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The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 28

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 27, 2017

Leverett, Montague Town Meetings Include Petitioned Articles on Energy, Immigration

By JEN HOLMES

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Over the coming weeks, local towns are holding their annual town meetings, setting budgets for the coming year and in some cases making changes to bylaws. Amidst the articles proposed by various town departments and committees, town meeting warrants in both Montague and Leverett include several citizen-petitioned articles, representing assorted concerns and issues brought forth by town residents.

Gill and Erving will also be hold-

ing their annual, open town meetings on May 1 and May 3, respectively. While they will be following similar formats to vote on articles, neither town warrant includes any citizen-petitioned articles this year.

Wendell's annual town meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 10.

Montague: Art, Light, Corruption

Montague holds a representative town meeting, taking place on Saturday, May 6 at the high school. Town meeting members who attend – there are as many as 126 – will have opportunity to discuss

and vote on four citizen-petitioned articles, after making their way through 43 regular articles.

The first of the bunch, Article 44, was petitioned by Rick Widmer of the Millers Falls Arts Bridge (MFAB) and Millers Falls Village Improvement Association. The article asks the town to set aside \$1,500 in public money for "community building activities in Millers Falls."

Widmer's recent efforts in revitalization include the Arts Bridge project, focused on renovating the former St. John's Parish church for

see **MEETINGS** page A7

Arbor Day Comes Early at TFHS



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

During this Friday's Arbor Day event, a new tree planting scheme for Turners Falls' Spinner Park will be unveiled.

By DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – Michael Marcotrigiano used to teach horticulture to students at Smith College, where for 17 years he directed the Botanic Garden and oversaw a staff of 14 specialists, until his retirement last year.

But on Monday he was teaching a self-selected group of 14 students at Turners Falls High about "the Benefits of a Healthy Urban Forest," and taking them on a walking tour to view trees springing into leaf and flower on the high school grounds.

Marcotrigiano's talk touched on everything from trees' pivotal role in the carbon cycle to Frederick Law Olmsted's pivotal role in the development of landscape architecture.

And for students pondering career choices in a difficult job climate, Marcotrigiano pointed out that UMass offers a degree in landscape architecture – and landscape

see **ARBOR DAY** page A6

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Fans of Flags, Night Skies Face Off

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard's April 19 meeting went late, and not entirely because of the long agenda.

The first item on that agenda was lighting of the American flag that flies from the pole on the north common by the gazebo. Citizen, and long time office holder, Harry Williston had informed the selectboard at its December 14 meeting that the flag code states that a flag that flies through the night must be illuminated during the hours of darkness. He

offered to install, at his own expense, a solar-powered light to do that.

The selectboard decided to delay a decision and allow residents around the common who would see the light to be consulted, and then because of objections, they declined the offer. Apollo, who lives opposite the flagpole and has no electric lights at his house, said the light would shine right in his bedroom window. Others wanted to keep the common dark.

Williston has a similar light at his house, and he said it shines down from the top, illuminating only the

flag and ground below it in a narrow cone. He repeated his offer, and as a result the selectboard office was full on April 19, with extra chairs brought in and some people forced to stand.

Dan Leahy of Bullard Pasture Road spoke first, but his thoughts about adding light pollution to an already over-illuminated part of the world were repeated by others with different emphasis. Leahy said that lights on the common have been a long standing issue; the town agreed to light the common only for special

see **WENDELL** page A5

SIGNS OF LIFE



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Brambles begin to bud, and the river at Rock Dam is teeming with new life.

Five Vie for School Board

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – The five candidates running for seats on the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee – incumbents Michael Langknecht, Sandy Brown and April Reipold, and challengers Cassie Damkoehler and Shawn Hubert – met last week at the Montague town hall for a short forum sponsored by this newspaper and Montague Community Television.

The forum was congenial, and though this year's controversy over the committee's decision to eliminate the "Indian" team name from the high school athletics program hung over the discussion, all candidates expressed a desire to reunite the community and better advertise

the district's strengths.

All five are current or former parents of Gill-Montague students, and two went through the system themselves. The election will be held May 15 in Montague and Gill, with voters from both towns weighing in on both races.

Montague

Three candidates are competing for two seats in Montague.

Mike Langknecht has served for 13 years on the committee and is completing his third term as its chair. He spoke of a "need to break down that institutionality that contributes to the feeling of 'us' and 'them'."

"The school committee ought to be more of a conduit," he said, "an

see **GMRSD** page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Turners Falls pitcher Peyton Emery earns the win as Turners Falls defeats Athol High School 3-1 in an eight-inning contest on April 18. Emery struck out 8, walked none, and allowed only three hits.

The Week In TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

With April showers hampering play, nine Turners Falls high school and middle school events were postponed this week, but even with the rain, the boys' tennis team, the baseball team, and the softball team all managed to squeeze some matches in.

Because Saturday was a washout, Sunday, April 23 turned out to be a banner day for sports. The Red Sox beat the first-place Orioles, the Bruins lost in overtime, the Celtics evened their playoff series, and the two best softball teams in the region played for first place.

Also this week, Coach Gary Mullins was named Coach of the Year by the MIAA, and an alumna visited the diamond.

Boys Tennis

TFHS 5 – St. Mary 0

TFHS 4 – Holyoke 1

The Turners Falls boys' tennis team seems to be hitting their stride, winning their two matches by a total of 9 to 1. The wins improve their record to 4-2.

On Wednesday, April 19, they shut out the St. Mary Saints 5-



Tionne Brown takes off toward first during the third inning against Mohawk Regional. He grounded out on the play.

0, not allowing a single set point. Jimmy Vaughn, Ricky Craver, and Brian Porier all won their singles matches in straight sets, Brody Trott and Joe Kochan swept in doubles, while the Saints forfeited the other doubles match.

Then on Monday, the Blue Netters defeated Holyoke 4-1. Craver outlasted his opponent in the second singles match 7-5, 6-4 while Porier took the third singles by 6-4, 6-0.

Jovanni Ruggiano and Nick Morin swept the first doubles 6-3, 6-0, while Will Turn and Josh Gaulin swept theirs 6-1, 6-2.

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A6

The Montague Reporter

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Luis Felipe Gonzalez saves another sole at the Avenue A workshop of his business, Mariachi Shoe Repair.

Tough Choices

Wendell’s broadband buildout will happen sooner or later. The real questions are who will build it, how much it will cost, and who it will reach.

Big rural infrastructure projects take time, and should be weighed carefully. The present rural nature of our local area is the end product of generations of just such careful weighing. Resources are spread thinner here, and some of the resources that do come are invested in conservation.

Meanwhile, civilization seems to be streamlining its conveniences. Little towns, and little corners of little towns, left out when the internet is all finished may feel like sanctuaries of relaxation now, but in the longer run they are likely to become hard pockets of deprivation.

We’ll have more details in upcoming issues, but one Wendell correspondent reports back from last week’s information session:

“There are four plans under serious consideration. Three of the plans would require Wendell to build the network itself, and hire one of three companies, Crocker, Wired West, or Westfield Gas and Electric to maintain it.

“If Wendell decides to build

the network, they will have to take loans for over a million dollars, and the tax rate would increase on average over \$150 a year.

“The fourth option is to hire Matrix Design and Millennium Communications to build and operate the network for 20 years, with a town option to purchase the network after Year 3. This last option represents no increase in the tax rate, but obviously takes a great deal of the operation of the system out of local control and thus could create very different problems in the long run.”

By the sound of it, the broadband question has come to define a competitive selectboard race, with two competent, caring candidates offering positions (see page A4) that differ in substance on the issue.

A town-built network sounds expensive, and a privately built one a gamble (leaving aside the difficulties Matrix encountered in neighboring Leverett).

We won’t endorse a candidate here, but we hope voters make their choice on the basis of more than any single question. We wish the best to Wendell, in Monday’s election and over the course of this difficult, costly, and necessary project. Stay in touch!

Further Unraveling

On April 16, Turkey’s president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan claimed a narrow, and disputed, victory in a constitutional referendum that shifts power from the nation’s parliament to his presidency.

Turkey’s major metropolitan areas, Mediterranean coastal provinces, and heavily Kurdish southeast voted No on the referendum, but they appear to have been outnumbered by the Justice and Development Party (AKP)’s heartland and Black Sea base.

It only took a week and a half for the state to make some jarring power plays: arresting dissidents by the thousands, purchasing a major air defense system from Russia, and launching airstrikes against Kurdish militias in Syria and Iraq.

Turkey’s entry into the European Union, a process fraught with obstacles for years, appears at this point to be cooked, with European human rights bodies strongly critical of the government’s crackdown following a failed coup last July.

But the nation’s status as a member of NATO is becoming more and more curious.

In 2014 the world watched, horrified, as tens of thousands of Iraqi Yazidis who had fled to Sinjar Mountain found themselves trapped and besieged by ISIS forces. The United States has since categorized ISIS’s campaign of murder, “forced conversion” and sexual enslavement of the Yazidi as genocide.

That mountain siege was broken by Kurdish militias, including units of the Kurdistan Worker’s Party (PKK) from Turkey and the People’s Protection Units (YPG) from Syria. Some have stayed in the area to train Yazidi volunteers to continue to fight ISIS, which holds nine towns to the mountain’s south.

But all nationalists see cooperation across borders as a threat, and the Turkish state can only view the YPG’s solidarity at Sinjar as an eastward expansion of their experiment in “stateless democracy” in northern Syria. On Tuesday it bombed Kurdish positions across the region – direct attacks on a partner of the US in the fight against ISIS.

It’s a banner year for warmongers. What would a global movement for peace even look like?

Letters to  the Editors

For Ray Collecting Cans

I will be voting for Ray DiDonato for selectboard on May 1 in Wendell.

I strongly believe that broadband is critical in this day and age, and that Ray is committed to finding an affordable solution to bringing broadband to Wendell. He has also expressed his desire to improve communication with other boards and committees in town.

Ray has campaigned hard and has demonstrated to me his commitment to serving the town in this capacity. Please join me on May 1, and cast your vote for Ray.

Thanks,

Stephen Broll
Wendell

CORRECTION

Last week, a cartoon caption on this page indicated that the Millers Falls Library is open Tuesdays through Thursdays. It should have said Tuesdays and Thursdays. Don't go there on Wednesdays. Sorry!

Saturday, May 13 marks the 25th anniversary of one of America’s great days of giving – the National Association of Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger” food drive.

Letter carriers walk through the community every day, often coming face to face with a sad reality for too many: hunger.

So, each year on the second Saturday in May, letter carriers across the country collect non-perishable food donations from our customers. These donations go directly to local food pantries to provide food to people in western Massachusetts who need our help.

Last year, we collected over 80 million pounds of food nationally, feeding an estimated 64 million people.

The need for food donations is great. Currently, 49 million Americans – one in six – are unsure where their next meal is coming from. Thirteen million are children who feel hunger’s impact on their overall health and ability to perform in school. More than 5 million seniors over age 60 are food insecure, with many who live on fixed incomes of

ten too embarrassed to ask for help.

Our food drive’s timing is crucial. Food banks and pantries often receive the majority of their donations during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday seasons. By springtime, many pantries are depleted, entering the summer low on supplies at a time when many school breakfast and lunch programs are not available to children in need.

Participating in this year’s Letter Carrier Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Just leave a non-perishable food donation in a bag by your mailbox on Saturday, May 13, and your letter carrier will do the rest.

With your help, letter carriers and the US Postal Service have collected over 1.5 billion pounds of food in the United States over our first 24 years as a national food drive. Please help us in our fight to end hunger, as we celebrate our 25th anniversary year in America’s great day of giving.

Sincerely,

Lesley Vila
Food Drive Coordinator
Branch 46: Western MA

Has Aesthetic Issues

The new signage on the Shea Theater degrades its block of Avenue A, and us all.

While surely it’s paramount for an important place to have a sign of commensurate importance, I believe that this sign should attempt to honor the place, its architecture, and its surroundings.

To me, the style chosen for the Shea Theater connotes Renaissance Faires, Elizabethan theatre being produced today, Medieval Times restaurants – basically thematic experiences that in their printed material rip off Insular-period art from illuminated manuscripts.

While, in fairness, the Shea building was previously occupied by the Renaissance Community and the Young Shakespeare Players, I believe that this Walt Disney reduction of theater is a damaging essentialization, and an insult to thespians and theatergoers alike.

Turners Falls has a Historic District designation that is a testament to its well-preserved state. The district is also a bellwether demonstrating that people care about how

the town’s history expresses itself in its buildings.

I am not against the right of business owners to design and create a sign of their own choosing. But putting very large clip-art versions of 16th-century historiated initials on a building that is not just publicly owned, but is supposed to be the darling of our town, is an act that makes me feel embarrassment and shame.

Pete Wackernagel
Turners Falls

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Greenfield electro-pop duo Home Body will perform a **free outdoor show** in downtown Turners Falls this Friday, April 28, as part of Arbor Day activities organized by the Montague Tree Advisory. Home Body will perform in Spinner Park, located on the corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street at 5 p.m. This show is definitely danceable and family-friendly.

Motorcycle enthusiasts: Sayre Anthony, of Turners Falls’ Nova Motorcycles, will give an informal presentation at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch at 282 Avenue A this Saturday, April 29, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. You don’t need to be an official member of a motorcycle club to have some fun rides and enjoyable afternoons with fellow bikers.

Whether you have a motorcycle or not, you will certainly find this discussion of bike safety, local riding, ways to get involved, and community motorcycle events very informative and entertaining. Families welcome and light refreshments will be provided by GSB.

The **People’s Climate Movement** is sponsoring a sister rally to the national rally in Washington D.C. on Saturday, April 29, at the Greenfield Energy Park, from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Speakers, musicians, and citizens will rally to confront climate change and support sustainable energy to protect our fragile planet. Bring a poster! Bring a friend! For more

information, check the “People’s Climate Movement Rally” page on Facebook.

Celebrate the **5th Anniversary of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter** on Sunday, April 30, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 10 Sandy Lane in Turners Falls. There will be an open house at the shelter, along with gifts, food and raffles.

Our Lady of Peace Church, on Seventh Street in Turners Falls, is holding a fundraising dinner Sunday, April 30 to raise money for a wheelchair van. The menu includes ham, baked beans, potato salad, and coleslaw.

Tickets cost \$10 for adults, \$6 for children ages 7 to 12, and are free for younger children. To purchase tickets, please call (413) 768-7099. This event is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Turners Falls Council 737.

Montague **Precinct 5 town meeting members** (downtown Turners Falls) are holding an informal pre-town meeting gathering on Sunday, April 30, at 7 p.m. at the Brick House Community Resource Center, 24 Third Street.

All downtown residents are encouraged to attend and weigh in on this year’s warrant. Plenty of parking now available since the opening of the new town parking lot on the corner of Canal and Third streets.

