

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 15 – NO. 42

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

## NEWS ANALYSIS

### AirBnB: A Bolster For The Local Economy?

By NATAN COHEN

**MONTAGUE** – Off Route 63, abutting one of Montague's many brooks, is an idyllic eight-acre property with a rolling grass lawn, tall trees, a large fenced garden, a tiny frog pond, and a hot tub. These amenities surround the charming two-story house where Elaine Arsenault has lived for the past nine years. Arsenault is one of over 25 local residents who rents space in her home on AirBnB, according to a search on the company's website.

When she bought the house nine years ago, Arsenault was surrounded by her children and grandchildren. After everyone moved out, she tried renting rooms on Craigslist, with mixed results.

"I want people who are serious and not going to be partying," she explained. "My daughter who went to California told me, 'you should do AirBnB – it would be a

different experience.'"

Since signing up last winter, Arsenault has had a stream of positive experiences, with many guests already coming back for repeat stays. Her visitors have included families dropping off their children at local colleges and boarding schools, a yoga retreat attendee, a conference-goer from Austria, a parent and child from Switzerland, a person from India, and a Bostonian visiting friends in the area.

One guest even wound up becoming a full-time resident in one of her two rooms for rent. "This PhD student from China stayed here while trying to get settled at UMass," Arsenault said. "After a month staying at the place he was renting with other students, he texted and asked if he could live here instead!"

Importantly for Arsenault, short-term renting is helping her pay

see AIRBNB page A5



COHEN PHOTO

Elaine Arsenault rents space in her home via AirBnB.

## LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

### New Fire Captains, School Custodian, Unmarked Cruiser

By MIKE JACKSON

Leverett's selectboard meeting Tuesday night began with a swearing-in ceremony for two new fire captains: Ben Miller and John Foster. The two firefighters swore they would oppose the overthrow of the government by violence or illegal means, and their new captains' badges were pinned to their uniforms.

Fire chief John Ingram reported to the selectboard that his department had responded to 88 calls so far this year, 62% of which have been medical runs. He added that the safety complex floor needed to be stripped and waxed before the harvest dinner on October 14, at an

estimated cost of \$1,500 from the facilities maintenance budget.

Facilities manager John Kuczek met with the board to discuss the compliance plan issued by the state Department of Environmental Protection after its sanitary survey of the town's water systems.

The action items included marking the school greenhouse water supply as "non-potable," changing how water test samples are taken, and installing a number of devices to prevent backflow into the drinking water system from sources including the school dishwasher, library geothermal system, and highway power washer.

see LEVERETT page A8



JACKSON PHOTOS

Town clerk Lisa Stratford swears in fire captains John Foster (left) and Ben Miller (right).

### Shuttered Southworth Said to Owe Back Pay to Laid-Off Workers; Taxes and Sewer Fees to the Town

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Cindy Richotte, who worked at the Southworth paper mill for 25 years, had arrived at the plant at 6 a.m. last Wednesday. She was scheduled for a 12-hour shift, to finish an order of watercolor paper. She "sheets it, cuts it, shrinks it and piles it on a skid," explains her husband, and coworker, Larry.

At 9 a.m., both Cindy and Larry Richotte headed into a company meeting which had been called the previous day. "You all know why we are here," said David Mika, the company's chief financial officer.

"Well... not really," was how Larry would later interpret the looks on the faces of the staff.

Mr. Mika then informed them that the plant was closing immediately, due to the failure of Southworth to receive financing from "the bank." The fifty workers in Turners Falls, as well as another seventy in Agawam and Seattle, were out of work, effective immediately.

The Richottes say they were "blindsided" by this announcement, and report that several employees "got pretty hot" during the meeting.

"We saw the handwriting on the



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Turners Falls' last paper mill abruptly closed last week, laying off all its employees.

wall, but didn't think it would be that abrupt," Larry says, adding that he believed the company "wasn't paying its bills," and "not paying the temp agency for the workers they had sent over."

Yet the Richottes portray the company as doing a strong business recently, with employees working 12-hour days and 50-plus-hour weeks. They are very critical of Mika, who they believe had been hired on a temporary basis a few years ago, and "now runs the show." They said he boasted he was "good at fudging."

"We'd like some answers," they told this newspaper in an interview on the steps of their home on Randall Road.

#### Contours of Descent

The Richottes contrast the recent behavior of Southworth management with the attitude of Robert Blanker, who became president of the mill, then known as Esleeck, in 1973. Blanker was a local resident who had worked at the Turners factory since the late 1940s. When the

see SOUTHWORTH page A6

## ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Town Hall Outlines Traffic-Calming Steps

By KATIE NOLAN

At the Erving selectboard's August 28 meeting, chair Jacob Smith reported that the board is continuing to review traffic safety concerns raised by residents at the August 14 meeting. Smith said that the town has ordered reflective signs that will be installed as soon as they arrive, that crosswalks would be re-painted, and that overgrowth at Church and North streets would be cleared.

He also said that a crosswalk will be re-installed at Church Street after the town consults with Massachusetts Department of Transportation. He said that the board will continue to work on safety issues in Erving Center, and in other areas of town where there are concerns for pedestrian safety.

Assistant assessor Jacqueline Boyden reported that the amount appropriated for FY'18 expenditures needed to be adjusted downward by \$77,817. According to Boyden, school choice charges from the state were higher than expected, and there were changes to the way

that new growth in property value is calculated, leaving the town budget in apparent deficit.

Jacob Smith said that the simplest way to adjust the budget would be to have a special town meeting rescind a portion of the money previously appropriated to the stabilization fund. The board proposed to hold a special town meeting either September 26 or October 3.

Boyden said that, if the stabilization appropriation is rescinded any later than early October, tax bills

see ERVING page A5

### TFHS Sports: Fall Season Preview

By MATT ROBINSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – For me, summer always begins with my first dip in my brother's swimming pool, and ends with the Franklin County Fair. And with the fair, comes the fall sports season.

It's going to be difficult for Turners Falls to match their accomplishments from last fall, considering the loss of so many seniors, and the realignment of some of the conferences. Last year, the volleyball and field hockey teams made the playoffs, while the football team notched two championships in their belt and won a record 11 games.

#### Volleyball

The Powertown volleyball schedule remains virtually unchanged from last year, but with the loss of Tess Hunter, Jordyn Fiske, Maddy Johnson, and Melissa Hersey, sixth-year coach Kelly Liimatainen has her work cut out for her.

But with all of her other players returning, and Taylor Murphy stepping in for Dabney Rollins, Coach Kelly is optimistic. Before Tuesday's game against Easthampton, she predicted: "I'm hoping today is a great start to the season! We're ready, I strongly believe!"

And the Blue Ladies were ready. They beat Eastie in four matches, 25-17, 24-26, 25-20, 25-23. In that opening contest, Sienna Dillensneider served five aces, had five kills, and gave 13 assists. Abby Loynd contributed to the victory by scoring two aces and five kills, while Murphy stepped in to score four aces and 10 kills.

In 2016, the volleyball team overcame a 1-4 start to finish the regular season with a record of 10-10 before

see SPORTS page A5



DAVID HOYT PHOTO

Teamwork: The TFHS field hockey team prepares for their upcoming season in the new Bi-County League.



# The Montague Reporter

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## The Olden Days

One hundred years ago, 1917, was a heady, tumultuous time, globally as well as locally. The United States had joined the Great War in the winter, and for much of the spring and summer the local news focused on food shortages and the draft.

The rising cost of living spurred labor unrest. 3,500 workers on the regional division of the Boston and Maine railroad went out on strike in August; at the East Deerfield yard, workers demanded a raise from 38 cents an hour to 46.

That September, something interesting started showing up in the pages of the *Greenfield Recorder*: nearly every week, among the typical local items (Elks Clambake Sept. 12; Notes of the Fair; Hospital Rates Increase; Fall Killed Infant; etc.), there were earnest reports of Socialist meetings in the shire town.

On Saturday, September 8, according to the *Recorder*, "an attentive audience of 300 or more" turned out at Allen's Corner to hear John McCarty, Socialist candidate for governor: "Mr. McCarty said that in spite of the fact that the workers can now produce more than at any time in history, yet the mass of them are nearer the poor-house than ever. He said that this is due to the fact that we allow a handful of capitalists to control industry and take more than half the product.

"This surplus product, which the workers have not sufficient wages to buy, he said must seek a foreign market, and in doing so comes in conflict with the surplus products of other countries, thus causing war. This he claimed was the fundamental cause of the present war..."

On September 24, the local Socialists held a caucus at Commonwealth Hall to elect slates of delegates for town, county and state offices.

And on the 29th, "an audience of about 400" came out to hear James F. Carey, one of the founders of the state party. The *Recorder* recorded that Carey "charged that the present plan has plunged the world into a welter of blood and that the struggle of the producers of wealth today to get a living is fiercer, and, comparatively speaking, less remunerative than ever, notwithstanding the greatly increased productivity of industry.

"He said that the working time of the wage-earner is spent under an industrial autocracy or despotism and that he can never have real democracy until capitalism is abolished and Socialism triumphs."

On October 6, "about 400" returned to hear "Mrs. Marion Sproule of Lowell, the Socialist candidate for Secretary of the Commonwealth," who spoke "from a strong woman suffragist standpoint, using woman's place in industry to-day as an argument for her enfranchisement."

On October 20, Prof. George N. Spiess of Boston "said that the mines, railroads and all means of transportation and communication should be publicly owned and democratically managed by the people themselves, as well as all large-scale industries," and called profit robbery."

The Halloween edition of the *Recorder* observed that "this campaign has been the most active that Massachusetts socialists have ever seen. Tons of literature have been sold and distributed and the state office has been unable to supply the demand."

On November 3, just before the state election, the party held a final rally in town. "Kaiserism received severe treatment at their hands," the paper wrote, and "[w]hile a disposition to support the government was shown, a strong demand for world peace was expressed..."

McCarty proved a fringe candidate, garnering less than 5% of the vote in the largest race he'd lost so far. The Socialist candidates for local office were similarly unable to turn lecture audiences into votes – Walter S. Hutchins only won 140 votes for representative, to the *Recorder's* expressed surprise.


After the campaign, the movement appears to have dissipated, at least in the newspapers, drowned out by the various Red Cross and YMCA war preparation efforts.

One year later, the Spanish influenza had hit, and the headlines on the corresponding local pages are drab: Volunteer Nurses Needed; Biscuit Company Flies Flag; Popular Young Man Dies; Influenza Must Be Reported; Lumberman Kills Himself.

In the end, the traumas of the War and the fear of Bolshevism wiped out any curiosity Franklin County people may have shown for a democratic reorganization of industry and society – particularly one carried out by the government.


But reading these century-old papers, we're reminded that in certain unusual moments in time, quite regular people will find themselves discussing whether a very different world is possible.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Jeff Lacy, a self-described "platinum customer" at the Leverett Village Coop, buys a bar of soap on a rainy afternoon.

**NOTICE:** Beginning Tuesday, September 19, the Turners Falls Water Department will begin shutting off water to properties with water usage bills more than 90 days overdue. Semi-annual bills were mailed on May 2 and were due within 30 days. Payments can be made at the Water Department office, 226 Millers Falls Road. The office is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. A drop box is also located to the left of the front door for payments. Any questions, please call Suzanne at 863-4542.

Letters to  the Editors

Apples

Lobster Eggs

In front of the Shea Theater on Avenue A in Turners Falls are two very ripe apple trees laden with large golden green fruit. Please help yourself to these apples anytime in the near future; they need to be picked!

