' x 60' space.

"We intend to move the show around all the time, so that it is alive, fluid," he said. "Every Wednesday there will be live music, and the public will be invited to come for drawing sessions. On at least one Wednesday, the 19th, there will be a live model to draw from."

The show will be open two days a week during April: Wednesdays from 10 to 8 p.m., with events scheduled to take place between 5 and 8 p.m., and Fridays from 1 to 5.

Visitors to the d'VISION exhibit opening will meet the artists and enjoy art and refreshments from 5 to 8 p.m., with music from The Galvanizer Effect from 4:30 to 5:30 this Saturday.

Artist Nina Rossi from Nina's Nook in Turners Falls will also be selling her book pockets and boxes made from vintage books outside the MAP Gallery as part of the Lit Marketplace, which typically brings over 2,000 visitors to the old mill during that afternoon.

For a full schedule of town-wide events including a typewriter repair workshop, story slam, poetry readings, discussion groups, etc., see easthamptoncityarts.com.

Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of the Arts



The finale at last year's showcase, which played to a full house.

By ANNA FORBES GYORGY

TURNERS FALLS – This Saturday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m., "Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of the Arts" will return to the Shea Theater. The show, which played to a sold-out audience last year, will once again showcase the many talents of the immigrant students, alumni, and friends of the Center for New Americans.

The celebration will feature music, dance, and poetry from Mexico, Argentina, Tibet, Zimbabwe, Costa Rica, and Haiti, among other countries. Marilyn Sylla, director of the Bamidele Dancers & Drummers, and a Five College dance lecturer, has volunteered once again to direct the evening's performances.

The Center for New Americans is a community-based organization which provides educational resources, legal aid, language learning support, and other tools and programs to help the immigrant and refugee community of the Pioneer Valley on the path to citizenship. The center has operated in the region for 25 years, and is recognized as a Legal Access Program by the US Department of Justice.

The "Immigrant Voices" showcase provides an excellent opportunity for the broader public to connect with the Center's mission, and share in the joys, excitement, and experiences of the immigrant community.

"To create a community space that is welcoming to all, and to have a showcase for people who are not always as visible as they might like to be, was really a blessing," said Laurie Millman, director of CNAM.

The performers echo her sentiment.

"When I heard about the event, I thought that it is a great chance to do something that could represent Costa Rica," said

Rolando, a CNAM volunteer who will dance with Maricella, an alumna of the group. "Although she and I are from different provinces, we have the same Costa Rican 'pura vida' spirit. With this performance, we can show that although the Pioneer Valley is our home now, we still are proud about our roots."

The success of last year's showcase, and the return of "Immigrant Voices" to the Shea, reflects the theater's ongoing commitment to community involvement. When Christopher "Monte" Belmonte assumed interim management of the publicly owned venue last year, he had a vision that the Shea would serve as a welcoming community space – a vision which is shared by the Theater's new director, Linda Tardif.

On the air on WRSI earlier in the week, Monte had this to say of the success of last year's show: "'Immigrant Voices' was a way to say: we stand with our immigrant community, we want to hear what they have to offer, we want to see their talents, and we want to help support the Center for New Americans, who gets many of these folks in English classes and on the path to citizenship."

Tickets will be sold on a sliding scale basis, for \$5, \$10, or \$15 respectively, to ensure that the event is accessible to all. \$10 tickets will subsidize the event for the Center's students, while proceeds from \$15 tickets will be donated directly to the Center.

Tickets can be bought at the Center for New Americans' website cnam.org, or purchased at the door. All who can make a donation are encouraged to do so, though Millman says that "the donation is only a piece of it. What we really want to do is showcase the tremendous diversity of this community. It needs to be celebrated."

This Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – It's springtime and with the NCAA basketball championship and Red Sox home opener behind us, we can now focus on high school sports.

As always, Turners Falls is in the position of replacing those who've moved on, and with such a small student body, some pretty young kids are being asked to step up. Each of Turners' five spring sports are in different stages of development, but the coaching staffs have reached a steady plateau, for the most part.

The boys' tennis coach Steven Touloumtzis and baseball skipper Scott Minckler are now entering their second seasons, while girls' tennis coach Victor Gonzalez is in his sixth, and veteran softball coach Gary Mullins is coaching his 38th season. The wild card is the girls' track team, as it is an amalgamation of Turners Falls and Franklin County Tech athletes.

The spring sports season began on April 5, with a ladies' tennis match, and culminates in late May with playoffs and the Western Mass Individual track meet.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page B6



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Tennis Anyone? TFHS tennis team players Jimmy Vaughn (left) and Ricky Craver (right) get ready for the first match of the spring season.

Pet of the Week

I'm Smokey and beware! You've heard of smokin' hot. Well that's me. Long and lanky, devastatingly handsome too.

In spite of my looks I'm a shy guy. Once I get to know you though I'll be your friend.

I won't be the life of any parties but we will have chats and good times playing, hitting the catnip.

Please come and visit me but you may have to hunt to find me. I'm not easy. I play hard to get as all smokin' hot guys do.