There will also be a **Precinct 1 Meet the Candidates Night** on

Monday, May 1, 6:30 p.m. at the Montague Center Fire Station. Montague Center voters are asked to select seven town meeting members from 11 candidates on the May 15 town election.

Chair Yoga classes will start May 2 and run through June 27 at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street. These classes, held Tuesdays from 10:30 to 11:15 a.m., will offer a good stretch and strengthening for muscles, work on balance, and fun. People from all towns and all skill levels are invited, including folks in wheelchairs.

There is a small suggested donation of \$1 for each class. The classes will be led by Jean Erlbaum, certified Chair Yoga Teacher. For more information, please contact Roberta Potter at the Senior Center at (413) 863-4500.

The Student Development Department and ACLU Club of GCC are teaming up with Catholic Charities and the Human Rights Commission of Greenfield to bring **refugees and immigrants in the Pioneer Valley** together to share their stories on Wednesday, May 3.

At a time when this conversation is brewing nationally, it seems important to hear about the experiences of those living in our community. This panel discussion will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the GCC Dining Commons. It is free and open to the public, and refreshments will be served.

The Friends of the Greenfield Public Library announce a special **two-day Spring Book Sale** on Friday, May 5 from 4 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, May 6 from 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the basement of the Greenfield Public Library.

Featured will be an exceptional assortment of books donated by Marc Platt and family in memory of

Susan Platt, a longtime library volunteer and member of the FGPL Board. Her love of reading and support of the GPL community make this contribution a most fitting tribute.

The collection is comprised of approximately 800 books, including many “like new” and interesting older books. More than 350 books are signed by the authors; many are first editions and/or first printings. The sale also includes a collection of Franklin Library Limited First Editions leather-bound books, some of which are signed. The collection will be on display in the Greenfield Room and will be specially priced.

In addition, there will be more than 11,000 books to choose from in the library’s regular stacks.

The book sale raises money for enrichment programs such as the Homebound Delivery Program, the Poet’s Seat Poetry Contest, adult book groups, and children’s programs.

Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) is holding their second annual **Heart to Heart Reverse Raffle and Fundraiser** event on Friday, May 5, at the Terrazza Ristorante in Greenfield. They promise an evening of fun to celebrate their partners and friends, with a buffet dinner, unique artisan-made door prizes and cash prizes up to \$1,000.

Prizes in the reverse raffle range from bioactive skincare products, to delicate beadwork jewelry, to local services and treats. Tickets are \$50, and there are opportunities to become a sponsor or underwriter by contributing more. Contact susan@mcsmcommunity.org to RSVP, or with any questions. The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m., and the Ristorante is located at the Country Club of Greenfield, at 244 Country Club Road.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Good Reasons For Ending Bus Route

By JEFF SINGLETON

As the Montague representative on the advisory board of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, I would like to respond to this newspaper’s coverage of the bus route changes being proposed by the FRTA this spring (April 20, “FRTA Weighs Elimination of Montague-Greenfield Route”).

These changes involve a significant consolidation of the current routes that serve Montague, but an expansion of service to the largest employer in the region, the University of Massachusetts, the initiation of weekend service, and a significant reduction in route redundancy.

In fact, there is a relationship between these various pieces of the puzzle. Currently, three bus routes serve Montague: the internal Montague-Greenfield route (22); the route to Orange (32); and the route to Amherst via Sunderland (23). This leads

to literally 19 trips a day between Montague and Greenfield – which is massive overkill – and many buses running the same route at nearly the same time as others.

The proposed consolidation reduces the number of Greenfield-Montague round trips to 12, which is sufficient. It does this by eliminating Route 22, but filling in the gaps with revised versions of Routes 23 (Amherst) and 32 (Orange). This consolidation reduces the total mileage in the system, thus freeing up funds for weekend service.

This is a “rural” system, with limited funds and service. A change in one area inevitably produce negative consequences in others. For example, we need to figure out how to serve the Turners Falls airport industrial park without making the existing routes long, circuitous, and frustrating for people seeking to get to Orange or Amherst. Only a few people ride to Park Villa, an elderly housing

complex off Turnpike Road, but they are important and we need to serve them. We want to keep as many so-called “flag stops” as possible.

The FRTA is seeking input from riders to identify and reduce the negative consequences of the consolidation. That was the reason for the forum at the Discovery Center covered by this newspaper last week. The criticisms we are hearing at forums like this will make the final product better.

Unfortunately, the rationale for the route consolidation – and the serious problems with the current system it is designed to address – did not come through in the *Reporter* article. It appeared that the route changes were simply designed to save money and are being imposed by bureaucrats oblivious to the needs of the riders.

This is simply not true. Speaking personally, I have been lobbying for changes like this for over three years. I am a regular bus rider who totally

depends on public transportation. I recognize the negative consequences of the consolidation, but feel there are ways to address them (although choices will need to be made, and nothing is perfect). There are other elements of the current plan – for example, better connections with other routes – that need to be tweaked before this proposal is put into effect.

I am more than willing to talk to anyone who has questions or criticisms of the current proposal, but I also think the critics need to be more open-minded about the reason for the consolidation, especially the elimination of Route 22. Feel free to get in touch with me.

Jeff Singleton writes regularly for the Montague Reporter, but wrote this clarification specifically in his role representing the Town of Montague on FRTA’s advisory board. He can be reached at singleton.jeff47@gmail.com or (413) 768-8167.

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Wendell Town Election

The Wendell Town Election is coming up fast! On Monday, May 1, the polls are open from noon to 8 p.m.

If you need an absentee ballot application for May 1, please pick this up at the Town Clerk’s office, or fill it out on line and mail it in. The application deadline is Friday, April 28 at noon.

The following positions and candidates are on the ballot.

Selectboard (contested): Daniel Keller, incumbent; Raymond DiDonato, nominee.

Board of assessors: Chris Wings, incumbent. Town clerk: Gretchen Smith, incumbent. Tax collector: Penny Delorey, incumbent. Treasurer: Carolyn Manley, incumbent. Planning board: Heather Reed, incumbent. Moderator: Kathleen Nolan, incumbent.

School committee, 3 years: Johanna Bartlett, incumbent. School committee, 2 years: Amy Palmer, nominee. Road commissioner: Phil Delorey, nominee. Library trustees, 3 years: Judith Putnam and Sylvia Wetherby, nominees.

No papers were taken out for the board of health (3 years); planning board (1 year); cemetery commissioners (3 years and 1 year); school committee (3 years); and tree warden (1 year). These positions may be filled by write-in candidates, as can any other position on the ballot.

Please support your town officials by casting your vote on May 1. Every vote counts!

Wendell Selectboard Candidates: *In Their Words*

By RAY DIDONATO

Wendell is a special place: our cherished Library and Coffeehouse; businesses like Diemand Farm, the Country Store, Deja Brew, CSAs and home-based enterprises; excellent schools, Swift River, Mahar and Franklin Tech. We are nestled among neighbors and farms, ponds and streams, hills and fields. We enjoy the embrace of an accepting community, and the space to live independently.

This is what drew Laurie and me to Wendell fifteen years ago, and we have proudly made our home here, raising two sons.

Over the years I have served on several town committees, worked closely with other volunteers, and had many interactions with the Selectboard. In so doing, I and others have observed that there is often a lack of clear and effective communication between the Selectboard and various committees. This has resulted in missed opportunities around energy and other areas and controversy around broadband. I hope to put my extensive experience to work by engaging committees to solve problems.

If we do a better job at having the right discussions municipally, I am confident we can address the challenges ahead, and that Wendell’s future will be bright.

I want to ensure Wendell is a place where young people can settle and raise families, where we grow old comfortably, where our children will return to raise families of their own, and where our local businesses thrive.

I don’t want anyone left behind because they cannot do their work, study, or pay their taxes.

I believe broadband is crucial to our future. I favor municipally-owned broadband because I want to ensure we build a lasting and fiscally responsible network, realizing regional benefits with neighboring towns. I worry about the future of a privately-owned network.

If we bring broadband to Wendell, our tax base will remain healthy, houses will sell, and businesses and students will compete.

If we do not bring broadband, over time the tax base will shrink and tax bills will increase substantially for those remaining.

We will, however, likely need to be creative in how we manage town budgets. When department heads are able, we should encourage savings where possible and not detrimental. We should also encourage more funding at the state level.

For our energy future, I want more renewable energy in our municipal aggregation.

If broadband is important to you, I am the only candidate who is not willing to sacrifice broadband;

If taxes are a concern for you, I have proposed tax relief to those in greatest need;

If schools are a concern for you, I want to lobby our legislators for monies to address the unique challenges of funding our excellent rural schools;

If land protection is important to you, I know the options available to towns and private landowners to help protect natural resources;

If energy is important to you, I think we can save on rates while using more renewable energy.

If you share this vision, I ask for your vote for Selectboard on May 1. Together we can make a difference.

By DAN KELLER

For the last 15 years I’ve had the honor of serving on the Wendell Selectboard.

It is a very rewarding experience: not in the way our President is being rewarded in Washington, with buckets of cash, but with the rewards of rural small town government – the pleasure of working with fellow townspeople to create opportunities for the town, to solve problems, resolve differences, and find ways to support people who need help.

I haven’t had many complaints about my job performance, with a few notable exceptions, and I know many people in town support my effort to earn another term. But I also see that my opponent is gaining some support, and a good reason for that is his promise for “universal, affordable, broadband.”

I’m not against broadband, although somehow rumors to the contrary have been floated around town. I do think the town should be careful in spending its money.

I also want to avoid fostering false hope. If Wendell broadband were truly universal it might not be affordable – some homes, far from the road, would be very expensive to reach with fiber-optic cable.

Ray DiDonato is also advocating a broadband system built in large part at the town’s expense, and that the system be owned by the town, as in Leverett.

In an ideal world it might well be best for the town to own, and therefore control, such a system. But can we afford to do that? The town and its taxpayers are already

very close to their spending limits.

I’m concerned that Ray’s advocacy of the town-owned plan is overlooking an option that could save significant town funds. We have at least one credible offer from a private corporation to pay for and own a system for Wendell, without any cost to the town. Ray has opposed this idea; I believe it’s an option we should consider.

When electricity came to Wendell, not until 1945, the costs were shared between the electric utility company and the Federal Rural Electrification program. The electric company now owns the system and runs it, and repairs it when necessary. Broadband could be similar.

I would also urge Wendell and all our hill town neighbors to lobby strongly for further state and federal support for broadband projects.


It may be that some towns, including Wendell, will not be able to accommodate large debt payments in their budgets. It also may be that some of these networks are unable to sustain themselves, i.e. pay their operating costs if subscribers are charged an “affordable” rate. In that case outside support would be needed.

It’s also true that designs that connect contiguous towns would be an optimal approach, and to make that happen the towns will need coordination with each other, as well as support from state or federal agencies.

Wendell has pulled together to meet financial and political challenges many times in the past, and I do believe we can do that now.

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NOTES FROM THE GMRSD SCHOOL COMMITTEE

“Inclusivity” Discussed, Input Requested as Committee Reviews Criteria for New Name

By ANNA FORBES GYORGY

The Gill-Montague Regional School Committee came a couple steps closer to establishing criteria for the selection of a new high school mascot this past Tuesday night.

Before getting into the discussion of criteria for mascot selection, the board accepted two separate gifts to the district. The gifts are both pledged to aid in the transition, and development of related curriculum.

A gift of \$1,000 from “Spark! A Generosity Fund to Support Inspired Vision and Action” at the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts, and a gift of \$5,549 raised by a community crowdsourcing campaign were both accepted with gratitude. The funds will be kept in a designated account until the district assesses the financial obligation of the transition more fully.

The board spent the second half of its session tweaking and fine-tuning the criteria for choosing a mascot. The criteria were initially established during a special brainstorming session held on April 6. Five criteria for a future mascot were agreed upon during Tuesday’s meeting: that the mascot be gender-neutral, marketable, relevant to and representative of the community and local environment,

inclusive/non-discriminatory, and that it represent the core qualities and values of the district.

Some criteria, such as gender neutrality, and marketability, did not attract much debate between committee members, while others such as inclusivity, community relevance, and the representation of core qualities and values, provoked long discussions.

Inclusivity and Non Discrimination were combined into one criterion, under the heading of “Inclusivity.” All board members agreed that the language surrounding inclusivity and non-discrimination must be free of subjectivity, to prevent any future grievances and to safeguard the positivity of the process.

Montague member Christina Postera suggested that the committee solicit help from the district’s lawyers to ensure that any established criteria are in compliance with the district’s official non-discrimination policy.

“We should check with our lawyers because they probably have some great language around this, or something that is more up to speed with the message that we’re trying to convey,” she said. “I would just like some advice around language, because the language around non-discriminatory policy is very important.”

All members agreed that this

criterion should be free of subjectivity. “The more precise we can end up with, the better,” said Gill member Jane Oakes, who also said she would like to see the word “unifying” included in this criterion to better represent the committee’s intentions.

When speaking about community relevance, particular care was taken to clarify the definition of “community,” and a stipulation that the new mascot somehow address the history of the community was ultimately scrapped by the committee.

Gill member Valeria “Timmie” Smith was adamant that the mascot address the contemporary community and natural environment, instead of looking to the past for inspiration.

“I just think it needs to focus on the present, or contemporary aspects of our community, as well as features of the community, whether geological or having to do with the water, or the animals,” she said. “But I don’t think it should be historical, and I feel rather strongly about that.”

All were in agreement, and the new working criterion reads that, “[the mascot] should be representative of a contemporary aspect of the community and/or features in the community.”

The committee discussed the

“core values” of the district and its athletics program at length. The committee debated whether or not any of the official core values should be used as criteria, and whether values should be viewed as integral to a mascot or not.

“I think the students really came together around those four words: Strength, Unity, Honor, and Pride,” said committee member Lesley Cogswell, “and that might help a little bit with giving them the respect that they deserve.”

It was agreed that the values should be used as criteria to select a new mascot, but should not be used as benchmarks for ruling one out.

The board plans to continue the review of the criteria at its next scheduled meeting. At the end of the session, Cogswell and Smith opened the forum to public comment, and emphasized their desire for more public input on the matter.

“I appreciate the input,” said Smith. “and I hope in the future that we have enough time to share with the community.” Future meetings will be opened to public comment on a meeting-by-meeting basis.

“I appreciate the very few emails that I got on this,” said Cogswell. “I would appreciate more about this ...Give us your feedback. We’ve read a lot of emails in the past six months. Continue to send them on this. This is important.”

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events. He said he loves the night sky, and that one-third of humanity can no longer see the Milky Way. He said light pollution can be insidious, and that the proposed light is one of many.