A ladder will likely be necessary – it is important that the fruit be picked, and not shaken loose. And if you do pick these trees, please be very careful not to crush the perennials planted under them!

Owen Wormser  
Leverett

Just a note to let you know that we found your paper of August 24 particularly fine. We especially enjoyed two articles: the one on lobsters by Leslie Brown; and the newest addition to *West Along the River* by long time columnist David Brule.

We learned from the Brown article that our steamed lobster purchased recently on the Cape had been an illegal catch. Never before had we seen a lobster "with visible eggs on the tail" and couldn't imagine what the story was. We are still troubled, but more knowledgeable now.

The Cambrils article artfully combined the nostalgia for a less complex era with the daily injustices that we are assaulted with today. Kudos to you, David Brule!

Martin and Jude Wobst  
Leverett

## Demilitarize the Demilitarized Zone

We face so many problems, issues and challenges, both personal and in the larger society, all at the same time. But let us not forget the situation in Korea.

Just as Donald Trump finds it difficult to condemn outright right-wing hate and violence at home, so he keeps the fires of hatred burning against a country with its proverbial back against the wall.

North Korea is no peaceful, free country. But it has great national pride, and understands the fate of countries opposed by the US that gave up their "nuclear option" – Iraq under Saddam Hussein and Libya under Gaddafi.

Pushing this small, poor nation against the wall, blocking its major sources of income by sanctions, and threatening war and destruction will not bring it to the negotiating table. These are the tactics of bullies, and the result could be an unimaginable war.

Right-wing governments in South Korea have pressed hard against the North. More liberal ones have successfully followed a "sunshine policy" of increased trade, allowing visits between families separated for more than a half century, and more.

Currently the US has joined South Korean soldiers in bi-annual "war games" that increase tensions and distrust. Although on August 17, South Korean President Moon Jae-In stated: "There will be no war on the Korean peninsula," as Seoul could overrule US military action, the North Korean threat against Guam has upped the ante.

In their recent statement: "Women from Guam, US, and Asia-Pacific Region Call for Peace and Diplomacy" (see [tinyurl.com/ybtdlphn](http://tinyurl.com/ybtdlphn)) join peace activists in calling for dialogue, nonviolent communication, and a "freeze for a freeze": stopping the US-South Korea (ROK) military exercises in exchange for freezing North Korea's nuclear and missile program.

"End the Korean War with a Peace Treaty," they urge, "de-militarize the DMZ, and help heal and reunify the Korean people and peninsula."

We agree.

Anna Gyorgy  
Wendell  
For the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**  
*Every other week in July and August.*  
*No paper last week of November, or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

This Friday, September 8, at 7 p.m., **Moonlight and Morning Star** will perform at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls. The program, “Celebrating our Unity and Diversity,” features r&b, jazz, gospel, folk, original music and spoken word by the duo. Joining them are Stephen Page on keyboard, and songs with the Wendell Community Chorus.

Suggested sliding scale donation, free for children. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Coffee and homemade baked goods are available. Donations help the Friends of the Discovery Center provide free educational programming for the public.

For more information, please call the Discovery Center at (413) 863-3221 or online at [greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org](http://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org).

Learn about the “hidden gem in Millers Falls,” **the Diemand Farm**, on Saturday, September 9 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls.

The farm, which is located on Mormon Hollow Road, is a family tradition and has something to offer everyone. Join Tammy to learn about her family’s philosophy of preserving the land for future generations. The Diemand Farm is steeped in tradition, and a trip to the farm is a rewarding adventure for the whole family.

Literature and light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the bank and farm.

Celebrate the beginning of fall and a new school year with a **children’s cruise** on board the Heritage Riverboat this Saturday from 11 a.m. to noon.

These cruises are the perfect length for children to get a taste of the river as they head downstream through the scenic French King Gorge. Travel beneath the French King Bridge, towering 140 feet above the boat. Watch the depth finder quickly climb as the boat passes over “Deep Hole.” Cruise alongside rocky cliffs, and enjoy an outing on the beautiful Connecticut River.

Register by calling (800) 859-2960, or online at [www.bookeo.com/northfield](http://www.bookeo.com/northfield). Tickets are \$6.

Northfield Mountain will host the **35th Annual Connecticut River Valley Astronomer’s Conjunction** on September 15 and 16. Enjoy the camaraderie of amateur astronomers learning and observing together at Northfield Mountain.

Held during the dark of the moon, the weekend will be jam-packed full of slide presentations, talks, and Friday and Saturday night sky viewing through telescopes of all shapes and sizes. Registration forms are available from Richard Sanderson at [rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org](mailto:rsanderson@springfieldmuseums.org) or by writing Jack Megas, Astronomy Conjunction, 311 Surrey Road, Springfield, MA 01118.

The Turners Falls Post Office on Avenue A is hosting a **Passport Event** on Saturday, September 16, from noon to 3 p.m. Stop by the

post office during regular hours to pick up an application and listing of required documentation.

For more information, call the post office at (413) 863-4727.

Registration is now open for the Connecticut River Conservancy’s **Source to Sea Cleanup**.

This annual event, now in its 21st year, has grown into New England’s largest river cleanup. The CRC (formerly the Connecticut River Watershed Council) invites volunteers to continue the tradition of getting dirty for cleaner rivers on Friday and Saturday, September 22 and 23.

There are three ways for volunteers to get involved in Source to Sea this year: report a trash site in need of cleaning, find a cleanup group near you to join, or organize and register your own local cleanup group.

For more information or to register for the event, visit [www.criver.org/cleanup](http://www.criver.org/cleanup).

Stand up and sing! Let your voice be heard! **Greenfield Harmony** is embarking on its 17th year of multi-generational and multicultural community singing. Led by Mary Cay Brass, this 60- to 70-voice group sings a dynamic cornucopia of soulful, thrilling songs of joy, hope, peace and courage from many cultures.

This fall’s lineup will include songs from Bosnia, South Africa, Rwanda, the Republic of Georgia, Bulgaria, and American Appalachian, civil rights and gospel traditions. Greenfield Harmony meets on Monday evenings from 6:45 to 8:15 p.m., starting September 25. The twelve-week session costs \$110, but scholarships are available.

The session will conclude with a rousing concert on December 17 at the acoustically gorgeous Wesley Methodist Church in Hadley. There will also be a special gospel workshop on Wednesday, October 11 with the dynamic John Harrison, direc-

tor of the Montpelier Vermont Gospel Choir. For further information, contact [mcbrass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbrass@vermontel.net) or check out [www.marycaybrass.com](http://www.marycaybrass.com).

The local chapter of TOPS – “Take Off Pounds Sensibly” – meets Wednesdays at the Mill House on Wells Street in Greenfield. Weigh in from 8:30 to 9 a.m., and meet from 9:30 to 10:30. The first visit is free, and weekly dues are \$2.

Contact leader Carolyn Bellamy at 773-3981 or co-leader Paula Girard at 863-9000.

Circle your calendars, because the **19th Annual North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival**, September 23 and 24 in Orange, is infused with vibrancy and action for a hopeful future along with exceptional art, local farm products, fabulous food, and fun for all ages.

The festival, held on historic Forster’s Farm amid fall foliage, is a popular destination that attracts thousands from throughout New England. Only \$5 per day for adults, \$8 for a weekend pass. Kids 12 and under free. No pets allowed on site or in parking lots. Forster’s Farm is located at 60 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange.

And save the date of Friday, September 29, too! The Friends of the Montague Reporter will host a **Pub Quiz Night** at St. Kaz in Turners Falls. We are planning to have teams of 4 to 6, with an entrance fee of \$10 per person. Folks can sign up as a team in advance. Individuals arriving will be assigned to fill up teams.

We will provide more information in upcoming issues of this paper. If you have any questions in the meantime, please email [friendsqfmontaguereporter@gmail.com](mailto:friendsqfmontaguereporter@gmail.com) or call Lyn, 863-4779, or me, 863-5125.

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

## Annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its annual household hazardous waste collection on Saturday, September 23 at GCC Main Campus and Orange Transfer Station.

Residents and businesses **must pre-register by September 15**. Online registration forms may be completed at [www.franklincountywaste-district.org/hazwasteday.html](http://www.franklincountywaste-district.org/hazwasteday.html). Paper registration forms are available at participating town offices and transfer stations. Participants will be assigned an appointment time to bring wastes to the collection; an appointment time will be provided by mail after registration is processed.

The collection is free for residents of Athol, Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Petersham, Rowe, Royalston, Shelburne, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

Phillipston and Sunderland residents must pay to participate in the 2017 collection.

First come, first served. For business registration and pricing information, call (413) 772-2438.

Greenfield and Leyden residents are not eligible. (Call 772-1528 for info on year-round disposal for residents of those two towns.)

This collection provides an opportunity to dispose of hazardous items

that should not be put in the trash, such as leftover oil-based paints, stains, thinners, household cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, pool chemicals, motor oil, antifreeze, automobile batteries, and other household chemicals. For a complete list of acceptable items, see the above website.

Mercury-containing products such as thermometers, thermostats, fluorescent light tubes, and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) should never be disposed of in the trash. At the 2017 Hazardous Waste Collection Event, only mercury-containing items such as thermostats and thermometers will be accepted; fluorescent bulbs will **not** be accepted at this collection.

CFLs and other fluorescent bulbs are accepted at Franklin County municipal transfer stations (handle carefully and hand to attendant), Lowe’s Stores (accepts all types of fluorescents), and Home Depot (CFLs only). Additionally, mercury-containing items and bulbs are accepted from District residents at the Regional Hazardous Waste Collection sites in Bernardston, Colrain, and Conway.

For more information, contact the District office at (413) 772-2438, email [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org), or visit [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org). MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1(800)439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.



## Another Letter to the Editors

Dear GMRSD Faculty, Families, and Community Members,

The Gill-Montague Education Fund would like to welcome you to the 2017 - 2018 school year! We are looking forward to a productive partnership and to providing our students with some exciting enrichment opportunities.

The Gill-Montague Education Fund, a non-profit organization, works hard to help make the school year both enjoyable and exciting for students, teachers, and community. To date, we have provided over \$107,000 for student enrichment in the Arts, Academics and Athletics.

As the proud Executive Producer of the Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala, my passion remains constant – “make a positive difference” for education in the lives of students, parents, teachers, staff, and community.

When thinking about the start of this school year, the challenges, hopes and dreams for every child; I thought about a very special boy named Mattie Stepanek. Writing poetry at the age of three, he became internationally known as the best-selling author of 5 books of poetry about “Heartsongs,” which he described as “our inner voice” – our

inner beauty, our message, the song in our hearts.

When asked what he hoped people would learn from his poetry, Mattie Stepanek responded, “Life is a gift. We have to make the best of it and do what we’re meant to do. I hope they will learn to celebrate each day, never give up hope and remember to play after every storm. We all have life storms and we need to celebrate that we get through them, instead of mourning and being ready to be crushed by the next one.”

The “Heartsong” of the GMEF is “ENRICHMENT” for our students and our community. We continue to celebrate our students, staff and community, making every effort to enrich student learning, motivate student interest, and develop a connection with our communities. The GMEF is enrichment for everyone.

Take the “Country Roads” back in time with the music of Jim Curry when he makes a rare New England appearance at the GMEF Annual Gala, with “A Tribute to the Music of John Denver” on Saturday, April 28 at 7 p.m. For more information and pre-show tickets visit their website: [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org).

