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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 8, 2017

NEWS ANALYSIS

Tennessee Gas “Open Season”: Prelude to a New Pipeline Project?

By JEFF SINGLETON

HOUSTON, TX – On May 23, the Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company announced that it was conducting a “binding open season for firm transportation capacity” to be delivered to “receipt points” in Zones 5 and 6. Shorn of the technical jargon, this means that the pipeline company, owned by the energy giant Kinder Morgan, will be soliciting new contracts to carry natural gas to distributors of the product in Southern New England.

The announcement has created a buzz among the activists who opposed TGP’s most recent proposal to build a pipeline through western Massachusetts. That proposal, called the “Northeast Energy Direct” project (NED), was abandoned in May 2016 in the face of widespread local opposition, and the failure of TGP to obtain sufficient contracts, or “precedent agreements,” to fill the pipeline’s proposed capacity.

The open season announcement came on the one-year anniversary of the cancellation of Northeast Energy Direct.

The failed NED proposal was
see PIPELINE page A5

A Vital Service for Seniors is Feeling A Little Less Secure

By GEORGE BRACE

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Meals on Wheels program has been in the news lately, in part due to concerns with the recently proposed federal budget. To get some local insights into the program, we spoke with Jane Severance and Lynne Feldman of LifePath, the organization which administers Meals on Wheels (MOW) in Franklin County and the North Quabbin.

Jane is LifePath’s nutrition program director; Lynne is the director of community services. Meals on Wheels is one of a multitude of services LifePath provides for seniors.

In Franklin County and the North Quabbin, MOW currently serves approximately 500 meals per day, five days a week, along with providing frozen meals which can be consumed on the weekend. To accomplish this they have twelve staff members, and a crew of 50 volunteer drivers who are reimbursed gas money and given a small daily stipend.

There is no charge for the meals, though there is a suggested donation of \$2.50. While this does not cover the cost of the service, it helps, and people are free to give more or less. These donations are entirely voluntary and confidential. No records are kept as to who is donating and who is not.

see MEALS page A7

GOOD LUCK TO THE CLASS OF 2017

ELLEN BLANCHETTE PHOTO



Turners Falls High School honored its 2017 graduates last Friday with a packed house as family, friends, and community members filled the gymnasium. Graduates received their diplomas to cheers, along with a gift of roses from the Gill-Montague Education Fund, which they were invited to share with the person who had best supported them through their school years.

Enthusiasts Probe Limits Of Riding Slowly

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – This past Saturday diehard motorcycle riders from around the northeast competed in the Unsprung Motorcycle Road Rally, a Motogiro-style time trial hosted by Nova Motorcycles of Third Street.

The competition was a “regularity,” or time-space-distance (TSD) rally – the goal in each event was to cross the finish line at a precise time, similar to an “enduro” race in dirt bike culture. Peter Chilton, co-owner of Nova Motorcycles, says the purpose of the competition was “to push people to the limits of riding slowly.” Riders were penalized for any deviation from their target end time.

Four times during the race, riders had to complete a timed agility course. The road course, stretching from Hawley to Athol, was shaped like a 160-mile infinity sign with Turners Falls at the center. Tripod-mounted infrared race timers



THOM DUDLEY PHOTO

The rally began and ended behind Nova Motorcycles on Third Street.

recorded the riders’ finish times to several decimal points because, says Chilton, “These races are won by a few hundredths of a second.”

Many of the riders who participated in Unsprung are vintage motorcycle racers. George T. Walker, who rides a 1969 BSA Starfire, raced just two weeks ago in Asheville, NC.

He wore a homemade golden chest protector made of foam and space blankets. Walker doesn’t ride without chest protection: “Worst-case scenario, you throw some newspaper into your jacket,” he said.

Mechanical challenges are a big factor in vintage competitions,
see ROAD RALLY page A5

This Week in TFHS Sports: Softball Advances!

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls High School baseball team lost by a run, the boys’ tennis team lost by a match,

the Softball team advanced and will face a familiar foe, and Owen Ortiz jumped in the All State Meet.

Also this week, three Blue Ladies were named to the all-league Soft-

ball team, and Turners Falls High School said goodbye to its seniors.

All-State Track Meet

On Saturday, Owen Ortiz represented Franklin County Tech at the MIAA All State Track Meet held at Bridgewater State University. Mr. Ortiz, a graduating senior at Turners Falls High School, finished 15th in the triple jump and 26th in the long jump.

If you’re wondering why Turners Falls had such a great football team this year, Ortiz, who is also a champion sprinter, was just one of the cogs in the Western Mass Champions football machine.

Baseball

Pathfinder 1 – TFHS 0

“He’s one of the best pitchers in Western Mass,” Mr. Bush told me during the Pathfinder game held on Thursday June 1.

“He has about 113 strikeouts,” Bill Doyle said a little later.

“It was a tough draw,” former
see TFHS SPORTS page A4



DAVID HOYT PHOTO

Maddy Johnson knocks out a single as Blue stings the McCann Tech Hornets 9-1 in the Western Mass Division III quarterfinal at TFHS.

Two Choices For G-M Committee: Joyce Phillips, or Mike Langknecht

By REPORTER STAFF

GILL-MONTAGUE – Two candidates have submitted letters of intent to fill a vacant Montague seat on the Gill-Montague regional school committee, according to superintendent Michael Sullivan.

On Tuesday, June 13, the school committee will select either Joyce Phillips or Michael Langknecht to join them. Marjorie Levenson stepped down from her seat last month, shortly after a district election, citing family obligations.

Phillips and Langknecht are both familiar faces to the board, having each served a number of terms, including years as chair. Phillips came in third in 2016 in a three-way race for two seats with Heather Katsoulis and Levenson, and Langknecht lost similarly last month to Cassie Damkoehler and Shawn Hubert.

Phillips told the Reporter that “history, knowledge and experience are essential to strengthen a school committee’s leadership position, because it can help all members

see GMRSC page A8

Gill Settles On 2% COLA; Wraps Up Its Town Meeting

By DAVID DETMOLD

Gill added almost five acres to the town forest on Hoe Shop Road, agreed to spend \$40,000 to upgrade a 1950s-era electrical panel in the elementary school, and voted unanimously to increase the town’s spending for the regional school district by 2.63% in a continuation of the annual town meeting on Monday, June 5.

The meeting opened for a few items of routine business – appointment of field drivers, appointment of fence viewers, etc. – on May 1, but adjourned after only 20 minutes to sharpen budgetary pencils for the main articles.

This week’s continuation ran for an hour of business. But first, nearly 20 minutes of preamble was devoted to thanking and praising various people for their contributions to the community.

Charles Tierney, assistant head of Northfield Mount Hermon School, gave a spirited encomium to former selectboard member Don LaChance, a longtime Gill resident who passed away in November at the age of 82.

LaChance was director of plant facilities at NMH for many years, and Tierney remembered him as a man of strong work ethic and good humor, who always had a twinkle in his eye, even when removing 19 skunks from the basement of Tierney’s campus housing.

Tierney recalled a certain faculty member complaining frequently of

see GILL page A6

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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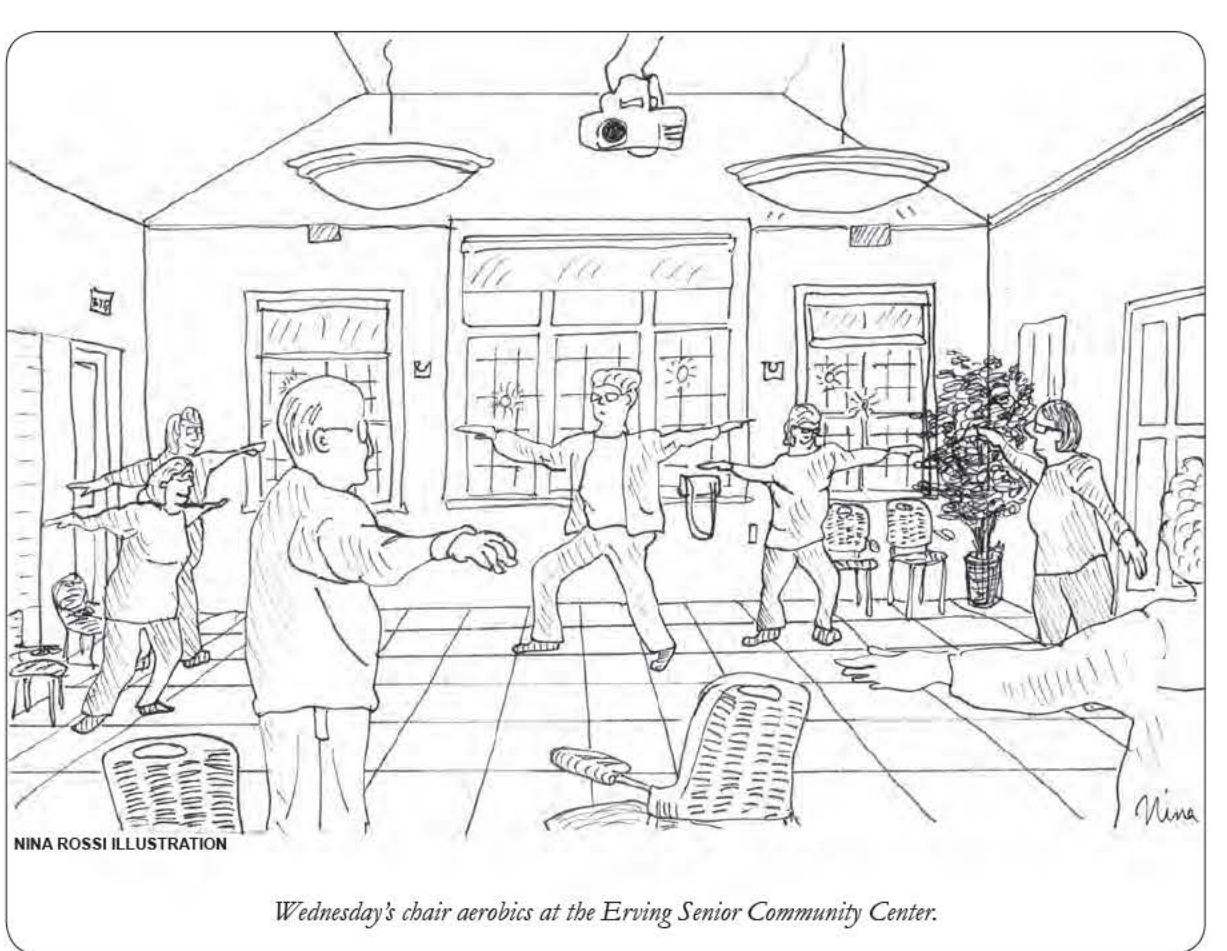
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August 2002



Wednesday's chair aerobics at the Erving Senior Community Center.

“The Salvation of New England”

While paging through the archives of the short-lived old local weekly, the Turners Falls Herald, to transcribe the latest installment of “Miss Stemple Recalls the Past” (see page B4), another piece caught our eye.

On May 21, 1941, “The Innocent Bystander,” a regular news and opinion column written by one Maynard J. Leahey, was promoted to a cover story on A1. The occasion was the opening of the Holyoke fish ladder.

Thanks to Allan Cadran of Replay, who has made this archive available to us in hardbound form. Most, but not all, of the issues can also be browsed at montague.advantage-preservation.com. (Leahey's name was misspelled in the issue's byline.)

We thought Leahey's take on the news, and on the likelihood of similar infrastructure being installed at Turners Falls, is a pretty interesting read, 76 years later...

By MAYNARD J. LEAHEY

Down in Holyoke yesterday a ceremony took place which had more than ordinary significance for Turners Falls, even though the connection might not be immediately apparent. That was the dedication of the fishway erected on the Holyoke dam, a device which was constructed only after legislative hearings, near-court actions, and in the face of the strongest kind of opposition.

Now the fishway is completed and its advocates hope for the realization of the dreams which brought it about. In other words, they dream of the day when salmon and shad will return to the upper reaches of the Connecticut river, from which they have been absent so long.

How is this of interest to Turners Falls? Well, the construction of that “fish-ladder” and its dedication at Holyoke yesterday is merely the forerunner of a similar scene that will be enacted at the powertown in the not-too-distant future, and if you think that isn't significant or important, be patient and read on a bit further. We'll get to it after awhile.

Proper Steps Taken

The construction of the fishway over the Holyoke dam was predicated on the knowledge that it would be the first link in a chain the length of the Connecticut river. Obviously, a fishway at Holyoke alone would be useless, and when its construction was authorized, it was with that knowledge in mind.

Consequently, the ground work in legislation was paved for the subsequent repetition of that action at every point north of Holyoke where a dam exists.

The proper steps already have been taken regarding the Turners Falls dam, and, while there is certain to be opposition, the cards are stacked against the opponents be-

cause the Hoyoke fishway now exists as an accomplished fact, representing a strong wedge driven into the ranks of the dissenting groups.

The advocates of these fishways have been the Connecticut River Game, Fish association, a powerful organization composed of influential men from every section of Western Massachusetts, and those who see a vast recreation program as the new industry which ultimately will be the salvation of New England.



Shad run, and an interpreter expounds, at the Turners Falls Fishway last week.

Manufacturers Oppose

The opposition comes mainly from industrialists and manufacturers, who have fought the program steadily for a very important reason – with the existence of fishways, factories no longer will be permitted to discharge their waste materials into the Connecticut river but must adopt anti-pollution measures as a substitute.

Since, in many cases, that will represent an outlay of large sums of money, it can be seen that the manufacturers, tender in their purses, view the program with no

great favor.

There is some justice on the side of the manufacturers, for in many cases they are not prepared to extend the amounts necessary to a program from which they derive no immediate benefit.

However, that is a short-range justice, and these opponents have adopted the tactic of declaring that salmon and shad never will return to the Connecticut.

They are disputed by men generally regarded as experts in natural history and the ways of fish, and the presence of the first fish-ladder now at Holyoke is the best demon-

stration of how the opposition has been driven to cover.

It has been rewarding on so many levels, though suffice it to say I sense now being a bit more part of the “solution than the problem (by silence).” I invite others of you to consider this service.

There are four categories of varying jobs/tasks, each comprising about four hour shifts Monday through Friday; generally no

particular skills are necessary, and time commitment will vary by need and choice.

If you sense an interest, registration sheets can be picked up and dropped off at the Franklin County Survival Center at 88 Fourth Street (just adjacent to the Food Pantry).

“Charity is about need, not about cause.”

Mary Kay Mattiace
Montague

Predict Vacation Land

It is, admittedly, a long and involved story, but the basic proposition is that New England is badly in need of new industry, and certainly will be in greater need after the present world disagreements are ended.

Industry, in the old term of manufacturing, has, in the opinion of many, reached the saturation point in New England, barring the possibility of world-shaking new inventions which might revolutionize the whole aspect of industry.

However, that is a rather far-fetched possibility, so men of vision now are turning their every effort to converting the New England states into a vast playground, thus attracting hordes of vacationists and sportsmen who will leave many dollars behind them. That's no dream, either, because the record shows that it has been and is being accomplished elsewhere.