Former selectboard member Ted Lewis said respect for the flag shows respect for veterans. “I bet no one in this room would know,” he said, but Apollo immediately answered, “I would.”

“Harry has done a lot [for the town],” Morgan Mead said, suggesting that in compensation for the light, two others around the common could be unscrewed. He suggested trying the light for a month.

Jonathan von Ranson said that even solar lights have a carbon footprint, and that he does not want to contribute more patronage to the industrial culture. He said the flag is equally noble flying in the dark.

Patty Scutari asked, “Has anyone seen our light [at the Wendell Country Store and the post office]?” She said postmaster Charlie O’Dowd used to raise and lower the flag at the post office, but the central office did not want to pay him for the time it took, and installed a glaring light.

Ray DiDonato suggested shading the light so it would not be visible from the side.

Flag etiquette says the flag should be raised after sunrise and taken in before dark, and if it is flown all night, it should be illuminated. Selectboard chair Christine Heard said that when she was in school, raising and lowering the flag was an honor. Selectboard member Dan Keller said he respects the flag also, and the perfect solution would be to raise and lower the flag daily. It flies from May through October.

Geoff Richardson said that was unrealistic. Leahy volunteered to do it for one week, but said he could not take on organizing people. Several other people volunteered to do it, but not to organize the effort.

After a period of silence, Melissa Grader said she would try to organize the volunteers, and people gave her their names.

Williston was skeptical. “I bet it won’t happen,” he said. He said

volunteer efforts in town peter out, and as an example, pointed out that he is still listed on the town website, which is maintained by a volunteer committee, as highway commissioner.

He added, “You will have to buy a flag – I have been donating mine.”

Community Solar?

The conservation commission, planning board, and historical commission stayed to discuss options for the town-owned house and property at 97 Wendell Depot Road, which the town acquired through tax taking.

Town treasurer Carolyn Manley said the property has 12.9 acres, including a wide easement for high-voltage electric wires, with the house on the west side of the road, and another 24 acres across the street.

The house has not been occupied for a few years, but is still structurally sound, and ideas for the property include a community solar array, a place to store and display historical artifacts, senior housing, and a ball field.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that people have expressed interest in buying the house to rehabilitate it.

Citizen Don Stone has been working with others to develop a community-owned solar farm, and that property is the first, and so far best, choice: close to a three-phase electric line, relatively flat, and relatively central.

The proposal is for a 250-kW array, which Stone said would be cheaper to construct there than fifty individual 5-kW arrays, and is compatible with other solar projects. Town residents whose homes are not suited for solar panels could pay for an equivalent part of the array, and get the same credits they would get if the panels were on their property.

He said ten residents have pledged or paid money to help the project get through required regulations. The con com had scheduled a walk through the proposed site on Friday.

Wanita Sears said that as the abutter, she would prefer to look at woods, a farmhouse, or senior housing than solar panels.

Keller asked if the group had looked at the property across the

street, but Stone said it is not as suitable.

Detour Delayed

Rene LaBranche met the selectboard to discuss replacement of the bridge that carries Wendell Depot Road and spans Whetstone Brook. He is from Stantec, the engineering company that designed the replacement. There was hope that the construction would happen in 2016, but it was delayed until this summer.

The project requires a 60-day closing of Wendell Depot Road and a detour through New Salem, Farley, or Millers Falls, and the highway commission wanted to minimize the impact on school bus and mail routes.

Stantec hopes to publicize the project for bids in early May, and LaBranche had a draft agreement of guidelines for board members to sign.

Utility poles will need to be moved, and the state needs to complete its Chapter 85 review. Neither Wendell nor Stantec can speed up the response of Verizon and the state, although Aldrich said she could talk with senator Stan Rosenberg. If the work goes into the next school year, she will contact the bus companies. Keller said he would do whatever he could to move the process along.

Wendell was awarded \$450,000 in the state grant program for small town small bridge repair or replacement, which should pay for the project.

Conservation Corridor

Jamie Pottorn from Mount Grace Land Trust reported that the conservation restriction (CR) on the Stinson property was closed, “today,” and except for the house lot, open for passive recreation. Across Montague Road, the CR on Paul and Melinda Godfrey’s property should be closed within a month, access with permission of the landowners. In line after that is a CR on about 28 acres of the Diemand Farm.

There is a two-acre “bump” in that property line that Al MacIntire said had a schoolhouse until the Center School was built in 1846. The foundation is still there; actual ownership of that bump is uncertain.

Pottorn gave some more details about the celebration of the state land partnership grant that facilitated the CRs on over 700 contiguous acres in several towns.

The celebration party will be held at the Diemand Farm on June 4, starting at 10 a.m. with a 7K walk or run, and will have art, food and beverages. Aldrich had checked about one-day liquor licenses, and found a simple one which the board signed, so beer will be among the beverages offered. The selectboard settled on a \$25 fee.

Parking for the gathering will be at the Turners Falls High School, with FM Kuzmeskus providing shuttle transportation.

At an earlier meeting, Pottorn spoke about preserving the property around Bowens Pond, and the condition of the dam that holds the pond. No one wants to take on the liability of maintaining the dam, and breaching it was mentioned as a possibility, although it is still in good shape. Fire chief Joe Cuneo contacted the town to state that the pond is a primary water source for the fire department, so the dam should not be breached.

Other Business

The selectboard got only one essay in the contest for a campership at Mass Audubon’s Wildwood camp. Board members decided to allow another two weeks to allow other entries.

Resident Shelly Hines said, “the Misfit Prom needs a break.” It will be replaced this year by a lower-energy “Unprom” on Friday June 16. Friends of Wendell was to be the beneficiary, but they reported having enough money, and the fire department stepped up to fill the need. Hines asked for the fee to be waived, and board members agreed.

Board members also agreed to allow the library teen program to put in plants around the gazebo and the meetinghouse.

The town got four bids for taking down the shed behind the meetinghouse, with a range of \$700 to \$2,500. The lowest assumed leaving the roof debris at the WRATS, and there is a possibility that the shingles contain asbestos. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser said that

cemetery commissioner Joel Sears wants to be included in the process, concerned about the contents of the topsoil and the possibility that there are unmarked graves there.

Residents of the furthest-west house in Wendell on Montague Road have asked to get a connection to the internet from Montague through Comcast, rather than having cable run through several miles of state forest. That connection would require two poles, and Wendell would need to negotiate a franchise agreement with Comcast, and maybe go through the state department of telecommunications to get Comcast to return calls.

Greenfield and Montague have their own dispatch system for emergencies, and want to have a feasibility study for combining that system with Shelburne control which covers the rest of Franklin County, including Wendell. Police chief Ed Chase does not like the idea, and the Shelburne oversight group does not like the idea, but Cuneo said it is just a study.

Some people have asked for a “pre-town meeting” to allow citizens to discuss issues on the warrant in a less formal way. “I remember two,” said Keller, “and no one shows up.” The selectboard wouldn’t finalize the budget until May 31, and the next Wednesday, June 7, three days before town meeting, could work.

Wendell got its final payment from the logger who cut trees on the town lot off Montague Road, \$9,270.

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger wants an “all-green” option for electricity aggregation. It would be more expensive than standard electricity, but it is unknown how much more. Pooser said he would talk with Riebschlaeger.

As the meeting ended, Dan Keller, who has an opponent for the first time in his tenure on the selectboard, said, “This could be my last meeting.” He thanked an “amazing” clerk, Laurel Brenneman, and a “fantastic” and “persevering” town coordinator, Nancy Aldrich.

Heard said Keller was a great leader, and thanked him for his civil tone and fiscal conservatism. She said there has been too much about broadband.



GMRSD from page A1

open place that people can come through.”

Langknecht said he felt he had contributed to better teamwork on the committee, and that he thought it could improve at strategic planning. The district, he pointed out, has “room to grow” in terms of enrollment.

“Helping our kids to feel happy, safe and confident is a quicker route to reaching [state and federal] benchmarks than focusing on the benchmarks,” he argued.

Langknecht described the board’s current moment in the process over the team name as establishing a “set of ground rules that are universally understood,” because “the important thing is to let the community make the proposals” for a new name. He also warned that the final decision “needs to be more than just a majority vote – a 5-4 vote is not going to be a healing solution.”

“It’s more involved than you think it is, when you start,” said April Reipold, who said she was running for a second term on the committee out of a sense of “civic duty.”

“I had an IEP when I was in high school, and Turners Falls High School helped me a lot,” she said. “I wanted to give back for all their ef-

fort in helping me.”

Reipold said she was proud of her work in supporting the district’s special education services department, having chaired its parent advisory council, but said that in a second term she would “try a lot harder” to push for stronger community engagement in the schools. She raised the idea of summer school programs that place students in mentorships with local businesses.

As for the team name, Reipold suggested that a school/community committee determine “the top three best choices” for the board to choose from, and pointedly said she wished that more community input was being incorporated into the process of setting criteria.

“One of the biggest weaknesses right now for the school committee, and the district, is public relations,” said Cassie Damkoehler, who is challenging Langknecht and Reipold for a seat on the board. “There’s a lot of constituents that don’t feel a connection to the school committee, and that’s tough.”

Damkoehler said she had three children in Montague schools, and praised the district’s administrators and teachers.

“There’s just this sense of unification that we didn’t have before,

and I think that’s so wonderful,” she said. “I think that if we can bring that out into the community, and show people that’s what happens in our schools, it would attract more families to stay in town.”

Damkoehler said she saw a district that is “very divided right now,” as “some people feel very unheard,” though she described herself as a “neutral body.”

“This area is so full of pride,” she said. “Getting the community involved in choosing how we go forward – and what we go forward with – is going to be a big way to help them heal.”

Gill

Two candidates are competing for one Gill seat.

Sandy Brown said that she had seen improvements in both the committee and schools since her service began.

“In the age of school choice and charter schools, as well as other alternatives, if parents are not listened to, many will go elsewhere,” she said. “I think that we’re doing a better and better job of welcoming families in.”

Brown also said that she felt the board was doing a “better job with asking questions, and delving into”

the budget, though she said she had faith in superintendent Michael Sullivan. “I hope we can keep him,” she added.

“One of my goals was to have more fiscal stability, and to work more with the towns,” she said. “I think we’ve been successful – I wish I could be more hopeful for the future, but I am more hopeful than I was in the past.”

Brown said she had seen the school committee become “more respectful for one another” and “more disciplined,” and touted her own “almost-perfect attendance record” at meetings.

Echoing the other candidates, Brown spoke of a need to better publicize good news in the schools. She also cited art and music programming as essential for reaching some of the district’s families.

In terms of the team name process, “the more people that we hear from,” she said, “the more the process of healing can be started.”

Brown faces a challenge from Shawn Hubert, who said his grandmother attended Turners Falls High School, and that he looked forward to seeing his own grandchildren graduate from the school.

“We raise great kids, year in and year out,” Hubert said, saying that

he “wonder[s], from an outsider’s point of view, why everything else isn’t running the same way” as the district’s successful athletics program, which he said was “a model that we can look at” for improving academics.

Hubert said he thought any after-school activity that can be used to bring families into closer contact with the schools would be valuable.

He also said that though he and his children attended Gill Elementary school, “if it came down to a thing where Gill needed to change or move, I wouldn’t be opposed to it, if it made sense.”

“There had to be a better way,” he argued, than the way the committee handled the decision about the high school team name.

“The most important part of that, whatever process is chosen, is that they really need to make the community feel like they’ve been heard,” he said. “And the students as well. I think the big miss in this whole thing was the execution.”

Hubert said he thought he could “come in and shed a little bit of a different light” on budgetary questions, and that his main goal would be to do the best job that he could – “for our community, and for our kids.”



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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

In the last match of the afternoon, Jimmy Vaughn swept the first match 6-love, but dropped the next two by 3-6, 1-6.

Baseball

TFHS 6 – Pioneer Valley 1
Mohawk 5 – TFHS 0

Turners had two home games this week, splitting a pair of 5-run decisions. On Wednesday, April 19, they beat Pioneer 6-1, and on Monday they lost to Mohawk 5-0. This gives Powertown a 3–3 record, and their fate is in their own gloves, because they have yet to play a league game.

In the Pioneer game, Turners scored two runs in the first inning, and as it turns out, that's all they would need. Pioneer scored their lone run in the third, but Turners pitcher Quinn Doyle kept them off the board for the remainder of the game. Turners took a 5-1 lead in the bottom of the fourth and added another in the sixth.

Doyle pitched the complete game, scattering 4 hits, striking out 6, and not giving up a walk. Tionne Brown went 3 for 4 from the plate and scored two runs. Jeremy Wolfram and Ryan Campbell had two hits apiece, and Kyle Dodge hit a triple while Will Roberge placed a single.

Then on Monday, Mohawk came to town, shutting out Powertown 5-0. Turners did have some opportunities to score, but a failure-to-slide call in the second and some hard shots directly to fielders kept them off the scoreboard.

Defensively, it was another pitcher's duel for Turners, as Mike Babcock shut the Mohawks out for the first four and three-quarters innings. But with two outs, he was pulled, and Mohawk's first (unearned) run came from a wild pitch.

Mohawk scored deuces in the next two innings, but a pretty double play pickoff in the sixth limited the damage. Turners got two men on first and third in the seventh inning, but another hard line drive directly to an outfielder iced the shutout.

Babcock pitched 4.2 innings, scattering 4 hits, striking out 4, and allowing no walks or earned runs. In relief, Kyle Bergmann allowed one hit and struck out one, while Dodge allowed 4 runs on 2 hits, two walks, and a strikeout. Brown, Doyle and Bergmann all had hits for Turners.

Softball

TFHS 6 – Frontier 2
TFHS 10 – Hampshire 2

On Thursday, April 20, Turners Falls came back from a 2-0 deficit to beat the Frontier Red Hawks, 6-2. The True Blue Faithful came to the game in force and largely outnumbered the home crowd, until the baseball game let up and the Hawks baseball players and their supporters joined the Red throng.

The Blue Tribe spotted the Birds two runs, but prevailed largely because of the long ball, banging three doubles and a homerun. Turners did have their chance to score early, as their first batters made it to second and third base, but three straight outs ended any hope of

taking an early lead.

Instead, Red took a 2-run lead in their half of the first when Peyton Emery let up a 2-out pop single and then a 2-run homer. She got out of the inning by striking out the last batter.

But that would be all the runs that Frontier would muster. In the top of the second, Turners managed to put a run across the plate. Hailey Bogosz led off with a double, and Maddy Johnson hit a chop single advancing her to third. Maddy stole second, but Hailey was tagged out on a fielder's choice at home plate. Cassidhe Wozniak batted Maddy in, and suddenly, Turners was back in the game.