Joyce A. Phillips  
Turners Falls



[www.MontagueMA.net](http://www.MontagueMA.net)  
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Almadan, Inc. is currently seeking individuals interested in becoming shared living providers. Providers open their homes and their hearts and share their lives with an individual with developmental disabilities. Providers receive a tax-free stipend as well as 24-hour support from the agency. Interested candidates please contact Kelli Durocher at [Kelli.Durocher@Almadan.com](mailto:Kelli.Durocher@Almadan.com) or (413) 549-7911 Ext. 14.

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#### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Wendell Depot Bridge Project Delayed... Again

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Wendell highway commissioners Wayne Leonard and Mike Gifford and building inspector Phil Delorey met the selectboard at its August 23 meeting and discussed recent developments in the process of reconstructing the Wendell Depot Road bridge, which spans Whetstone Brook in Wendell Depot.

The project was first scheduled to be done in the summer of 2016 with Chapter 90 money that the highway commission had saved over several years. The engineering firm, Stantec, had to bid high to allow for wetland considerations that had not been addressed in the original bid process.

Since then the Wendell conservation commission approved the project and, independently, the state awarded Wendell money for the project through a small bridge repair and maintenance grant program.

Wendell Depot Road will have to be closed for construction, and that closure would require a long detour for school bus routes and people who travel from north Wendell to Orange. The design called for pouring the bridge pieces ahead of time, allowing them to cure with the road still open. The individual parts can then be brought to the site and assembled in place, in order to keep the road closure to a minimum.

Highway commissioners hoped that construction would occur during summer vacation to avoid giving school bus routes a long detour. There was hope that the project could be completed during the summer 2017 school vacation.

But Stantec was bought out, and had a large turnover in its workforce. The engineers who created the first design are no longer working at the company. Stantec submitted their current plan to the state DOT, and on June 9 that document was returned with 84 hits. The firm resubmitted it with corrections, and the DOT has been slow in responding, and had not responded in time for this meeting.

Selectboard chair Christine Heard suggested asking the DOT, "did they get it?"

Delorey said the process is on track now, but there are still details that need attention. The road commission has been considering using another company for construction.

Leonard said that construction companies are "hungry for work" in January, so bids should go out by then.

The bridge replacement will require moving utility poles by National Grid, a cost of \$45,000 for which Chapter 90 money may not be used. There is no money set aside for that, and creating an account for that expense might need a town meeting vote.

Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser did not think that Wendell taxpayers should have to pay that expense, but that appears to be what will happen.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that Warwick refused the state grant money because it came with so many restrictions and requirements.

#### Destroying Mattresses

While the highway commissioners were still in the selectboard office, Aldrich brought up the 100 mattresses that are outside at the town-owned 97 Wendell Depot Road property. Straight disposal costs \$25 per mattress, and Gifford added that they do not compost.

One suggestion was to send five a week to the WRATS for the attendants to take apart so the springs can be recycled, and the covering disposed of.

Delorey imagined that the attendants might not be enthusiastic about that approach, but agreed to speak with them and get back to the selectboard.

#### Returning Tables

Wendell residents are allowed to rent tables and chairs from the town hall for a nominal fee. Non-

residents may rent if sponsored by a Wendell resident.

That policy has worked well, until a recent event in which the non-residents did not return the tables in time for Good Neighbors' Sunday food distribution. When called by telephone their response was reportedly, "We're too hung over and can't deal with it."

Joy Gorzocoski brought the tables back to the town hall in time for Good Neighbors. The Wendell sponsor smoothed things with Good Neighbors, but the incident brought a new issue to the selectboard's approach to renting tables.

Aldrich suggested that the non-residents could buy similar tables relatively cheaply, at Ocean State or BJ's, and have them without the trouble of returning them.

Heard said she would talk with and caution the Wendell resident about sponsoring and taking responsibility for non-residents' actions.

Marianne Sundell asked for, and received, a waiver of the table rental fee for her using a town hall table for fundraising for the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse on Old Home Day.

#### Other Business

Resident Jesse Davis sent in a check and an application for a special permit to allow him to have four unregistered vehicles at his property.

The state Office of Dam Safety is

looking for a party to be responsible for maintaining the dam that holds McAvoy's Pond. Selectboard member Jeffrey Pooser divided the situation into two parts: cutting the trees that line Lockes Village Road where the road right of way is considered part of the dam, which is of immediate concern to the Office of Dam Safety, and can be done relatively quickly and inexpensively.

The second part of the problem is responsibility for long-term maintenance, and Dam Safety is less interested in that.

Pooser agreed to go to a FRCOG-sponsored local official workshop on legal marijuana. Heard said that planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger also wants to attend.

There still are details to be addressed in the contract that Wendell would sign with Westfield Gas and Electric for design and construction of a fiberoptic network that would serve every household in town. Massachusetts has awarded Wendell \$730,000 for that network, but a precise cost of the project will not be available until the design is completed. WiredWest is poised to act as the municipal light plant for towns that would hire them, serving to oversee costs, billing, and maintenance.

At 8 p.m., Christine Heard called for a vote to go into executive session "to discuss strategy with respect to litigation." That vote passed unanimously.

## Congratulations, Maryanne!

**TURNERS FALLS** – Maryanne Packard was fêted by trustees, staff and friends on Thursday afternoon, August 31, the last day of her 21 years as part-time library assistant at the Carnegie Library.

She was a valuable resource over the years to many library patrons who relied on her to recommend a good read and will sorely miss her.

The *Montague Reporter* wishes her the very best in retirement!



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**ERVING** from page A1

would not be available until after November, depending on when the state Department of Revenue approves the town's final FY'18 budget figures.

The day after the meeting, Boyden told the *Montague Reporter* that actual receipts to the town had come in higher than expected and "made up the difference," meaning that a special town meeting would not be needed to adjust the FY'18 budget. She said she expected that the town's tax classification hearing would be held at the September 11 selectboard meeting.

At that hearing, the board will vote on the "minimum residential factor," which shifts a portion of the real property tax burden from residential to commercial property. Once this factor and other town financial information is approved by the state DOR, tax bills will be prepared and sent to property owners.

**Capital Planning**

Franklin Regional Council of Governments financial management specialist Joe Markarian discussed the town's capital planning process with the board. Markarian agreed to develop a draft spread-

sheet for the capital improvement planning (CIP) committee to use in forecasting the effects of proposed capital expenditures.

The five-member CIP committee was established at the May 3 annual town meeting. Eugene Klepadlo is the finance committee's representative, and Scott Bastarache was appointed as the selectboard's.

The board and Klepadlo suggested contacting residents, especially those who have been vocal about capital expenditures, to serve on the committee. The CIP committee's first meeting will be held the week of October 23.

The board also set the FY'19 budget calendar. Guidance for departments will be sent out in September, capital requests will be due October 19, and budget requests will be due in November. Review of those departmental budgets will begin in December, and budget articles for the May 2018 annual town meeting warrant will be drafted by the end of February 2018.

**Other Business**

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith told the board that the Green Communities committee is

taking its responsibilities "very seriously," and reviewing proposed projects carefully.

Specific projects under consideration include an LED lighting retrofit at the police station (\$28,000), and an HVAC controller at the senior and community center which would allow the geothermal pumps to be shut off when warranted (\$2,500). The committee will meet with Jim Barry, the state's western region Green Communities coordinator, to discuss these and other possible projects.

The board approved a one-day liquor license for Lefty's Brewing Company for September 30, allowing Lefty's to serve alcohol at the Erving Fall Festival from 5 to 9 p.m. The Fall Festival is an all-day event sponsored by the recreation commission. It will be held at Veteran's Field on Moore Street.

The board approved extending the town's agreement for POTW#1 with Erving Industries until September 30. The town and the paper company are still working on writing a new agreement for the operation of the town-owned treatment plant.

Philip Johnson was appointed to the cable advisory committee.



**AIRBNB** from page A1

her bills and support her children's college educations. "If AirBnB didn't exist, I would have sold the house," she explained, "Long-term people end up harder. They get too comfortable." By contrast, she said, people staying through AirBnB have tended to be very active and respectful.

Jim and Lisa Mussoni have a somewhat different story. Three years ago, they were looking to invest money from an inheritance, and purchased a vacant, run-down two-family on Eighth Street in Turners Falls with an interesting history.

"The woman who owned it was convicted of bank robbery," Jim said. "She was in prison and it was in default, so it went on the foreclosure list."

The Mussonis lease one of the apartments full-time. The other is listed on both AirBnB and a competing site, HomeAway. After renovating and furnishing the apartment with inherited items, the couple liked it so much they wanted to be able to use it for themselves from time to time – something that wouldn't be possible renting it traditionally.

**Local Impact**

Nationally, there has been some heated conversation over accountability for noise, vandalism, increased traffic, and rising rents related to the spread of AirBnB, especially in urban areas. However, my investigation found little, if any, negative impact reported in our towns.

Inquiries to the town halls of Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell and Leverett turned up no reports of AirBnB hosts applying for, or receiving, any licensure, and only one reported problem with short-term rentals. According to Leverett police chief Scott Minckler, in 2015 an AirBnB guest stole items from a host and left behind chemicals associated with the production of methamphetamine, although the drug itself was not found on site.

Montague town planner Walter Ramsey put it this way: "I say it's great that there's at least a few places where people can stay in town or close by, rather than sending them off to one of the hotels by the interstate. It's better to keep them in town, where they can maybe enjoy a meal or stroll down the Avenue,

and visit a new shop and fall in love with the town."

Ramsey courteously asked around Montague town hall, and shared that none of the other departments he spoke with had heard any complaints regarding AirBnBs. No hosts reported trouble either.

(The presence of AirBnBs has been so low-key that this reporter was surprised to discover their next-door neighbor renting a room on the site – which explains the steady stream of different cars parked out front, but otherwise had not seemed at all unusual.)

Several homeowners who list rooms on the site mentioned the need for transitional housing in our communities, and the scarcity of hospitality options in the immediate area. The French King Motel, located on Route 2 in Erving, is the only formal lodging available in the towns, and the Moltenbrey Apartments in Turners Falls is the last building licensed for single-room occupancy.

AirBnB rentals appear to be an affordable alternative, with rooms in Turners going for as little as \$25 a night.

Arsenault, the Mussonis, and other hosts make a point to promote local businesses to their visitors by collecting flyers, brochures, and other information to present to visitors. Likewise, local businesses create demand for AirBnBs.

Nearly every host I spoke to had rented to people attending weddings at the Montague Retreat Center. Many visitors say they are visiting the area as a getaway, and are eager to visit attractions like the Montague Bookmill and Shea Theater.

Some states, counties, and municipalities have passed legislation to collect a room tax on short-term rentals like AirBnBs to match the taxes charged at formal businesses like hotels and traditional bed-and-breakfasts.

Massachusetts lawmakers considered the subject during the past two budget seasons, but have been unable to come up with an agreement, leaving the question open until next June at least.

When asked for their feelings on such a tax, local hosts – and AirBnB itself – said they were fully on board.



*Setter Sienna Dillensneider is one of many experienced seniors on this year's volleyball team.*

**SPORTS** from page A1

falling to Sabís in the playoffs. They steadily improved as the season progressed, and when they played well, they played extremely well – especially against the great teams.