Sun Valley in Idaho was in much the same economic stalemate as the Connecticut valley a few years ago, but far-seeing men there turned the region into a playground and, by dint of a little intelligent advertising, made the proposition a very lucrative one, indeed.

Consider how California and Florida, with little more to offer

than sunshine, have capitalized on the recreation idea. From the standpoint of fishing, look at what happens at Bangor, Me., every year when the salmon are running.

Note the strides that the Pioneer Valley association and kindred groups already have made by exploiting the recreation and vacation idea, and consider the popularity of Cape Cod, which, after all, has only the seashore.

Fishway Along Island

The Innocent Bystander cannot reveal his sources for some of the facts and conclusions drawn here. He can vouch for their absolute authenticity, however, and he can say that, without much doubt, the day is nearing when a fishway will be constructed over the Turners Falls dam.

The plans, already drawn, call for the device to extend from the riverbed up over the island in the approximate center of the dam. The project naturally is designed primarily for fishermen and sportsmen, but as pointed out above, there is a larger scope which makes the thing of immediate vital interest to all of Turners Falls, even those who never baited a hook.

What it amounts to is that you are sitting in on the beginning of a vast new enterprise, which may see Turners Falls at last regain the glory for which it was intended.

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Like to garden? Is your “green thumb” a little pale?

Stop by the **Garden Club’s** event this Saturday, June 10 at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls for some helpful hints! Information about the club will be available; anyone can join, and all are welcome.

There are trips planned by the club throughout the year, and an upcoming one is a bus trip to New York’s Botanical Gardens on June 24. It’s not too late to sign up.

There will also be a small plant swap, so bring a plant and see what you can swap for. Light refreshments will be made available courtesy of GSB. 10 a.m. to noon.

Daniel Clark, the **Singing Trooper**, and his wife, Mary Colarusso will provide an afternoon of song at the Schuetzen Verein, Barton’s Cove, Route 2 in Gill from

1:30 to 3 p.m. on Monday, June 12. Tickets cost \$10 and include an old-fashioned root beer float. There will also be a 50/50 raffle and a raffle of many donated goods such as gift certificates to restaurants, a round of golf, a massage, and much more.

All proceeds will benefit the Franklin County Sheriff’s TRIAD Program. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by calling (413) 658-4203.

The **Millers Falls Improvement Association** will host its first community meeting next Thursday, June 15, at 5:30 p.m. at 7 Church Street (the former St. John’s church). At this meeting attendees will begin to discuss ideas for community-building activities in Millers Falls, and how to allocate the \$1,500 in community-building funds approved by town meeting.

Topics may include: should we re-establish an annual event, en-

courage public art, or support a program for local youth? What do you think would make Millers an even more awesome place to live?

This meeting will be the first of three meetings held throughout this summer, on the third Thursday of each month, June 15, July 20 and August 17, to discuss community issues. All residents and friends of Millers Falls are welcome. For more information see www.facebook.com/millersfalls, or email millersfalls.improvement@gmail.com.

The public is invited to a “**Booze, Books, and Brews**” event at the Millers Falls Library on Thursday, June 15, at 6:30 p.m. Element Brewing Company brewers will discuss beer and distilling. Library books on these topics will be featured.

Afterwards there will be a tour of the Element Brewery across the street from the library. Tastings will be available. Free. For more information, call 863-3214.

Get ready for the “**UNProm Prom**” **Dance Party**, with DJ Just Joan, on Friday, June 16, from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Wendell’s Old Town Hall.

Dress up as your alter ego, or don’t – your choice. There will be an optional red-carpet parade from

the Town Hall at 7 p.m. Create and bring your own art to decorate the hall; a clothesline and pins will be made available for hanging art.

Snacks and non-alcoholic beverages for purchase. Tickets are a suggested \$10 to \$20. A portion of the proceeds will go to support the Wendell Firefighters Association.

Something to start thinking about: The **Montague Reporter** will be having a tag sale on Saturday, July 22, from 8 a.m. to noon. We will be reaching out to our readers for donations of items. Over the next few issues we will provide more information about what items can be accepted, as well as drop-off and pickup times. So save your stuff!

The fundraiser, which will include a bake sale, *Montague Reporter* coffee mugs and raffle items, is sponsored by the Friends of the Montague Reporter. It is a bit early to call into the office, but start looking around your garage, closets and attic for suitable donations.

For more information, please email friendsofmontaguereporter@gmail.com.

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Rock, Paper Scissors Debuts – As Sculpture, and Tournament

By REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS – After a year of rock chipping, grinding, and chiseling and polishing, sculptor Tim DeChristopher is ready to install and unveil his public art project for downtown Turners Falls. His trio of sculptures, called “Rock, Paper, Scissors,” will be unveiled on Saturday, June 17 during a day filled with fun events celebrating history and life of the village. The sculpture is located at the seating area on the corners of Avenue A and Third Street.

Turners Falls RiverCulture selected Tim’s plan out of more than 30 entries that answered the call for public art during 2015. A lover of history and resident of Turners Falls, Tim’s vision for three pieces that encompass village history is symbolized thusly: **Rock**: the town’s unique geology; **Paper**: the paper mills; and **Scissors**: the cutlery and products that made their way into various shops.

A brown sandstone rock was chosen for the Rock, a large hunk that was actually dug out of the sculptor’s property on Second Street. A limestone paper mill features views of the inner works and is shaped like one of the mills down by the canal, typical New England factory buildings of brick pierced with windows and holding a smokestack to the sky. Scissors depicts the sort of Avenue A storefront that has been the mainstay of commerce in

the village for many decades, with large windows displaying products under the shade of an awning. There is even someone standing in the recessed doorway of the shop.

There’s lots to do and see on June 17 in downtown Turners Falls! The event is listed as “Rain or Shine,” but *surely* there will be sun coming out by the 17th, as we have already endured weeks of cold, grey, wet weather.

The afternoon’s activities will be set up on Third Street from the sculpture site to Canal Street. Throughout downtown, shops and restaurants will be offering rock-paper-scissors specials and sidewalk sales. Stop in at **Nina’s Nook** during the afternoon and early evening to pass through a **Time Tunnel** installation of over two hundred clocks made by Wendell artist Adrian Montagano, and check out the metal creatures outside and inside the tiny shop made by Turners Falls’ own Jon Bander.

The day starts off with a **geology walking tour** of the downtown at 10:30 a.m. with Steve Winters. Meet at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street, then amble your way back 200 million years when Turners Falls was nothing more than a huge muddy lake sitting on a cooled bed of lava! And then, there’s the story of the famous armored mud balls, the only ones in the world discovered to have been formed by streams. Steve’s geo-tour of the village should take about 90 minutes.

You might notice people running *en masse* on the Canalside Rail Trail as part of the **Brick House Community Resource Center’s 5k Fundraiser** that starts at the trailhead in Unity Park at 10 a.m. Participants may pre-register at runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k or onsite at 9 a.m. that day.

There are prizes for participants, including vouchers for a free drink at the Five Eyed Fox and delicious Katalyst Kombucha to refresh runners. Gift certificates donated by LOOT and The Rendezvous, among others. Good exercise and a good time, for a great cause.

There’s a wiener roast happening on Third Street at 1 p.m. with **free hotdogs and veggie dogs**. Enjoy live music by the incredible **Expandable Brass Band** while you eat, and browse the geologic wonders of the **Jurassic Road Show** and Ed Gregory’s collection. There will also be kids’ activities, such as decorating a stone carver’s hat.

A formal ceremony for the **unveiling of Rock, Paper, Scissors** will take place at 2 p.m. with remarks by Dee Boyle Clapp, public art expert, and the artist.

Rock, Paper, Scissors is also the name for a deceptively simple game of strategy to be played between two people, who choose one of each of those elements in a simultaneous “battle” with each other. Paper can conquer Rock by wrapping it, Scissors can beat Paper by cutting

it, and Rock can dull Scissors, as symbolized by hand gestures held out in battle.

Match wits in this **game competition** under tents set up on Third Street. Starting at 2:30 p.m., there will be teams playing Rock Paper Scissors in elimination rounds while following international regulations for the game. Radio personality Lorraine Algozer will be the emcee for these fast-paced showdowns, with **DJ Shannon** providing the sound track and some of our notable local officials serving as judges!

Play as an individual, or as a team, and possibly win a **\$200 cash prize**, with \$50 for the runner-up. Participants must be over the age of eight years old, and a five dollar donation goes into the pot for the prize. Dressing in costume is very much encouraged, and there will be prizes for the best team costumes as well. Register online at turnersfallsriverculture.org or onsite the day of the event, but get your name in the ring soon, since participation is limited.

Meet back at the sculpture in front of the Stuff store to **hear DeChristopher** talk about his work at 4 p.m. At the same time, the Shea Theater hosts **Shake It Up!**, a presentation of youth dancing by Great Falls Creative Movement. Children get in for free for this hour-long show, while others are asked to make a small donation, and there will be a reception afterwards with the dancers at 5 p.m.



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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Employees Question Move to Change Health Insurance Benefits; No Changes Yet, Say Selectboard

By KATIE NOLAN

On June 5, on the recommendation of police chief Christopher Blair, the Erving selectboard appointed Brent Griffin of Turners Falls as a full-time police officer. Griffin, who has already completed state police academy training, will fill a new position created from the 30-hour position formerly held by Bethann Bezio and additional hours taken from part-time officer positions.

At its May 15 meeting, the board had discussed a request from the Hampshire Council of Governments group insurance trust that the town accept Sections 21 through 23 of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 32B. These provisions deal with the procedure for changing employee health insurance benefits; co-payments, deductibles and other design features of employee health insurance; and the transfer of insur-

ance subscribers to the state group insurance commission.

At that meeting, administrative coordinator Smith reported that the HCOG trust had had higher claims recently and the steering committee was looking into possibly reducing costs through co-pays or a deductible. The board had decided to inform town employees that it intended to discuss accepting the MGL provisions on June 5.

At Monday's meeting, Jane Urban and Pam Ososky from the Erving Elementary Education Association and assistant assessor Jacquelyn Boyden questioned the board about potential changes to employee health insurance.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that the trust would not make decisions about changing employee health insurance until at least October. He said the HCOG trust was "looking at options," and that accepting the MGL sections would give

Erving "a seat at the table" when discussing any changes to employee health insurance.

The board voted to accept the provisions.

The board also approved a revised "firefighter/emergency medical technician" job description, as prepared by fire chief Philip Wonkka. Wonkka said he would post advertisements for the two full-time firefighter/EMT positions by June 19.

At the request of Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, the board extended funding from the community development block grant for three months. McHugh said the housing program had met its original goal of renovation or repair of nineteen housing units, and wanted to use the remaining money in the fund for a total of twenty-seven units.

Debra Smith was appointed to the custodian screening committee.

Special Town Meeting

A special town meeting will be held at the senior/community center at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 20.

There are seven warrant articles. One accepts Care Drive as a public way; a second adopts a town bylaw for establishing a food service revolving account and building use revolving account for the Council on Aging; a third transfers \$350,000 from free cash into stabilization; and a fourth appropriates \$150,000 for stabilization.

A fifth would buy a John Deere backhoe with \$125,000 from free cash; a sixth spends \$30,000 from free cash on a streetlight upgrade, with the expectation that over \$20,000 would be reimbursed from a state grant and utility company incentives; and the final article pays for elementary school computer upgrades using \$28,000 from the school technology stabilization fund.

RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of June 12
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

Town of Leverett Fire Department Invitation to Bid NEW RESCUE TRUCK / HIGH PRESSURE FIRE APPARATUS

The Town of Leverett is seeking proposals for a new Rescue truck with ultra high pressure fire apparatus. A copy of the Invitation to Bid is available from the Administrator at townadministrator@leverett.ma.us or (413) 548-9699. Sealed bids are to be submitted no later than July 5, 2017 at 2 p.m. The contract resulting from this bid will be awarded by the Selectboard to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder.

The Town of Leverett reserves the right to reject any and all bids in whole or in part, and to waive irregularities and informalities, when at its sole discretion it is deemed to be in the best interest of the Town and to the extent permitted by law.

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TFHS SPORTS from page A1

Coach Jay Liimatainen reiterated. "He pitched against us as a freshman."

They were referring to Andrew Roman, Pathfinder's ace. And if the Tribe was to defeat the Pioneers, they would either have to reach on errors or put together hits while keeping the Finders off the paths.

But in the top of the second, Pathfinder scored its first and only run. The leadoff man drew a walk and the next two batters hit routine ground outs but the runner advanced on each out. Then with 2 outs, 2 strikes, and a man on third, Pathfinder got a base hit and took the 1-0 lead.

Blue had their opportunity in their half of the second as both Jon Fritz and Kyle Dodge reached base, but Roman shut down the Powertown bats and Turners left two stranded.

The Blue Boys also had their chances later in the game. Fritz hit a 2-out double in the fourth, and in the sixth, Tionne Brown hit a deep fly to center, but the fielder chased it down.

And that was it. With both pitchers on point, neither team could score any more runs, and the Tribe was eliminated from the playoffs.

A few years ago, a friend told me, "If the Yankees went 162-0 and the Red Sox went 0-162, Boston would still be my favorite team." I feel the same way about Turners Falls. So to quote an old Red Sox mantra, "There's always next year."

Of course, it'll be a much different team next year, without Mike Babcock, Kyle Bergmann, Tionne Brown, Nick Croteau, Quinn Doyle, Will Roberge and Jeremy Wolfram.

Softball

TFHS 9 - McCann Tech 1

"It's always Greenfield."

This is something my nephew said a few weeks back when Greenfield defeated Turners in boys' tennis and delayed their qualification for the postseason. And although Dylan has never lived in Turners or attended Gill-Montague schools, his point of reference is Turkey Day, which he has attended 11 times in his 13 years.

And this Thursday, June 8, Blue and Green will play at UMass in the



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Peyton Emery struck out 12, allowing only three hits and one walk, during Turners Falls' 9-1 win in the divisional quarterfinal.

MIAA D-III West Semifinals for bragging rights with a possible title on the line. Greenfield, one of only two teams to defeat Powertown this season, comes into the rubber match on the heels of two perfect games.

Wachusett, the other team to beat the Tribe, is the number 1 seed in D-I Central, and plays Shrewsbury on June 7 in the semifinals.

By the way, Newton North, the other D-I team Turners faced this season, was granted the number 3 seed in D-I North, and takes on Methuen on June 8 in the North Quarterfinals.

Turners got to the semis by defeating the McCann Tech Green Hornets on Sunday. Powertown scored four quick runs in the first inning after Gabby Arzuaga popped a single to center field, Aly Murphy knocked one through the pitcher's glove, Jordyn Fiske drew a walk, Abby Loynd hit a RBI, Maddy Johnson batted in two runners and Olivia Whittier hit a slow, low fly for the fourth run.