In the bottom of the inning, Red got two men on after a couple of errors, but a fielder's choice bunt and two Emery Ks ended the threat. Turners went 1-2-3 in the third, and a wonderful double play got them out of the bottom of the inning.

In the fourth Powertown finally took the lead 3-2 as Maddy and Olivia Whittier scored. Then in the sixth, Abby Loynd clocked a boomer over the fence, sending her and Olivia across the plate. Powertown was up 5-2. Turners scored an insurance run in the last inning, as Bogosz batted in Alyson Murphy.

In the circle, Emery allowed 2 runs on 4 hits, while striking out 11 and walking none. At the plate, Bogosz cracked three hits, two of them doubles; Loynd had two hits including a homer; Maddy Johnson had two hits, Taylor Murphy had one, and Whittier hit a double and scored twice.

Saturday's softball game was moved to Sunday because the field was still wet from daytime rains. So on Sunday, April 23, the two state champions, Hampshire Regional and Turners Falls, went to bat.

The Powertown fans were a little bit wary about this game. After all, Turners had struggled against Athol and Frontier while Hampshire was 5-0, kicking butt against Division 1 teams. Not to mention Turners had lost some of the best softball players in the state to graduation.

The sentiment of the True Blue Faithful seemed to be: every run would count; score early just to make it a game – but for the first three innings, Turners couldn't buy a run. The Tribe had the bases loaded twice but came up empty both times.

But on the other side of the diamond, Peyton Emery was on fire. I even heard Assistant Coach Eddy Marvell call her pitches "Nunchuck Fire," a term he had used for Mackenzie Phillips. Emery had two strikeouts in the first inning, three in the second, and two more in the third. Peyton may not have Mackenzie's speed, but her ball placement was masterful.

Turners finally managed to score in the fourth, and score they did. Gabby Arzuaga came out of her hitting slump in grand fashion. With one run already across the plate, she skyrocketed a grand-slam homerun over the fence, giving Turners a 5-run lead. The very next inning, Blue added two more runs as Taylor Mur-

ARBOR DAY from page A1

architects are now in high demand, as more urban environments are being redesigned for resiliency in the face of a carbon cycle thrust into overdrive by the excess burning of fossil fuels.

He started with the basics. "Trees provide us with oxygen," a waste product of photosynthesis, "and we provide them with carbon dioxide when we breathe."

Plants absorb carbon dioxide, and the biggest plant species – trees – store carbon dioxide in vast quantity for dozens or hundreds of years.

Marcotrigiano touched only briefly on the worldwide consensus among scientists acknowledging that the stability of the planet's carbon cycle has been altered in the last three centuries by the burning of fossil fuels. But as any brief review of websites – from the EPA's to NASA's – will show, humankind is releasing, at an accelerated rate, the carbon stored by plants over millions of years in the form of coal and oil.

The burning of fossil fuels is magnifying the greenhouse effect of Earth's atmosphere, heating up the oceans, melting the permafrost, glaciers and ice sheets, decreasing the reflectivity of the polar regions, releasing methane from defrosting soil, and warming the ecosphere in a cascade of unintended consequences.

"Plants are self-sufficient," said Marcotrigiano. "They produce their own food. They are sedentary. They can't go to the store or hunt for food." (Don't tell that to a Venus flytrap – or even the pitcher plant growing in Robin Harrington's high school classroom, where his talk took place.)

But plants cannot keep up with the amount of carbon dioxide being released into the atmosphere now, from the tailpipes of all our cars, and the smokestacks of all our coal and oil plants. So scientists are considering the benefits of "assisted migration," for tree species trapped in habitats becoming too warm for them to live in, replanting them in zones that up until now have been too cold for them to thrive.

Trees provide many benefits to our planet beyond storing carbon and producing oxygen. "They remove pollutants, smoke, ash and dust," Marcotrigiano noted. The

phy and Whittier scored.

Emery kept Hampshire off the scoreboard until the bottom of the sixth, when an error allowed two unearned runs to cross the plate. Turners scored three insurance runs in the seventh, and took the match 10-2.

Alyson Murphy went 4 for 4 at the plate with 4 RBIs and a walk. Arzuaga had 3 hits, 5 RBIs, a double, a homerun, and 2 walks.

Taylor Murphy cracked two doubles, Wozniak had two hits and scored twice, Jordyn Fiske had a hit and a RBI, and Bogosz, Eliza Johnson, Melissa Hersey and Whittier all had singles.

incidence of "asthma... is getting worse because of particulates in the air." But the filtering benefits of trees have been shown to reduce the incidence of asthma in urban environments where trees are plentiful.

"A whole network of wildlife utilizes trees for food and shelter," he added. "Birds nest in trees; pollinators are dependent on trees," as are caterpillars and butterflies, squirrels, and many other species.

"Trees reduce noise pollution; they have the same effect on city streets as fabric curtains do in your home."

But in the era of global warming, one of the biggest benefits of a healthy urban forest lies in trees' ability to reduce the "heat island effect" of unshaded sidewalks and paved streets. Marcotrigiano showed the students a graph depicting the difference in temperature on a sunny day between unshaded concrete (95 degrees) and nearby shaded areas (85 degrees). This effect leads to excessive use of air conditioning in unshaded urban areas, and the burning of fossil fuels that power much of our nation's electric supply.

Planting more shade trees would not only cut residential and commercial electric bills but also reduce the release of CO₂ from fossil fuels that is causing rising temperatures.

"The more trees we have," in urban areas, "the cooler it is." Simple as that.

Speaking the day after huge worldwide marches by scientists advanced the proposition that science still matters, Marcotrigiano offered the high school students results from a number of other studies relating to the benefits of a healthy urban forest.

Planting trees on the south and west side of a house will inarguably reduce fuel bills in that residence.

Trees filter impurities out of stormwater runoff, reducing the cost of municipal treatment plants.

Trees reduce soil erosion along highways, in urban environments, everywhere.

Customers linger longer and spend more money at businesses in well-shaded urban streets than in unshaded streets, and storefronts rent more quickly along well-shaded streets.

Home values increase when healthy trees are located on or near the property: shade trees add 15% to a property's value.

People exercise more on shaded streets.

The attention focus of children increases in green urban areas, compared to unshaded ones; studies show this effect also in children diagnosed with attention deficit disorder.

Patients in hospital rooms that face natural areas have shorter stays than patients in rooms with windows facing built landscapes.

Marcotrigiano showed a slide of cows lying under a tree on a sunny day, making the point that humans, like other animals, tend to congregate and indeed feel safer in parkland and well-shaded streets.

Marcotrigiano dwelt at length on a slide of Central Park in New York City, Frederick Law Olmsted's masterpiece of landscape architecture. Olmsted, who also designed the Emerald Necklace around Boston, along with many other municipal parks and college campuses, had the radical insight that, as Marcotrigiano put it, "It is unfair to never allow poor people to have nature in their urban settings." They deserved the same access to natural areas that rich people enjoyed in the 19th century.

Once home to poor people's shacks and pig sties, Central Park, 843 acres of breathing green trees in the midst of the nation's biggest metropolis, would be worth trillions if commercially developed. Instead, in recent decades philanthropists have invested more than \$875 million in its conservancy, and Central Park "is now considered the iconic symbol of urban forestry, the model for all other parks."

Marcotrigiano is now working with the town tree warden, town planner, and RiverCulture director on a more modest park conservancy right here in Montague, with an innovative redesign of downtown's urban gem – Spinner Park on Avenue A and Fourth Street – a pocket park that has seen better days.

Come to an unveiling of the new planting scheme for Spinner Park this Friday – Arbor Day – at 5 p.m.

And set aside time this Saturday, April 29 to hear Marcotrigiano give tips for homeowners on "How Not to Kill a Tree," at 2 p.m. at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street.



few years. Jenna is now playing second base at Wesleyan University, and as a freshman, she has hit 7 doubles, 2 homeruns, 11 RBIs, is batting .268, and has a fielding percentage of .912.

Another collegiate player who graduated from Turners is Mackenzie Phillips. She is a freshman pitcher for Worcester Polytech, and is 11 and 4 with 4 shutouts and has 3 saves in relief. Her "Nunchuck Fire" pitches have netted her 100 strikeouts in 102.2 innings.

Good luck, ladies, and keep learning!



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Town Makes Progress on Sludge Study, Cultural District, Bike Racks

By JEFF SINGLETON

The April 24 agenda for the Montague selectboard, which contained 14 items, looked formidable. But all of these items involved brief discussions, and quick decisions. The meeting adjourned after barely 40 minutes: a short and sweet day at the office.

Town planner Walter Ramsey was first on the agenda with a request that the board execute an agreement with the Franklin Regional Council on Governments (FRCOG) to deliver bike racks for installation in front of the Carnegie Library, at Unity Park in Turners Falls, and at the library in Montague Center.

The only stipulation was that the racks had to be installed by the town within 60 days. “That’s no problem unless they come in November,” said public works super-

intendent Tom Bergeron.

The bike racks are being funded by a grant to towns in Franklin County. Ramsey noted that FRCOG might receive a “second round” of the grant, in which case Millers Falls would probably receive priority. The selectboard approved the request.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that the bike rack in front of the Shea Theater needed to be “straightened out,” and Bergeron agreed.

Ramsey told the board that the Massachusetts Cultural Council might consider Montague’s application for a cultural district in Turners Falls at its May meeting.

Next at the front table was Water Pollution Control Facility director Bob McDonald, with the announcement that a \$124,000 state grant to fund the pilot testing of the Montague sludge reduction process would soon be finalized. “Well,

that’s a pretty substantial savings for us,” said Kuklewicz. Five requests for sewer user fee abatements were considered. The board approved four of the requests, and suggested it might revisit the fifth when data on water use for the spring became available.

Bergeron requested that the board execute a contract with the Massachusetts Department of Public Transportation for ten more years of state Chapter 90 highway funds. The board approved the request. The board also approved a contract of \$150 per hour for sidewalk engineering services with Mr. James Toth, and agreed to appoint Joseph Dodge to the position of heavy equipment operator.

Police chief Chip Dodge asked the board to approve a cell phone stipend of \$5.77 per week for newly-appointed patrolman Jamal Holland. The board approved this

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MEETINGS from pg A1

use in visiting artist residencies and community events, and a variety of civic projects including cleanups, meetups, and a proposed mural. He could not be reached for comment as of press time.

Article 45, petitioned by Leigh Rae of Montague Center, asks town meeting members to resolve to “reduce the influence of money in politics.” This resolution, according to Rae, aims to “ensure our elected officials support tough, new anti-corruption laws in our state and in Congress” by making known that the citizens of Montague want this issue to be “at the top of the list” of state legislators’ agendas.

If passed, the town clerk would be directed to notify the state’s elected representatives in Boston and Washington via certified copies of the resolution.

This resolution, and many others like it, are being introduced in town meetings across the Commonwealth thanks to efforts from Represent.US, a national grassroots anti-corruption campaign. Reed Schimmelfing, a volunteer for Represent.US, said that he feels the resolution is important, even if the effect doesn’t seem immediate to town meeting members.

“If you think about the issue of big money influence in our government,” he explained, “you realize that it’s so hard to fill the potholes, for example, because the money is going to subsidized corporations that are lobbying to build things we don’t need or don’t want. So it really does have an immediate effect on every citizen.”

Schimmelfing said that passing the article would “not change the way Montague runs their government or elections,” but that it would ask the town’s elected officials “to take these issues to heart... and to work on this issue in their domain.”

Schimmelfing himself does not reside in Montague, but said he did assist Rae in drafting the warrant article. Rae told the *Reporter* that Montague volunteers have been informing and encouraging town meeting members to support this article.

On a somewhat more local level, Article 46, petitioned by Charles

Kelley of the Patch, is asking the town to vote to instruct the Town Meeting counsel “to file the necessary documentation...to complete the Municipal Light Plant process.” The article states that Greenfield Community Energy & Technology (GCET) would be used as a model.

A municipal light plant is an old legal structure for a publicly owned utility that is seeing new use in the era of broadband internet. (The town is currently working with Comcast to extend last-mile broadband service.)

Rob Steinberg, chair of the Montague broadband committee chair, wrote in a Letter to the Editor in this newspaper last week that his committee’s opinion is that forming a municipal light plant is “unnecessary at this time,” but that the “option will remain open.”

Steinberg explained that this issue largely comes down to funding, and that, after extensive research, the only options appear to be town funding or individual subscribers – for a fiber-optic network that would cost between \$5 and \$6 million.

Because an MLP could be “quickly implemented” if funding were secured, “we respectfully suggest a ‘no’ vote,” wrote Steinberg in regard to Article 46.

Mr. Kelley did not respond by press time to a request for comment, but it is clear through his actions to place this article on the warrant that he feels there is a need to create a municipal light plant, and hopefully more questions can be answered at the Town Meeting.

The Trust Act, and the Unknown

Given the national political climate, Article 47, the final one on the warrant, may receive the most discussion next Saturday. It would ensure that Montague law enforcement officials do not use town resources for non-criminal “detainer” requests made by the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

The article, also petitioned by Charles Kelly, explains that “civil immigration detainer requests” are non-mandatory requests from the federal government to detain immigrants who would be otherwise eligible for release.

Based on model legislation called the Trust Act, Article 47 also includes expectations of the Montague police chief to submit an annual report to the board of selectmen detailing all civil immigration detainer requests, individuals transferred into ICE custody, the total cost to the town of such activity, and any federal reimbursement received.

While this may sound like a lot to ask of the department, Montague police chief Chip Dodge expressed few reservations about how this article, if passed, would affect his department’s activities.

“I don’t ever recall a time when we’ve been asked to hold an immigrant on a civil immigration detainer and I’m not really sure anything will change,” Dodge told the *Reporter*. “It’s not our intention to start holding people on civil immigration detainers.”

Chief Dodge said that the Montague Police Department is committed to maintaining a “trusting relationship with [Montague’s] immigration population,” and has an assigned officer to serve as a liaison with that community.

“It’s got to be a scary world when you’re living in the country illegally, and I know a lot of immigrants probably fear calling the police when they need help,” said Dodge. “And we don’t want that to be the case.”

“My opinion overall is that I don’t think it’s an unreasonable request,” he said in regard to Article 47. “This article isn’t asking us to release dangerous people – it’s basically asking us to not hold people who shouldn’t be held.”

Dodge also explained that the Montague Police Department does not make the determination of who is held or has the right to bail; they contact the bail commissioner or the courts to make such a decision. “It’s unlawful for us to hold anybody anyways, without talking to the bail commissioner or the courts,” he said.

Though Dodge suggested that Article 47 is “not unreasonable,” in a follow-up conversation he also called it “not necessary.” “If it does pass, things won’t change, and if it doesn’t pass, things stay the same

anyways,” he told us. He pointed to legislative efforts currently underway at the state level that would address and clarify the issue, “so that communities don’t have to adopt their own versions or policies.”