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



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Senior Center Activities APRIL 10 TO 14

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 4/10
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 4/11
9:30 Tech: Smartphones & Tablets
1 p.m. History: Fair & Montg. Ctr.
Wednesday 4/12
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 4/13
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Mindful Motion
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 4/14
1 p.m. Writing Group

LEVERETT

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

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

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

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 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 4/10
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
Tuesday 4/11
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
12:30 p.m. Old Movies
Wednesday 4/12
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
Noon Bingo, Snacks & Laughs
Thursday 4/13
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Easter Egg Hunt & Bonnet Parade
Friday 4/14
7 a.m. Walking
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert
12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop
1 p.m. Blood Drive

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 LIBRARY LISTINGS

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

Montague Public Libraries	
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Montague Center	(413) 367-2852
Millers Falls	(413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library	(413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library	(413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library	(413) 548-9220
Wendell Free Library	(978) 544-3559
Northfield: Dickinson Library	(413) 498-2455

ONGOING EVENTS

Starting April 1, the Montague branch libraries will have new hours: they will now be open from 2 to 7 p.m. on their respective days, rather than the split hours they had previously.

Every Tuesday
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Qigong*. 5:15 to 6:15.

Every Wednesday
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time w/Karen*. Story, project, snacks. Young children w/ caregivers. 10:15 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia’s Awesome Play Group*. A sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians. 10 to 11:30 a.m. (Does not meet during school vacations or snow days.)

Leverett Public Library: *Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. Developed for newborn through preschool ages, but all families welcome. 10:30 to noon.

Every Thursday
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson* for children. 10 a.m. Through April, then moves to Montague Center branch.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome; facilitated by Kathy O’Shea, graduate of WEBS expert knitting program. 6 to 8 p.m.

First Thursday Each Month
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Adult Coloring*. Come enjoy our high quality supplies, or bring your own. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Genealogy Club*. Sara Campbell leads an informal discussion of local genealogy. 6 p.m.

Last Thursday Each Month
Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. New building challenge each week, and snack. 3:15 to 4:15 p.m.

Every Friday
Wendell Free Library: *Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Intermediate level. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

First Saturday Each Month
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Book Sale*. Books, DVDs, CDs, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:45 p.m.

Last Saturday Each Month
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Lego Club*. Children all ages and their caregivers build and play with Legos. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Every Saturday
Leverett Library: *Tai Chi*. Beginners at 10 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: Tech Help. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

Every Sunday
Wendell Free Library: *Mostly Yoga*. 10 to 11:15 a.m. Donation.

Wendell Free Library: *AA Open Meeting*. 6 to 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Several local libraries have monthly or bimonthly art shows. In order to apply for a show at these venues, find application forms on library websites.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Paintings by Leni Gaudet*. Through mid-April.

Leverett Library: *The Kings of Leverett*: Honoring the Legacy of Frances and Gordon King. Photographs, documents and artifacts. Through April.

Wendell Free Library: *After the Fair*. Photographs by Jessica Star. Through April. Also, special raffle of a Bob Ellis painting “Fishing Party”; tickets at the library, raffle drawing at the Full Moon Coffeehouse on April 22. All proceeds to benefit the library.

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *STEM Homeschool Science*. Hands-on Science for any age homeschooler. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *After-School MaKey MaKey Part II*. Experiment with MaKey MaKey and Scratch, a free, web-based visual programming platform created by MIT. Pre-register. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 6
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Genealogy Gathering*. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Erving Library: *Friends of the Library Meeting*. 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 7
Leverett Library: *Night in Venice* Potluck at the Leverett Crafts and Arts Center; event in conjunction with community read of *Falling in Love* by Donna Leon. Adult gathering. 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 8
Erving Library: *Informational Look at the Proposed New Library Site*. Walk the proposed site between the elementary school and the Senior/Community Center, have questions answered. 11 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *STEM Homeschool Science*. Hands-on Science for any age homeschooler. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 13
Leverett Library: *Ukulele Play-Along with Julie*. Bring your own

or borrow one here. 7 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14
Leverett Library Movie Night: *The Light Between Oceans*. 7:30 p.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Combat-Ready Kitchen: How the U.S. Military Shapes the Way You Eat*. Local author Anastacia Marx de Salcedo presentation including show-and-tell food, Q & A, book signing. 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 18
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Samuel Holton and the History of Northfield*. Presentation by local genealogy expert Sara Campbell. 6:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Under One Sky: Songs and Stories* by renowned local performer Davis Bates. Come celebrate Cultural Diversity & April School Vacation with a family-friendly concert. 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 21
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Local Animals and Their Adaptations*. Hitchcock Center for the Environment will bring animals from forest, field and wetland habitats. Pre-register. Grades 3-6. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Stuffed Animals Sleepover*. Drop off and register your stuffed animal who will spend the night at the library. 3 to 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Stuffed Animals Sleepover*. Come pick up your stuffed animal friend and see a slideshow of what they were up to overnight. 10 to 11:30 a.m. All must be picked up by noon!