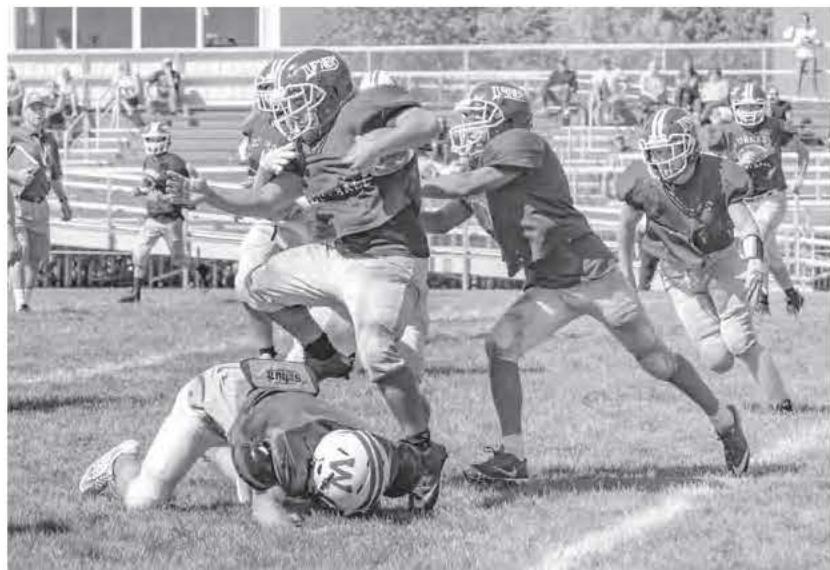
**Football**

In 2016, the Turners Falls Football Team won the Intercounty League Title, the Western Mass Championship, and broke a school record by winning 11 games.

This year, with the loss of so many seniors, things are a bit up in the air.

But veteran coach Chris Lapointe isn't deterred. "We are adjusting well," he said recently. "It's very much like 2012, when we lost 12 seniors. Certainly a lot of talent was lost, but the younger players are eager to play."

Practice has been challenging for Lapointe and the other coaches. With less than 20 kids on the roster, they haven't been able to go 11-on-11, so the scrimmages against Ludlow and



*Stepping Up: TFHS hosts Ware HS for an early season scrimmage.*

# Leverett Alliance Kicks Off a New Year on September 14

The Leverett Alliance is inviting the whole Leverett community to their Kick Off Meeting and Potluck on Thursday, September 14 at 6 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall. This will be a time for a caring Leverett community to meet and act together. The potluck begins at 6 p.m., and the Leverett Alliance Meeting goes from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

The Leverett Alliance will discuss their hopes for the coming year and hear updates from working groups on Sanctuary/Hate Crimes, Building Bridges, Building Community, Youth/Schools,

Environment, Book/Reading.

There will be a detailed update from the Bridging Committee on the very exciting three-day visit to Leverett from a sister community in Eastern Kentucky that has been arranged (with much hard work) for the end of October. Details on what is scheduled and how the community can be involved will be shared.

Residents are urged to bring their Leverett friends, relatives and neighbors. For more information, please contact [patfiero@yahoo.com](mailto:patfiero@yahoo.com).

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Ware have allowed them to play a full offense against a full defense.

Turners begins the defense of their two titles on Friday, September 8 against Lee. Their home opener is scheduled for Friday, September 15 against Athol.

**Field Hockey**

Like the volleyball team, the 2016 field hockey team finished .500 in the regular season and was eliminated in the postseason. Turners finishing 9–9 was a victory in of itself, because they were 4–11–1 in 2015 and hadn't made the playoffs since 2013.

This year, however, is a wild card season for the Blue. Their conference was shuffled a bit, and Turners will compete against some new schools for playoff position.

Athol, Central, Franklin Tech and Pioneer are not in the Bi-County conference this year. Instead, Turners, Holyoke and Southwick welcome Mahar, Mohawk and Palmer.

To add another wild card in the deck, this is the inaugural season for first-year head coach Becky Dame.



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

*Kyle Kucenski, now in his senior year, continues to anchor the golf team's number-one position.*

**Golf**

David Kennedy returns for his 10th year as golf coach. Last season, he had only four kids on the roster, which hamstrung the team.

Scoring in golf is based on six head-to-head matches for a total of 24 points. If a school doesn't field six golfers, they lose 4 points for every forfeited match. Therefore, Turners lost at least 8 points in every contest before they even teed off.

This year is a little better. Although they lost Patrick Salls to graduation, Brian Porier, Kyle Kucienski, and Tyler Noyes all return, and with the addition of Mikayla Gray, Joe Kochan and Joey Mosca, Turners may not forfeit any matches at all.

This season, Powertown will compete in the Bi-county League along with Easthampton, Granby, Greenfield, Smith Academy, Saint Mary, and Ware.



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**SOUTHWORTH** from pg A1  
mill was sold to the Southworth Company in 2006, they remember, Blanker “came around and said, ‘You guys will be OK. [Southworth] is a family business.’”

That was the general feeling at the time. Montague selectboard member Pat Allen then called Southworth “a family-owned manufacturer, with good ethics, who would keep jobs in the community.”

Yet at the time, Southworth was already downsizing. The purchase of the Turners plant from Esleek coincided with the closing of the company’s flagship plant in West Springfield, which had been founded in 1839 to produce onionskin typewriter paper.

In 2013, the company sold its well-known brand of business paper to Neenah Company, laying off 66 people at its Agawam plant in the process. Company president David Southworth cited the decline in the market for high-end business paper caused by the internet.

“There used to be a lot of companies in the Pioneer Valley making communications paper,” he said. “When you look around, they are all gone now. It’s not because that production went elsewhere. It just doesn’t exist anymore.”

Southworth also rebranded the Turners Falls Plant, calling it “Paperlogic.” The goal was to tap niche markets, such as watercolor paper for artists and “environmentally friendly” paper made from hemp and recycled waste paper. According to a 2013 report, “The mill [in Turners Falls] is looking at using discarded tea leaves from a Northampton bottling plant to help make the paper for farm mulch.”

In 2016 the company’s name was changed once again, this time to Turners Falls Paper, and the Paperlogic brand was relegated to the label of the company’s research division. This was done, according to the press release announcing the change, to remedy “confusion in the market place.” However, at the time of the Southworth closing announcement last week, a sign reading Paperlogic remained on the facade of the Turners Falls plant. A current Google map labels the Turners Falls plant “Paperlogic,” and the company’s Agawam facility “Turners Falls Paper Company.”

Marketplace confusion aside, the failure to secure bank financing would seem to eliminate Southworth as a corporate entity, and in the process closes facilities in Turners Falls, Agawam and Seattle. As of this writing, the company does not appear to have filed for bankruptcy.

Repeated efforts by this newspaper to contact Southworth, Paperlogic and Turners Falls Paper Company officials for comment on the closing produced no response.

**A Blow to the Town**

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis and town planner Walter Ramsey expressed surprise at the Turners Falls plant’s abrupt

closing, and concern about the impact on local employment. Neither was able to provide an estimate of the number of employees living in Montague. Ellis said he had spoken to company officials in early August who said they were in the process of obtaining financing to pay back taxes.

According to Robert MacDonald, the head of the town’s Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF), the Southworth closing will have a significant impact on his department’s budget. The WPCF processed approximately 200,000 gallons of water per day from the paper plant, which had accounted for over 20% of sewer revenue.

Town officials have been meeting to calculate the potential impact of the loss of this revenue on this year’s sewer rates, which will be set in September.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen told the *Reporter* that the previously planned overall 3.5% increase in sewer rates will remain in effect, with the funding gap covered by budget cuts. If the cuts involve layoffs, this solution could generate scrutiny from state officials, who have already expressed concern about low staffing levels at the WPCF.

Southworth’s closing could also impact redevelopment efforts in downtown Turners Falls. The plant sits next to the Strathmore complex, another paper-making facility which was abandoned by International Paper Company in 1994. As nearly every Montague taxpayer no doubt knows, the complex has deteriorated significantly over the years. It is currently owned by the town, which is under order from the state fire marshal to remedy significant safety violations.

Montague has poured significant sums of money into maintaining and marketing the empty Strathmore, including revenues from a \$385,000 tax override approved by voters last year. A local developer has been given the right to develop one of the buildings in the complex into condominiums. The town hopes to leverage this proposal to jump-start development of the former mill district that sits between the Turners Falls power canal and the Connecticut River.

On the other side of Southworth sits the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority headquarters, a facility which the agency has announced plans to abandon and sell.

The addition of another vacant mill building along the canal is a sobering prospect to town officials, not to mention town meeting members and taxpayers. “We will do whatever we can to make sure the building is in responsible hands,” Ramsey told this newspaper.

According to the records of the Montague assessor’s office, the building at 36 Canal Street and the land it sits on is assessed at \$833,800. It is listed as in “poor” condition.

The future of the structure may

depend on whether Southworth files for bankruptcy. If so, a court will play a significant role in the disposition of the company’s assets, including the building.

**Left in the Lurch**

Most of the publicity surrounding the plant closing in the past week has focused on the fate of laid-off employees. State senate president Stan Rosenberg’s office has publicly urged them to contact the Franklin-Hampshire Career Center in Greenfield, as has the town of Montague.

Patricia Crosby, director of the Career Center, told the *Reporter* that the agency could offer a wide range of services, including extensive job search resources, assistance in ap-

plying for unemployment benefits, and updating resumes. She said the center could set up a job fair in Montague specifically targeted to former Strathmore employees. The FHCC can be reached by phone at (413)774-4361 or online at [www.fhcc-onestop.com](http://www.fhcc-onestop.com).

Crosby expressed dismay that Southworth had not given the employees notice, or contacted the career center prior to the closing. She noted that her agency has worked with other companies in similar circumstances to reduce the shock of abrupt employment losses.

The Richottes say they have been over to the Career Center, and Cindy says the agency has been “a lot of help.” She had worked at South-

worth for 25 years, and “never had a resume.”

The couple says their health insurance expired at the end of August. As of publication time, they say the company has provided them no severance pay, and owes them vacation pay as well as their final two paychecks.

Cindy Richotte was given the impression owed wages and benefits were “up to the bank.” The plant’s human resources officer had said she would write recommendations, but her calls to the company have produced no response.

“We gave our heart and soul to that company,” she told the *Reporter*. “Everything we told you is the God’s honest truth.”



**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

# Two Or Three Fire Trucks At Once

By MIKE JACKSON

Gill’s selectboard held a short meeting on Tuesday evening, instead of its regular Monday night slot, due to the Labor Day holiday.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien came to discuss the schedule for the replacement of fire vehicles. He and selectboard member Greg Snedeker reported on a recent meeting of fire engineers, who proposed that instead of replacing one truck at a time, the town should pursue two smaller used vehicles first, and apply to FEMA later this fall for a grant to replace the larger Engine 1.

“There was sort of a general consensus that we need a rescue vehicle first,” Snedeker said. “[But] why do we have to think of getting vehicles one after the next?”

The selectboard agreed that engineers could start searching online for both a used rescue truck and pumper-tanker – up to five years old – and the town would look to line up funding to place deposits on potential purchases, as well as personnel to examine them.

“We’ll have to come up with a number not to exceed,” selectboard chair Randy Crochier said, of the cost of the trucks.

“As soon as we get pricing,” Snedeker said, “we can have a more meaningful conversation” about how those costs would be covered.

John Ward sounded a note of caution, citing the six-year-old dump truck purchased by the highway department that has required unexpected repairs and which not all employees are willing to drive.