I don’t ever recall
a time when we’ve
been asked to hold
an immigrant on a
civil immigration
detainer, and I’m not
really sure anything
will change.”
Chief Charles Dodge,
Montague PD

The proposed article comes amidst a new push by the federal government to enlist state and local agencies in the work of immigration enforcement, and threats that municipalities that do not comply could be punished by the withdrawal of federal grant money.

Whether this threat could be legally carried through is the subject of wide debate. This week, a federal district court judge issued an injunction to the contrary. Gill’s selectboard, asked to set a similar policy, has said it is closely watching how the issue plays in the courts.

“We have to be somewhat careful,” cautioned Dodge, “because depending on what it is that we approve, it could make it so that the town does lose out on federal funding. But I don’t have enough information now to know what type of funding we would actually lose out on.”

When asked about grant funding he believes *could* be at risk in Montague, Dodge said his own department “[doesn’t] really get anything” from the federal government. “As of right now,” he said, “the opinions that I’ve [heard] are that the funding we would probably lose is the funding that has to do with holding immigrants.”

Leverett: Renewable Energy

Leverett’s annual town meeting, taking place this Saturday, April 29

Avenue A and Seventh Street, was approved.

The board approved a request by Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Re-development Authority to request an extension of the 2015 Community Development Block Grant Program’s time frame, and to request that \$43,449.28 from the revolving loan fund be used to finance additional housing units.

Finally the board approved the three-year collective bargaining agreement recently negotiated with the Town of Montague Employees Association. The agreement covers the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2019.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45. The next selectboard meeting will take place May 1.

at the Leverett Elementary School, is an open meeting, which means all registered voters in the town may attend and vote on the 35 warrant article issues presented, including three citizen-petitioned articles.

The first, Article 33, asks that the town adopt a resolution to support a Congressional investigation into whether “sufficient grounds exist for the impeachment” of President Trump. The article cites potential for his impeachment on the grounds of violating emoluments clauses in the Constitution, which are intended to prohibit conflict of interest in both foreign and domestic affairs.

If passed, the article would require the town of Leverett to transmit copies of the resolution to state representatives and senators, adding to the support of districts elsewhere in the country that have adopted similar resolutions.

Article 34 may have the potential to more directly affect the town. This article would adopt a resolution to “commit to a goal of 100 percent clean, renewable energy, and move as quickly as possible to achieve that goal.”

If Article 34 passes, the town would also be required to take the actions of “creating a town committee to study and make recommendations” towards achieving the goal, and “promoting energy efficiency upgrades at all town facilities.”

Members of the Leverett Energy Committee could not be reached for comment as to whether this is a resolution they support for the town.

And lastly, Article 35, is asking that the town administrators resolve to reach out to state officials – in this case, the governor, state senate president, and house majority leader – asking that they support bills in the senate and house regarding statewide single-payer healthcare.

Like Article 33, this would essentially be a non-binding resolution but could set a precedent for how such issues are considered and dealt with by the town administration.

Additional reporting
was contributed by
Mike Jackson.



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ON THE ROAD

May 2 at The Brick House:
Valley Gives Open House!

TURNERS FALLS – The Brick House Community Resource Center, located at 24 Third Street, will be hosting an open house on Tuesday, May 2 as one facet of its participation in Valley Gives, the annual day of giving that supports nonprofits and other organizations that do charitable work in the three counties of the Pioneer Valley.

This will be the fourth time The Brick House has participated in this event, but the first time that it will be hosting an event during the day of fundraising. The public is invited to visit The Brick House between 2 and 6 p.m. to view artwork created by Momentum Arts participants, tour the beautiful historic building (the original Turners Falls fire station) and see the spaces available for community use, learn about programming and events offered, meet staff and board members, and enjoy refreshments donated by local fooderies.

Valley Gives, a 24-hour online giving event that allows individuals to support good work throughout the region, was founded by the Community Foundation of Western Massachusetts in 2012. Acting collectively on a single day, people like you can support nonprofit and charitable organizations in Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties that hold a broad range of missions.

The mission of The Brick House is “to support individual, family, and community well-being through collaboration on economic development, youth development, leadership development, and education,” and it serves the five villages of Montague – Lake Pleasant, Millers

Falls, Montague Center, Montague City, and Turners Falls – and the town of Gill. Your Valley Gives donation to The Brick House will support this mission and enable this valuable community entity to continue its good work. Plus, your donation is tax-deductible!

Valley Gives makes a real difference for the participating organizations, and the Community Foundation of Western MA has a specific goal for Valley Gives 2017: to reach more people across the 70 communities in the Pioneer Valley, increasing the number of unique donors and expanding the pool of younger philanthropists. The future of charitable giving in the Pioneer Valley depends on more people joining in to support local organizations, including younger folks who will make philanthropy a part of their lives in years to come.

Valley Gives begins at 12:01 a.m. on Tuesday, May 2 and runs until midnight. Please mark your calendar and be sure to visit www.valley-gives.org on the big day. You can even visit The Brick House’s Valley Gives page now, at valley-gives.org/designee/the-brick-house-community-resource-center, to set up an email reminder.

Also, check out The Brick House’s new website at www.brickhousecommunity.org. It’s a great way to stay up to date on programs and events. And don’t forget to drop by 24 Third Street on May 2 for the open house. Get an up-close view of how your support helps this organization make a vital difference in your community!

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A TROVE OF SACRED ITEMS

By PETER WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Perched astride the cliff face that overlooks Food City clings the citadel of Our Lady of Czestochowa. The church, built in 1929, is a vast repository of relics that stretch back to the first day of the first millennium.

Rising Gothically out of its lush, arboreal grounds, both the building and its park-like surroundings feel like sacred territory. The grounds include a memorial to the Mohawk woman Kateri Tekawitha, the first Native American to be made a saint. “We’re certain that she must have visited the falls here,” explains Father Charles, the former priest at the church, and an expert on its holy treasures.

Behind the Catechism Center, the shaggy, uncannily conical trunk of a dawn redwood, looking like a remnant of Middle Earth, ascends steeple-like. Father Charles planted many of the trees himself on the grounds in the 1970s. “I planted two [redwoods], but one was killed by the lawn mower,” he laments.

On the corner of K Street broods the rather outspoken statue of Mother Theresa: “Generations are condemned.”

“We’re an unusual church,” opines Father Sean O’Mannion, the current priest.

More than 400 relics reside under the roof at Our Lady. “Nobody has more in Massachusetts,” says Father Charles. “Most churches have three or four, if that.”

Holy Material

Relics are symbolic objects that are imbued with the power of the saint they represent. First-degree relics are



The church has become a repository of relics.

a part of the body, usually a bone fragment or bone dust. The pieces of bone used for relics are often about as big as a good-sized splinter.

Second degree relics are objects that have touched the saints: things they owned, like clothing. Third-degree relics are articles that have touched a first- or second-degree relic.

Relics are used as part of worship rituals, and also as totemic spiritual instruments. They are used by priests for special tasks like healing or exorcism. As part of worship, they are placed on elaborately assembled altars, which brim baroquely with candles, statues, and other objects.

“Every altar should have a relic,” says Father Charles. “It’s a custom that goes back to the first century. It’s a very venerable thing.... The priest often takes a relic when visiting the hospital or nursing homes, to impart a blessing on the sick.”

Many relics are housed inside *reliquaries*, ornate bedazzled holders that often take the shape of a cross. Most contain a small glass bead, called a *theca*, that in turn holds the holy particle and a title printed in Latin.

The reliquaries themselves are valued as art objects because, in addition to being made out of gold and silver and adorned with precious stones, they were often made by the finest craftsmen of their day.

The interior of Our Lady of Czestochowa – basically every wall – is covered in relics. On the *reredos*, the two-story graphic screen that serves as the backdrop of the sanctuary, there are relics of all of the apostles except Judas.

Stories on the Walls

The reredos was itself hand-carved by a parishioner around 1909. It tells the story of the icon that is the namesake of the church: the Black Madonna of Czestochowa, Poland. Painted after Jesus’ death by Saint Luke, it made its way from the Near East to the Jasna Góra Monastery in Czestochowa around 1384, and was saved from pillaging Hussite raiders in 1430 by a righteous bolt of lightning.

Attached to the ceiling above the reredos is an enormous historical mural by the famous Polish painter Jozef Slawinsky. Slawinsky painted the faded pastel mural around 1975 in false *sgraffito*, a technique that normally involves scratching through layers of different-colored material like plaster in order to expose the desired color beneath.

The mural, which arcs high above the sanctuary, depicts three temporally disparate scenes. Two are great military moments of Polish history.

The Deluge, or Second Northern War, was a 17th-

see **RELICS** page B4

STUDIO VISIT: Swift River Glass

By NINA ROSSI

WENDELL – I followed instructions from the Swift River Glass Facebook page to arrive at Ina Peebles’ home studio in the wild and friendly woods of Wendell the other afternoon. Ina creates her fused glass jewelry here in the quiet of this small rural community of less than 1,000 residents.

Ina was among one of the early waves of homesteading, hippie settlers, drawn there by the availability of cheap acreage in the early 1980s. She and her former husband obtained 15 acres of land with owner-financed payments under \$200 a month, and commenced to log the land and then build a home and raise five children on it.

Ina has always engaged in craft work, always made things with her hands while raising her family, including homeschooling the children when they were little. She has engaged herself in basket weaving, leatherwork, quilting, and for a while, even ran a professional sewing business fabricating



Ina Peebles.

costumes for historical re-enactments “back in the day.”

She is still busy cooking, gardening and helping care for kids and grandkids, all of whom live within the Happy Valley. One of her sons is still recovering from a severe car-versus-bicycle incident that happened this past winter in Wendell.

The close-knit community is a much more populated place these

see **PEEBLES** page B2



Smaller pieces of glass arranged on the ring saw that Ina uses for cutting more intricate shapes.

Chasing our Tales: A Harrowing Night in Old Connecticut

By LYN CLARK

Here is another tale from my family archives:

Jedediah Elderkin, born in 1717, my five-times-great granddaddy, graduated from Yale and became the first lawyer in the village of Windham, Connecticut. He had an illustrious career that included the manufacturing of silk from his farm of mulberry trees, and the building of a gunpowder mill. As a Brigadier General during our War of Independence, he acted as Governor Trumbull’s go-to man on matters of safety and protection.

But my interest in Jedediah Elderkin stems less from his accomplishments, which I acknowledge were considerable, and more from his life as an ordinary Windham citizen, subject to the same trials and tribulations as those of his neighbors.

Well before the Revolution, while we were still British subjects, New Englanders were embroiled in the French and Indian War, during which an interesting event took place in Windham. Jedediah was 41 at the time, married to Ann Wood, and their daughter, my ancestor Lora, was four years old.

From the Windham County Records we learn the following:

“It was the summer of 1758,

when bloody incursions were being made all along the northern boundary. Windham was then a frontier town, the most important in eastern Connecticut. Colonel Dyer, a prominent citizen, and one for whom the enemy so badly clamored, had just raised a regiment to join the expedition against Crown Point, and many of the bravest men of the town were already in the field with General Putnam, battling with the savages.”

“Rumors of massacre and bloodshed were in the air, and doubt and apprehension had taken possession of every heart. No wonder the inhabitants were filled with alarm, when one dark, foggy night in July, they were aroused from midnight slumber by sounds as no mortal had ever heard before. Parson White’s Negro, returning from a nocturnal carousal,

see **GENEALOGY** page B5



Frog and spool statue. Photo by Flickr user Jimmy Emerson, DVM.

MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST Part X (July 16, 1941)

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

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

– Montague Reporter eds.

Undoubtedly there is no better place on earth in which to learn human nature inside out than in a newspaper office, more especially in a small city or country town. The heights and depths of the human heart and all the intricacies of this thing called life become as an open book to the alert newspaper worker.

Consciously or unconsciously – mostly the latter – human nature reveals itself to the newspaper worker at its best and at its worst and all its intermediate stages in a most amazing manner. Not even the family doctor or the healer of souls has a better opportunity to know at first hand the hidden springs which cause men and women to do the things they do and be the persons they are.

Consequently a newspaper person unless he or she is



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

blessed with a robust sense of humor and a nice sense of proportion is likely to become a cynic or pessimist.

The country editor, particularly, must have an enormous capacity for toil. Like the old-fashioned woman whose work was never done he must be willing to labor from sun up to sundown, sometimes longer, and yet not lose his spirits, his temper nor his good judgment.

see **STEMPLE** page B3

Pet of the Week

Meet Tess. Up to date with her shots and spayed, ready to hit the road! Tess might take a moment but will soon be asking for a pet.

She likes to learn tricks and play with crackly things. She liked a small dog, but not small humans.

Come down and learn more about this gal from an adoption counselor, and visit the others cats, guinea pigs, rabbits, dogs and others who also seek homes.

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



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY/COLLAGE

“TESS”

Senior Center Activities MAY 1 TO 5

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 5/1

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 5/2

9:30 a.m. Tech Tutor

10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga

12:45 p.m. COA Meeting

Wednesday 5/3

9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 5/4

NO Tai Chi or Mindful Movement

10:30–Noon Brown Bag

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 5/5

Noon Pizza Party

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

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

Monday 5/1

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 5/2

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

Wednesday 5/3

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs

Thursday 5/4

8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 p.m. Brown Bag Pick Up

Friday 5/5

7 a.m. Walking

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

11:30 a.m. Pizza & Dessert

12:30 p.m. Painting Workshop

WENDELL

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



UNITY PARK – Hello everyone! Well, it’s certainly gearing up to be a busy spring.

On Saturday, April 15, we hosted our Annual Peter Cottontail’s EGGstravaganza at Unity Park. It was a beautiful day, and we probably had the largest crowd ever – without question, we hosted at least 500 people!

We thank everyone who came out, as well as our co-sponsors: the Montague Elks, Letourneau Plumbing, and Greenfield Savings Bank. And of course, a huge shout-out to Peter Cottontail for showing up despite his busy schedule this time of year.

We also held opening day of our **Tee Ball Program** on Saturday, April 22. Approximately fifty kids between the ages of 4 and 6 put on their uniforms, and were eager to start throwing, catching, and hitting.

Parents play a big part in this program by helping the coaches develop their lil’ big leaguers. If you drive by Unity Park on Saturday mornings,

OUT OF THE PARK

By JON DOBOSZ

you’ll most likely see them in their bright and colorful uniforms.

I would also like to take a moment to mention some of our programs that are coming right around the corner. **Spring Tennis Lessons**, for example, start on May 6. They’re held Saturday mornings for about an hour, so if your child is interested in taking up this great sport call us ASAP, as we’re getting close to the deadline.