Wendell Free Library: *She Wolf of London*. June Lockhart before she became a TV mom. Part of the Sci-fi and Horror Movie Series. 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 23
Leverett Library: *Silverback Swing Trio*. Bring your dancing shoes. 3:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 25
Leverett Library: *Lego Club*. Come take our new building challenge. 3:15 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 27
Leverett Library: Library Book Club discusses *To the Lighthouse* by Virginia Woolf. Open to all. Copies of book at check-out desk. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Erving Library: *Informational Meeting for Proposed Library for Erving*. Erving Town Hall. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 29 – MAY 7
Erving Library: *Friends Book Sale, Plant Sale, Raffle*. During library hours.

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WEST ALONG from page B1
way back to our first recorded ancestors who were part of the Huron Nation.

These ancestors were Nicolas Arendaki and Jeanne S. Obrih8andet from Touagnainchain, Paroisse de la Conception, Huron Nation, Georgian Bay, Ontario. (A friend who studies the Huron/Cree/Abenaki languages tells me that the symbol “8” was used to refer to a sound that did not occur in the French language.)

Nicolas and Jeanne had a child who came to be known as Catherine the Huron. (“Huron” was a name given by the French. Contemporary members of this tribe prefer to be called *Wendat*, their true tribal name.)

The story of Catherine was researched and published in the Canadian genealogical magazine *Les Voyageurs* in July 1995. The essay was credited to Antoine Champagne, C.R.I.C. in *Mémoires de la Société Généalogique Canadienne Française* Vol. 7, pp. 114-119.

Much of her story was found in such primary sources as records of the Jesuits, missionary letters, the sacramental records of Québec, and other national acts of record.

Only a few months old, Catherine was the victim of tragic inter-tribal warfare. The English, French, and Dutch were all seeking domination over the lands in this part of North America in the 1600s and 1700s. In the 1640s, the Iroquois had been armed by the Dutch and were incited to attack the Huron and Abenaki.

One such attack occurred in 1649 when more than 700 people living in the missionary village of Ste. Marie-Madeleine were killed by Iroquois soldiers. Killed in the fighting were Catherine’s father Nicolas Arendaki, one of three principal chiefs of the Bear Clan, all the Huron defenders, and the three mission priests.

The 300 survivors, mostly women, children and the elderly began a dangerous 1500 mile trek from Ontario that eventually brought them to the Ile d’Orléans near Québec City, almost two years later. During that journey on foot, by canoe and more than 60 portages, the number of survivors was cut in half by starvation and constant attacks by the Iroquois.

They followed the French River, Lake Nipissing, the Mattawa and Ottawa Rivers until they reached the St. Lawrence when they finally

landed at Québec on July 25, 1650. Catherine, carried through it all on the back of her mother, was taken in by the Jesuit Fathers at the Ile d’Orléans mission, along with the other survivors. She was little more than two years old at the time. She lived there with her mother for four years, until her mother succumbed to the lasting effects of their ordeal. At that point Catherine was taken in as an orphan by the Ursuline sisters at their convent in Québec.

Catherine apparently didn’t always have the “Anenontha” surname, but likely was given that name by the missionaries who had taken her in. Wendat language specialists have variously translated that name as “poor little thing” or “compassion must be given to her.”

That’s for sure. She and her mother Jeanne had endured close to two years of a difficult and perilous journey on foot and by canoe, surviving starvation, disease, and the threat of sudden death from enemy tribes, to reach the safety of the mission near Québec.

“Catherine, the beloved child of God, a Huron girl” was raised and educated in the convent of the Ursulines. She became a protégée of Madame de la Peltre, founder of the Ursulines in Québec.

By September of 1662, a marriage contract was signed between “Catherine the Huron” and Jean Durand dit LaFortune. They were to have three children, one of whom was Louis Durand, our once and future ancestor.

His family line, and the story of his mother’s capacity to survive lead right down to me, sitting here, writing this in 2017. That’s the thrill of doing genealogies. You never know what you will find.

Family stories, as well as careful research, help inform us of where we came from, why we are here. By finding and telling their stories, we pay respect to the ancestors’ hardships and losses, to their resoluteness in their efforts to move forward. We greet those whom we had not known before. We acknowledge that they are the elders upon whose shoulders we stand.

Special thanks to my sister Susan and her husband Bob Bellemare, who found the story of Catherine, Huron.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Car Crashes; Roving Animals; Pulled Gun; Failing Infrastructure; Shady Solicitors

Monday, 3/27

11:38 a.m. Three 911 hang-up calls received from address on J Street. Contact made with resident who advises that this is an ongoing issue, weather-related. Call placed to Verizon to advise.

2:13 p.m. Two-vehicle accident at Turnpike and Turners Falls roads; no injuries. One operator issued written warning for stop sign violation.

2:32 p.m. Town of Bernardston advising MPD that a dangerous dog is now living on North Leverett Road in Montague. Owner moved from Bernardston after the town had declared the dog dangerous and ordered that it be euthanized. Court clerk magistrate overturned euthanization order and ordered owner to keep her dog restrained at all times, fenced in when outside the home, muzzled when off their property, etc. Officers warned to be careful if they must respond to this address. Animal control officer will follow up to be sure they are in compliance.