From the top of the order to the ninth batter, along with substitutes and pitch-hitters, the Blue Tribe has bats. And when an opposing

pitcher is letting up hits and struggling to get out of the inning, it's disheartening for her to hear her scorekeeper call out, "Top of the order. The next batter is 1."

And that happened throughout the game, as nine different Blue Ladies hit successfully 16 times while Green committed three errors.

In the top of the fourth, the Hornets stung Turners for a homerun, one of three hits Peyton Emery allowed. Turners got two runs back in the fifth when Fiske and Loynd were batted in by pinch hitter Hailley Bogosz. But that was it for the Blue Tribe in the inning, although eight batters came to the plate.

In the sixth, Fiske made a terrific running catch at the fence to keep the Hornets baserunner from advancing, and Turners put three insurance runs across. Aly Murphy was thrown out at second after trying to stretch a single, Fiske was walked, and after Loynd reached first, the ladies pulled off a double steal. Turners then scored on a wild pitch, Maddy Johnson hit a RBI, and Bogosz smacked a stand-up double.

In the seventh inning, Jade Tyler came in to pitch and fellow eighth-grader Mercedes Morales came in behind home plate. It was a 1-2-3 inning with a 1-3 grounder, a K, and a tag out at first.

For her part, Emery allowed only three hits and one walk while striking out 12.

As mentioned earlier, nine different batters had hits for Turners: two each for Cassidhe Wozniak, Arzuaga, Aly Murphy, Loynd, Maddy Johnson, Bogosz, and Olivia Whittier, and one each for Fiske and Taylor Murphy.

Turners Falls faces fourth-seeded Greenfield at 5 p.m. this Thursday at UMass.

This week, Pioneer Valley coaches also picked softball players for the All-League team. Turners had three players chosen - Gabby Arzuaga, Aly Murphy, and Peyton Emery - although in my opinion, I could have named six or seven more.

Boys Tennis

South Hadley 3 - TFHS 2

I saw Brian Porier and his family at the Franklin Tech/Greenfield softball game a few hours after the June 1 tennis match.

"How'd you do?" I asked Brian, as they were setting up their chairs.

"Well," he said hesitantly, "Me and Jimmy won." I knew right then that Turners had dropped their match 2-3 and were eliminated from the playoffs.

Indeed, Porier and Jimmy Vaughn had both won their singles matches, but Ricky Craver dropped second singles, and both doubles duos (Jovanni Ruggiano/Nick Morin) and (Will Turn/ Brody Trott) lost their matches.

I've really enjoyed tennis matches this year, with their exciting yet subdued atmosphere, and I want to give a shout out to the graduating seniors on the team: Ricky Craver, David Johnson, and Nick Morin.

And to graduating seniors everywhere, the first line of an old song made famous by Lulu: "The time has come for closing books, and long last looks..."

Next week: Greenfield!



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The Turners Falls Athletic Club Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following four students who have been selected to receive our scholarships. The awards in the amount of \$1,000 each are payable to the individual student for their second semester to the college of their choice.

Richard Craver of Millers Falls
Tionne Brown Jr. of Turners Falls
Jordan Fiske of Millers Falls
Nicolas Croteau of Erving

We would like to congratulate the scholarship winners and thank all the student athletes who applied; we wish you all the best of luck. We especially want to thank all of the active TFAC members whose donations make these scholarships possible.

Sincerely,
 Christian S. Couture – TFAC President
 TFAC Scholarship Committee

The Turners Falls Athletic Club
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PIPELINE from page A1

preceded by a similar “open season.” Does this mean that Tennessee Gas Pipeline already has a plan on the drawing board for a new pipeline? TGP officials did not respond to inquiries, but referred this newspaper to its website containing the open season announcement.

According to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), an open season is the first step in the process of constructing a new pipeline. The open season is necessary to gauge “market interest” in such a project.

However, the EIA lists a variety of options available for increasing natural gas transportation capacity. In addition to building a new pipeline, a company may convert an oil or other product pipeline to a natural gas pipeline, add a parallel pipeline to an existing one (called “looping”), install an extension off the main line, or upgrade and expand existing facilities, such as compressor stations.

Obtaining preliminary contracts through an open season is crucial for several reasons. The pipeline company must determine whether there is sufficient demand to make the project economically viable. Equally important, any project must be approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Whether a pipeline comes with sufficient contracts to “fill” its proposed capacity is a key FERC criteria.

The open season for the old NED project filled well under half the capacity of the proposed pipeline. Virtually all those entering into precedent agreements with TGP in 2015 were local gas distribution companies (LDCs), including Berkshire Gas and the National Grid-owned Boston Gas.

This situation was caused by a well-publicized, but little understood, wild card in that pipeline process. Supporters of the NED, and other proposals to build new pipelines in the region, argued a need to increase gas supply not only to distributors like Berkshire, but to companies generating electricity for the region. Electricity generators, they argued, were weaning themselves from coal and nuclear energy, and had become increasingly dependent on natural gas from the shale fields of Appalachia. However, existing pipelines were reaching the limit of their ability to serve these generators during the winter months, producing supply “bottlenecks” and spikes in regional electricity prices.

The problem, however, was that electricity generators are usually not in a position to invest in long-term contracts with pipeline companies. This made it difficult, if not impossible, to fill proposed pipelines as re-

quired by federal regulators.

The electric industry and many of its regulators then floated a proposal to allow electricity distributors, like Eversource and National Grid, to enter into long-term contracts for gas, and then resell the product to generators.

This proposal, touted for its innovation by the energy industry but ridiculed as a “pipeline tax” by opponents, was approved by the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) but declared illegal by the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The court argued that the proposal violated a 1997 state electricity restructuring law, as well as the legal separation of the gas and electrical industries.

In response to this roadblock to new pipelines, the administration of Governor Charles Baker publicly floated the idea of allowing gas LDCs, such as Berkshire Gas, to enter into long-term contracts for capacity beyond their need and then sell gas to the power generators. This might avoid the legal challenges raised by the state court, though it is unclear whether federal regulators would allow LDCs to contract for gas far in excess of demand from their own customers. The response to this idea, floated last August, has been underwhelming.

Without some new mechanism to supply electricity generation companies with gas, Tennessee Gas Pipeline may not be able to elicit sufficient contracts from LDCs to justify a project on the scale of the NED. Berkshire Gas and National Grid, when contacted by this newspaper, would not comment either on the Baker proposal or their response to the open season, which ends June 30. Officials at the state Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs stated that no proposal to allow gas distributors to purchase excess capacity is before the DPU.

“It may be some time before we see exactly what shape this potential TGP project takes,” said Katy Eisman, director of the Massachusetts Pipeline Awareness Network, which played a key role in opposing the NED project. “As you probably remember, the NED open season took place in February and March of 2014, and the initial FERC pre-filing wasn’t until September 2014. Of course, with that project, the plans were made public early on, with maps circulating prior to the open season announcement.

“I think that Kinder Morgan has learned that the more the public knows about their projects, the more negative the public sentiment is,” she continued. “So they will probably only make information available on a need-to-know basis at this time.”

ROAD RALLY from page A1

especially in the moped division. In the moped class, only one of three contenders finished.

Andy Townsend, who used to commute from Springfield to Gill on his moped, explained, “You’re always gambling. I was definitely pedaling a lot. The bike was pushed to its limit.”

Two weeks ago at the Acadia Ride, Townsend and 30 others raced their mopeds to the top of Maine’s Cadillac Mountain. In recent years moped groups, with slogans like Moped Army’s “Swarm and Destroy,” have gained much popularity. Moped Army’s online forum has over 9,000 members, and lists 26 separate moped clubs. Many of their names glorify the tiny and the annoying, such as the Metal Ponies of Providence, Rhode Island, and Seattle’s Mosquito Fleet.

Townsend has competed in the yearly Moped GP East at the Cherry Valley Motorsports Park in Lafayette, NY. (According to the event’s website, it is “[w]here the best moped tuners, riders, and drinkers gather for a weekend of racing debauchery.”) He works a bit at Nova as a moped specialist.

Thom Dudley of Greenfield built the trophies for the event in his workshop behind a house on Fourth Street. There were seven different awards: six for different classes of bike, plus one Overall Winner. The trophies were identical silvery plywood boxes, except for one. “Overall Winner I made taller,” Dudley explained.

Prior to moving to Greenfield, Dudley was the creative director for a custom products and streetwear shop in New York that filled one-of-a-kind orders for film,



The rally doubled as a celebration of Nova’s first year at the Third Street location, still known to many locally as Chick’s Garage and more recently a studio for sculptor Tim DeChristopher and an unsuccessful commercial venture known as River Station.

television, and music industry clients. “We made a birthday gift for Drake,” he told me. “It was a big velvet-lined wooden box filled with iPhone cases and pendants.” Dudley rides a 1986 Suzuki GSXR.

The guiding ethic of the Unsprung Road Rally was one of inclusivity and fun. While motorcycle culture has often been dominated by white men, the organizers worked to make the rally accessible to all people. “There’s a lot of racism and bullshit attached to motorcycle culture – it’s great to have an event that’s just about love of the bikes,” said Bill Chaney, a mechanic at Nova and bartender at the People’s Pint.

Erika Karl, a fashion retoucher who lives in Brooklyn and participates in many vintage riding competitions, describes the real meaning of events like Saturday’s: “Once again, vintage bikes brought people together.”

In addition to vintage enthu-

siasts, a number of members of the local Mohawk Ramblers club participated. “We had a large contingent of the Harley guys,” said Sayre Anthony, co-owner of Nova Motorcycles. “I fix their bikes.”

Mike Koprowski of Brimfield described a close scrape on the road course: “I was hugging the treeline. The truck cut the corner straight at me. Also, a bird hit me.”

The competition was won by Will Warren of Wales, MA, who rode a 1964 Honda Dream. Warren had a combined penalty of 4.7 seconds in the 160-mile course, plus the four timed agility courses.

While this sounds exceptional or nearly impossible, Warren is yet a humble champion. “It’s actually a really horrible time,” he said. “I did all right, not my best.”

He describes his sense of velocity, time, and space not as a learned skill, but as something he was born with: “It’s just natural, you know?”



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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Board Discusses Trees, Flags, and Dam; Prepares Articles for Saturday's Annual Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell's annual election on May 1 left several town positions empty. Some volunteers came forward in time for the May 31 selectboard meeting. Sylvia Wetherby was appointed to the cemetery commission. She went directly to the town clerk to get sworn in. Russ Kahle, an arborist and tree climber, was appointed tree warden. Richard Asmann agreed to serve on the planning board.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser noted that Harry Williston, the citizen who offered to light the American flag at the veterans' memorial, has noticed and appreciated somewhat the daily raising and lowering of the flag. Williston is still skeptical about how long the effort will continue.

Pooser added that some people have put in tremendous effort to make two trips a day to the town center, and going to Springfield to get a secure box for the flag at night. He wondered if there is room for the town flag to fly underneath the American flag. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the one-sided flag copy that was made to hang in the statehouse cost \$175. The original that she sewed is hanging in the selectboard office.

Pooser said he would move the original to the town hall for the annual town meeting.

Wood and Trees

Pooser has compiled a list of people who want wood chips from the National Grid cutting of trees that are a threat to the primary electric lines between the Wendell Depot substation and Route 2A.

People who have given their names and addresses should have a clear indication of where the chips should be dumped. It should be convenient for the tree crews to get rid of the chips in town, by simply going down the list of people and households that asked for chips as they fill the trucks. Normally they would carry the chips out of town. There is no guarantee that chips will be delivered to everyone who signed up. Cordwood-sized pieces will be left with the property or at 97 Wendell Depot Road.

The agreement about cutting trees in the narrow boundary between the library and the house on the library's north side expired in April. Librarian Rosie Heidkamp is considering the next tree cutting, but the property has been sold, and discussions of the next thinning are coming up.

Board members thought that discussion could wait until 2018.

Dam, Shed, and Junk

Pooser brought up Lenart Consulting, the company that made engineering plans for the dam work at Fiske Pond. Lenart did that work for \$5,000, and offered a plan that allowed Geoff Richardson to reinforce the dam and spillway with large stone for \$10,000.

Pooser said he felt those amounts are more in line with Wendell's financial condition than the bids on the McAvoy Pond dam offered by a larger company, Tighe & Bond. He said that Tighe & Bond are more oriented towards large projects and larger budgets, and it was worth paying Lenart to come to Wendell and look at the McAvoy Pond dam.

Lockes Village Road acts as an extension of that dam, and is the town's responsibility.

The report on shingles of the shed roof behind the meetinghouse came back, and Aldrich reported that it does not contain asbestos.

Board members signed for delivery a letter that tells the resident of 252 New Salem Road that he needs to limit the number of unregistered vehicles on the property to two.

Town Meeting

The selectboard put the warrant for the annual town meeting into its final shape, with a bit of room for the finance committee's adjustment of figures. They added one article that would extend the vote for town matters to people 16 and 17 years old.

Among the town's regular expenses, a large increase in the amount requested by the Swift River school would be partially offset by use of the stabilization fund, by reducing the amount of money authorized for capital projects, and by taking a slice from several regular operating expenses. With those reductions, the finance committee recommended budget would increase the tax rate by \$2.12, from \$19.31 to \$21.43.

Article 16 would allow a revolving fund for the wiring inspector and the plumbing inspector as well as the recreation commission. Article 18 would restore the stabilization fund with \$173,986 of free cash.

Article 23 would commit Wendell to work towards using 100% renewable energy, and encourage the state to do the same. Article 24 would have Wendell endorse the House and Senate bill, "Improved Medicare for All."

Summer Jobs & Beyond: Employers Sought!

FRANKLIN COUNTY – One year ago, the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board and Congressman Jim McGovern were pleased to announce that the REB received a \$1.998 million "Summer Jobs and Beyond" grant from the US Department of Labor.

One year into the two-year project, one of only 11 such awards nationwide, community partners have enrolled more than 120 youth in the program and developed nearly 70 jobs across the three communities of Montague, Ware, and Orange. The first cohort of graduates from the program will enter college or unsubsidized employment in the fall.

"This project is about community," says Patricia Crosby, Executive Director of the REB. "It only

works because community-based organizations like Community Action, The Brick House, and the high schools were ready and willing to delegate staff, make space, contribute resources, and commit to saying yes to the youth in their towns."

In the Montague region, these partners have been joined by town government and many more organizations that agreed to support the project in some way. Not least of the contributors were employers themselves, who provided a wide variety of work and learning experiences.

Those employers included Ja'Duke, Shanahan Construction, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Upinngil, and the Gill-Montague Regional School District, among others. "We are so appreciative of

these employers," says Ricia Elwell, of Community Action, "especially the small businesses who are willing to invest their limited time and resources in mentoring a youth. It's a strong statement of how much they care about the future of the community."

Many employers are hosting youth again this year, but more are needed to provide eight-week jobs for 16-18-year-old youth. All wages, tax, and workers compensation are covered by the grant, so hosting a job is free to the employer.