If swimming is more your child’s thing, inquire about our **Summer Bluefish Swim Team**. The summer team has been around for about seven years or so, and it’s gaining in popularity. Contact us and we’ll place your child on the prospective swimmer list. We’re members of the Pioneer Valley Swim League, and we compete against a number of teams throughout the valley.

Please also note that we’ve started to take registrations for **Summer Camp!** Registration is currently open to Montague residents, but non-residents may register starting Monday, May 1.

Camp will be held from Monday, July 3 to Friday, August 18, Monday through Fridays from 9 a.m. to

3 p.m. We offer theme weeks, field trips, special events and trips to Laurel Lake! You can get a full list of theme weeks on the Parks and Recreation page on montague.net.

Speaking of summer – and I’m sure we’re all looking forward to that, due to the rather cold and wet spring we’ve been having – **the summer edition of our Fun Times brochure** will be out within the next couple of weeks. We have a great selection of programs and events coming your way.

Aside from Summer Camp, we’ll also be offering Tennis Lessons, Skateboard Lessons, Lap Swim for Adults, and Tuesdays In The Park, where we’ll be going to different parks over the summer to run family activities. Keep on the lookout for this information. Once it’s available, we’ll be sure to send out a notice on our Facebook page.

That pretty much wraps it up from here. Keep in touch and we’ll talk to you soon!

Jon Dobosz in the director of parks and recreation for the town of Montague.

PEEBLES from page B1

days, but still, there were no houses visible for several miles on one of the roads in, leading me to believe that I might have taken a wrong turn before finding Jennison Road.

In the basement, Ina opened the lid of her kiln to reveal the glowing glass tiles she baked in time for our interview. Made up of several layers, these squares contain a layer of dichroic glass that shimmers and reflects a different hue as it is turned in the light, giving a sense of something alive and elusive trapped within the gem-like square.

Dichroic glass grew out of the space industry; one of its uses originally was to make interference filters. It is composed of layers of glass and micro-layers of metals or oxides which give the glass shifting colors depending on the angle of view. It is now widely used and highly prized in the decorative arts and crafts; one of those substances that people like to call “eye candy.”

Ina has been fusing glass for about 15 years or more. It is something she picked up on after taking a workshop at the Worcester Craft center. She was a stained glass artist prior to that, and still at times will solder glass together for jewelry items, but it is not a method she devotes much of her time to anymore.

When she first started fusing glass, she made larger items such as plates and bowls. Observing what sold best at local craft fairs taught her that jewelry would be far more lucrative a craft to devote her time to, as well as much easier to lug around to set up at shows.

The processes Ina has in her basement studio are the dirtier ones: cutting, shaping, grinding and kiln firing are all done down here. The larger tiles are cut with a tile saw or ring saw into smaller pieces for earrings and pendants.

Thin strips are sawed for her earring studs, and then she cuts and snaps tiny squares which will be re-fired into perfect round blobs to glue on earring backs.

The other cuts get re-fired as well,

to smooth the edges again, and also this will stretch the dichroic layer slightly to show the background glass beneath more.

After the second firing, she grinds a groove around the pieces that will hold the silver wire she uses to finish the pendants and drop earrings.

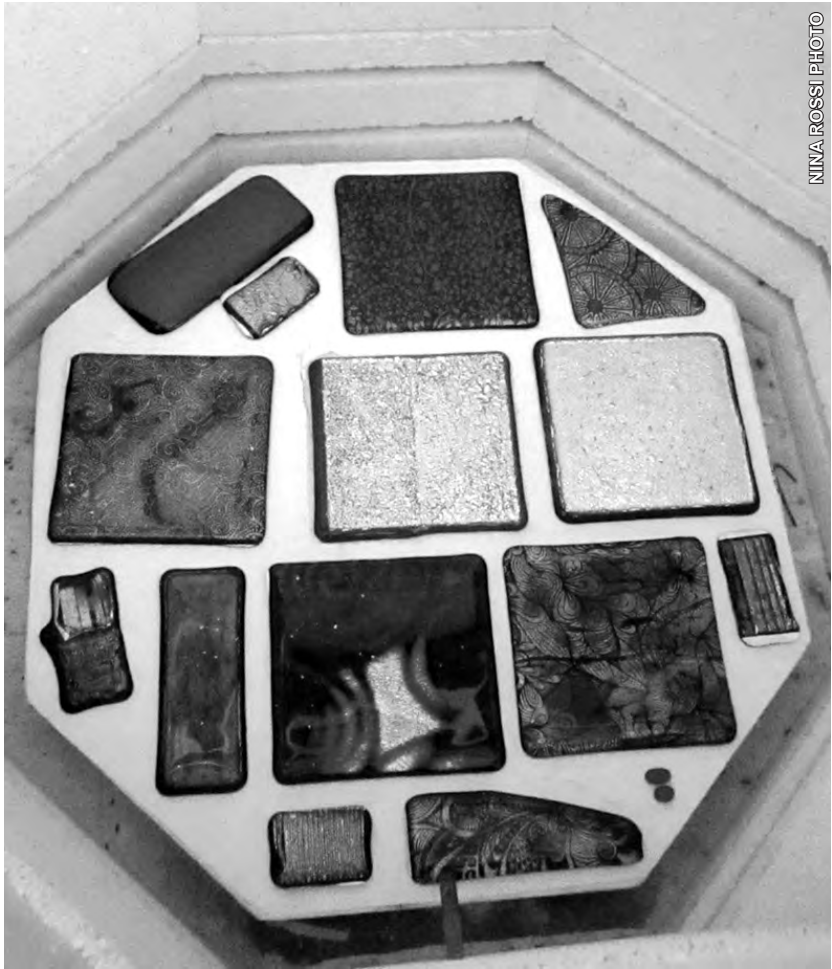
In a small upstairs room she composes her creations, matching up earrings with wires and putting her stock on cards ready for sale. One table holds her molds and stamps for working with metal clay. She also uses a paper punch on thin sheets of specially conditioned clay, to create intaglio designs that she then backfills with colored resin after firing.

Sometimes she combines a special low-fire, low-shrinkage metal clay with fused glass. She also showed me a wacky ring with a three-story house on it that stuck

out about an inch, an early project in 3-D design she did just for the fun of it.

Ina has many outlets selling her wares and does about 7 shows a year, including the Ashfield Fall Festival, Wendell Old Home Day, and other events. Shelburne Artisans Cooperative is one of her top venues for sales, as is the New Salem General Store on Route 202. Whole Foods in Hadley once bought \$7,000 a year from her, but then disappointingly switched to selling cheaper imported jewelry.

Ina has no plans to retire– even if she could, “I would still be making things,” she confessed. A lifetime of self-sufficiency up in the Wendell woods has given her much satisfaction, and it was fascinating to see the gems she fuses together emerge from her woodland kiln.



NINA ROSSI/PHOTO

View of the open kiln showing some of the tiles of glass Ina has fused together, the first step in creating her jewelry pieces.

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STEMPLE from page B1

And this work, likewise, calls for extreme mental alertness. It seems to be the common belief that a newspaper worker needs no rest but should be instantly available at any hour of the day or night. It is simply impossible to get away from the job. One eats, sleeps and lives with it well-nigh 24 hours a day, though officially one may not be “on duty.”

A woman who had the good fortune to land in a newspaper office in that period known as the “gay nineties” acquired a liberal education without going to college. Indeed, she learned more in what was then, and still is, one of the finest educational institutions in the world.

That is where I landed after I made my debut from high school. Looking backward I realize that

marvelous as was the *Reporter* as a training school for a boy it was even of greater value for a girl, in the days when femininity was not allowed to grasp the reins and exercise power and ability as at present.

At the time I wangled a job, very grudgingly, in the *Reporter* office, I thought my feet were firmly planted on the first rungs of that “ladder of success” which the school valedictorians liked so much to spout about.

I was duly initiated in my new position by being set to do anything and everything the editor, owner and leading spirit of the *Reporter* directed. He evidently went on the principles used in training a colt. He certainly tested my mettle from the very first but came near breaking my spirit.

But in spite of everything I liked the work and took to it like a fly to molasses.



MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This end-of-April, we’d like to point you in the direction of recent programming: School Committee Candidates Forum 4/20/17.

In this video, you will see introductions and questions answered by candidates running for three positions on the school board: one spot to be taken by a Gill resident – Sandy Brown or Shawn Hubert – and the other two spots to be filled by Montague residents, the race running between Cassie Damkoehler, Mike Langknecht, and April Reipold.

This is an invaluable opportunity to get to know the positions these candidates take on a variety of issues affecting our schools, and develop an informed opinion about who you will support.



Catch it online or in our TV schedule.

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, info-montaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We’d love to work with you!

MOVIE REVIEW

The Shack (2017)



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

The Shack is a truly spiritual movie. When you go and see it, you will understand what I mean.

I have only found one other movie to be like this. It is the TV movie called *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* (2014). Like *The Shack*, that movie is based on a book – in that case, one by Mitch Albom.

The Shack is based on a book written by William P. Young, and the movie isn’t really that different from the book.

Mack Philips, in the movie, is a man with a troubled past involving an abusive father. He also has a wife, and is a good father to his three children. Then on a camping trip with them, his younger daughter is taken and murdered.

After that, Mack finds it hard to move forward with his life. Before losing her, he had been a church-going man, and I guess he believed

in those things you would connect to the church and just faith in general. After his daughter’s death, he begins questioning those things. Then he gets a mysterious letter requesting that he go back to the shack.

What happens there resolves his crisis of faith, and in fact restores his faith. He also learns important lessons there – like what happened in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. Also, like in that movie, people at the shack help him learn those lessons; their identities, connect with his crisis of faith in a surprising way. These people’s identities just help make the plot work very well, which you will understand if you see the movie. The way they are connected to his crisis of faith is very cool.

Another significant thing in the film is a story featuring a waterfall that is used to remember someone. The movie’s tag line – “You’re Never As Alone As You Think” – is proven by several statements made in the film. The point is actually quite a deeper one than what the tag line initially suggests.

The book itself has managed to be number one on the USA Today bestseller list. If the movie has any of that kind of luck in theaters, it will be quite a hit.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Area Urchins Busted Camping, Hitchhiking; Screaming Male; Bereaved Honker; Bears; 29-Hour Gap In Records Provided To Public

Monday, 4/17

2:25 p.m. Four 911 calls received from Turners Falls Road residence. First three were hang-up calls. Upon answering fourth call, a young child was on the other end. Asked to speak with a parent; female came on the line advising of a small fire in backyard that has gotten out of control and is in close proximity to the residence. Boyfriend outside trying to extinguish fire. Female advised to evacuate residence with child if she could do so safely. Officers and MCFD responding. Upon arrival, officer advised fire was a cooking fire that spread to shrubbery. Fire is almost completely extinguished.

4:17 p.m. Walk-in party is on probation and has a home alcohol device whose charger is broken; requesting a PBT per probation until charger is replaced. Services rendered.

4:55 p.m. Officer stopping a motorcycle that was doing a wheelie in area of airport. Verbal warning issued.

7:16 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states that she just went to get into her vehicle and noticed that someone smashed a coffee cup on her vehicle, leaving damage behind. Officer responding.

Tuesday, 4/18
6:14 a.m. Water department employee reporting someone camping on shore of Green Pond. Caller states that area is posted and wants them removed. Officers on scene advising that camp is across from water department building; three juveniles camping. Courtesy transports home provided.

9:50 a.m. Caller reporting that Greenfield DPW is working on Turners Falls Road in Greenfield without anyone directing traffic. Referred to GPD.

11:06 a.m. Report of child, approximately 10 years old, hitchhiking between George Avenue and Scotty’s store. Child located across from Scotty’s and spoken with; denied hitchhiking. Advised child that hitchhiking is not a safe mode of transportation. Child was en route to skate park.

12 p.m. Caller reporting to Chief Dodge that overgrown sunflowers at the intersection of South Lyman Street and Millers Falls Road are impeding visibility. Chief advises he will address issue with homeowner.

1:13 p.m. Hit and run in Food City parking lot; damage to rear passenger side of caller’s vehicle. Report taken.

3 p.m. Soliciting permit granted by Chief Dodge to employee of Vivint Solar.

4:44 p.m. Caller from Goddard Avenue reporting that a male subject broke through the fence of her backyard; when she yelled to him, he took off on foot through the grassy area toward Unity Park. Officer off with subject at bridge abutment; second officer with homeowner observing fence. Party was attempting to follow path that runs through woods. All parties advised of options.

10:15 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting assist with missing 18 year old autistic male; last seen around 5 p.m. on Leyden Road. Party located in Greenfield the following afternoon.

Wednesday, 4/19
1:18 a.m. Officer checking area of Our Lady of Czestochowa for missing party. Area checked extensively; unable to locate.

1:41 a.m. Officers checking United Arc building and surrounding area for missing party. Unable to locate.

1:47 a.m. Officers checking area of bike path near Eleventh Street for missing party. Negative findings.

2:08 a.m. Officer checking area of Gill-Montague Bridge on Route 2 to Greenfield town line and areas near river. Negative findings.

[Gap in records provided to the Montague Reporter.]

Thursday 4/20

7:39 a.m. Walk-in reporting motor vehicle accident with airbag deployment at intersection of Turnpike Road and Turners Falls Road. TFFD, MedCare, and Rau’s on scene. Officer requesting DPW for stop sign replacement. One party transported to hospital for evaluation.

2:52 p.m. Caller from Norman Circle reporting that there is a bear cub up a tree in his backyard. Mother bear is also in yard. Bears

have now left area and gone back into the woods.

3:40 p.m. Shelburne Control advising of call about heavy smoke in South Prospect Street area. FD en route with brush truck to investigate. Located permitted burn on Craig Avenue. No problems.

5:12 p.m. 911 caller from South Ferry Road reporting he has water pouring into his basement; requesting help from FD. Shelburne Control notified.

9:30 p.m. Cumberland Farms employee advising that a female in all black is soliciting just off the property but is standing in a dangerous spot; customers have almost struck her. Services rendered.

11:13 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting loud music at a business across the street from her apartment building. Officer advises that this is an art studio that has dances sometimes. Music is over; door was open, which made noise on street louder.

Friday, 4/21
10:58 a.m. Avenue A property manager states that a man who is trespassed from the property is outside the building screaming. Officers out with party near Riff’s Joint. Party spoken to and advised to leave area.

11:17 a.m. 911 caller from Avenue A reporting that same male party is back and yelling at her in a threatening manner. Male party’s mother came and took him away with her; both advised that he is not to return.

11:56 a.m. Caller from Survival Center reporting that there is a very strong odor coming from a nearby chimney. FD en route to investigate.

12:24 p.m. L Street property owner reporting that two black males are drinking alcohol on the back porch of one of his buildings. Parties are not tenants. All quiet upon arrival; nobody being loud or

drinking outside.