The board also thanked Beaubien for his having reached 25 years of service, presented him with a certificate of recognition of this milestone, and shook his hand.

The future of the structure may

**Well Progress Made**

Administrative assistant Ray Purington reported that progress had been made on the drinking water treatment system at Gill Elementary School. Mickey LaClaire and John Miner, he said, had been able to complete “98%” of the outdoor parts of the work, installing a settling tank and leach field.

The state Department of Environmental Protection must still approve the application for the indoor parts.

Purington estimated that the total project would come in between \$20,000 and \$30,000 – a significant savings from original estimates of around \$220,000, accomplished mainly by designing and building the system “in house.”

Crochier credited regional health agent Glen Ayers with the savings. “Glen saw it and said, ‘I think we could do the same thing for a lot less,’” he recalled.

“People were pretty happy to see the work had been done, at the ice cream social,” said Snedeker, a parent at the school.

**Team Building**

Crochier said he had recruited about five “solid volunteers” to begin planning a celebration event next summer for Gill’s 225th anniversary. “If people are interested, call me, or call Ray,” he said.

He said he had spoken with trustees at the Franklin County Boat Club who were “very interested” in the possibility of the town “piggybacking” on the club’s annual Christmas in July celebration.

“There’s already a large group of people down that way. We could give a donation to the boat club to increase the number of fireworks that they put off,” he explained. Crochier described this strategy as one intended to secure “more bang for the buck,” though he disclosed

that he had already used that joke “a couple times,” and that his wife had recommended he stop doing so.

**Other Business**

Purington announced that because he was starting grad school, Natty Hussey was resigning from his position as clerical assistant to the zoning board of appeals, planning board, board of health, and conservation commission.

“We completely appreciate all that he’s done in the time that he’s been with us,” he said.

“He will be missed here,” Crochier added.

Erving has been setting up their computer account to access images from the cameras installed on the French King Bridge, and is working on getting Gill access. The towns are beginning to hash out a formal agreement over the project.

Progress has been made on projects to replace the ramp, and refurbish windows, at the Riverside Municipal Building. Three eastern windows, and one western one, have been refurbished, putting that project at its halfway mark. “Budget permitting, we tackle two more next summer,” Purington said, and various board members remarked on the benefits of well-functioning windows.

The town is receiving support from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to work on the “community setting” portion of its open space and recreation plan. That plan, first approved in 2012, must be renewed before the end of next year for the town to remain eligible for various state grants.

Purington said funding is available for housing rehabilitation projects in town, and that residents should contact the regional housing authority to find out if they are eligible.

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# NatureCulture: The Science Page

## Asian Longhorned Beetles

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

By now, everyone has heard of invasive and non-native species of plants and animals. “Invasive” means that the species spreads and takes over, while “non-native” generally means it’s not from around here – at least, not until recently.

Not all non-native plants and animals are invasive. For example, many old gardens in New England have lilac bushes, which were imported from China by English, Dutch, and French settlers so early that by 1652 they were considered “widespread” in North America. Lilacs may be non-native, but they’re not invasive because they don’t spread on their own and try to crowd out native plants.

The Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB) though, is both non-native and invasive. The Asian Longhorned Beetle (*Anoplophora glabripennis*) was first detected in 1996 in New York City, and has spread to Massachusetts and beyond. It kills its host trees, and so foresters are trying to contain the infestation.

Ironically, attempts to eradicate the beetle result in many trees being cut down in both forests and urban areas to prevent its spread. Many streets in Worcester, a town which continues to have a very severe



PHOTO COURTESY NYSP IMAGE GALLERY

ALB infestation, have lost all their shade trees in one fell swoop in this containment effort.

There are a few things we can do to help prevent this beetle from spreading. One is to not move firewood far from where it was harvested. (Wood from Worcester and some nearby towns is quarantined, and legally cannot be moved outside the area of origin.)

Another is to use the ALB hotline to report sightings so the infestation can be contained early. If you see an Asian Longhorned Beetle or suspect that tree damage is caused by the ALB, call (866) 702-9938 or fill out the online “Report It” form at [aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asian-longhorned-beetle](http://aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asian-longhorned-beetle).

Before reporting, the USDA asks that you please record the area where you found the insect or dam-

age. If possible, capture the insect you think is an ALB, place it in a jar, and freeze it to preserve the insect for easy identification. Also take digital pictures of the insect and/or tree damage.

The University of Vermont, the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Forest Service have published a glossy Guide to the Asian Longhorned Beetle and its Host Trees online at [na.fs.fed.us/pubs/alb/alb-and-host-trees-09-12-2012-screen.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/pubs/alb/alb-and-host-trees-09-12-2012-screen.pdf).

This full color guide has photos and descriptions of the Asian Longhorned Beetle, as well as its harmless “look-a-likes” to help you tell them apart. Most helpfully, it has photos of all stages of infestation including eggs, and what the beetles’ exit holes look like on different trees.

Preferred host trees unfortunately include some New England favorites: many types of maple including sugar maple; willows; elms; buckeye; box elder; horse chestnut; and river, paper, and gray birches. More rare host trees include various types of ash and poplar, among others. The beetle could be on any type of tree.

For more information (with a creepy animated beetle), see [aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asian-longhorned-beetle](http://aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asian-longhorned-beetle).

## Eclipse Party a Success!

Many thanks to the 115 people who joined us for the Eclipse Party on Stratton Mountain in Northfield. It was great meeting so many of you, and seeing the innovative solar-eclipse-viewing apparatuses built by

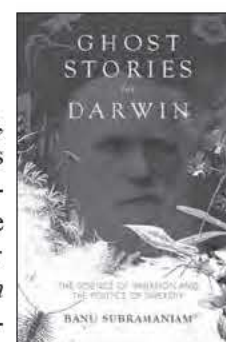
science-minded kids and adults.

If you have photos, poems, essays, or other art inspired by the eclipse, send them to [science@montaguereporter.org](mailto:science@montaguereporter.org) to be shared on this monthly page.

## BOOK REVIEW

### Banu Subramaniam, *Ghost Stories for Darwin* (University of Illinois Press: 2014)

By LISA McLOUGHLIN



On a more esoteric note, Banu Subramaniam writes in her masterful exploration of nature and culture *Ghost Stories for Darwin: The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity*, about how the demonization of non-native species is linked with our anti-immigrant stance in the United States.

Dr. Subramaniam directs the Five College Women’s Studies Research Center and is a professor in Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at UMass-Amherst. She is one of the smartest people I’ve ever met: a deeply analytical, creative, and thoughtful writer whose PhD in Bi-

ology informs her feminist theoretical work.

In her life as a plant biologist, she figured out why morning glories have different color blooms—it’s not a simple explanation. Her deep understanding of complex systems leads her to some very innovative conclusions about what it means to be “native” to a place – for a plant and for a person – and why North Americans spend so much time trying to eradicate interlopers.

I strongly suggest *Ghost Stories* for anyone who wants an innovative and challenging take on “invasive” and “non-native” issues.

In our current political climate, it might make you question your politics, or your gardening practices.

## The Keystone Cooperator Program

By LISA McLOUGHLIN

This spring I participated in a 3-day training workshop for the Keystone Project, held at the Harvard Forest in Petersham. In ecology, a “keystone species” is one whose impacts on its environment are larger and greater than would be expected from one species. The premise of the Keystone Project is to invest education and reference materials in individuals who are involved in land conservation and related projects making a relatively large impact at their local level. The training covers subjects such as forest ecology and management, wildlife management, land protection, and community outreach.

In exchange for the training and take-home resources, graduates of the program, called Cooperators, agree to return to their communities and volunteer at least 30 hours of their time towards projects that

promote forest and wildlife conservation. My project is to share some of the information I learned at the workshop via the *NatureCulture* science page, which I will be doing over the next year, starting with the above article on the Asian Longhorned Beetle.

Other, far more impressive Cooperator projects have included people permanently conserving their own land, initiating a forest landowner cooperative, promoting management on municipal and conservation lands, hosting educational events, and improving their own properties for wildlife, recreation, and timber. Some of the alumni we heard from had done a lot within their communities, including conserving pine barrens, creating trails organizations (and making trails), and eradicating invasive plants.

More than three-fourths of all woodland in Massachusetts is owned by private families and indi-

viduals. Much of this land is at risk of conversion to developed uses. It is important to reach woodland owners, as well as communities and land trusts, with information about the care of their land. Keystone training is designed to provide Cooperators with skills and information to better engage in this important activity at the local level.

The Keystone Project is organized by the UMass-Amherst Environmental Conservation Department and UMass Extension, with support from the Harvard Forest, Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust, MA Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, and the MA DCR Service Forestry Program.

For more information about the Keystone Project, visit: [masskeystone.net](http://masskeystone.net). For more information on forest conservation or Keystone, contact UMass Extension associate professor Paul Catanzaro at (413) 545-4839 or [paulcat@umass.edu](mailto:paulcat@umass.edu).

## Moon Calendar for September 2017:

Wednesday,  
September 6:  
**Full Moon**

Wednesday,  
September 13:  
**Last Quarter**

Wednesday,  
September 20:  
**New Moon**

Wednesday,  
September 27:  
**First Quarter**

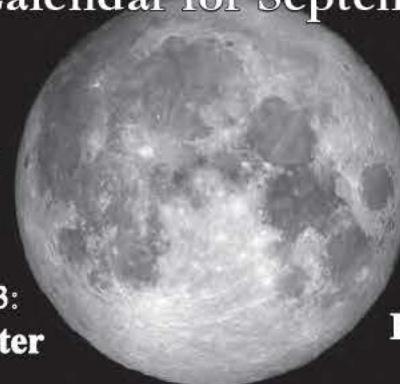


Photo: the November 2016 Super Moon. A super moon occurs when a full moon passes closest to the earth in its elliptical orbit. Sky Events Calendar by Fred Espenak and Sumit Dutta (NASA’s GSFC).

NASA PHOTO

## Quest65: An Interactive River Adventure

**GREENFIELD** – The Connecticut River Conservancy has developed a smartphone-based scavenger hunt to honor the organization’s 65-year history of working for our rivers.

This is a choose-your-own style adventure, with more than 65 things to find, see, and do all along the river from its source near the Canadian border to the mouth of the river at

Long Island Sound.

You can visit river museums and historic sites, travel by river ferry, see river art and bridges, swim, boat or picnic on the river, and more. The more items you check off the Quest65 list, the more likely you’ll be able to win a great prize.

The hunt runs through October 15. Visit [ctriver.org/Quest65](http://ctriver.org/Quest65) to sign up!

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

Julie Shively shared with Kuczek that a candidate had been offered the position as head custodian at Leverett Elementary, and was negotiating his salary with the Union 28 business office.

She spoke highly of this candidate, and said he should be able to learn about the school's water system from Kuczek. "We've had some near misses, and a few problems in the past," she noted.

Margie McGinnis reported that she and Kuczek had locked in heating oil prices for the season, at \$1.9819 a gallon. "Prices are going through the roof," she said.

The current contracts for purchase of electricity expire in November and December, and if an agreement is reached with Colonial Energy to serve as an aggregator, there will be a two- to three-month gap during which the town will revert to Ever-source's default prices.

**Police: Force, Stealth**

The selectboard discussed the written policy governing the police department's use of force. Shively said she would like the board to meet with chief Scott Minckler and come to a decision on whether to rescind the town's prohibition on the use of Tasers before finalizing the policies.