Program staff urge employers to contact Lee Fournier-Lewis at (413) 834-5411 or lfournierlewis@communityaction.us, or go to www.communityaction.us/youth and click on the link to fill out a work-site application.

GILL from page A1

a problem with his garage door. Repairs were attempted unsatisfactorily. At last, the man told LaChance with vehemence he hoped he would never have to bring the problem to Don's attention again. LaChance had his crew demolish and remove the entire garage before the man got through with classes for the day, solving the problem of the balky door for good.

Tierney called LaChance a model citizen of Gill who admirably bridged the town/school divide.

His speech drew the most applause and interest of the evening.

By the time town meeting got down to business on the remaining 16 articles of the annual, and eight articles of a subsequent special town meeting, they were all (or almost all) approved unanimously, with considerable dispatch.

The sole exception was Article 8 – which dealt with cost of living adjustments (raises) for town employees, a perpetual "hot topic" in Gill.

The selectboard had recommended a 2% raise for town employees. The personnel board had plumped for 2.5%. The finance committee were no help: they split 2-2 on the issue, with one abstention and one member absent.

Gill has often followed the lead of the regional Social Security board in deciding on a percentage increase for annual COLAs, but this year Social Security offered a paltry 0.3% increase – hardly enough to keep up with the cost of electricity.

The 30 or so voters who turned out for the continued town meeting on Monday were in a muddle.

Ernie Hastings, who had been praised at length by town clerk Lynda Hodsdon-Mayo at the beginning of the meeting in honor of his retirement, after 40 years of service, as town tree warden (not to be confused with a Measurer of Wood, Bark and Lumber) stood to address the meeting on the subject of raises for town employees.

He recommended following the advice of the personnel board – 2.5%! – Social Security be damned.

John Ward countered on behalf of the selectboard. He said his board did not want annual raises granted to town employees to so far outpace annuities granted by Social Security to retirees on fixed incomes that it would become a burden for them to support the salaries of town employees who plowed their streets or policed their neighborhoods.

Unspoken was the desire to not let town employees fall behind their counterparts among the staff of the regional schools, who will receive contractual raises of 1.5% in the coming fiscal year.

Moderator John Zywna found the resulting voice vote too close to call.

Soon Betsy Burnham and Nancy Daniel-Green were pressed into service to count the standing vote of proponents for a more generous 2.5% COLA and those who felt the selectboard had it about right at 2%. (The difference between the two percentages amounted to less than \$2,400.)

The standing vote split 13 – 13. Hasting's amendment failed on the tie; the selectboard prevailed; and the half-dozen or so town employees will receive a 2% raise this year.

All other articles passed unanimously, except for one to spend \$8,210 to digitize and preserve certain "irreplaceable early record books" (including a nineteenth-century volume that catalogues Town Lines, Roads, Fences, School Records, Marriages, Dogs, etc.). This enjoyed a single dissenting vote, Tupper Brown's, but passed by majority.

Three articles intended to change the method by which cable access fees are accounted for and disbursed were passed over, unanimously, pending further state review.

The gift of 4.735 acres of land on the northeast side of Hoe Shop Road came from the Franklin Land Trust, bringing the total area of the Gill Town Forest to just over 178 acres.

The land trust had intended to reserve four building lots for sale from the original A.R. Sandri estate when the forestland was preserved

by the town in 2009. But the sale of the first two lots proved adequate to meet expenses, so the trust decided to turn over the last two lots to the town to add to the rest of the preserved forest.

The decision to fund a \$40,000 replacement and upgrade for the 1955 electrical panel in the basement of the Gill Elementary School, and related subpanels, came at the behest of the capital improvement planning committee. In their report, the committee noted the old panel no longer meets code, and replacement parts are no longer available should the ancient breakers fail.

Tupper Brown, speaking from the finance committee's table, provided the sole commentary on the evening's largest expenditure: \$1,630,737 to support the operation of the Gill-Montague Regional Schools.

Quoting from the warrant, Brown said, "We expect future challenges for the Schools and Town in providing education budgets that are both adequate and affordable."

He added, "That is an understatement of a very large order. Today, we do not see a path for an FY'19 budget [for the Gill-Montague schools] that is both adequate and affordable."

The measure passed unanimously, and without further comment.

During the brief break between annual and special town meetings, Brown approached G-M superintendent Michael Sullivan to talk to him about the district's financial problems.

The district has seen the number of students choosing out of the district or choosing to attend charter schools rise exponentially: from 43 in 2001 to 197 in 2009, to 289 in 2016. Annual state aid losses to school choice and charter tuition now total approximately \$1.5 million a year.

Sullivan said he planned to initiate strategic planning discussions with town administrators, selectboards, and finance committees during the summer months regarding the sustainability of the district's finances.



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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Jensen: Elks Solar Zoning Change Not a Case of “Spot Zoning”

By JEFF SINGLETON

At Monday’s Montague select-board meeting, building inspector David Jensen assured town officials that the rezoning of two parcels of land on Millers Falls Road was not a case of potentially illegal “spot zoning.”

The board had voted to change the designation of lots 16 and 14 on zoning map 25 from “Agricultural-Forestry-4” to “General Business.” The change is being proposed so that the Elks Club, which owns lot 14, will be able to install a small solar array.

The land sits on the Montague Plains near the Turners Falls Airport, and most of the area is zoned for agriculture and forestry.

At its previous meeting, the board had voted to change the zoning of St. Andrews Episcopal Church from “Public/Semi-Public” to “Neighborhood Business.”

According to Anderson’s *American Law of Zoning* (1995), spot zoning is traditionally defined as “... the process of singling out a small parcel of land for a use classification totally different from that of a surrounding area for the benefit of the owner of such a property and to the detriment of other owners.”

Jensen, in response to a question from the audience, suggested that the courts had moderated their opposition to the policy.

“The courts used to frown at spot zoning as generally being the behavior of a town... doing a favor for somebody sitting in some particular place,” he said. “They’ve since backed off on that because a lot of planning has gone into the mix of neighborhoods... and how that mix happens has devolved back to the towns.”

Jensen also argued that because there were two parcels covered by the Millers Falls Road zoning change, the town’s action might not be considered spot zoning. He noted that the area across the street from St. Andrew’s Church is also zoned “Neighborhood Business.” “The planning board has to make a case, to itself and to the Attorney General that this is a sensible use of land,” he stated.

According to the website “Planners Web: News and Information for City Planners,”

“When considering spot zoning, courts will generally determine whether the zoning relates to the compatibility of the zoning of surrounding uses. Other factors may include: the characteristics of the land, the size of the parcel, and the degree of the ‘public benefit.’ Perhaps the most important criteria in determining spot zoning is the extent to which the disputed zoning is consistent with the municipality’s comprehensive plan.”

The town of Montague has such a comprehensive plan, but Jensen did not reference it during his discussion of the proposed zoning change. The selectboard voted to

approve the zoning change.

This was the second time in recent weeks that a zoning change involving the Elks property on Millers Falls Road has come before the selectboard. Previously the board had voted to change the designation to “Industrial” but the Planning Board, preferring to designate the property “General Business,” had returned the proposal for further action. Jensen said “General Business” is more appropriate for property along a “commuter road.”

More Planning

Town manager Steve Ellis informed the board that the town had applied for a \$20,000 state grant to study the development of bridges across the Turners Falls power canal, “for capacity to support redevelopment and commercial home-steading properties in the Turners Falls Canal District.”

Ellis said the study will probably focus on the bridge that creates access to the property of the former Railroad Salvage building. He stated that this did not mean that the town had “given up” on other key bridges, including those leading to the former Strathmore Mill, but the Railroad Salvage bridge had been “understudied.”

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the board approve the town’s 2017 Open Space and Recreation Plan. The plan must be updated every seven years to allow the town to apply for key grants. Ramsey reviewed key improvements since 2010, including the construction of a skate park and other Unity Park improvements.

Ramsey noted that a “perennial” issue was the lack of public swimming capacity in town. He said the planning department would be forming a committee to investigate the issue. The board approved the open space plan.

The board also approved a contract with Berkshire Design Group to undertake a “schematic design” leading to the upgrade of Spinner Park on Avenue A in Turners Falls. The board also approved a \$12,000 grant application to design a municipally owned solar array at the Water Pollution Control Facility.

Other News

Greenfield Savings Bank official Linda Ackerman requested that the board approve the use of public property so that a John Deere tractor made to look like a train could travel through downtown Turners Falls on July 1. She also requested the use of Peskeompskut Park for a concert by the Community Band on the same date.

These events are part of a 50th anniversary celebration of the merger between the Greenfield Bank and the Crocker Institute For Savings. The board approved the request.

The board approved a request by police chief Chip Dodge to elevate Reserve Officer Justin Nyle Joseph Moody to regular full time officer status. Moody was also granted a cell phone stipend of \$5.77 a week.

MEALS from page A1

One lesser understood aspect of MOW which Jane felt was important to point out is that the focus of the program is really nutrition, not aid having to do with income. She was careful to reiterate that there is never a charge, and that food assistance for those who cannot prepare a complete meal for themselves is the basis of the program. No one who qualifies is ever turned away.

Regarding the nutritional content, all meals meet guidelines established by the Executive Office of Elder Affairs specifically designed for senior nutrition. They are also able to provide therapeutic meals for certain medical conditions.

Jane went on to say there are many reasons why a senior might need help with healthy meals. Often, older people have trouble getting out to shop, or difficulty standing in front of a stove to prepare well-balanced meals. They also face the same problems many younger folks do: cooking for one, falling into eating habits that are not healthy, or simply not having the knowledge required to prepare the food that is best for them.

This focus on nutrition provides tremendous benefits to seniors, and in the end, for the community. The foremost benefit is simply that seniors who are getting good, nutritious meals are healthier and happier. But healthier, happier seniors also require less medical care, and are able to stay in their homes longer, avoiding nursing facilities.

In addition to the nutritious food, another invaluable service Meals on Wheels provides is a daily welfare check. The benefits of this are many – Jane said she is personally aware of multiple cases where it has made a difference between life and death. Seniors are prone to various kinds of accidents and problems, and at times do not have relatives or friends who check up on them.

Meals on Wheels follows a strict protocol in dealing with instances where they cannot contact a client or where they perceive a problem, to ensure that contacts are made and serious issues are addressed without being intrusive.

Beyond that, there are also



At LifePath, Meals on Wheels is run by a team of 12 staff members and about 50 volunteer drivers. Above, the kitchen crew prepares and packs meals.

health and quality of life benefits to the visits. Knowing someone is coming to see them provides peace of mind to elders in relation to potential problems they might have; also, seeing a friendly face when one’s social contacts may be limited promotes health and well-being in and of itself.

Funding Worries

I asked Lynne about their budget, and her take on the recent developments in Washington. LifePath’s MOW program does not have a waiting list, but there are such lists in many areas of the country due to lack of funding, and funding is always an issue whether there are waiting lists or not.

LifePath’s MOW funding comes from a variety of sources. The main one, which may be in jeopardy due to the budget, is the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

If the budget goes through as is, LifePath would lose a small but not insignificant part of its budget for Meals on Wheels. Reduced funding of any kind would put additional stress on the system at a time when the county’s population is aging and more, not less, help is going to be needed.

Another particularly important source of federal funding comes from the Older Americans Act. While it looks like this program is not going to be cut, Lynne pointed out that it was frozen in 2005 and there have been no increases since then, though the need for funding has increased.

In part due to this freeze, MOW



Bill Newton, a 93-year-old Meals On Wheels driver.

The board also granted a stipend to new airport manager Bryan Camden. Steve Ellis noted that Camden had “hit the ground running.”

Highway department chief Tom Bergeron requested and received \$45,700 to fund sewer cleaning and lining by the firm CDM Smith. The funds had previously been allocated by town meeting. The board also approved a collec-

tive bargaining agreement with the United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (UE), which represents certain highway department and Water Pollution Control Facility employees.

The board approved a change of manager and change of officers at the St. Kazimierz Society.

Finally, the board granted a request by Brian Hillard and Elisa

Young to use Peskeompskut Park for a wedding ceremony on April 7, 2018.

Just Desserts

When asked if there was anything she’d like to add that we hadn’t yet covered, Jane had a couple of things to say.

She wanted to make sure that appreciation and gratitude were expressed to the local community for all they do to aid and promote the program. Although they do receive outside funding, a considerable part of their budget and ability to do what they do is the result of local volunteerism and contributions. Lynne also mentioned this, and referenced their highly successful annual Walkathon event, which raised over \$101,000 this year.

Jane also wanted to make sure we print contact information, so that people in need of the service, or those who know people in need of the service, could make contact. On this last point, she noted that many older people come from a generation that, for a variety of reasons, sometimes do not seek help when they need it – another reason well-being checks are so important. You will find this information below.

A couple of final notes:

We asked Jane what their clients’ favorite meal was. She answered “Broccoli Bake,” without hesitation. It is apparently a quiche-like dish.

When asked for an anecdote involving a client, Jane responded that they once had a man who used their program while he was recovering from an operation, and cancelled it when he was again able to cook for himself and no longer needed it.

When he cancelled, however, he said, “I am all set on the meals, but can I still get just the desserts?”

LifePath contact information:
Phone: (413) 773-5555. Always answered by a human operator during business hours, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. No phone tree.

Online: lifepathma.org, where there is a great deal of additional information and help to be found.



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GMRSC from page A1

to understand their roles and responsibilities.”

She added that her letter of intent “shared my history and experiences with Gill-Montague along with my professional development from [the Massachusetts Association of School Committees] as evidence of my ability to effectively utilize my time, energy, and experiences to fill the current vacancy.”

Langknecht wrote that he has “the tools, resources and knowledge to help the committee continue to develop a strong ‘district’ culture,” and that he feels he “can provide stability and shorten the learning curve for the new members.”

“The committee needs to be a strong team,” he wrote, “and has made significant progress toward that goal.”

Tuesday’s meeting, which starts at 6:30 p.m. at Turners Falls High School, is sure to be closely watched, coming on the heels of a town election with a high turnout and a strong focus on school committee politics.

The “Appointment of Replacement School Committee Member,” as it appears on the meeting’s agenda, will be comprised of a discussion and vote. The procedure for replacing a member who resigns midterm is outlined in district policy “BBBE,” which says the vacancy “shall be filled by the remaining members of the Committee, always observing residency requirements, and said appointee shall serve until the next annual election.”

The policy allows for additional nominations to be made by committee members before voting. A majority of the committee is required to elect the replacement member.

There are currently only eight members on the committee, and as confirmed by Sullivan, there is no provision to break a tie.



MONTAGUE REPORTER

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ON THE ROAD

ANIMAL PHOTOS BY ANNE BAKER

Anne Baker writes: “I volunteered for a week at the Costa Rican Animal Rescue Center. Sloths, howler, spider, and capuchin monkeys, macaws, parrots, owls, and many other animals are cared for by volunteers from all over the world. A great experience.”