3:26 p.m. Caller from Second Street reporting two chickens and one duck walking in the street.

4:24 p.m. Caller reporting suspicious, dark colored, four door vehicle on T Street. Vehicle is parked with different people walking up to it. They exchange something, then walk away. Unable to locate.

Tuesday, 3/28
12:40 a.m. Caller reporting that an owl flew across the road south of the hatchery and she struck it. Owl appeared to be injured, but was moving. Officers checked area extensively; unable to locate.

10:50 a.m. Caller reporting Canada goose with fishing line tied up around one of its legs at Unity Park. Animal control officer located a few different sets of geese, but no fishing line or injured birds.

1:28 p.m. Caller reporting that he arrived to do some work on a vacant house on Millers Falls Road and found the front door kicked in. Unclear whether it was a breaking and entering or not. Investigated.

1:29 p.m. Sheffield Elementary School requesting officer to sit in on a potentially volatile parent/teacher meeting.

5:19 p.m. Report from Millers Falls that a few young kids who are on the baseball team called reporting party and advised that they found a couple having sex under the bridge. When they walked up to them, the male party pulled a gun, and they ran to a location

on Newton Street. Officers on scene; Erving PD assisting to be on lookout. Investigated; report taken.

6:03 p.m. Caller from Dry Hill Road reporting that she came home and somebody had moved her trash cans from the corner of the road back up to the side of her garage. Caller checked with neighbors and none of them did it; she is concerned because of the recent break-ins. Officer spoke with caller.

7:57 p.m. MPD and Greenfield PD officers on K Street attempting to locate a male party. Search continued on Avenue A and L Street; negative contact. Male party later called station and spoke with an officer.

8:28 p.m. Caller stating that ten out of twelve street lights on Industrial Drive are out. WMECO contacted and will be sent out ASAP.

9:07 p.m. Caller advised that her boyfriend is about to pick her up from work on Avenue A and that two subjects who have been harassing him are in a vehicle in the alleyway across the street. Officers made contact with boyfriend, who was advised of options. Vehicle not located. Male party told officers that subject had threatened to kill him via phone.

9:14 p.m. Owner of Fourth Street building reporting that first floor tenants contacted him and believe that someone is attempting to break into the second floor, which is vacant. Officers gained entry to second floor; nothing showing.

Wednesday, 3/29
6:30 a.m. Caller reports that at approximately 7:30 last night, a male who said he was with Eversource was knocking on doors in an Avenue A apartment building asking to see electric bills to see if tenants qualified for a rebate or credit. Referred to an officer.

9:11 a.m. Walk-in reporting an accident that occurred at Cumberland Farms Monday night. Officer estimates damage to passenger door to be over \$1,000.

11:01 a.m. K9 unit requested to assist with search of a large wooded area in Amherst.

12:05 p.m. Walk-in would like to speak to an officer about the activities of a local male who appears threatening to the public.

4:47 p.m. Caller from Highland Avenue reports that he arrived home to find the screen from one of his living room windows missing. Nothing missing from home. Officers searched perimeter; no signs of forced entry.

5:02 p.m. Loose brown and white pitbull in area of Turnpike Road; caller was able to get it on a leash to

prevent it from getting hit. Owner identified, but dog was not current on shots, so it was handed over to a worker at the shelter.

5:27 p.m. K9 unit assisting with traffic stop in Greenfield.

6:34 p.m. Report from Fourth Street that a female was trying to gain entry to caller’s apartment; caller stated that people were getting into a black van outside the apartment. Another 911 caller stated that she was outside and a female just took money from her purse. Officers on scene. Report taken.

7:37 p.m. Caller from Davis Street states that a male wearing a red coat just knocked on his door asking to see his electric bill. Solicitor got in car and went down Crocker. Officer advised.

8:50 p.m. Caller from Sunderland Road states that she just heard a loud explosion and saw multiple flashes of light. Officer checked surrounding area; nothing showing.

Thursday, 3/30
11:14 a.m. Report of a box with exposed wires at Spinner statue on Avenue A. Fire department advised; determined it to be a DPW issue. Contacted DPW.

12:57 p.m. Report of male subject soliciting for Eversource on Carlisle Avenue. Subject is a sales rep for Town Square Energy. Had no ID in hand. Was advised to cease soliciting until he has obtained the proper permit. Greenfield PD has also dealt with this subject this week and advised him to obtain a permit.

2:10 p.m. Officer spoke with a second subject soliciting for Town Square Energy on Montague Street. Revoked drivers license; says he does not drive, and uses Uber to commute. Taken to station to fill out a permit, but left a short time later without turning in application.

4:50 p.m. Attempted warrant arrest at Fifth and L streets. Checked area of Unity Park. Party not found.

6:26 p.m. Complaint of kids with ramps set up in their driveway on Route 63, coming off ramp and going into roadway. Unable to locate.

7:41 p.m. Small brush fire on Newton Street.