3:10 p.m. Birch tree down on wires on Sherman Drive. Eversource notified and on scene.

5:04 p.m. Caller reporting that known party stole \$60 from her home today. Officer called back and spoke to caller; incident number assigned.

10:04 p.m. Caller requesting to have on record that her deceased father’s ex-girlfriend keeps driving by and laying on her horn. Ex-girlfriend’s car was in father’s name; daughter cancelled registration after he passed away, which agitated the subject, who is now continuously driving by the house and beeping her horn. Caller isn’t worried about her well-being but is worried that her car may be vandalized. Referred to an officer.

Saturday, 4/22

5:42 a.m. 911 caller from North Taylor Hill Road reporting that there is no emergency, but a suspicious red SUV is parked at the end of her driveway. Caller became agitated with questions and stated she would call back if anything further came of matter. Responding officers report that vehicle is unoccupied, off side of road, and not a hazard.

11:27 a.m. Officers monitoring traffic for parade and 5K road race.

4:32 p.m. PanAm received complaint of party walking dog along railroad tracks beneath pedestrian bridge on Greenfield Road. All rail traffic will be stopped until PD is able to check area. Subject located and advised not to walk dog on tracks. PanAm advised.

7:14 p.m. Caller found knife in Community Garden at Fourth and L streets; requesting officer to come by and pick up item. Services rendered.

9:57 p.m. Officer off with four subjects in Unity Park after closing. Gathering dispersed.

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RELICS from page B1

century conflict between Sweden and Poland, argued to have caused more damage to the country than World War II. In 1655, after all other strongholds in the country had fallen, around 300 Polish monks, noblemen, and soldiers defeated a Swedish army of over 2,000 in the siege of Jasna Góra, the town and monastery where the Black Madonna is kept.

According to Father Charles, the Virgin was reportedly seen in the sky over the monastery, and the cannonballs of the Swedes either bounced off the battlements or were trapped harmlessly in the walls. Some sources blame the Swedes’ failure on their insufficient artillery. This battle turned the tide of the war: upon hearing of the victory, King Jan II Kazimierz vowed to expel the Swedes from Poland.

Although it is not a true relic, Our Lady of Czestochowa has a cannonball from the walls of Jasna Góra on display.

The mural also tells the story of the 1683 Battle of Vienna, in which the outnumbered King Jan III Sobieski, the Lion of Lechistan, defeated the Ottoman army by way of a heroic downhill cavalry charge. The Battle of Vienna was perhaps the most important battle in recent history affecting Euro-Turkish relations.

The final scene, a fantasy, depicts the church’s pastor at the time, Eugene Ozimek, receiving a blessing from the Bishop of Springfield, the Cardinal of Philadelphia, and the Archbishop of Krakow Jozef Wojtyla, who later became Pope John Paul II.

This surreal ceremony is depicted out-of-doors next to a pristine forest and flowing river. In the background, a string band of pioneers play fiddles and four flags flap, including the Polish flag, inverted in distress because the country was at the time behind the Iron Curtain. Slawinsky, who died in 1983, never saw the end of the Cold War.

Tradition and Commerce

Relics are always made through a holy process that is carried out and authenticated by bishops or cardinals. One can verify the provenance of a relic through papers, known as *authenticities*, that contain the seal of the bishop or cardinal that prepared it. This wax

seal is usually also the seal for the *theca*, and the relic is never supposed to be removed from this vessel.

But belying the idea that church relics are truly rare, many can be found for sale, profanely yet affordably, on eBay. As with many internally-focused interest groups, there is a lot of specialized language used by eBay relic traders. For example, DNJC stands for “Our Lord Jesus Christ,” and BVM means “Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Forgery of papers is easy to spot if one has a detailed knowledge of the Catholic Church, its many sects, and its leadership going back two millennia. One website devoted to exposing scams insults the intelligence of the blasphe- mer as well: “Now the Third Order Carmelites are a LAY order. They would have no more authority to issue relics than your local church janitor would.”

On eBay, one can currently buy a 17th-century cross that not only houses a relic of the True Cross, but also, on the back side, contains a sterling silver “FREEMASON EYE GOD Illuminati PYRAMID” – for \$2,499, or best offer. “This ancient artifact has many secrets,” states the seller, who guarantees its



A statue of Kateri Tekawitha on an altar.

authenticity but does not mention possession of authentication papers.

You can also buy laminated cards containing particles of shrouds blessed near various saints for \$3 each, or a particle of a foundation from the cell of Saint Seraphim for \$4. For \$1,500 you can purchase a pendant containing a relatively large bone of Kateri Tekawitha, resembling a piece of coral. The pendant has no wax seal and comes with no papers, though the word “RELIC” is printed under the glass.

While some people make a lot of money on these artifacts, the church considers such commerce despicable. “It’s a grave sin,” says Father Sean. “The church forbids it.”

A Good Shrine

Certain relics of particular rarity, and antiquity, have made their way to Our Lady of Czestochowa. In a frame on the west-facing wall are a set of three nails that touched the nails that hung Jesus from the cross. These third-degree relics were ritually touched to the actual stigmata-producing nails in a late 19th century ceremony at the Vatican.

According to Father Charles, the church’s rarest relic is a piece of the True Cross, the cross of the Crucifixion. It lives in an altar in the sanctuary.

Much of the True Cross is kept in the Basilica of the Holy Cross in Jerusalem – which is in Rome, but has a floor of soil imported from the Holy City. Saint Helena, as the *Augusta Imperatrix* of the Roman Empire, discovered the key relics of Christianity after her son, the Emperor Constantine, sent her on a mission to unearth them around AD 326.

Upon arriving in Calvary, Helena discovered that a pagan temple had been built at the site of Jesus’ tomb. She had it destroyed. Excavating nearby, she discovered three buried crosses, and identified the True Cross by using it to heal a terminally sick woman. Helena brought it back to Rome along with Christ’s nails, the rope used to tie him to the cross, and pieces of his robe, which she left in Cyprus.

Our Lady of Czestochowa’s collection of relics, art, and historical objects is an incredible legacy. But why is it a place that has



Many relics are stored inside vessels that in turn are housed in crosses, such as this one.

accumulated such a trove of sacred items?

Father Charles explains that “for some reason, people have given them to our parish over the years, because they saw our church as a parish with a rich history and reputation of devotion and prayer. They felt this was a good ‘shrine’ for these holy objects.”

Our Lady of Czestochowa is not only a repository of these powerful symbolic objects, but living library of many tales of both Polish and Christian traditions going back 2,000 years.

Every day at noon, the church blares the Hejnal, a five-note anthem that is also broadcast live from Krakow all over Poland. While I have never attended services at Our Lady of Czestochowa, this victorious bugle tune makes me feel a certain type of civic patriotism for our shared community.

Father Charles expresses my own feelings when he said that Our Lady of Czestochowa is “not just a religious, but a cultural treasure.” It is a place that we all can appreciate.



Wendell Litter Pickup

Folks interested will meet at the Wendell Town Garage/Fire Station by 9 a.m. Saturday, April 29. We will meet and decide what roads to clean up, hand out trash bags, and clean up whatever we can.

The other way to be involved is to pick up throughout the week and then call Ted (978) 544-3329 or Anne (413) 522-4453 by 6 p.m. Friday, and let us know what roads you have cleaned up.

Please leave the bags or trash items safely on the shoulder of the road, and we will pick it up. Usually folks will walk along the roads from 9 to 11, and then Ted and I will cruise the roads and load the trash.

Please remember to walk safely on the roads, wear gloves, and don’t hurt yourself.

Thank you,
Anne Diemand Buccia

May 6: “The Road from Vermont Yankee to Texas”

Do you know where our Vermont Yankee nuclear waste goes?

Although the nuclear industry and Federal government committed to create a solution for high-level nuclear waste disposal, no acceptable solution exists. The sites targeted for “disposal,” like Andrews County, Texas (interim storage) and Yucca Mountain (permanent storage), are low-income, rural, people of color and Native American communities.

The industry pits nuclear communities against each other: reactor communities fear inadequate storage casks, lack of onsite protection, and high-level waste (HLW) abandonment; communities targeted for nuclear waste disposal don’t want dangerous waste in their backyard, particularly given the abysmal record of leaks and inadequate environmental protections.

It is essential that reactor and waste communities work together to create effective strategies and actions to defeat industry initiatives that tar-

get vulnerable communities.

On Saturday, May 6 at 1 p.m., come to the First Congregational Church in Greenfield to hear speakers who will discuss high-level nuclear waste, federal waste policy, and the environmental racism of the nuclear waste industry.

Speakers include: Rose Gardner, with the Sierra Club, Texas, and a resident of a community impacted by both a low-level waste dump and a proposed “centralized interim storage: site for HLNW in Andrews County, Texas; Kevin Kamps with Beyond Nuclear, who will address the vulnerabilities of on-site storage of HLNW and federal policy; and Deb Katz with Citizens Awareness Network, who will address the issues of NorthStar, decommissioning, and hardened onsite storage at nuclear reactors.

Organized by Citizens Awareness Network, the Safe and Green Campaign, and the VT Yankee Decommissioning Alliance.

May 7: Riparian Delights
Coming to the Discovery Center



The Exploded View: members Candace Curran, Edite Cunha, Lea Banks, Trish Crapo, Nina Rossi and Samantha Wood, on the bank of the Connecticut River.

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – On Sunday, May 7, six local artists and writers will present word and art drawing inspiration from water, river, and fish at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Entitled “Exploded View: River,” the group takes their poetic and visual art one step further by “exploding” their writing and art into performance in the Great Hall at the Center.

The audience is invited to participate in making an art installation, and Sister Shad and Annie-Adromous will provide photo opportunities. There will be a “post-apocalyptic turtle,” poetry of grit and determination, and other riparian delights, all starting at 2 p.m.

The Exploded View group premiered their work at the Greenfield Annual Word Festival in October, and

have performed several versions of the work at various locations during the winter. “Exploded View: River” is a new direction for them, however, and will tie in to subsequent work that they are engaged with this spring in several hill towns.

Thanks to a Hatch Grant administered by the Shelburne Falls Business Association and the Art Garden, the group is gathering watershed stories and reflections on location in the towns of Charlemont/Hawley, Colrain, and Conway. The culmination of these Deerfield River watershed explorations will be an installation and performance in Shelburne Falls on June 10.

The event on Sunday is held one time only as part of the opening reception for “Catch and Release,” a group art show curated by the Exploded View. Dozens of local artists have submitted work for the walls of the Great Hall on the theme of rivers, water, and fish. The exhibit opens May 5 and runs through May 30. There will be refreshments and a chance to meet many of the artists in the show as well as Exploded View.

Who is Exploded View? Turners Falls artist and writer Edite Cunha; Nina Rossi, features editor here at the *MR* and owner of Nina’s Nook; writer Lea Banks of Gill, owner of the Domestic Darling vintage shop; artist/photographer/writer Trish Crapo of Leyden; poet Candace Curran of Shelburne Falls; and Samantha Wood, who currently divides her time between Greenfield and Pittsfield.

The group came together a little over a year ago to work on “something inspired by Chilton auto repair manuals” – in particular, the diagrams showing exploded views of how things fit together. After gaining insight in sessions with Eggtooth Productions director Linda McInerney, the artists discovered fresh possibilities in using collaborative performance to bring their visual and spoken word pieces alive. McInerney adds her invaluable advice to the current River performance.

The show is free, and the work is family friendly although it does require an attention span and the ability to sit quietly for at least some portion of the two-hour time span. For more information, call the Center at (413) 863-3221 or visit Facebook.com/explodedviewma/.

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GENEALOGY from page B1

appears to have been the first to hear the startling clamor, and rushed frantically [to awaken] his master.

“Sure enough, the parson heard and raised an alarm that brought from their beds as incongruous a mass of humanity as can be imagined. Women and children shrieked and cried and ran hither and thither, adding to the general din and hubbub, while men armed themselves valiantly to meet the foe.

“The night was pitchy dark and the direction of the sounds not easy to determine. At first they seemed to fill the whole heavens, which led many to believe the day of judgment was at hand; but a wise old Negro declared ‘de day of judgment couldn’t come in de night.’

“Distinct articulations were at length imagined, and there was no longer a doubt of their source. An army of French and Indians was at hand calling loudly for ‘Colonel Dyer and Elderkin too’ – the settlement’s two prominent lawyers (although some thought the Devil was calling for the two men).

“Every man who had a gun, sword or pitchfork rushed up the eastern hill whence the clamor now seemed to proceed, but no foe was met and darkness covered all. Borne through the hollow night the dreadful sounds continued, while the dauntless pursuers, utterly confused and bewildered, stood with

their arms awaiting the dawn.

“The solution of the mystery was then made clear. A mile away to the east of the town was a marshy pond, the home of thousands of batrachians, large green backers and mottled little peepers, such as often make night hideous. A drought had reduced their pond to a narrow rill, and for this the poor thirsty creatures had fought and died like Greeks at the pass of Thermopylae. Tradition says that thousands of the dead frogs were found the next morning on both sides of the rill, and the terror-stricken Windhamites turned their prayers to praises for so gracious a deliverance.

“The above is the simplest and we believe the only authentic account of the most wonderful and at the same time the most ludicrous event of Windham’s early history. The occurrence certainly made old Windham famous, but it does not appear that the actors in the comedy very much enjoyed the merriment at their expense.”

This became known as the “War of the Frogs,” and eventually, when Windhamites could laugh about it, the frog became their symbol: on the City Seal, on bank stationery, and most recently on a bridge over the Willimantic River, on which at both ends 11-foot-tall brass frogs perch on giant cement spools of thread. (Willimantic, which is to-

day a part of Windham, has a long history of textile and thread manufacturing.)

I should like to have had the Elderkin family’s description of that perilous night, but must be content with the above. I have visited the grave sites of Jedediah and his wife Ann in the beautiful Windham Center Cemetery where several of my ancestors are buried. On his gravestone it says simply that “He was useful in life and peaceful in death.”

Their children went to greater lengths on Ann’s gravestone, when she died at age 82: “Discharging the duties of the various relations of life which she was called to sustain in a truly faithful and exemplary manner, she endeared herself to all her friends, and died as she lived, a meek, humble, charitable Christian.”

Wow. She really must have been extraordinary to warrant such an encomium.

Please share your ancestors’ stories. Tell us about those whose DNA you carry. Your ancestors are relying on you to bring them back to life!

If you prefer not to do the writing yourself, I will be happy to interview you, gather the facts and put it together for you. Email your stories or your request to be interviewed to genealogy@montaguereporter.org.