Peter d'Errico shared that the US Supreme Court had recently ruled the public has a Second Amendment right to own Tasers. "It becomes kind of an absurdity to say, 'The only people in town that can't have Tasers are the ones that are police,'" he argued.

"I'm not necessarily opposed to Tasers, but I would like Scott to come with a proposal," Shively said.

Hankinson said he had heard Tasers are "the single best alternative to lethal force."

The board discussed other edits they would like to the department's use-of-force policy. Hankinson said he wanted the policy to emphasize that Tasers, if allowed, and any other weapons should only be used after proper training, and d'Errico said he'd like to place "a greater emphasis on deescalation training."

No action was taken. McGinnis agreed to schedule a meeting with Minckler.

Following up on a previous meeting, the selectboard discussed the need to publicize the fact that the next police cruiser the town would purchase would be unmarked.

This decision was at Minckler's discretion, and is based in part on the law prohibiting the transportation of minors in marked police vehicles, which has meant the town relying on the Shutesbury police.

"Scott said he didn't want it to sneak up on people," Shively said, and selectboard members suggested that a picture of the vehicle could be published in the *Montague Reporter* after it is purchased.

"It's not going to be completely stealth," d'Errico added.

**Grants: Firewall, Bulbs**

McGinnis asked the board which two "best practices" areas the town should apply for under the governor's Community Compacts program. Board members were very

excited about "capital planning for infrastructure," which would include bridges and roads. For the second, they leaned toward offsite municipal data storage.

The town had received a \$30,000 MassIT grant to purchase software and hardware to install a local area network among town buildings, and town meeting allocated \$5,000 to Tim Haas to oversee the installation and provide IT support in FY'18. The town will need to decide who would be responsible for long-term maintenance of the system and its firewall, and may need to make further allocations in the future.

The town had applied for reimbursement for the retrofitting of 620 light fixtures with LED bulbs from the Green Communities program. When the contractor hired for the job reviewed the town's facilities, it turned up an additional 60 fixtures.

McGinnis said she has requested the Department of Energy Resources to adjust the grant to pay for the additional LED's out of the \$6,200 that had been approved for "administrative costs" in the original application.

**Broadband Broadside**

Ajit Pai, the incoming chair of the Federal Communications Commission, has proposed lowering the standards for what would be considered "sufficient advanced telecommunications capacity" for communities, suggesting that mobile access will suffice as the universal "broadband" which the FCC is required by law to help provide citizens.

D'Errico read a draft statement he

had prepared, on behalf of the town, for submission to the FCC as a formal comment on that proposal.

The statement describes Leverett's home-built and owned fiber-optic network as an improvement over mobile access: "LeverettNet greatly enhanced public safety and educational operations. The availability of LeverettNet also improved the business climate in town, allowing the existing businesses to expand and new businesses to open. Furthering the availability of high-speed broadband improved real estate and rental markets."

It also points out that "mobile access, especially as subject to throttling of download speed, limited upload speed, and data caps, cannot provide sufficient internet access to sustain information entrepreneurs."

"Do we have evidence that the presence of LeverettNet has, indeed, increased real estate prices?" Hankinson asked.

"Whereas before they were just sitting there, now people are actually able to sell their properties," Shively said.

"I just said it 'improved' the market," d'Errico said. "We're talking in an environment of Republican-dominated concerns, so that's why I'm emphasizing business, and I didn't want to make too explicit an attack on commercial [cellular] providers."

The selectboard unanimously endorsed the statement.

**Other Business**

The Friends of the Mount Toby Meetinghouse have asked the town if it is interested in purchasing a parcel

of land on the side of Mount Toby. D'Errico wondered if they would consider selling it to the Department of Conservation and Recreation, and Shively suggested the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust. The sale will be discussed at a future meeting.

The board reviewed a final report from the town's FY'16 financial audit. "All things considered, these are fairly inconsequential," Hankinson summarized, after McGinnis ran through a long list of items in need of attention, improvement, or reconciliation.

The board dismissed a request from the Municipal Light Plant to stagger its members at an irregular number of years — introducing a one-and-a-half-year term this winter — in order to comply with term reductions approved at town meeting in May.

"We will appoint two people: one for one year, and one for three years," d'Errico said, comparing the proposal to a Rube Goldberg machine.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford added that she didn't think she would have been able to account for these irregular terms.

Stratford announced that there are vacancies on the Council on Aging, finance committee, planning committee, affordable housing committee, board of health, and personnel committee.

The board discussed declaring the "historic stuff" at the old town garage as surplus, and perhaps selling it via silent auction during the Harvest Festival in October. The collection includes an old plow, old railroad lanterns, old scythe blades, and various old signs.



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## NOTES FROM THE ROAD: THE NATURAL LIMITS OF THIS CONTINENT

*This summer, former Reporter editor David Detmold biked from Mashpee, Cape Cod to the Standing Rock Sioux reservation in North Dakota, in support of Native treaty rights. He's back in town, but this was his final report from the road.*

By DAVID DETMOLD

**SCENIC, SD** – Just before midnight, it started to rain.

I was camped out front of the Tatanka Trading Post behind a rusty metal cutout of a buffalo. It was the one place in the town of Scenic, South Dakota where I found shade from the obtrusive sodium streetlamps, which towered above the broken down buildings on the edge of the Badlands.

The town had the look and feel of a brightly lit B-Western movie set: derelict clapboard houses from the early 1900s settling into the plain; the former general store with its carved wooden slogan: “Ashes to ashes, dust to dust, if we don’t have it, it isn’t a must.” And the Longhorn Saloon, abandoned but still adorned with dozens of longhorn cattle skulls and the sign: “Indians Allowed.” (The word “No” had been painted over.)

And the Trading Post, a former church with an ice machine by the front door and a plastic banner out back welcoming bikers traveling Route 44 from the Sturgis rally to stop by for cold beer. But the motorcycle

rally had ended two days earlier, and the 370,000 bikers who attended this year had roared on home, and the Trading Post, too, was closed.

I had been in Sturgis just the day before, as the 78<sup>th</sup> Black Hills Motor Classic wound down. It was Monday at dawn, the bars were all open, country western Musak leaked from loudspeakers on every block while the sizzling water brushes of street sweepers prowled the city streets and three-story-high inflatable bottles of Jim Beam dipped and bowed in the morning breeze. The whole town seemed to be suffering from a hangover.

I ate breakfast in a grocery store, and headed to Rapid City as quickly as I could find a paved road south. I had to take the interstate for three miles between Tilford and Piedmont, and was grateful for my life riding the access road afterwards.

Thirty-six hours later, lying in the parched grass of Scenic, the first rain drops on my face were gentle, like butterfly kisses. But like a persistent lover’s, they soon intensified. My feet got wet.

I rolled up my sleeping bag and tiptoed to an odorous picnic area under a shed roof at the side of the building. Four rough plank tables jammed into a small space; I slept on the one that was more or less level for the remainder of the night, while the raindrops played marimba on the corrugated metal roof.



DETMOLD PHOTOS

At 4:43 a.m. a rifle shot, like a propane tank exploding, woke me from shallow sleep. For a moment I thought I had been discovered trespassing, or snoring, on a picnic table – but dawn was not yet in the sky yet, the picnic area was still dark.

I heard cattle lowing in the distance, on the rangelands to the north. The sound of a passing truck followed a single headlight down into the valley. At first light, I packed up my bicycle and rode slowly down Bombing Range Road toward Pine Ridge and the Oglala Lakota Nation.

As I left Scenic, I came upon an adult tabby cat lying in a pool of drying blood on Main Street.

A few miles south I entered the 3,400-square-mile “reservation.”

I passed a huge medicine wheel in the sand by the side of the road and the words “Mni Wiconi” spelled out with small dark stones. *Mni Wiconi* (Water is Life) was the catchphrase of the last year’s resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline at Standing Rock.

It would be hard to overstate the importance of the movement at Standing Rock to Native people across the continent. Everywhere I traveled on Native lands, signs in support of Standing Rock remain up, proudly defiant, and people tell stories of how their lives were changed by their time at the Oceti Sakowin Camp.

The resistance to DAPL was centered on the North Dakota side of Standing Rock. I visited just the South Dakota side on my 2,500 mile bike tour. I hoped to catch a ride up to Bismarck with some of the Lakota activists from Pine Ridge who were arrested in North Dakota last year. Those trials were scheduled for August 17, but North Dakota reduced the charges and canceled them. The state is reportedly involved with lawsuits of its own against Energy Transfer Partners, the builders of the pipeline, and wants no more publicity on DAPL.

see NOTES page B4



The site of the Wounded Knee massacre of December 29, 1890.

## At the Shea: Astronomy Pioneers Finally Get Their Due in *Silent Sky*

**TURNERS FALLS** – In the late 1890s and early 20th century, women “computers” at the Harvard Observatory in Cambridge charted the stars, making groundbreaking discoveries in astronomy.

*Silent Sky*, written by acclaimed playwright Lauren Gunderson, and produced this month by Spindrift Theater at the Shea, tells the story of real-life astronomer Henrietta Leavitt, whose “Leavitt’s Law” made it possible to calculate the distance of stars from Earth, thereby expanding our knowledge of a universe that extends far beyond the Milky Way.

Working in a male-dominated establishment for 25 cents an hour and little credit, and where they were not permitted to touch the Great Refractor telescope or express an original idea, Leavitt and her female colleagues changed the way we understand both the heavens and the earth.

While *Silent Sky* explores a woman’s place in society and social progress, it is a highly personal story of Henrietta Leavitt’s attempts to measure the light and distance of stars, as she measures her life on

Earth, trying to balance her dedication to science with family obligations and the possibility of love.

The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* said, “*Silent Sky* is an intellectual epic told on an intimate scale. Bottom line: Heavenly.” The *San Francisco Chronicle* described the play as “... sheer magic... with bursts of smart, infectious humor.”

Directed by Robert Freedman of Northampton, whose previous Shea

Theater productions have included *Radium Girls*, *The Music Lesson*, *Kindertransport*, and *Inherit the Wind*, the cast features Myka Plunkett and Montague resident Marina Goldman.

The play premieres on Thursday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. and runs at the same time Friday and Saturday, with a matinee on Sunday at 2 p.m. For more information and tickets: [sheatheater.org](http://sheatheater.org) and (413) 648-7432.



Myka Plunkett (left) and Louise Krieger (right) as real-life Harvard astronomers Henrietta Leavitt and Annie Cannon in *Silent Sky*.

## How Nature Takes Over: The Ceramic Art of Deb Bazer

By NINA ROSSI

**LAKE PLEASANT** – Ceramic artist Deb Bazer lives in the tiny and close-knit community of Lake Pleasant. “We like it here, it’s such a quirky and wonderful place,” said Deb when I visited with her recently. “It’s a lovely community of people pulling together to get things done, kind of like from another time period.” She and her artist husband, Lahri Bond, have lived in Lake Pleasant for six years.

Bazer’s studio occupies several areas of their home including most of the front porch, where a unique tile press stands ready to squeeze clay into the plaster molds she uses for these forms.

Her tile designs start with a drawing which she impresses on a clay slab by pressing through the paper as she traces the design. Her imagery is inspired by Celtic and Nordic mythology, which both she and Lahri have a fascination for.

Then she carves her image into the clay, and then casts a plaster mold. “I like for my work to be affordable, and molds are a way to make affordable things. It takes a long time to carve, and I can reproduce it, but what I love is that no two really look the same,



Deborah Bazer shows a carved clay tile that she will then make a mold from for production.

and that makes me really happy,” explained Deb.