Friday, 3/31
9:53 a.m. Report of past breaking & entering on Millers Falls Road. Screen had been pushed in.

1:33 p.m. Report of disorderly male subject banging on windows at Powertown Apartments on Avenue A. Caller believes this is in reference to court hearing earlier involving Powertown management and subject’s mother. Subject was cooperative with officers, advised the issue was a civil one.

1:57 p.m. Erving PD checking on a complaint of soliciting in downtown Millers. Officer spoke with resident advised the subject identified himself as with “Think Energy.” Officer checked area. Information sent to Shelburne Control.

2:25 p.m. Report of solicitor at Park Villa Drive, who had gone inside one or two units. Last seen on foot on Turnpike Road. Officers checked area extensively, unable to locate.

3:06 p.m. Caller wants to retrieve bricks from old Railroad Salvage building. Advised he was not allowed.

9:53 p.m. Complaint of dog barking in Fifth Street alley. Officers cannot see or hear it.

Saturday, 4/1

9:30 a.m. Caller from Food City advises that there are two suspicious subjects (a male and a female) in his store at this time; he believes they may steal something. Caller was informed by employees at Aubuchon Hardware and Family Dollar that the female subject had been kicked out of those stores earlier today for shoplifting. Caller called back advising that both subjects left and are now walking up the Seventh Street hill. Caller advises that other store owners are not planning to report thefts. Caller will call back if subjects return and anything is taken.

9:33 a.m. Report of hit and run accident on West Main Street. Caller observed dark green Ford Explorer with Vermont plates come down Church Street and hit a stone wall. Large amount of debris in road. Officers and DPW advised; area departments advised to be on lookout. Officer took photo of damaged retaining wall. DPW responded with loader to remove two large pieces of wall from road. Report taken.

12:44 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road reports that after dropping him off, taxi driver hit his mailbox and left without exchanging information. No answer when officer returned call.

4:36 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a straight warrant.

8:38 p.m. [REDACTED] was arrested on a default warrant.

Sunday, 4/2
8:46 p.m. Clerk from Connecticut River Liquor and Wine states that a man to whom he refused to sell more alcohol is now refusing to leave and causing a scene. Male party located on Avenue A and moved along.

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April 12: Luis Urrea at GCC

GREENFIELD – Luis Urrea, author of *Into the Beautiful North*, is speaking at Greenfield Community College on Wednesday, April 12 at 12 noon, as part of the Mary Lyon Foundation’s NEA Big Read.

Hailed by NPR as a “master storyteller with a rock and roll heart,” Urrea is a prolific and acclaimed writer who uses his dual-culture life experiences to explore greater

themes of love, loss and triumph.

As part of the NEA Big Read and in partnership with Arms Library, HCC, The Care Center, GCC, and WGBY, the Mary Lyon Foundation is pleased to offer the unique opportunity to hear Luis Urrea tell his story.

The talk will take place in the Stinchfield Lecture Hall. It is free and open to the public.

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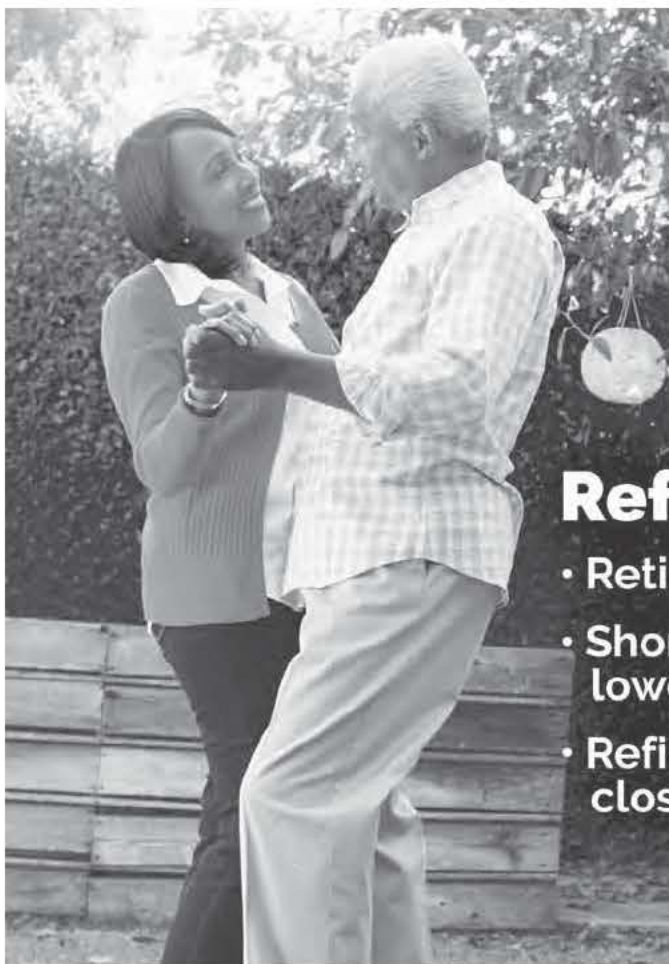
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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was April 5, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Eight Candidates in the Running for Four School Committee Seats

With nominating papers in, attention now turns to elections coming up May 21 for the Gill-Montague school district. There are no contests on the townwide ballot in Gill, and only one race – for a seat on the parks and recreation commission – in Montague.