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JUNE 8, 2017

B1



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

A Sense of Time and Place

By LESLIE BROWN

*The world is too much with us;
late and soon,
Getting and spending, we lay
waste our powers;
Little we see in Nature that is
ours...*

William Wordsworth

MONTAGUE CITY – We have been living in this little house near the river since 1976. Forty-one years. We feel grounded and comfortable here, with no desire to roam. Forty-one years is but a drop in the bucket to some of my Home Care clients, who at ninety were still living in the house they were born in, were married in, raised their families in and

remained in as widows.

Maybe we are so settled-in because as a child I moved frequently, as my parents sought a place where my dad could make a living as a writer (a one-year tenancy); then on to a place where he could finish his education in order to start a new career (two years); and on to the school where he and my mother both taught for many years before another move or two, which no longer included me as I was off to college and then later, on with my own life.

This is my safe haven, the place I return to after travels and adventures with peace and equanimity.

This refuge is not the privilege see **GARDENER'S** page B8

GREETINGS FROM THE NORTH – AND SOUTH – QUABBIN



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Casey Williams tends a booth at the Party in the Hollow.

By MIKE JACKSON

WENDELL – Last Saturday, the *Montague Reporter* ran a small table at the Party in the Hollow, a celebration of Mount Grace Land Trust's conservation work hosted at Diemand Farm.

A couple festival attendees mentioned being impressed with prints of handmade local town maps Casey Williams was selling in her booth, so we went over to check them out.

Her Erving, Wendell and Leverett images might be of particular interest to our readers. Check them out at www.caseywilliamsart.com.

Casey had time to talk about how she got into the project.

MR: How did you get started painting these town maps?

CW: I grew up in Athol, and I've always painted – I'm a painter, and I make other things too. I lived in Boston for a long time and moved back to Athol in 2012 to live with my dad again.

Because I do these festivals, I've

been doing them more and more – the first ones, I would bring my big paintings. They don't move very easily; there's not a lot of people looking to spend 600 bucks on a big canvas! Once in a while, but not all the time.

I started to think of what would be good to have in a booth that's under \$20 and really means something to people walking by, with their kids or families, or visiting from somewhere. So I thought: maps!

In particular, this North Quabbin one was the first one that I made. That came out of just me not really knowing – Athol is one of the nine "North Quabbin" towns, but until I started asking more questions, I didn't even realize that that was a thing: "North Quabbin."

I think it was sometime in the early '80s, these nine towns were just grouped together because of the Athol hospital; maybe the Athol Memorial Hospital served those nine towns. I'm not sure, but I think that's why.

Visually, I just wanted to see it, but I couldn't find what I was looking

see **WILLIAMS** page B5

Karaoke Summer Tour, Part I: "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere"

By BEVERLY ANN FORBES-ALLARD

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Jimmy Buffet's famous song, "It's Five O'Clock Somewhere," applies to most of us at one time or another, when we want to stop, have a cold drink, and smell the roses after a long day.

Singing makes you feel good. It's a fun activity that anyone can take part in, and attending Karaoke sessions at Valley-area night clubs and lounges is often credited by participants with soothing the stress we all feel in our lives at times.

"Karaoke" is a Japanese word, derived from two words: *kara*, which means "empty," and *oke*, short for *okesutora* or "orchestra." It's short for "empty orchestra."

Karaoke started in the early 1970s in Japan, when a young singer and drummer named Daisuke Inoue, at the request of his friend, invented a machine that could play pre-recorded tapes that a singer could sing along with. Consisting of an amplifier, microphone, 35-cent coin box, and eight track car stereo, it was called a Juke 8.

Inoue never patented it, as he felt at the time that it would only be used by local clubs – not realizing that Karaoke would generate over \$10 billion a year in revenues in today's world. In 2004, he was honored with an Ig Nobel Peace Prize, given by a group at Harvard for unusual inventions or research.

Karaoke became a popular pastime in Japan and Asia, and by the 1980s traveled to Europe and the

United States clubs and lounges. Today it is very popular in Scotland, France, and all across the US. There are hundreds of Karaoke DJs in Massachusetts alone, and many host Karaoke events several nights a week, at locations where you can usually find great food and drinks, while having a fun time singing your favorite songs.

A glimpse into a night at a Karaoke get together, from my past experience, would include groups of patrons of all ages, young adults with their girlfriend, their boyfriend, or a mix of friends. Friday and Saturday nights could bring out families, together with their children, who are having a ginger ale or coke with a fruit slice topping.

Older adult couples and singles love Saturday night dancing to the slow songs, while the younger adults seem to prefer the faster songs, with a beat, for their dance music.

You could see a pretty young woman in a tight white tee shirt and form-fitting blue jeans singing a hot version of Reba McEntire's "Why Haven't I Heard From You," while a group of young men at a nearby table rib each other, as the singer purposely directs the song with motions towards their table.

She is followed by a singer nicknamed Rebel. He came to New England 30 years ago, after his discharge from the Army and his marriage to a native New Englander. Rebel is wearing his

see **KARAOKE** page B4



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

A patron sings "Let It Be" at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls.

Exploring the Valley With a Paintbrush

By NINA ROSSI

TURNERS FALLS – Susan Dion of Belchertown presents her paintings and mixed media drawings at the Great Falls Discovery Center this month in an exhibit called "Pioneer Valley Perspectives."

Dion is a life-long resident of the Connecticut River Valley, and has been an artist for over 50 years. She obtained a degree in Fine Arts from Westfield State University and is an active member of the Amherst Plein Air Society. Her reverential and keen observations of nature and love for the Impressionists have inspired Dion to try to capture and play with the effects of light, space, and multiple colors found in her world.

There are twenty pieces altogether, a set of landscapes drawn with great appreciation for the natural world of this beautiful valley. Many of her pieces are created on an intimate scale which, within the cavernous gallery room of Great Hall, means these works are best appreciated at close range, due to their small details and delicate coloring.

There are several postcard-sized color pencil and pen and ink drawings that are quite lovely and visitors could be seen enjoying them at close range during a recent visit to the hall.

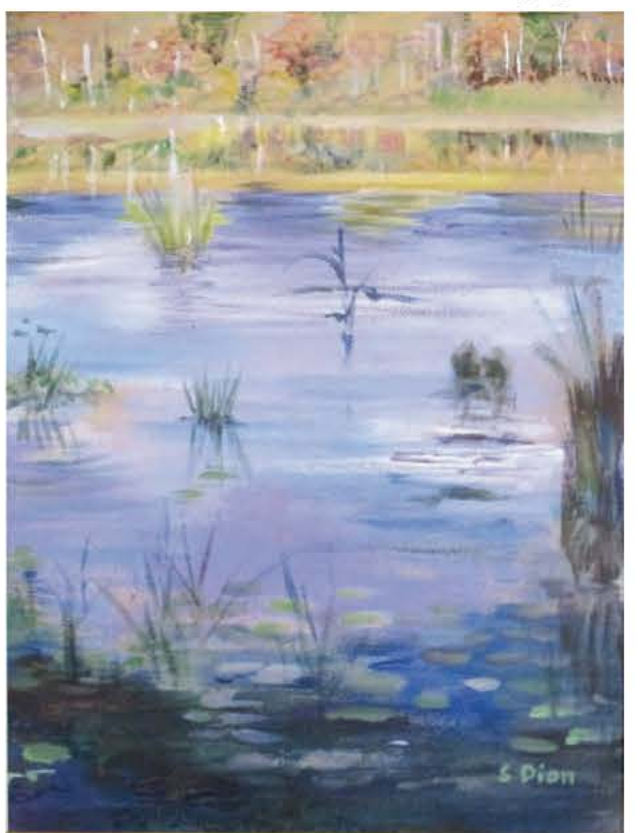
"Quabbin Birdhouse" is a New Salem scene notable for the interplay of light and shadow. The foliage of a large tree bearing a birdhouse is lit up into golden yellow by the sun, but distant hills play complementary shades of purple, and the underbrush delineated by ink lines in the foreground have delicate hues of greens and blues, with just the right suggestion of leaves without too much detail.

Some pieces play with abstract shapes made by tree

shadows or flower petals. The color pencil "Iris Abstract" looks like a stained glass image, with curving slices of color linked by black ink lines.

A few small acrylics showcase Dion's flair for impressionistic painting, particularly "Norwottuck Rail Trail," with its lovely water surface composed of

see **DION** page B3



Dion's painting "Norwottuck Rail Trail".

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Pet of the Week

Hi I'm Abby!! I'm an older girl looking for a home where I can live out my senior years.

I have lived with both cats and dogs and wouldn't mind living with other animals as long as they're pretty mellow like me.

I love going for little walks to explore my world and then want to relax and take an afternoon nap.

If you're reading or watching TV, I would love to hang out with you. Please come in and find out about me!!

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



“ABBY”

Senior Center Activities JUNE 12 TO 16

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 6/12
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic appts.
1 p.m. Knitting Circle
Tuesday 6/13
9:30 a.m. Tech Tutoring
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga
Wednesday 6/14
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach
11:30 a.m. Friends Meeting
12:30 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 6/15
9 a.m. Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Mindful Movement
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 6/16
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Monday 6/12
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones, Balance
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi
12:15 Singing Trooper (Barton's)
Tuesday 6/13
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance
11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch
Wednesday 6/14
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
10 a.m. Chair Yoga
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs
Thursday 6/15
8:45 a.m. Aerobics
9:30 a.m. Twin Rivers bus trip
10 a.m. Healthy Bones
Friday 6/16
9 a.m. Walking; Quilting
9:30 a.m. Bowling
11:30 a.m. Pizza Lunch
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.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Hello from Montague TV! We hope you're enjoying the spring. Here is our latest programming, now available online and in our TV schedule:

- Local Yokels, with Kathy Lynch: In this episode, get to know Chip Dodge, Montague police chief.
- Ezra Ward at Greenfield Sav-

ings Bank: at this event, Ezra Ward shares his experience of fighting wildfires across the West on a hot-shot crew.

- Turners Falls Memorial Day Ceremony 2017.
- Open Space Rec Meeting, with town planner Walter Ramsey.

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

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, info@montaguetv@gmail.com, or stop by 34 Second Street in Turners between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Interested in becoming a board member for Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI)? Visit montaguetv.org to learn more, and call the above number to set up an appointment with a current board member!

June 9 and 12 in Wendell: Two Anti-Nuclear Documentary Nights

By REPORTER STAFF

WENDELL – This Friday evening, June 9, marks the second of a three-part “Water Protectors Film and Speaker Series” at the Wendell town hall. A “sneak preview” benefit screening of the Robbie Leppzer’s film *Power Struggle*, a feature-length documentary chronicling the grassroots battle to close down the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant and the continuing threat of high-level nuclear waste on the banks of the Connecticut River, will be shown at 7 p.m.

Power Struggle chronicles the heated political battle to shut down the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, located on the banks of the Connecticut River. Filmed over five years, this feature-length documentary follows the unfolding drama as citizen activists and elected officials – alarmed at increasing safety violations – took on the federal government and one of the biggest nuclear power companies in America to call for closure of the reactor when its original 40-year license expires.

The film captures perspectives on all sides of the controversy, including from local residents both for and against nuclear power, elected officials, including U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders and Vermont Governor Peter Shumlin, a Vermont Yankee spokesperson, a nuclear engineer and federal nuclear regulators.

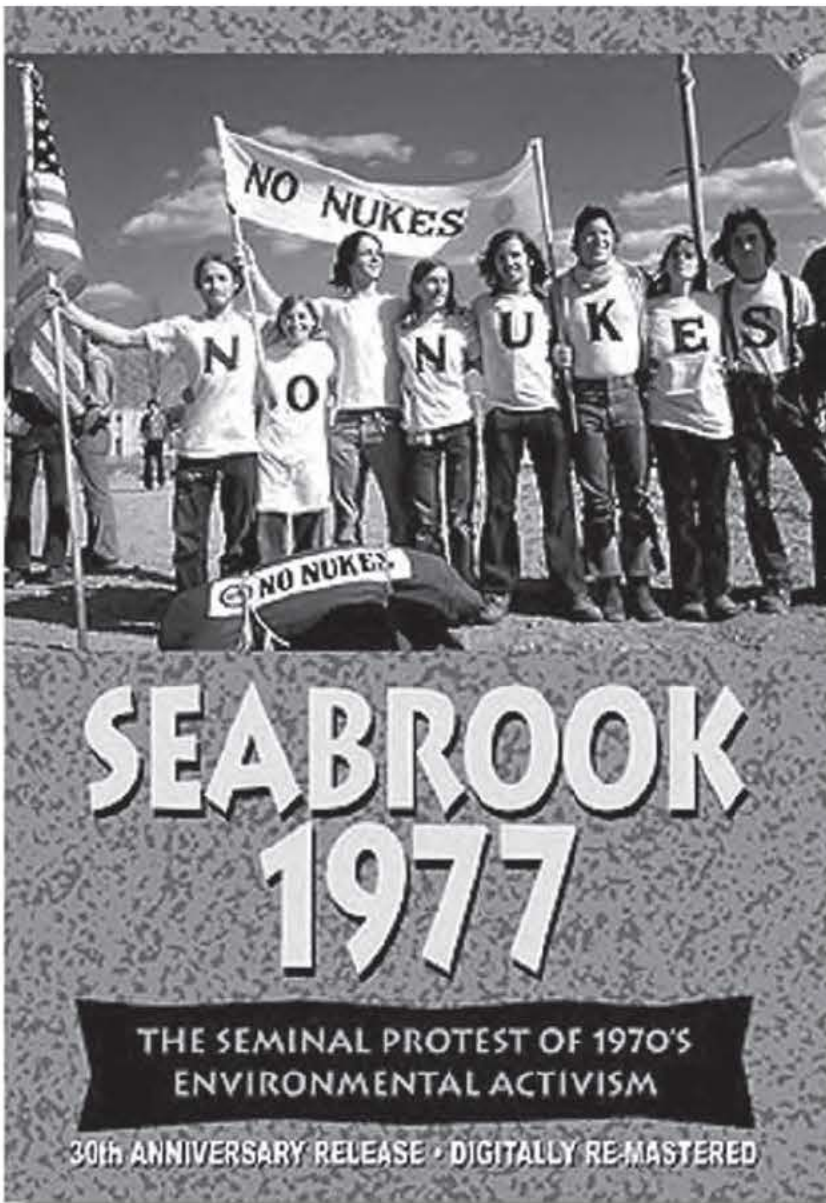
Power Struggle is also a warning about the toxic legacy of high-level radioactive waste that will remain at every nuclear power plant around the world indefinitely into the future.

The screening is preceded by a community dinner at 6 p.m. Join filmmaker **Robbie Leppzer**, and special guest speaker **Harvey Wasserman**, national environmental author for this special benefit preview in advance of its official “World Premiere” screening at the Provincetown Film Festival, June 16 through 18. Proceeds will go towards the non-profit national grassroots film tour of *Power Struggle*.

Robbie Leppzer is an award-winning independent documentary filmmaker and radio producer based in Wendell. He has directed over thirty documentaries over the past forty years.