She uses the mold in a press that she and her father built many years ago out of plumbing pipe and hardware store items. She demonstrated the process, and I asked if the clay ever gets stuck in the mold.

“The clay doesn’t stick to plaster,” she explained. “Plaster likes water, and there’s lots of water in the clay, so that when I press the clay in the mold and scrape off the

see BAZER page B6



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – The cat is awake at five o’clock. My nose is cold, and we yearn for another blanket.

On the front porch it is a bracing forty degrees at the start of a day with strong winds and a high temperature barely scraping sixty.

Perhaps this is Mother Nature’s not-so-subtle announcement of the coming new season.

Since the last week or so in August, daytime temperatures have topped out in the seventies. By four o’clock, the heat has receded and the dark is falling by shortly after eight.

The Canada geese fly over our bend in the river, calling excitedly about the cold and the dark.

As the summer winds down towards the long Labor Day weekend, we make a short visit to our Rhode Island family and spend yet another day at the beach. The ocean is a far cry from the welcome sign earlier on vacation in Maine.

This is a white-capped message with building surf: an indicator of the tropical activity to our south. The sea churns up whole clams and crabs. The sky mirrors the water’s gray, but the water is still warm.

We watch the ferry make its way to the now invisible hump of Block Island, and we yearn to be out on the water again.

At home again, now the remnants of Hurricane Harvey: blustery winds and a full day of soaking rain, still a mere sprinkle compared to the biblical flooding in Texas.

We hear the tough story of a fam-

### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Miraculous Earth

ily who lost their home to Katrina and then moved to Texas where, like Job, they suffered a loss again. We don’t know what they will do now, but the human spirit endures. They’ll likely rebuild or move to higher ground.

The sunroom is a gift for those who love the out of doors; one can be “out” even when “in” on a soaking wet day. There is a corner in this space which at first glance looks like a jumble sale of collected objects. There is a Buddha, a cherub, statues of a woodland nymph and a harvest maiden; an aloe plant and a soft-spined cactus. There is also a beautiful green and blue orb like the earth. It is painted inside with an iridescent paint which glows in the dark.

The plants love the intense light and are equally happy with the heat and with the cold. We are surrounded with the things we love: the earth, nature, garden, and our latent spirituality.

After the rain, the clearing skies start a new week and again the air is soft and balmy. This schizophrenic weather feels reminiscent of the fits and starts of spring in late March. On the way back from Rhode Island we saw swamp maples already a bright red.

Mid-September often brings an unseasonable return to summer weather. Still, the growing cold and dark remind us to order cordwood. We can half a dozen pints of corn and pepper relish for a winter’s treat. We indulge in the unique flavors of vine-ripened tomatoes and sate ourselves with fresh corn.

Some of the butternut squash is ready to pick. The basil is thick, so we will dry some for seasoning winter soups and stews, and make some

see GARDENER’S page B6



# Pet of the Week

Friendly. Petite. Cute beyond words. That’s me!

I was brought here as a stray and I’m already sweeping people off their feet.

Now if that doesn’t peak your interest, nothing will! You better hurry on down if you want to meet me.

Gals like me, with gorgeous brown and orange Torbie coats, are a favorite among kitty connoisseurs.

Come talk to an adoption counselor about me.

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



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## “MIRANDA”

### Senior Center Activities SEPTEMBER 11 TO 15

**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 9/11**  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic Appts.  
**Tuesday 9/12**  
10:30 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 - 1:30 p.m. Farm Share  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Wednesday 9/13**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 9/14**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 9/15**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Monday 9/11**  
9:30 Healthy Bones & Balance  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
12:30 p.m. Basic Computer Class  
**Tuesday 9/12**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
9:30 a.m. COA Meeting  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
TRIAD Health Care Expo  
**Wednesday 9/13**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs  
**Thursday 9/14**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn  
**Friday 9/15**  
9 a.m. Quilting  
9:30 a.m. Bowling  
11:15 a.m. Music/Magic /Mvmnt.  
12:30 Healthy Lunch

**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.

# SEPTEMBER LIBRARY LISTINGS

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

**Montague Public Libraries**

*Turners Falls: Carnegie* (413) 863-3214  
*Montague Center* (413) 367-2852  
*Millers Falls* (413) 659-3801

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

## ONGOING EVENTS

*The Summer Library Program “Build a Better World” continues at all local libraries into August.*

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Craft Time w/Angela*. Children, all ages. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

**2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY EACH MONTH**  
Leverett Library: *Knit for Charity*. Some supplies provided. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

**3<sup>RD</sup> TUESDAY EACH MONTH**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Genealogy Group*. 6:30 p.m.

**EVERY WEDNESDAY**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Story Time w/Karen*. Story, project, snacks. Young children w/ caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Leverett Public Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Hour w/Heleen Cardinaux*. Developed for children newborn through preschool ages, but all families welcome. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**1<sup>ST</sup> WEDNESDAY EACH MONTH**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Reader’s Choice*. Book discussion. 10 a.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
Millers Falls Branch Library: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson*, for children. 10 a.m.

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Adult Coloring*. 10 to 11 a.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Environment Awareness Group*. Read the book or watch the movie, then join to discuss the monthly topic; facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

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

**2<sup>ND</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH**  
Leverett Library: *Needlecraft*. Bring your own work or try out the monthly project, some supplies provided. 6:30 p.m.

**3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Rep. Paul Mark: District Office Hours*. 1 to 4 p.m.

**4<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAY EACH MONTH**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *I’d Rather Be Reading Group*. 7 p.m.

## LAST THURSDAY EACH MONTH

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Genealogy Gathering*. 6 p.m.

**EVERY FRIDAY**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. (This program is “on vacation” until September 22.) 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga with Shay Cooper*. Mixed levels. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

**EVERY SATURDAY**  
Leverett Library: *Tai Chi*. 10 a.m.

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

**1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY EACH MONTH**  
Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Book Sale*. Books, DVDs, CDs, etc. \$1 or less. 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.

**2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> SATURDAYS**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Food Pantry*. 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

**EVERY SUNDAY**  
Wendell Free Library: *Mostly Yoga*. 10 to 11:15 a.m. Donation.

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

## EXHIBITS

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

Leverett Library: *Leverett Crafts and Arts 50th Anniversary Exhibit*. Through October.

## EVENTS

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7**  
Millers Falls Branch Library, Millers Falls: Music and Movement with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson for children. 10 a.m. Moved to Millers Falls Library - weekly through December.

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Book group* will discuss: *Drop City* by T.C. Boyle. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Environmental Awareness Group*. Read the book or watch the movie and then join the group to discuss these important issues. Facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9**  
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Free Technology Workshops* with Hank Allen.

This week: *Basic Computer Skills*. Please let us know if you will need to borrow a laptop. 12:30 to 2 p.m.

**THURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**  
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Ukulele Play-Along* with Julie Stepanek. We have ukes to borrow or bring your own. 7 to 8 p.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry*. This month: Norton Anthology of Poetry. 7 p.m.

Dickinson Library, Northfield: Deadline for bringing donations of crafts supplies.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**  
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Free Technology Workshops* with Hank Allen. This week: *Computer Security*. Please let us know if you will need to borrow a laptop. 12:30 to 2 p.m.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: Movie *John Carter*, from the pages of Edgar Rice Burroughs. Civil War veteran transported to Mars. Part of the Science Fiction and Horror Movie Series for 2017. 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**  
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Mindful Eating Workshop*; 5-week course with Michelle Miller. Call to register. 2 to 4 p.m. \$

Erving Library, Erving: *Mindful Eating Workshop*; 5-week course with Michelle Miller. Introductory session. 4 to 5 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Rep. Paul Mark, District Office Hours*. 1 to 4 p.m.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Story Hour* returns! Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**  
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Go With Your Gut*. “How gut bacteria are thought to affect our health and how what we eat has an effect,” with Alicia Walter, Dietitian Nutritionist. Gut friendly snacks will be served! Call to register. 1 to 3 p.m.

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24**  
Leverett Library, Leverett: *Mindful Eating Workshop*; 5 week course with Michelle Miller, week #2. Call to register. 2 to 4 p.m. \$


Erving Library, Erving: *Mindful Eating Workshop*; 5 week course with Michelle Miller. Week 2. 4 to 5 p.m.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *U.S. Customs & Border Protection*, a discussion by author Michael Cunningham of his book: *In Safe Hands*: true stories about the men and women of the United States Customs and Border Protection. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28**  
Dickinson Library, Northfield: *I’d Rather Be Reading Group*. Selection this month: *Night of the Gun* by David Michael Carr. 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio with *Beth Logan Raffield*. 7 to 8 p.m.

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ELEVEN CDS FOR ELEVEN BUCKS

## 7. Sammy Davis, Jr., Greatest Hits (1988)

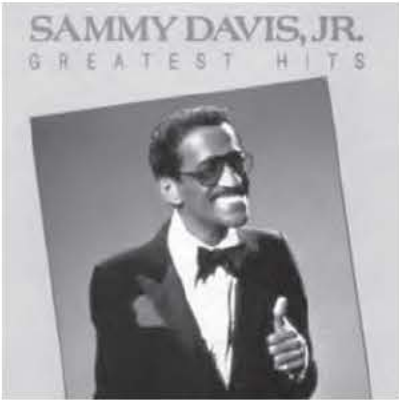
By IVAN USSACH

At his peak in the Sixties, Sammy Davis, Jr. seemed to be everywhere: belting out powerful vocal performances for hit songs like “What Kind of Fool Am I?” and I’ve Gotta Be Me,” palling around and acting with Sinatra’s “rat pack” in *Oceans 11* and other films, and breaking people up with his stooped, wigged-out refrain of “Here come da Judge, Here come da Judge” on the ridiculously funny and mildly subversive *Rowan & Martin’s Laugh-In* as the decade turned.

The child of vaudeville dancers, Davis could do it all, earning the nickname “Mr. Show Business” as a star in Las Vegas. Yes, that was indeed another time, another place – so I was curious to see the effect a disc of his Greatest Hits would have on me.

I didn’t recognize the first tune, “After Today,” one of four on the record from 1967’s *Sammy Davis, Jr. Sings the Complete “Dr. Dolittle”* (or the other three for that matter), but it has a typically pleasing high-energy big-band sound with lots of punch in the crackling horns and crispy strings. And, dig this, you can hear the lyrics and – oh what a great voice!

Davis himself selected the 19 tunes for this disc, covering a period from 1954 to ‘73. Over half were released just between 1966 and ‘68. Overall, it’s a catchy mix of show tune and jazz arrangements. The



lyrics typically reflect characters earnestly striving to make the most – or at least something! – out of their lives, trying to find love or celebrate living. Davis didn’t write ‘em, but he sure sings like he means it!

And then, of course, there’s 1972’s “The Candy Man,” Davis’ only #1 hit. While he was not a big fan of the song, and disliked being known for it, he made the most of the chance to revitalize his career. The song was written by Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newly specifically for the 1971 film *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* (based on a book by Roald Dahl).

Let’s go out with a few of Newley’s scrumptious lyrics:

*Who can take a rainbow (who can take a rainbow)*  
*Wrap it in a sigh (wrap it in a sigh)*  
*Soak it in the sun and make a groovy lemon pie?*  
*...The Candy Man can,*  
*‘Cause he mixes it with love*  
*And makes the world taste good.*

## Business Profile: Hiking Paws

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

Hiking Paws is a business in Bernardston that will pick up your dogs and exercise them outdoors. It was started by a woman named Margot Vann. She is a former gym teacher and has two dogs herself. “I have had my business for seven years,” she said.