But with the spotlight on the issues of elementary school configuration, intra-district choice, and steadily rising school assessments to the towns, the races for two three-year seats in Montague and one three-year seat in Gill are likely to draw voters to the polls this year.

Squaring off against incumbents Mary Kociela of North Street, and Richard Colton of Main Street, in Montague Center, for three-year seats in Montague are Kelly Gobiell of Burnett Street, Steven Palso of Randall Wood Drive, and Joyce Phillips of Vladish Avenue, all of Turners Falls.

In Gill, two candidates are vying for a three-year seat being vacated by Sue Henry: Sandy Brown of River Road, and Heidi Englehardt of Mountain Road.

Additionally, Linda Kuklewicz is running unopposed for a two-year seat in Montague being vacated by Deb Bourbeau.

Turtle Culvert Installed on Gill's Main Road

The Main Road construction project is grinding on. F&J Construction, of Ludlow, installed a bypass culvert to temporarily divert the brook south of Upinngil Farm to enable them to excavate, remove the old culvert, and install a new one.

The construction company chose to do the work in the winter when all good turtles are asleep in their beds, so that they did not have to post a guard as the job specifications required. If the

construction company had chosen to do the work in the spring, when young boy turtles' thoughts make their hearts go pitter-pat, and they scamper off in pursuit of their lady loves, it could have complicated construction of the already complicated culvert even more. This would have required more turtle guards than construction workers.

Turtles require culverts that are shallow, broad, and tall. The culvert roof is high enough for a horse to pass through at full gallop. Before opening the culvert to turtle travel, the concrete floor will be paved with a native gravel bottom so as to duplicate the stream bed and not startle turtles with an alien-appearing concrete.

We take better care of our turtles than we do of our homeless; they sleep on concrete pavement without any gravel at all.

Ramp for the Rendezvous

Emily Brewster came before the board with a request to license town property to construct a wheelchair access ramp to the Rendezvous Bar at 78 Third Street in Turners Falls, which Brewster and three partners plan to reopen this summer.

She asked permission to use a strip of land parallel to Third Street about 60 inches wide and stretching from the property line about twelve feet west, along with a strip of land perpendicular to Third Street to bring the ramp to the sidewalk, about 60 inches wide and 48 inches long. The ramp would not interfere with access to the municipal parking lot that abuts the bar. Some shrubs would be removed; a nearby tree would not be harmed; the bar owners would undertake new landscaping to replace the shrubs and to reseed grass.

The board agreed to the request, with a three-year renewable license, at \$100 per year, and with insurance coverage as stipulated by the town's provider. Brewster said the ramp would be built out of ipe, a sustainable hardwood, with a cement transition to the town sidewalk.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Greetings from the folks at Montague Community TV! We have some new programming to watch out for: RiverCulture's Green Screen Poets 2017! This short video places poets performing heart-felt and powerful spoken word poetry in front of ethereal video collage. Poets featured include Jamila Gore, Nina Yagual, Kent Alexander, and Li-Ming Dolan.