Wasserman is a nationally-known author, activist and radio host on environmental and energy issues. His twenty books include *Solartopia! Our Green-Powered Earth*, *Energy War* and *Harvey Wasserman's History of the US*. He has been a senior advisor to Greenpeace USA and the Nuclear Information and Resource Service.

The 104-minute film was pro-



duced in association with NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corporation) and features original music by local guitar legend John Sheldon.

Watch a film trailer at: PowerStruggleMovie.com and get advance tickets at powerstrugglemovie-wendell.eventbrite.com/

The series concludes on Monday, June 12, at 7 p.m. with a screening of *Seabrook 1977* at town hall, followed by a talk entitled “Seabrook 40 Years Later: Lessons for Today's Activism.”

Seabrook 1977 is a feature-length documentary directed by Leppzer and Phyllis Joffe of a seminal protest of the 1970s, when 1,414 people were arrested at a mass civil disobedience protest at the Seabrook nuclear power plant under construction on the New Hampshire seacoast. This is an 80-minute, digitally remastered version of the original film that was produced in 1978.

Filmed in a video-verité style, *Seabrook 1977* chronicles the dramatic events which made world headlines and sparked the creation of a grassroots anti-nuclear power movement across the United States.

Scenes of the nonviolent demonstration and subsequent internment are interwoven with interviews

with participants on all sides of the event, including local Seabrook residents, antinuclear activists, New Hampshire's **pro-nuclear Governor Meldrim Thomson**, police and utility officials.

The film vividly documents the unfolding events as people march with banners and backpacks across the tidal marshes onto the construction site, erect a colorful tent city, and conduct on-site negotiations with the governor and police. After the mass arrests at the nuclear site, the scene changes to inside the armories, where the video follows their extraordinary experiences.


As environmental struggles continue to heat up 40 years later across the United States and around the world, the experiences of 1970s anti-nuclear activists are more relevant than ever.

Wasserman, one of the organizers of the Seabrook protest, will be the special guest of the discussion after the screening. Proceeds from this screening will also go toward the grassroots film tour of Leppzer's most recent documentary, *Power Struggle*.

Advance tickets at seabrook1977-wendell.eventbrite.com/

Both events are co-sponsored by the Wendell Energy Committee.

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DION from page B1

lavender and blue reflections and delicate sprays of pond grasses. Loose brush work serves the purpose of indicating the extensive flower beds found at Hadley's historic Porter-Phelps Huntington House in an adjacent painting by that name.

Through most her work, the artist tries to convey feelings of celebration, wonderment and serenity.

A nature lover, Dion has pledged a portion of all sales to be donated to the Trustees of Reservations, whose mission is to preserve for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts.

Through June at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Open every day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Call (413) 863-3221 for more information.

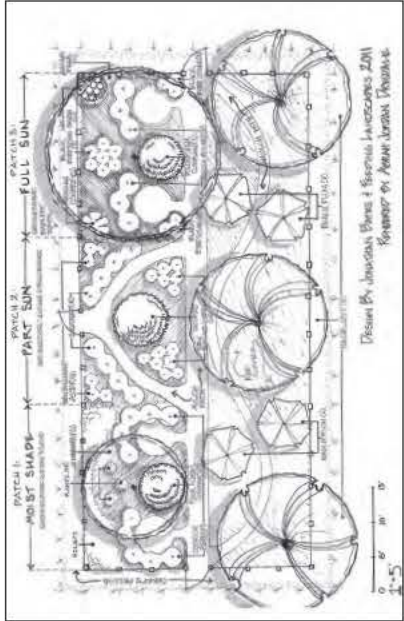


Permaculture Workshop at the Wendell Edible Forest Garden

By LAURIE DIDONATO

Join us Sunday, June 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Community Garden near the Wendell Town offices, 9 Morse Village Road.

We'll be learning about and practicing permaculture and multi-story gardening techniques with the folks from Broadfork Permaculture. Specific topics will include build-



ing soil and carbon sequestration, the importance of pollinators, weed control strategies including border planting and edging, and training fruit trees.

We encourage attendees to bring plants to donate such as biannual or perennial herbs; lupins or other nitrogen-fixing flowers; yarrow or any other pollinator-friendly flowers. We will focus on planting edible and/or native plants. Two beach plum trees will be given away as prizes.

This is a free event and no experience is necessary to come out and have fun and learn with us. Bring water, sunscreen, gloves, sturdy shoes and shovels.

This workshop is sponsored by The Wendell Energy Committee, and made possible by a grant from Common GoodTM. Garden design was by Jonathan Bates, Abrah Dresdale, and Food Forest Farms. The workshop will be led by Broadfork Permaculture.

For more information, feel free to contact Laurie DiDonato at (978)544-8270.

MUSIC REVIEW

The 4th Annual Montague Jazz Festival

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

There was a Jazz Festival that happened on June 3 at Montague Center common. The First Congregational Church of Montague, at 4 North Street, hosted it again. They had performers by the names of Space Train, the Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra, the Doug Hewitt Group, and a jam session. The Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra had performed at the festival before.

I saw Space Train first. They are three men who each play an instrument. I noted that one played a bass particularly well. Two others played a saxophone and a drum set equally well. I believe the saxophone player took the lead in one song and did a solo, while the other three accompanied him.

A good electric guitar player is part of the group as well. They also at one point had a woman with a nice singing voice perform with them. She sang several songs with them.

Next, I found out why they had the Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra again at the festival. In the band, one member acted as their conductor. Several individuals played saxophone. A couple of individuals played horns. Three trombones are involved, a woman sings well in the band, and unlike Space Train they had a keyboard player.

The trumpet players were good, and I am not what you would call a fan of the trumpet. In fact, I liked the singing of this woman better than the singer in Space Train. It

was a very well-organized orchestra. People in the audience must have agreed, because a couple was dancing to a song of theirs.

This was the first year the festival did a jam session, hosted by the Doug Hewitt Group, where musicians were invited to stay and play in the church at 7:45 p.m. Which I believe the group performed in with the same quality they continue to do with their music.

I guess for people who are musicians, that is a very nice thing to do – they may enjoy having a jam session where they are playing jazz. A Bad News Jazz & Blues Orchestra member I asked thought “it was a good idea.”

To me, the idea the musicians probably enjoy doing this was proven by two saxophone players joining in a song with the orchestra at one point. They kept in very good harmony with the orchestra, and didn't sound off key.

This was not the first time I had been to a music festival of some kind. I had been to the Upper Valley Festival three times – twice in Turners Falls, and once this April in Greenfield.

The Jazz Festival had a decent turnout. Several cars were parked around the church. A nice amount of people were enjoying the music inside. If the previous years were anything like this was, then the Montague Jazz Festival might give the Upper Valley Festival a nice run for their money.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Glare Worry; Cemetery Rites; Bridge Scene; Bear Downtown Again; Female Half; Mist

Monday, 5/29

4:47 p.m. Single car accident on Bridge Street; caller reports that vehicle spun out and hit guard rail of bridge. MedCare and fire en route. Erving PD will take it.

Tuesday, 5/30

10:11 a.m. Walk-in requesting to speak with officer re: a safety issue in his neighborhood; concerned that a neighbor wants to install a solar panel on his/her roof. Party believes that glare off of solar panel will cause accidents. Chief Dodge spoke with party; advised of options.

2:50 p.m.

was arrested on a straight warrant.

4:28 p.m. Two car accident at Montague City and Greenfield roads; possible injuries. Medical care refused. One vehicle towed. Report taken.

6:58 p.m. Caller states that a known male is on his way to her apartment with an unknown female; she does not want him there and has advised him of this. Officers unable to locate male party; back to location to obtain text messages from female. Officer en route for a track; unable to locate. Female called back advising that another male was tipping subject off about officers' whereabouts via text messages.

Wednesday, 5/31

8:34 a.m. Party from I Street reporting alleged dog bite; inquiring whether dog's vaccinations are up to date. Owner left contact information for the ER or victim to contact him for the info and request a call from the animal control officer. ACO advised.

11:30 a.m. Lockout request in front of Carnegie Library. Child locked inside vehicle. Vehicle not believed to be running. Services rendered.

12:19 p.m. School resource officer at Franklin County Technical School requesting assistance with a parent who may be intoxicated. Services rendered.

4:49 p.m. Walk-in reporting that her parents' gravesite at Springdale Cemetery has been vandalized twice in the past few days. One time she found a dead chicken buried where she plants flowers in front of the grave. She disposed of the carcass and has cleaned off the area. Advised party to call if it happens again.

4:52 p.m. Walk-in from Union Street reporting that she continues to have people from the U.S. Census Bureau coming to her door and being very pushy. Advised to call police if she sees them in

her neighborhood again.

5:22 p.m. Caller reporting that while crossing the old metal bridge by the Erving paper mill, he saw a car parked in the middle of the bridge. When he stopped, he saw a man hanging off the bridge railing and being held up by two females. Caller got out to see if they needed help. At that point, the male climbed back over the railing and started swearing at the caller and coming towards him in an aggressive manner. Male was highly agitated and in caller's face. Caller pushed the man away from him a few times while the two girls were screaming at caller to leave them alone and get out of there. Caller got back into his vehicle while the two girls dragged the male subject into their faded blue sedan; last seen sitting in paper mill parking lot with male hanging out one of the windows, screaming. Unable to locate.

Thursday, 6/1

7:01 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reports discovering an open screen in his apartment this morning. Glass window inside was still closed. Similar incident on record from March 2017. Officer advised; screen re-secured.

7:54 a.m. Report of teenage female walking in the middle of Montague Street. Caller concerned that female will be struck by a motor vehicle. Officer advises all set; everyone is on the sidewalks.

8:32 a.m. Caller from Hillcrest Elementary School requesting assistance with a family of skunks that has been creating an issue. School potentially looking to relocate skunks to alleviate issue. Message left for ACO. Caller called back advising they contacted a wildlife specialist; no longer in need of assistance.

1:02 p.m. 911 call reporting bear sighting in the area of the motorcycle shop on Third Street. First caller reported bear running toward Second Street. Second caller reported sighting behind JP

Tire and Auto and Eagle Automotive. Safety notification made to detail officer and DPW. Contacted environmental police, who advised MPD to call back if reports escalate, but there is nothing they can do for now. Third report of sighting on Canal Street near Keith Apartments. Subsequent sightings placed bear on bike path near footbridge to Strathmore. Officer spoke with residents who had seen bear and were alarmed. EPO also checked area but was unable to locate. DPW called back; bear is back on bike path by the banking along Canal Street. Officer advised.

Friday, 6/2

12:50 a.m.

was arrested and charged with a number plate violation (no light) and operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended/revoked for OUI.

1:44 a.m. Request for MPD officer to assist Greenfield PD and state police at Cumberland Farms. State police have one male under arrest.

6:50 a.m. Following a break-in on Bernardo Drive,

was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and malicious destruction of property worth \$250+.

was arrested and charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, malicious destruction of property worth \$250+, and assault and battery.

4:45 p.m. Caller from K Street reporting that he and his son are moving out of their residence due to a breakup with his girlfriend. He is getting the remainder of his belongings while the female half is at work. Female half is texting caller stating that she is leaving work early and that he “better not be there when she arrives.” Officers en route. Female is not on scene; however, male resides there and it is confirmed that he has a right to be on the property.

Caller advised to contact MPD if female shows up. 6:07 p.m. Two-car accident on Fourth Street; no injuries, smoke, fire, or fluids. Operator of one vehicle seeking tow due to problem with tire; minor damage to second vehicle.

8:59 p.m. Caller reporting 3-4 males and a female fighting in the Central Street area; sounds like it may be becoming physical. Upon arrival, two brothers were having a small disagreement. Both parties advised of complaint.

Saturday, 6/3

12:35 a.m. Caller from Farren Care Center requesting officer to assist with a situation between two employees. Facebook posts made by one employee were threatening in nature. Report taken.

4:52 a.m. Caller reporting black smoke coming from area behind Discovery Center, possibly area of old bridge. Officers and TFFD en route. Area checked thoroughly; negative findings. Officer speaking with caller. This is just mist from water. No problems.

10:25 a.m. Report of skateboarders in road on Fairway Avenue taking their time moving for vehicle, causing traffic to have to stop. Area checked; unable to locate.

4:16 p.m. Multiple reports of brush fire in area of Town Hall. People have been able to stomp most of it out. Officer clear; FD wetting down a 10x10 area.

5:41 p.m. Caller states that a vehicle with a camera on the dash is in her driveway recording her apartment at various times. Caller states that landlord is sending this person to record the apartment and wanted to know if it's legal. Advised of options.

10:14 p.m. Officer conducting motor vehicle stop. Operator was speeding on Seventh Street through the lights at the Avenue A intersection, trying to catch up with his friends, and bottomed out in the process. Verbal warning issued for speed.

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JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTO

Joe R. Parzych of Gill writes: “On May 27 in Bernardston, local and non-local people from all over creation gathered at the Flea Market and Gas Engine Show to see engines, tractors, cars, trucks, lawn tractors, and other equipment, as well as vendors, and burgers, fries and ice cream. The United Church of Bernardston has hosted the event since the ‘70s. Robert Kosuda of Belchertown displayed this old working DFC rock crusher, patented October 1903. Kosuda got in possession of the rock crusher and restored it after he found it in a dumpster at Amherst College. It was used at the college for studying samples of different kinds of rocks and meteors collected from the ground, in places local and far away. It was a nice holiday weekend, spent with family and friends, remembering people’s service and sacrifice for our country.” Thanks Joe!

KARAOKE from page B1

VFW jacket, as he recently arrived after attending a local post meeting, and he begins to belt out a version of “Sweet Home Alabama” — to a rousing clapping of hands, accompanied by shouts of “Sing it, Rebel!” and “It’s your song!” Children get up and sing with their parents or siblings, and groups of friends sing together, as others take pictures to enjoy later.

You may be shy about singing in public at first, but if you enjoy singing your favorite songs to a group of like-minded singing patrons, you will soon find Karaoke to be an addictive pastime. Many of the regulars keep coming back for the camaraderie, the great snack foods and cold drinks, and the just-plain-fun of singing and relaxing with other friends and singers.

A local Karaoke company is TNT Productions, located in Turners Falls. TNT has over 100,000 songs available, from the 50s to the present, in all venues. They host Karaoke singing event sessions two to three times a week at local clubs, such as the Rendezvous (the Voo), the Wheelhouse, the Pioneer Tavern, and in Brattleboro, Vt., at the Metropolis.

There is usually no cost to attend these Karaoke events, but the food and drink costs will vary from club to club. When I recently spoke with Steve Therien, owner and DJ for TNT Productions, he stated that he took great pride in having a wide variation of songs in all themes, because he felt that was one of the reasons that the singers enjoyed coming to his Karaoke events.

Therien also said that he had

been in the business for over 10 years, and he loved the interaction with the singers, considering the longtime regulars as “family.” Other newer singers consist of a wide assortment of ages, including some professional singers, who sometimes stop in for a chance to sing something different than their normal paid events.