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Third Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 9

First Honors
Cameron Bradley
Joshua Gaulin
Josy Hunter
Eliza Johnson
Joseph Kochan
Xoung Ly
Jonathan Nick
Dabney Rollins
Anastasis Romashka
Brody Trott
Abigail Waite
Allison Wheeler
Kamara Woodard

Second Honors
Juan Bartolon-Martin
Hailey Bogusz
Jakob Burnett
Mirela Cioclea
Chelsea Curtis
Liam Driscoll
Karissa Fleming
Juliet Keefe
Korey Martineau
Kaitlyn Miner
Alyson Murphy
Brian Poirier
Lyuba Sankova
Emily Sisson
Dakota Thayer
Lindsay Whiteman
Mackenna Whiteman
Jaden Whiting-Martinez

Third Honors
Carson Carlisle
Jonathon Fritz
Mason Kucenski
Viralnis Mejia Jr.
Brian Murphy
Anthony Peterson
Jaden Rivera
Luis Vinton

Grade 10

First Honors
Samantha Bocon
Lindsey Bourbeau
Ryan Cambell
Kyle Dodge
Cailyn Gobeil
Jenna Jacobsen

Second Honors
Dylan Allen
Dominic Carme
Andy Craver
Katherine Garcia
Garrett Martel

Third Honors
Alazay Bauch
Lexi Bieniek
Reilan Castine
Owen Darling
Ruben Galvez
Perez

First Honors
Anna Kochan
Jacob LaBelle
Mireya Ortiz
John Putala
Hunter Sanders
Holly Tetreault
Sarah Waldron

Second Honors
Tyler Noyes
Avias Politis
Victoria Veaudry
Hannah Welles
Cassidhe Wozniak

Third Honors
Alexis Lacey
Alexander Lefebre
Tyler Murray-Lavin
Summer Rain
Jovanni Ruggiano
Will Turn

Grade 11

First Honors:
Hannah Bogusz
Sienna Dillensneider
Adrianna DiMaio
Hannah Graves
Maya Hancock-Pezzati
Samantha Kolodziej
Carlie Kretchmar
Snejana Lashtur
Abigail Loynd
Kylee Mason
Aliyah Sanders
John Wheeler II

Second Honors:
Branden Chapin
Madison Chmyzinski
Amanda Cooke
Noah Courchesne
John Driscoll
Sahaley DuPree
Chloe Ellis
Peyton Emery
Destiny Hubbard
Kyle Kucenski
Kirsten O'Brien
Hadyn Patenaude
Nicholas Taylor
Skylar Thompson

Third Honors:
Kylie Fleming
Riley Watroba

Grade 12

First Honors:
Keara Deery
Savannah Donahue
Jordyn Fiske
Terrell Goodyear
Kaili Lynch
Zachary McDaniel
Ian Moriarty
Will Roberge

Second Honors:
Kyle Bergmann
Artyom Bocharnikov
Tionne Brown
Tahner Castine
Richard Craver
Nicholas Croteau
Madison Currier
Desmond Demers
William Doyle V.

First Honors:
Patrick Salls
Alexandria Soucie
Nicole Thibeault
Hailey Trott
Wileshka Vega
Emily Watrous
Riley Wood
Jordan Wyman

Second Honors:
Hattie Harvey
Amilee Jarvis
Madelyn Johnson
Bryn Kruzlic
Alison McKenna
Nicholas Morin
Owen Ortiz
Veronika Sankova
Frederick Smith

Third Honors:
Jaynise Burton
Mark Waite

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was April 26, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive

Consignment Shop Opening on the Avenue

For the past few weeks, I’ve been trying to figure out what’s going on behind the paper-covered windows of 115 Avenue A, right next door to Cup o’ Joe. This weekend I got my first tantalizing glimpse, as the paper came down from the windows of Seth and Eva’s Consignment Shop in preparation for the grand opening of the store on Tuesday, May 1.

The shop offered eclectic mix of work by local artisans, as well as quality used products. Downtown residents Seth and Eva Licata have filled their shop with an array of products priced to attract a diverse customer base.

At the time of my pre-opening visit, featured artists included Nina Bander and Stephen Cahill of Turners Falls, Jeremy Young of Northfield, Wendell’s Benjamin Silva, and Alexander Osborne of Northampton.

G-M Schools Face \$1.14 M Shortfall

The Gill-Montague school committee knocked about \$780,000 off their “minimally adequate” budget on Tuesday, but made it clear the cutting knives were going to come out again at their next budget meeting, as they look to reduce a gap of approximately \$1,139,636 over what the member towns say they can afford to pay for the schools this year.

G-M business manager Lyn

Bassett said the figure was arrived at by calculating how far the town of Montague’s target of providing \$300,000 more than its FY’07 contribution to the schools would go towards meeting the district’s latest “level services” budget. Approved last night, the new budget would seek \$16,791,401 to operate the district schools in FY’08.

Allen Wins a Seat on Prudential Committee

Mark Allen bested 15-year incumbent Dean Letourneau in a race for the three-year seat on the Turners Falls Fire Department Prudential Committee Tuesday. Allen won the contest hands down, 258-104, in the course of the highest turnout for a fire district election ever. (The last time there was a race for Prudential Committee was in 1992, Allen said, when 340 votes were tallied.)

Asked what drove the large turnout this year, Allen said his campaign emphasis on holding down district taxes had resonated with voters.

“During the past nine years,” Allen said, “the fire district taxes have gone up by a larger percentage than the town’s taxes.” Using his own tax bill as an example, Allen said during that time district taxes went up 48% as compared to town taxes, which went up 39%.

“I don’t know why it rose as much as it did,” said Allen, referring to the district tax levy. “I have no reasons to believe it wasn’t well managed. But the fact that it rose so much faster than the town’s is a matter of concern. We need to be very sensitive to the tax burden this is contributing to.”

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The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

NewSpaper! The Gardener's Friend



1
Fold the newspaper in half.



2. Place a can or bottle on the end of the newspaper.



3. Roll the paper around the can.



4. This is the tricky part! Take the can out and carefully tuck in the ends of the paper.



5. Place the paper tube on a tray (because there is no bottom) and fill it with soil. The roots will grow through the opening at the bottom!



DANCE
SUNSHINE
FLOWERS
MUSIC
MYSTERY
FUN
PEACE
DAFFODIL
FRIEND
POND



Children's Page by Beverly Ketch, Word Search and Dot by Beverly Ketch, Layout by Aleda Jonquil. Thank you to Velly and Emmy.
If you would like to contribute to the Children's Page, please contact kids@montaguereporter.org.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

ONGOING EVENTS EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

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

FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session; come join the community chorus. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbarrass@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.

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.

3RD WEDNESDAYS

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Roots*

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

EVERY THURSDAY

Montague Center Branch Library, Montague: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 11 a.m.

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

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

FIRST THURSDAYS

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 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 THIRD FRIDAY

Free Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive before 7 p.m. to sign up for 5 or 10 minute slots. 7 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. \$

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*. Exhibit through May 9.

Domestic Darling's Salon, Turner's Falls: *Small Pieces From a Large World* by Robert Markey. Through April 30.

GCC, Greenfield: *Art Student Exhibit 2017, South Gallery*. Includes painting, photography, computer arts, video and more. Through May 11.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Catch and Release*. Exhibit of river and water-themed art by Western Mass. artists. May 5 through May 29.

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

Leverett Library, Leverett: *The Kings of Leverett*. 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. Through April. Also, Lower Gallery: *Mohawk Trail Middle & High School Visual Arts Showcase*. 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. Through May 23.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Better Than Taxes*, a group show by member artists. Through May 1. Beginning May 3, *"A World Beneath our Feet"* exhibit of floor coverings by *Lynnda Faye and Joanne Gold*.

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:

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.

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:

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It's Kiddleidoscope! This week it's frogs*. For children ages 3 to 6, their siblings and an adult companion. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Spinner Park, Turners Falls: Montague Tree Advisory Committee and River Culture sponsor celebration of Arbor Day: plans for re-designed Spinner Park presented at 4:30 p.m. Music by *Home Body* at 5 p.m.

La Mariposa sponsors showing of documentary about *Wangari Maathai*, founder of the Green Belt Movement and first woman from Africa to win the Nobel Peace Prize, at 111 Avenue A at 6 p.m.

Arts Block, Greenfield: *Conway Tornado Relief Fundraiser*. Music by *Trailer Park, Carinae, Rocky Hill Revival, Headband, Nate*

Martel and others. 7 p.m. \$

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *This is Spinal Tap*. Rob Reiner's classic mock rockumentary. Music by Spinal Heaves at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Dustbowl Revival*. American roots orchestra from California. 7:30 p.m. \$

St. Patrick's Church, Northfield: *St. Patrick's Coffeehouse presents Robin Lane*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Zydeco Connection*. 8 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Grace Morrison*, singer/songwriter, and *Izzy Heltai*, folk. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Shovels, Peasants, Pigeons, Phurnne*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, APRIL 29

Arts Block and other venues including Roots Cellar, Greenfield: *6th Annual Upper Valley Music Festival*. Proceeds to American Cancer Society. Over 30 bands. Noon 'til night.

Gill-Montague Senior Center, Turners Falls: *Michael Marcotrigiano presents talk on "How Not to Kill a Tree"*. Part of Arbor Day celebration. 2 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Memorial Hall, Shelburne Falls: *This is Spinal Tap*. Rob Reiner's classic mock rockumentary. Music by Spinal Heaves at 7 p.m. Movie at 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Movie night. *She-Wolf of London*. 7:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Chickenyard*. Roots rock. 8 p.m.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

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

THURSDAY, MAY 4

Stoneleigh-Burnham School, Greenfield: *26th Annual Poetry Contest Awards Ceremony* sponsored by the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library, awarding of the Poet's Seat. 7 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Collected Poets Series featuring Rebecca Morgan Frank, and Henry Lyman*. 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Screaming J's*. Ragtime Boogie Woogie Piano Band. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, MAY 5

Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *It's Kiddleidoscope! This week it's fish*. For children ages 3 to 6, their siblings and an adult companion. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Dickinson Memorial Library, Northfield: *"Lion" Story Hour celebrating National Children Book Week*. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Cameron's Winery, Northfield: *Pat and Tex LaMountain*. 6 p.m.

105 Main St., Northfield: *Deerfield Valley Art Association Gallery Grand Opening*. Next to Cameron's Winery. Art, wine, music, food. 6:30 p.m.

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Dave Dersham and Alice Howe*. Singer/songwriters. 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Greenfield Police Association Presents: Comedy Night*. 8 p.m. \$

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

Memorial Hall Theater


POTHOLE PICTURES

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MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – How appropriate that both Earth Day and Arbor Day occur in this beautiful month of April. Tending and supporting our wonderful planet couldn't be more significant than in the current political climate of environmental disregard and disdain.

It is Earth Day on Saturday, and so heartening to see large groups of people raking, picking up trash and otherwise beautifying public spaces like parks and the edges of water bodies. We feel fortunate to be able to tend the earth any day of the week now in our retirement.

It is a strange thing that even in retirement, weekends seem special and somehow different from weekdays. Perhaps it's because there remain appointments and commitments requiring our attention and attendance on weekdays. We generally reserve weekends for social gatherings and special events, or we set them aside as sacrosanct and refuse to write in anything mandatory.

This sense of order followed by

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Splendid Spring

freedom is intoxicating.

Even in retirement we enjoy some structure to our days: workout routines, hobbies, sports, yard and garden needs. Best of all, unlike time in our working lives, we can step out of the mold and make a week day into a mini-weekend event if we choose. Such luxury! Today we will devote extra time in appreciation of this glorious earth.

But first a treat: time out for breakfast cooked and served by someone else.

And so on this Saturday morning wisps of mist rise from the valleys as we drive northward to our favorite breakfast stop, the Chelsea Royal Diner in west Brattleboro.

Originally opened in 1950, this 1938 boxcar sat in mid-Main Street downtown. Relocated to Route 9 just at the base of the mountain, the diner now sports an addition, a barn, a large garden, and a home for the owners.

We pull into the mud season driveway and observe that the free-range chickens are indeed free-range today, as they fly up out of their fenced home and strut happily wherever they please. They are magnificent, these birds – glossy and well fed: some black, some red, some brown. Their presence reminds us that this eatery produces its own eggs (and chicken meat), fresh vegetables, and serves locally grown

beef as well.

We arrive around ten and are soon seated and served our choice of hearty breakfast options. The specials often include some form of eggs Benedict, pancakes or waffle, hash or beef. Everything is delicious and modestly priced. On Sunday mornings, this popular eatery often has a line of would-be diners that stretched from the front door out two ramps into the parking lot.

Well-fed, we drive off to undertake some rather more mundane errands, although browsing Sam's army and navy is always a pleasure, as is checking out the new arrivals in the second-hand stores. But today we wish to finish the errands and get home to enjoy a long walk in Old Deerfield and time in the yard.

The yard is dotted with clumps of bright yellow and also white daffodils trumpeting the return of spring. The blood root has sown itself well into the open woods, and right up to the edge of the bike path. The trees are lacy with new leaves, and the delicate flowering of the Manchurian apricot strikes an oriental look.

Beneath the pergola, the climbing rose stretches to the top and is well budded with leaves. The wisteria is much smaller, but looks stout and vigorous. As soon as the days and nights will be steady at least fifty degrees, we can finish painting the pergola with waterproofing and then begin to train the rose to spread across the top. Thus, eventually we will have fragrant shade, and another pleasant seating area in the summer warmth.



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WENDELL – The Wendell Free Library is pleased to host two presentations on *Gardening for Climate*.

The first program, **An Introduction to Carbon Sequestration in the Home Garden**, is this Friday, April 28 at 7 p.m. Caro Roszell, a Wendell CSA farmer and also NOFA'S Winter conference organizer, will present on the newly emerging topic of agriculture's contribution, through tilling, to carbon in the atmosphere, and how changing farming and gardening practices has the potential to turn it around.

Topics will include the science of how carbon is lost from soil and how it can be sequestered in soil; understanding and maximizing soil life; alternatives to tillage; integrating perennials and annuals; and relay cropping for greater plant cover and higher yields. Caro is passionate about these subjects, very knowledgeable, and is an engaging and thought pro-

voking speaker.

Caro's presentation will be followed up on Wednesday, May 3 at 7 p.m., with a talk on **Cover Crops: No Till for the Home Garden**, by Sharon Gensler. This presentation will focus on cover cropping and other techniques for building garden fertility and keeping soil carbon in the soil.

Sharon is a longtime Wendell small-scale farmer and homesteading educator. Until very recently she has also been a long time NOFA board member and NOFA educator.

These two workshops are synergistically designed, and content overlap will be minimal. Participants are welcome to attend one or both. A healthy Q & A time period will follow the presentations. Both are free to the public, thanks to the generous and ongoing support of the Friends of the Wendell Free Library.

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