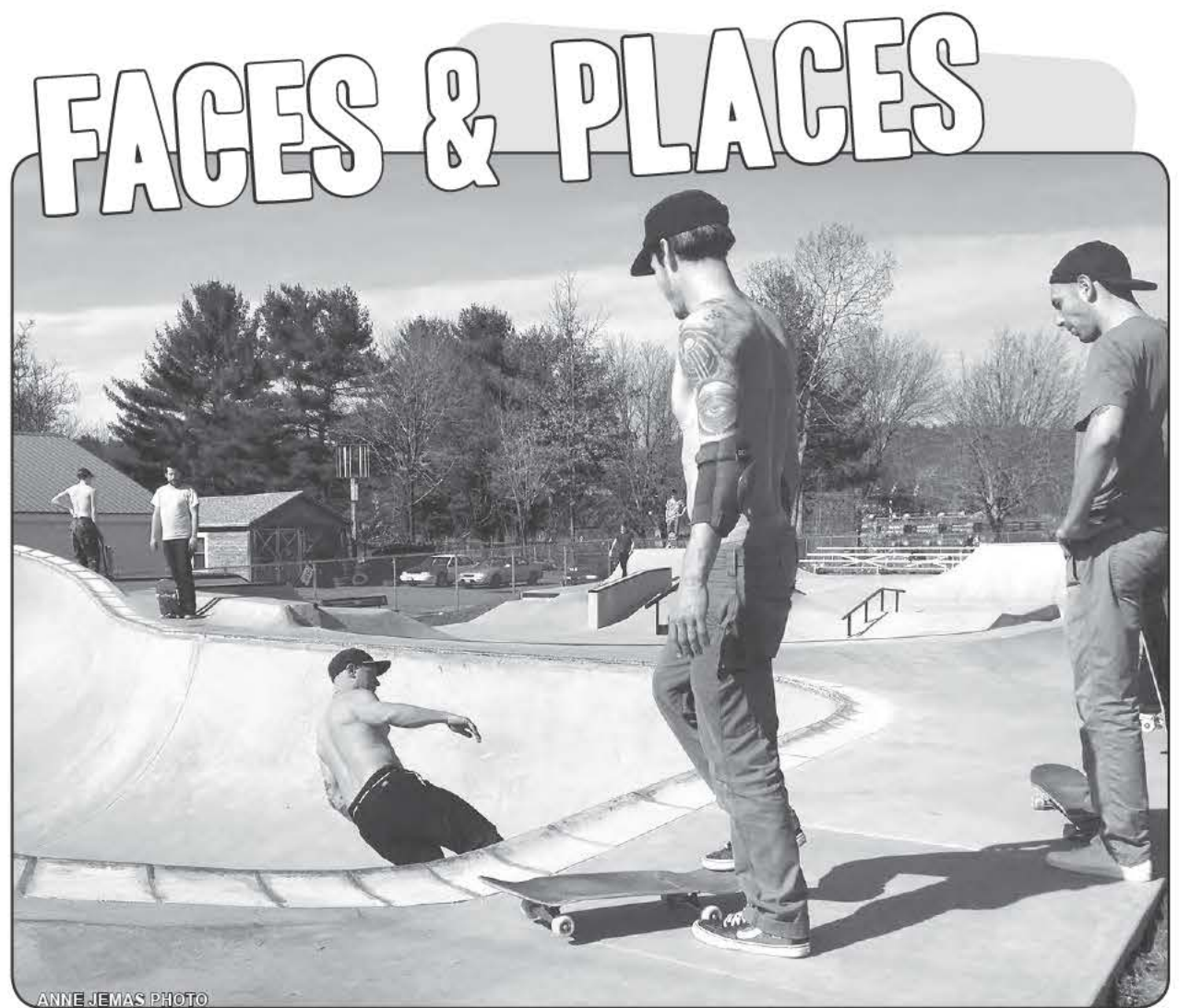
This video can be seen this week at MontagueTV.org or on our TV channel – check the schedule at montaguetelevision.org/p/55/TV-Schedule. It was created by Turners Falls RiverCulture for Music and Diversity III on March 25, and features artistic videography by Bret Leighton. Thanks to La Mariposa Collective.

Speaking of, La Mariposa is offering two six week Spanish classes starting Sunday, April 9, including a beginning Spanish class from 10 am. to noon and an intermediate class from 12:15 pm-2:15 pm for just \$66 each. You can find links to registration forms at www.facebook.com/lamariposa413/. This is a great language learning opportunity!

This week we'd also like to highlight the latest from the Gill selectboard. On March 20, heated discussion took place regarding the decision on whether to enact a sanctuary policy in Gill. The policy, proposed by Seth Montgomery and Rachel Abernathy, would limit Gill police from enforcing federal immigration orders if they seek "excessive or unnecessary detention" for non-criminals. Community members spoke on both sides of the issue, with a variety of opinions.

To see their comments in more detail, you can find the "3/20/17 Gill Selectboard Meeting" at montaguetelevision.org/p/76/Latest-MCTV-Videos, or read an account of the discussion in the March 23 edition of the *Montague Reporter*, in an article by Kent Alexander. At the conclusion of the discussion, the board made a motion to adopt a policy modeled after Holyoke's executive order, then tabled further discussion until its April 18 meeting.

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



Signs of spring: A crew of visiting skaters checks out the big bowl at Unity Skatepark in Turners Falls. "Saturday the park was covered in snow," photographer Anne Jemas told us, "and Monday they were skating shirtless!"

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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 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. (Only first two weeks of April).

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.

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

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:

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Mother and Son Exhibit*. Jon Bander shows his welding artwork in an exhibit that also features paintings and sculpture by his mother, Nina Rossi. Reception Saturday, April 15, 6 p.m. Music by She Said. Exhibit through May 9

Artspace, Greenfield: *Pastel Studio Spring*. Group show. Opening reception Friday, April 7, 5 to 7 pm Through April 26.

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: *The Kings of Leverett*, honoring Gordon and Frances King. Through April.

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: Ongoing art offerings by gallery member artists.

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

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 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.

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. Questions?: 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, 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*, 8 p.m.

Mt Toby Concerts, Leverett: *John McCutcheon* 7:30 pm. \$

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

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

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

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Bread and Puppet Theater presents Faust 3*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Tom Savage*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts*. The Center for New Americans return! 7:30 p.m. \$

St. James Episcopal Church, Greenfield: *GCC Chorus Concert "Morning and Evening"*. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Pateek Poddar*, folk, and *Frank Critelli*, singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *"Full Tilt": Public Reading Performance by Amherst Writers & Artists*. 8 p.m. Donations.

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

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

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Strange Creek Battle of the Bands*. Grand finale! 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 9

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Crow's Rebellion*. Warped Americana. 7 p.m.