Weekend events, and Sunday nights with Monday holidays, tend to be the busiest times, with a longer wait for the rotation of times to sing, due to the higher volume of singers attending. Steve said he brings three hard drives with his music to all his events, so there is always a backup if one should crash for some reason. Interested singers can check out a calendar of events, as well as his songbook, at www.tntprodj.net.

Steve also takes pictures of singers at his events, which you can see on TNT’s Facebook page, accessible via his website. He has recently added a new event at the Meadows in Greenfield, on the first and third Thursday of each month.

I personally attended Karaoke sessions for about 10 years, prior to relocating to the Valley area several years ago. I found it to be very enjoyable, and I developed a group of friends who often met at the different clubs to enjoy each other’s company, and the fun of singing together.

I have missed the company of that group since moving. So I recently decided to attend some of the local Karaoke events this summer, where I hope to meet some of the local singers, and gain some insight to enable me to write some interesting articles on my Karaoke experiences for this paper over the next few months. If you are interested in learning more about local Karaoke, read the *MoRe* to follow the articles on my “Karaoke Summer Tour.”

They say music soothes the savage beast, so if you are having one of those days, check out a local Karaoke event. Go and sing a few songs, have a cold drink and some snacks, talk with other singers and cheer them on. I am willing to bet you will feel better at the end of the evening than you did when you arrived!



MISS STEMPLE RECALLS THE PAST

Part XII (August 13, 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.

The Reporter in its long career naturally employed many girls: some in the office, some as compositors and some in the binding and finishing rooms, the latter having a great diversity of duties. They started at small wages and were trained to turn their hands to almost anything to be done on the premises. Like the devils they comprised all kinds and varieties of personalities but the latitude in ages was far greater.

The compositors, who worked by the piece and did the most valuable work, made very good wages indeed. They usually stayed on year after year until they were married and sometimes after that.

It took a considerable length of time to train a compositor to be really good and they were always in demand. The late Samuel Eastman of the Greenfield Gazette and Courier was reported to have exacted an oath of allegiance from every woman he took into his employ and she also had to pledge herself not to enter the bonds of matrimony for a specified number of years. They usually kept their oaths and the compositors on that fine weekly newspaper generally had at least a sprinkle of grey in their locks.

Mr. Bagnall never went that far but like every printer and newspa-

per publisher of the early days he wanted some assurance that the compositors he bothered to teach the work and to acquire speed at it, would not depart the first time some swain thought two could live together more cheaply than one.

The rank and file of the binding and finishing room workers came and went much oftener than the others. There were generally two or three who were just being initiated into their duties and in that stage they were scarcely worth their salt. Often they were very trying and more of a liability than an asset.

We had some very stupid girls at times but we had others as bright as buttons. Housekeepers who are trying to train green household workers will have a fair idea of how wearing it was to bring these novices in our office to the stage where they could honestly be classified as “help.”

One of our girls used to ask so many questions it made us all dizzy. Most of her queries were entirely uncalled for and many were downright silly. In a fit of exasperation at a particularly foolish barrage of queries, I, who had to bear the brunt of them, turned on the offender.

“Why don’t you stop and think once in a while instead of asking so many unnecessary questions?” I

demanded impatiently.

“Well, why should I?” was the placid reply. “It’s a lot easier to ask questions than to think!”

One young lady was raised and lived on a farm but was suddenly seized with an urge to go out into the world on her own. So she came to Turners Falls and got a job at the Reporter bindery.

Naturally slow of movement it was hard for her to adjust herself to the new tempo and work so utterly different from that which she was used to on the farm. Working on a schedule wore her down and she got pretty discouraged and keyed up.

One day when I found her much flushed and exasperated I was moved to inquire what the trouble was.

“Oh dear!” spluttered Nan, “I just hate being whistled in and whistled out! There’s only one nice thing I can see about working out and that’s the pay envelope.”

This remark referred to the mill whistles the sound of which, morning, noon and night, regulated the beginning and end of work for most of the employees anywhere in town.

Poor Nan had never heard a mill whistle till she struck Turners Falls, and her reaction was not happy.



PHOTOGRAPH BY W. COOK - COURTESY PETER S. MILLER

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.

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WILLIAMS from page B1

for. So I made it, just to satisfy my own need.

From there, I started doing these other ones, in conjunction with *Uniquely Quabbin* magazine, because Marcia Gagliardi, the publisher, knew that I was doing things like this. And then I moved on to do the Quabbin, and the four lost towns; I did Athol, of course, next, because that's my town.

And she was like, "Oh, I really would like to use these in my magazine to show the reader the area where we're going to publish the magazine." And from there it has become more elaborate, and I'm doing more towns all the time.

MR: So Leverett counts as a "South Quabbin" town?

CW: It's interesting -- because she wanted this region of the 20 towns that you see in a map, so that the reader could see the circulation area: those are the 20 towns that we bring the magazine to. "North Quabbin" is already a thing, but the other 11 towns aren't, really. In order to visually create something that looked balanced as an artists' piece, we sort of coined the phrase "South Quabbin."

MR: Our newspaper covers Wendell, Erving, Leverett, Gill and Montague, and one of the first things I did when I got involved there was sit down and really map everything out, and try to think about how space works.

CW: And then once you do it -- I don't know how you felt, but I couldn't believe it: towns like Oakham and New Braintree felt like they were a world away, but really they're only two towns away!

When I was growing up, Wendell felt like a whole other world, but it's so close.

MR: It is a whole other world. Let's be real.

CW: It is a whole other world, but we are literally connected!

I've fallen in love with it. I've started to do lakes now...

MR: Working in more of these iconic landmarks...

CW: They're getting more and more detailed. I start each town with some sort of reference point, or contact someone in the town -- maybe someone who works in the historical society, because they're usually a treasure trove of information.

When I do the maps, I obviously want the information to be accurate, and town-iconic. The Leverett Peace Pagoda is very iconic for that town. But I also want to know the information pertaining to things that aren't going anywhere, as opposed to McDonald's or CVS.

MR: I see the Leverett Village Coop is on there.

CW: Yeah. Certain stores, or village-type markets



Erving, from Williams' map series.

are on there, even if they aren't even open anymore -- if they were really iconic to the town, and people who live there would know what I mean by putting a symbol of an ice cream cone or a chicken, it'll mean something to them so it goes on.

MR: For Wendell, I see the "Old Town Hall -- Full Moon Coffeehouse" is specified.

CW: Have you been? It's the town hall building, but they have events and dance parties there. I'm actually DJing there June 16. They usually do a prom every year for the town, just to get everybody together and dance and dress up, but they're taking a year off.

MR: There's an UnProm Prom, is that the event that you're talking about?

CW: Yes, the UnProm. I'm going to DJ [as DJ Just Joan -- see page B4].

MR: Besides these prints, what are the other things you do? I see tote bags with the images...

CW: I do tote bags, and postcards. I paint everything with the same acrylic paint. All the maps are done on paper with pencil and acrylic -- I don't do anything on the computer because I don't know how, first of all, and second, I want them to have that hand-done folk feeling.

MR: You're using a very unified palette.

CW: Yep, the same paint for everything. The wooden circles I get from a place in Turners Falls called LOOT, which is an awesome store. They get all kinds of salvaged wood. Erin and John are great.

And then my dad helps me cut other things that I use in wood, like the cat magnets. The stones I collect. The peace signs I cut myself; there's a guy in Athol who cuts the circles for me -- circles are really hard to cut! -- and then I skillsaw out the shapes.

MR: How'd you do today at this?

CW: Great!



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LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was June 7, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

\$740,000 Gap Remains in Montague's School Budget

Following Saturday's annual town meeting, Montague has come up about three quarters of a million dollars short on the GMRSD's request for the coming fiscal year.

For a total estimated GMRSD '08 operating budget of \$16,534,401, the town of Montague's assessment would equal \$7,566,072, an increase of only 1.2% over last year.

But if the debt for the recently refurbished high school building renovation project is removed from consideration, the actual increase in the operating budget to run the schools this year would equal 16.6%, a fraction the selectboard and finance committee apparently never seriously considered meeting in the run-up to the town's annual all-day budget strategy setting session.

"I don't understand why it takes sixteen and a half million dollars to graduate 71 students," said Precinct 5's Jean Hebden. "Something's wrong here."

Speaking to Article 13, the GMRSD budget request, Precinct 2's David Jensen said, "We have a problem that we've seen coming for quite a while," involving budget increases and enrollment declines. "We've got to spend more money to educate fewer students. That's a tough sell."

Strathmore Fire Aftermath: Trail of a Repeat Offender

Turners Falls fire chief Ray Godin and Montague building inspector David Jensen took Strathmore Mill owner Jerry Jones to Housing Court on Wednesday. After more than four hours in the Northampton courtroom, Jones emerged under order to produce a plan by a licensed contractor to reactivate the sprinkler system at the fire- and water-damaged Strathmore Mill, reactivate the electrical system and fire alarm and secure the mill buildings still standing at the complex by no later than 11am on Monday, June 11.

If recent history is any guide, the likelihood of Jones complying with a court order to secure his property and provide minimum fire preven-

tion is in doubt. Jones has a history of ignoring, defying or exceeding order to comply with fire code regulations at mills he has previously owned or leased in Holyoke and Easthampton, prior to his arrival in Turners Falls.

Despite knowledge of this history, and efforts by the building inspector and fire chief, Jones was able to get away with running a paper recycling operation out of the mill that exceeded fire safety and building codes, failed to maintain a fire alarm and sprinkler system in full working order, conducted copper salvage operations that endangered the life of a temporary employee and caused a "serious arc fault" explosion, caused other fires in another building of the mill, and maintained living quarters and allowed temporary employees to live in buildings of the mill, which is not zoned for residential use, with full knowledge of the town.

Native Dispute with Airport Commission

Saturday's town meeting agreed to borrow, in anticipation of federal and state grants, \$3,750,000 for the reconstruction and extension of the runway at Turners Falls Airport.

Some New England tribes object to the airport commission's plan as it impacts an ancient stone formation they consider sacred on a hill near the proposed runway construction.

Airport manager Mike Sweeney said that the site, "a pile of rocks... on top of a hill," was in dispute as to its cultural significance, age, and origin.

"The scientists have an opinion, and the Native Americans have an opinion. This is an FAA decision," he said. "It was determined by the FAA, based on available scientific evidence, that [the site in question] was not of Native American origin."

Asked how the Montague selectboard's written *Document of Cooperation and Peace* with the Narragansett Tribe of May 19, 2004 would affect the town's deliberations over the disputed site, selectboard chair Pat Allen answered, "We certainly did agree with the Native Americans... If it's too late to effect a change [in the runway expansion plans], in the future we'd like to be as supportive as we can."

GREAT FALLS MIDDLE SCHOOL Third Quarter Honor Roll

Grade 6

First Honors

Wesley Berdugo
Deion Brewington-Simon
Kendra Campbell
Tea Carboni-Pietras
David Damkoehler
Lindsay Davenport
Eli Dresser
Ian Farrick
Shealyn Garvin
Mia Gonzalez
Alexander Johnson
Miles Keefe
Thomas LaBombard
Taylana Pabon
Lillian Poirier
Emma St. Hilaire
Brooke Thayer
Corin Wisniewski
Sophia Wolbach
Cadence Wozniak

Second Honors

Alina Bocharnikova
Derek Helms
Abigail Holloway
Samuel Hoynoski
Maria LaBelle
Ashley LeBlanc
Nikolas Martin
Kaylee Moore
Stephanie Peterson
Jocelyn Wyman

Third Honors

Logan Addison
Noah Ausikaitis
Ryan Demers
Thomas Hall
Abigail Hudson
Samuel Lashtur

Grade 7

First Honors

Willa Jane Beltrandi
Joshua Brunelle
Dylan Burnett
Laura Cioleca
Emily Fess
Britney Lambert
Christian Larouche
Jacob Lyons
Jacob Norwood
Kiley Palmquist
Blake Pollard
Brandon Pollard
Lucy Postera
Greyson Rollins
Ivan Sankov
Olivia Stafford
Paige Sulda
Samantha Thorpe
Hannah Warnock
Emily Williams
Tessa Williams

Second Honors

Caitlyn Jacobsen
Jada Jurek
Autumn Sandberg
Abigail Sanders
Elizabeth Whitney
Devin Willor

Third Honors

Madison Ampiah
Jenesis Currier
Zachary Emond
Lorelei Farrington
Adyson George
Amos Koyama
Storm Moore
Nicholas Peabody
Dezira Porlier-Longo
Odalis Ramirez-Martin
Maria Romashka
Arianna Rosewarne
Lestat Senn
Madison Tirrell

Grade 8

Haley Bastarache
Catherine Bezio
Kate Boulanger
Gabriella Castagna
Xavier Chagnon
Austin Demers
Dylan Demers

Jacob Dodge
Hunter Drost
Isabelle Farrick
Sophia Gobeil
Kate Graves
Haleigh Greene
Abigail Hoynoski

First Honors:

Isabella Johnson
Natalie Kells
Mackenzie Martel
Mercedes Morales
Taylor Murphy
Audrey O'Keefe
Karissa Olson

Dalver Perez
Catherine Reynolds
Madison Sanders
Julie Sprinkle
Amber Taylor
Brynn Tela
Shelby Terounzo

Leah Timberlake
Jade Tyler
Hailey Wheeler
Olivia Whittier
Maralee Wiles

Second Honors:

Gemanaia Cruz
Nicholas Lyons
Dylan McLaughlin
James Robison
Jacob Sak
Lana Spera
Taryn Thayer
Luke Timberlake
Kolby Watroba
Luke Wisniewski

Third Honors:

Timothy Agapov
Ryan Bergmann
Paige Bonarrigo
Derek Martin

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico *The Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



Breaking Bad – en la vida real



Campo de amapolas en España.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

En el año 2016 un estudio publicó que el año anterior habían fallecido más estadounidenses por sobredosis de drogas que por armas de fuego o en accidentes de tráfico. La mayoría de estos ciudadanos eran blancos. El estudio va incluso más lejos diciendo que los hombres blancos estadounidenses mueren a mayor ritmo que los hispanos o los negros, más aún si se trata de hombres blancos que han cursado simplemente estudios básicos.

Hay diversas causas que explican este fenómeno, que no se da en otros países desarrollados. La hipótesis principal es que aunque la crisis ha afectado por igual a blancos, hispanos y negros de mismo nivel de educación, pero los dos últimos todavía conservan la esperanza de un futuro

mejor. Los blancos, por el contrario, han ido perdiendo esta esperanza a lo largo de los años, y eso ha causado su desesperanza. En Estados Unidos la mitad de los hombres blancos que está sin empleo consume medicamentos contra el dolor y dos terceras partes de ellos consumen opiáceos.

En 2015 hubo 33.000 muertes por el uso de opiáceos y heroína. Esta cadena de muerte empezó hace unos 10 años cuando para un dolor de muelas o de espalda el doctor te recetaba cualquier tipo de medicamento opiáceo como *fentanil* o *hidrocona* para ayudar a aliviar el dolor. Cuando el medicamento se acababa, ibas al médico y te daba otra receta para seguir obteniéndolo.