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

MONDAY, APRIL 10

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*. 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

Stinchfield Lecture Hall, GCC, Greenfield: *Luis Urrea*, author of *Into the Beautiful North* presentation, as part of the Mary Lyon Foundation's NEA Big Read. Noon.

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

THURSDAY, APRIL 13

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Gardening is Murder by Neal Sanders*, local mystery writer. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Doug Plavin's All Stars w/ Richard Chase*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 14

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Great Falls Coffeehouse presents Doug Hewitt Group*. Rock/Jazz fusion. Donations support educational programming at the Center. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Fiddle and Harmony Night: The Berger Sisters and Sister Lily (Boxcar Lilies)*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Emily Barnes*. Singer/songwriter. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Squash Blossom*. Eclectic acoustic trio. 9 p.m.



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The Equalites

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Friday 4/7 6:30
Uncle Hal's Crab Grass Band

Saturday 4/8
no show

Sunday 4/9
TNT Karaoke

-All shows no cover-

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TFHS SPORTS from page B1
Baseball

One of the biggest holes Coach Minckler will have to fill was created when Jalen Sanders graduated. Mr. Sanders was a great hitter, excelled in the field, and was selected for honorable mention for the D-IV Western Mass Baseball team.

Minckler is optimistic. “We have a number of returning players, and we have seven seniors,” he recently said. But Minckler is concerned about his pitching staff, stating they are inexperienced at this point. In his inaugural season, Minckler’s nine finished 6 – 15.

The Boys in Blue face the usual suspects this season beginning on April 7 against Smith and ending on May 25 against fellow Hampshire-West League foe South Hadley.

Boys Tennis

Steven Toulountzis, now in his second season as coach of the boys’ tennis team, finished 9 – 9 in his rookie year which was a game improvement over the 2015 record. The 9 – 9 record gave Turners a sixth seed in the 2016 playoffs, but the team fell to Greenfield, 3-2, in the first round.

Although Toulountzis welcomes back Ricky Craver, Josh Gaulin, Brian Porier, Giovanni Ruggiano, Will Turn, Jimmy Vaughn and Mason Whiteman, he’ll have to overcome the loss of Avery Palmer, who went 11-8 last year.

The boys play 15 matches this year, and enjoy the luxury of having the home court advantage in ten of those matches.



TFHS tennis team players Alysha Wozniak (left) and Hailey Trott (right) get ready for this week’s season opener.

Girls Tennis

Coach Victor Gonzalez starts the 2017 season with three road matches, beginning with Greenfield on April 5. Like the boys’ team, they will play 15 matches this season. However, their home/away ratio is more balanced, with eight at home and seven away.

The Powertown Ladies finished 6-12 last season down from 10-7 in 2015. Senior Alysha Wozniak, who was 11-4 last season, will help Turners make a shot to return to the postseason.

Girls Track

The Blue Ladies will have seven track meets this season, with their first opponent being Mahar on April 7, and their last meet falling

on May 9 against Greenfield. Five of their opponents are from the intercounty league.

As always, the goal is not to win meets, but to improve on individual records with the goal of competing in the Western Mass Individuals held after the regular season.

Softball

Where do I begin? It’s hard to be the Turners Falls Softball team.

Like the UConn Ladies basketball team, Turners is always expected to be the best. Last year, as you may remember, the Blue Tribe finished 24 – 1, won the state championship, shut out fellow champion Hampshire twice, and allowed only two runs in five playoff games.

This year, Turners goes into the

season ranked as the best team in Western Mass. Which includes all Division I teams. They’ll be tested this season early and often, beginning on April 11 against Brattleboro, Vermont, and ending against Newton North, a D-I powerhouse who made it to the North Championship last season.

Not to mention, they’ve stacked their schedule with playoff teams from all divisions, including Wachusett, who eked out a 1-0 victory against Turners last year.

Coach Gary Mullins, who analyzes softball like a scientist, is constantly shifting his game plan so that his ladies will be as successful as possible.

Next Week: Week 1!



Candidate Meet & Greet

WENDELL – Join Ray DiDonato, candidate for Wendell Selectboard, for a Meet & Greet at Wendell’s own Deja Brew this Saturday, April 8 from 4 to 6 p.m.

Meet for an informal conversation about the issues that are near and dear to you, learn more about why Ray is running for Selectboard, all while mingling with friends and neighbors in the intimate pub atmosphere of the Deja Brew Cafe & Pub.

Prospects for Survival

AMHERST – World-renowned linguist, philosopher, author and political activist Noam Chomsky will speak at the UMass-Amherst William D. Mullins Center Thursday, April 13, at 7:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis.

Chomsky’s presentation, titled “Prospects for Survival,” is sponsored by the UMass Amherst Political Economy Research Institute.

The Institute Professor Emeritus at MIT, Chomsky is the author of hundreds of books, essays and articles on topics such as linguistics, war, politics and mass media, including the seminal 1967 essay “The Responsibility of Intellectuals,” and his most recent volume, *Who Rules the World?*.

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