Los médicos habían entrado en una espiral creada por los intereses de la industria farmacéutica que aplicó unas tremendas estrategias de marketing para seguir vendiendo sus productos

contra el dolor. Los médicos temían perder su clientela si eran capaces de mitigarlo y recurrían al uso indiscriminado de los medicamentos derivados del opio.

Pero todo cambió cuando la crisis empujó las restricciones a la hora de recetar estos medicamentos. Y es aquí que aparece la heroína, mucho más barata y fácil de encontrar en el mercado negro. Las mafias de la droga cortan la heroína con opiáceos sintéticos o con *fentanil* que hace que la droga se pueda vender más barata, pero también más adictiva y letal.

Hasta hace unos años se importaba la heroína de México, el sur de Asia y del Medio Oriente ya que es difícil disimular grandes extensiones de terreno con plantas de amapola en los Estados Unidos, pero la heroína sintética se puede producir en cualquier laboratorio con un experto químico como Walter White tal y como aparece en la serie de televisión *Breaking Bad*.

En los últimos meses se habla de la *Muerte Gris*, una sustancia parecida al cemento que es una mezcla de fentanil, heroína, y tranquilizante que se usa con elefantes. Es una mezcla tan poderosa que hace efecto solamente con el contacto con la piel. Los casos de muerte por esta droga se han dado por ahora en Alabama, Ohio y Georgia, aunque nadie duda que se pueda extender a todo el territorio nacional.

Trump dijo en su campaña electoral que acabaría con la epidemia creando una comisión nacional dirigida por el senador Christie de NJ. La idea es supervisar el tratamiento de los enfermos de adicción y dedicar más dinero a la prevención.

En mi opinión, el gobierno de Estados Unidos debería mirar hacia países que han tenido éxito con sus campañas contra la droga como Portugal o España. En estos dos países la adicción a las drogas es considerada una enfermedad y el gobierno financia la ayuda a tratamientos de rehabilitación y no penaliza el uso de drogas con el ingreso en prisión.

Ciudades santuario en el área

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

El mes pasado Gill acordó convertirse en ciudad santuario. Esto significa que la policía local de Gill no va a colaborar con el organismo ICE en la detención y búsqueda de inmigrantes indocumentados.

Gill se suma así a otros lugares de la zona como Montague y Leverett o un poco más lejos, Amherst, Northampton y Holyoke. Greenfield está en proceso de debate acerca de esta decisión.

La decisión publicada en el periódico *The Greenfield Recorder* fue seguida de numerosos comentarios críticos, tanto en la publicación online del artículo como en su página de Facebook.

Muchos de los comentarios rozaban el racismo al argumentar que un trabajador indocumentado es ciertamente y sin duda alguna un criminal, traficante de drogas o violador en potencia.

Algunos comentarios de la página de Facebook estaban a favor de la decisión adoptada por Gill y mostraban su extrañeza hacia las críticas vertidas en los comentarios de Facebook.

¿Qué supone para los Estados Unidos salir del Acuerdo de París?

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO

En estos últimos días hemos oído hablar mucho del Acuerdo de París. Vamos a tratar de explicar en estas líneas qué es y qué significa que Estados Unidos haya decidido salir del pacto. El Acuerdo de París se encuadra dentro de la Convención del Cambio Climático en el marco de las Naciones Unidas. Su objetivo es controlar las emisiones de gas y el efecto invernadero y tendría efecto a partir de 2020, cuando deje de ser efectivo el actual Tratado de Kioto.

El tratado fue negociado por un total de 195 países y en 2016 firmado por 96 países y la Unión Europea, incluyendo así en el tratado a todos sus miembros. En 2015 el ex-presidente Obama ratificó el acuerdo. El presidente Donald Trump decidió el 1 de junio pasado que retiraba a los Estados Unidos de este acuerdo. Era esperado porque era una de las promesas de su campaña electoral. Estados Unidos se une así a Siria y Nicaragua que tampoco quisieron formar parte del proyecto.

Christine Figueres una de las investigadoras del Acuerdo de París y en declaraciones a la televisión de Costa Rica dijo que la decisión tomada por el presidente Trump era muy triste, pero que no iba a poder parar



Bachelet, presidenta de Chile firmando el Acuerdo de París.

el proceso del acuerdo. Añadió que teóricamente, Estados Unidos es parte de este hasta el año 2020.

La idea del acuerdo es que los países firmantes se comprometan a reducir un tanto por ciento de sus emisiones en el plazo que ellos mismo fijen, pero no obliga a una legislación ni imposición a ningún país. Por ello, Nicaragua decidió retirarse del proyecto, lo consideraba demasiado flojo y permisivo. El presidente de Nicaragua, Da-

niel Ortega decidió no aceptar el acuerdo sobre cambio climático, culpando a Estados Unidos, Europa y China de los estragos causados por su economía capitalista en países vulnerables como los de Centroamérica y exigiendo una indemnización por daños a causa del aumento de las temperaturas, lo que, según el discurso oficial, entre otras cosas daña la agricultura de estos países.

Obama se había comprometido

a reducir el 28% de las emisiones para el 2025. La política energética llevada a cabo por el gobierno de Trump no permitiría en ningún caso alcanzar esa cifra. Trump ha permitido nuevas extracciones de energías fósiles y congelado la protección a la extracción en las zonas costeras que había propiciado Obama.

Así pues, Estados Unidos seguirá siendo el segundo país más contaminante, directamente después de China. Trump ha dicho que

quiere negociar otro acuerdo en condiciones más favorables para los Estados Unidos, y que no va a poner París por delante de ciudades estadounidenses como Detroit y Pittsburg. Exactamente lo que las bases que han votado esperaban escuchar.

A propósito de Pittsburg, su alcalde fue el primero en contradecir la decisión del presidente proclamando que su ciudad seguirá luchando contra el cambio climático. Al alcalde de Pittsburg le siguieron los de Boston, Nueva York y Chicago hasta llegar a un número de 60 ciudades.

Tras ellas aparecieron los estados como Arizona, Arkansas, Alaska, California y otros que han declarado que seguirán en su lucha contra el cambio climático.

Trump había manifestado en diversas ocasiones su negación de las teorías científicas que ven la mano del hombre detrás del cambio climático. Aunque realmente la razón que llevó a Trump a tomar la decisión de no seguir integrado en el Acuerdo de París es la económica.

Mientras releo estas líneas en el Día Mundial del Medioambiente, la ONU nos invita a reflexionar sobre la importancia de cuidar nuestro planeta.

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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

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

EVERY MONDAY

Greenfield Harmony Spring Session. No auditions. 6:45 p.m. Contact mcbass@vermontel.net for location and details.

EVERY TUESDAY

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time*: Stories, projects, and snacks for young children and their caretakers. 10:15 a.m.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour*. Ages 0 to 5 and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAY

The Perch (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.

2ND AND 4TH WEDNESDAYS

The Wheelhouse, Greenfield: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Rendezvous Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic*.

EVERY FRIDAY

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.

Element Brewing Company, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Pioneer Valley Perspectives* by Susan Dion, who draws her inspiration from local buildings and landscapes. Through June 26.

Hawks and Reed Performing Art Center, Greenfield: *Emerging Forms* by Eric Grab. Through June.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Keeping Our Heads Above Water: Oil Paintings - Images of Leverett Pond*; and a series of tiny paintings entitled *Teetering by Susan Valentine*. Artist reception Sunday, June 11, 4 to 6 p.m. Through July 2.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Paintings by Louise Minks and her students*. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *The Time Tunnel*. Installation by Adrian Montagano. Over 200 clocks! Through June 24.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *The Nearest Faraway Place* by Christin Couture. Encaustic landscape paintings. Reception Saturday, June 10, 4 p.m. Also: *Winter's Bone*, digital photography by Carl Nardiello. Through June 25.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague: Ongoing art offerings by gallery member artists.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Portals and Passages*, a collection of platinum/palladium and gum bichromate prints by Amanda Quinby. Thru June 26.

Wendell Free Library: *Michael Wing*. Drawings, paintings, wooden toys and metal sculp-

tures. Through June.

VonAuersperg Gallery, Deerfield Academy: *Peter Kemble, digital prints*. Through June 12.

SUBMISSIONS:

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

EVENTS:

THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: *Sheryl Stanton, Roland LaPierre, Pat & Tex LaMountain*. 6 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School Presents: Speak Truth to Power: Voices From Beyond the Dark*. 7 p.m. Donations.

FRIDAY, JUNE 9

Northfield Mountain Recreation & Environmental Center, Northfield: *Full Moon Kayaking & Hors d'Oeuvres*. Age 14+, at Barton's Cove. Can rent kayak if don't have one. Pre-register. 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Second Congregational Church, Greenfield: *Greenfield Public Library presents 2nd Annual Spelling Bee*. Also costume competition with prizes. 6:30 p.m. \$

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Eileen Ruby & friends*, namely *Michael Nix, Malgorzata Lach, Niko Stathis, and Gregory Eichler*, with *Judith Bruneau* on percussion. Mezzo-soprano Ruby "steps out of the box" for an evening of folk, jazz, and jam-band tunes. Sliding-scale donations help the Friends of the Discovery Center provide free nature programming for the public. 7 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *Grease*. It will be the sing-along version with subtitles. See 30 year olds pretend to be in high school and much more! 7:30 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Upstate Rubdown*. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya, Shelburne Falls: *Caroline Cotter, Clara Baker*. Singer/songwriters. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Mega Bog, Ruth Garbus, and Hollow Deck*. Chamber pop with jazz and psychedelic elements. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutebury: *Random Sighting w/Larry Dulong*. 9 p.m.

Hawks and Reed Performing Art Center, Greenfield: *Leftöver Crack, O.F.C., Showhorses, Clitorium, All Torn Up!* 9 p.m. \$

SATURDAY, JUNE 10

New Salem Library, New Salem: *Invasive Plant Workshop*. 10 a.m. to noon.

Potholes, Shelburne Falls: *Exploded View: River* wraps up its water themed project with a presentation next to the Potholes during Second Saturday. 4 p.m.

Common Hall, Montague Center: *Montague Common Hall Open Mic Night #13*. Big town performance art in a tiny village. 7 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater, Shelburne Falls: Pothole Pictures presents *Grease*. It will be the sing-along version with subtitles. See 30 year olds pretend to be in high school and much more! 7:30 p.m. Music at 7 p.m. \$

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Patty Larkin*. "Redefines the boundaries of folk-urban pop music". 7:30 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Dennis Caraher/ Dave Dersham*. Singer/songwriter night. 8 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *Cassidy & the Music*, singer/songwriter, and *Mocha Maya's 12th Anniversary Celebration*. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Shadow Twisters*. Classic rock party. 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blu Groove Organ Trio*. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, JUNE 11

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Bike Path B-I-N-G-O*. Let's go exploring! All ages. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, Northfield: *Northfield Historical Commission's 2017 "Day of History"*. Features re-enactment of 17th c. encampment by the Elnu Abenaki of Vermont; learn about the history, customs and lifestyles of the early Abenaki. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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

MONDAY, JUNE 12

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band* will kick off its concert season with a wide variety of music including Andrew Lloyd Webber, hymns, "Proud Mary", Sousa and more. 1st of 5 summer concerts. 7 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 13

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Tashi Dorji*, eclectic Bhutanese-American primitivist guitarist, with *Donkey No No* and *If Not I Than Who Then*. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Element Brewing debut of VOO-IPA*, 6 to 8 p.m. Music Shout Lulu (Southern string band). 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JUNE 15

Energy Park, Greenfield: Coop Concerts presents: *Russ Thomas, Katie Clarke, Small Change*. 6 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, JUNE 16

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Water Project Reunion (includes Mama's Marmalade, Carrie Ferguson, and Emma June* playing Bluegrass, folk/pop, ballads) & *TheatreTruck Fundraiser*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Mocha Maya's, Shelburne Falls: *The Original Cowards*, with special guest, *Jake Manzi*. Indie rock. 8 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Media Jeweler, Spirit Level, and Night School*. Rock. All ages, substance free space. 8 p.m. \$

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Josh Levangie and the Pistoleros*. 9 p.m.

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SAT. 6/10 no show
Blu Groove Organ Trio

SUN. 6/11 9pm
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1pm

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Artist Talk • **4pm**

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GARDENER’S from page B1

of everyone. The homeless, the nomadic, the refugees adapt to constant motion and change. It is good for some and for others fraught with fears. Yet it seems the least to ask for: a place to call home.

Home and garden are a retreat from the stress and distress of our time. We have already spent more time with our hands in the earth than during the whole of many garden seasons. We are moving against the tide, trying new things and taking on challenges we let go of once many years ago.

We are less complacent. We gave up corn and potatoes years ago because of pests and varmints, but we are reengaged now with hope to try again. We are companion planting in earnest with neighborhoods of vegetables and flowers: tomatoes and basil and nasturtiums; peas and beans and cosmos; marigolds among the potatoes and asparagus.

We have ringed the cucumber trellis with a wonderful old fashioned flower called Four O’Clock, or Beauty of the Night. This vintage plant grows tall and bushy, opens in the afternoon and spreads a sweet orange scent. It is also reputed to attract Japanese beetles, which may then be readily harvested by the gardener and kept away from the wonderful roses which surround the garden.

After a seemingly endless May of

mostly damp, cool days, the canopy above is in full leaf, a bright summer green. Yet the air is chilled at night, and often less than temperate at daytime. We have reluctantly held off on putting in the tender crops, although the tomatoes have become ungainly in the sunroom and hard to maintain inside.

Finally, on the last two bright days of the memorial weekend, we set them in deeply, having removed the bottom set of leaves. We provide the support of cages, and hope that the deeply set stems will grow more roots, making the plants more stable in wind and rain. We leave the sweet pepper and cucumber plants inside to wait for the expected June time rise in temperatures and for nights which hold around fifty degrees.

This is one of the tricky balances in gardening: waiting to plant so that tender crops are not shocked or killed by frost, yet not holding off too long so that the garden season extends long enough to provide ripe fruits.

At last, June arrives with a few bright, sunny days, yet soon the rain returns. The tomatoes have survived even if they are not exactly looking thrilled with the season. They have been fed with compost and bone meal so there is little to do but wait and see. We bravely set out the peppers and cucumbers and plant seeds for squash, beans and pumpkin.

There is a fierce optimism in this

trying of new things in the face of our nation’s retreat into selfish and misguided isolationism. We feel in so many ways so powerless, and look for sanctuary in the peace and calm of a space, in the inner peace brought by meditation, in reading or in music.

Hands in the earth lead to a sense of inner connection with nature and our wonderful planet. The opportunity to grow things to eat, or to rejoice in their sight and scent, is almost primal. As should be the offer of sanctuary to all who live here.

Sanctuary is a place of safety, of relief, of being cared for. It can be just down the street or in your heart. It might even be in the garden.



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