Vann has been trained in dog first aid, and is a certified dog handler. “We take eight per pack, and two hikes per day,” she also told me. “16 a day.”

On hikes, Vann is a “pack leader,” which means “I’m in charge of keeping everybody safe, helping them play nicely, and keeping them together on a hike. These dogs are all off leash.”

According to the Hiking Paws’ website, Virginia Manders, who lives in Gill with her dog Abby, is also what is called a pack leader with the business. Abby’s behavior inspired Virginia’s interest in dog behavior. Like Margot, she knows a thing or two about dog first aid. One example is she is certified in CPR for dogs.

The prices for the hikes are \$25 per hike, per hour. “If they have a puppy under a year, it’s 28 dollars,” Margot said. “Our services are available in Bernardston, Greenfield and Deerfield.”

She told me she created Hiking Paws because “I love dogs. I love being outside. I love being active.” She said “I do think it serves a pur-

pose: It’s a great opportunity to get the dogs outside while people are working.

I believe some of the testimonials on the website certainly show Vann does some great quality work when it comes to the dogs. One of them, from a customer named Jason E. of Bernardston, proves her point in my opinion about it being a good opportunity to get the dog outside when the owners are working. The whole place just sounds very helpful when it comes to exercising your dogs, which could be why they are still getting dogs, at the moment for their hikes. Their prices also sound very reasonable when it comes to the number of dogs they take on a hike.

I personally have two dogs of my own. One of these dogs is a terribly hyperactive one who probably could benefit quite well from a hike. But I’m worried about her getting into fights with the other dogs.

I think my second dog would like doing this. But he has a history of running off, and he is sometimes a very difficult dog to catch. So there might not be really a benefit for him doing a hike. It might be more of a problem when it comes to him doing this.

But it still might be a very good idea to try it with at least one of my dogs.

If you wish to know more info about the service, go to [www.Hiking-Paws.com](http://www.Hiking-Paws.com).

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Critters; Dumped Recliners; Squeaking Pogos; Stolen Motorcycle Turns Up In New Jersey

Monday, 8/21

10:27 a.m. Third party reporting a bear approaching a pedestrian who is out walking her dogs in area of Old Greenfield Road and South Ferry Road. Pedestrian advises that the dogs barked at the bear and it continued across the road into the woods.

11:25 a.m. Caller struck a cat in front of the Rendezvous. Animal control officer en route. Caller called back to report that people are now yelling at her because the cat did not survive. Peace restored; ACO on scene.

8:20 p.m. Caller reporting that a deer struck by a vehicle is lying severely injured in the middle of Turners Falls Road. Upon officer’s arrival, deer had moved itself into the woods.

Tuesday, 8/22

7:43 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reporting suspicious activity; suspects someone may have broken into apartment overnight. Advised of options.

9:33 p.m. Caller reports that she struck a fox on Federal Street; will be driving to MPD to have an officer view the damage. Report taken.

Wednesday, 8/23

12:47 a.m. Caller from Ferry Road reports a flickering light at the top of a pole across from her house; no street lights in area, so she believes it is from an electric pole. Officer advising MCFD on scene and road closed. Call placed to Eversource to advise transformer on fire and wires melting.

2:12 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street complaining of loud noise coming from upstairs apartment; vacuum being run, kids running around, etc. Officers spoke to involved parties; they will be going to bed for the evening.

7:15 p.m. Caller would like to speak to an officer about somebody possibly cutting the line to her dog run. Called back to cancel police response; they determined that the dog bit the line and broke it.

10:15 p.m. Caller states that his wife left her Android phone with a purple case inside of Cumberland Farms by the lottery area. When she came back for it, a store clerk told her that a male on a Harley Davidson motorcycle had left with the phone. Investigated; phone returned.

10:50 p.m. Multiple callers from L Street reporting that residents in one apartment are yelling and screaming in halls again. Peace restored. One party removing belongings from in front of residence.

\_\_\_\_\_ was arrested and charged with breaking and entering in the night time with intent

to commit a felony and disorderly conduct.

Thursday, 8/24

7:33 p.m. Caller from Winthrop Street states that over a period of a few months, someone has been tampering with her mail and mailbox. She once found a dead mouse in the mailbox, and today she found a bag of dog poop. Advised to contact postmaster and report incidents to them.

Friday, 8/25

9:34 a.m. Caller from Federal Street states that her motorcycle was stolen overnight. Motorcycle entered into NCIC as stolen; Shelburne Control advised. 10:44 a.m. 911 caller reporting that there is a garbage truck in her yard, but it is not garbage collection day. Caller advised to speak to recycling company, with which she has been in contact. Officer checked garage area for damage; everything was in order.

10:58 p.m. Caller from Gill reporting loud music and/or party across the river in Turners Falls. Officer checked possible areas; unfounded.

Saturday, 8/26

12:20 a.m. Loud noise complaint on Main Street. Caller has asked neighbors to quiet down; no response. Officers advised parties of complaint. Party is closing down.

1:57 p.m. Caller reports that her wallet was stolen while at a farm stand in Montague. Advised of options.

6:34 p.m. Report of male and female and possibly additional parties arguing; sounds like it is coming from either Unity Park or the alley by the former Chick’s Garage. Parties separated; situation mediated.

Sunday, 8/27

1:51 a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ was arrested and charged with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.

[A 24-hour gap exists in the logs we were provided.]

Monday, 8/28

11:17 a.m. Report from Park Street of a cat lying in the road; appears to have possibly had recent surgery or another issue. Passing cars have been beeping at the cat, but it continues to lie in the road. ACO off today. Referred to an officer.

1:32 p.m. Caller contacted Chief Dodge to report that recently three people have been riding their red four-wheelers on the road coming from First Avenue at a high rate of speed without helmets. Officer spoke with parties.

1:39 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City. Male stole beer; female stole a sandwich. Incident caught on video. Investigated.

Tuesday, 8/29

10:30 a.m. Report of loose

chickens on Gunn Road. ACO is not working today. Officer advised.

Wednesday, 8/30

2:10 p.m. Vehicle fire reported in Twelfth Street alley. No entrapment. TFFD and MPD responding. Vehicle fully engulfed and proximal to a building.

4:40 p.m. 911 caller reports seeing two black pickup trucks in some type of road rage incident: one male got out of his truck and may have assaulted the other driver. Unable to locate.

6:19 p.m. Caller from Elm Street states that there is an ATV with a rider with no helmet riding at a high rate of speed in the neighborhood. \_\_\_\_\_ was

arrested and charged with disorderly conduct.

Thursday, 8/31

8:42 a.m. 911 caller reporting major water leak from pipe at New England Naturals on Industrial Boulevard. There is a sign that says to call the fire department if leaking. FD on scene advising possible water main break.

3:16 p.m. Suspicious package reported; unattended suitcase in a rest area on Federal Street. TFFD and PD responding. Officers located subject walking on Federal Street carrying the suitcase. Subject advised suitcase was empty when he found it. FD clear; confirmed no hazards. Officers located name and phone number on suitcase and placed call to that party. Number not in service or no longer belongs to that party.

3:48 p.m. Set of custodial keys reported stolen at Turners Falls High School. Report taken.

4:03 p.m. Report of truck vs. utility pole at School and West streets. Eversource advised. \_\_\_\_\_

was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor and negligent operation of a motor vehicle.

5:07 p.m. Caller noticed a note in the window of a vehicle that says “Call 911, I need help.” Officers tied up at this time. Erving PD, TFFD, and Medcare notified. Officer states that it is a windshield visor on the wrong way.

5:41 p.m. Report of fight on Second Street; one male has a bat and is threatening to hit the other. Parties left prior to officer’s arrival.

Friday, 9/1

3:34 a.m. Male caller with film crew requesting officer to area of Freedom Credit Union; question about blocking something for short period of time. Services rendered.

9:10 a.m. Caller states that a skunk has been trapped in a “live trap.” Requesting ACO to pick it up. ACO notified and responding.

12:16 p.m. Received call from Bogata, New Jersey police advising they have recovered a motorcycle that was entered as stolen by Montague PD. Owner notified.

3:04 p.m. 911 caller states that a boy on a skateboard came flying down the hill at Federal and West Main streets, hit her vehicle, and landed on her windshield. He apologized and took off. Some damage to windshield. Area search negative for skateboarder. Caller states that before leaving, the youth stated he was not injured. Officer spoke to some kids in area, but they were not involved.

3:21 p.m. Officer requesting message be left for DPW re: illegal dumping of recliners near railroad trestle on Newton Street.

4:11 p.m. Traffic backups on White and Gill-Montague bridges due to closure of General Pierce Bridge.

10:45 p.m. 911 caller reporting loud noise disturbance. Referred to regular business line. Caller called back requesting officers respond to Fourth Street; states that a couple of children are playing on pogo sticks and the squeaking is disturbing her peace. Officer called back. The children have stopped. Nothing further needed.

Saturday, 9/2

10:47 a.m. Caller reports that she was assaulted at Ce Ce’s Chinese Restaurant yesterday; will be coming to station to fill out a statement.

6:44 p.m. Report of fight at Unity Park. One female appears injured. Unable to locate.

10:03 p.m. Caller states that he has been receiving complaints about noise coming from Hubie’s Tavern. Location advised of complaint; stated that they would do their best to keep the windows closed.

Sunday, 9/3

3:26 p.m. Report of fire in one of the gas furnaces at Mayhew Steel Products on Industrial Boulevard. TFFD en route. Officers closing down road due to multiple gas furnaces. Police later advising that there is no issue with gas furnace; fire is coming from electrical fan.

5:37 p.m. Caller reporting that someone appears to be squatting under the band shell and they have built a fire to keep themselves warm. Involved party was burning candles and small pieces of wood. Fire extinguished; party moved along.

6:27 p.m. Caller from Taylor Heights reports hearing loud bang in area then discovering that a mailbox had “blown up.” MCFD and officers responding; firecracker in mailbox. Officer attempting to contact homeowners.

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by denis bordeaux

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Happy September! School's back in session. Enjoy the following programs from Montague TV, new in the TV schedule and online, as we say goodbye to hot summer days:

- The Rendezvous in Turners Falls just celebrated its 10th anniversary on September 1! Check out the festivities at [vimeo.com/232197470](http://vimeo.com/232197470).
- The Agape Moldovan Church's Youth Choir held their concert on the Gill Town Common in August. This was held as the last event of this season's Common Peoples' Concerts summer concert series. See the concert at [vimeo.com/231766656](http://vimeo.com/231766656).

Interested in becoming a board member for Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI)? Visit [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org) to learn more and call (413) 863-9200 to set up an appointment with a current board member!

At MCTV we connect community members to local happenings through local access programming. If there's something going on you think others would like to see, get in touch and we'll set you up with a camera to capture the moment.

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

NOTES from page B1

I spent the last days of my ride touring Pine Ridge, larger in land area than Rhode Island and Delaware combined. It takes up most of three of the poorest counties in America, situated in the southwest corner of South Dakota.

The land is arid. It includes parts of Badlands National Park. Much of the arable land is given over to cattle ranching.

The White River visitor center, operated jointly in this section of the Badlands by the Oglala Nation and the National Park Service, was closed when I cycled by. But I stopped to read the signs telling what to do if you stumble upon unexploded ordnance on the hundreds of thousands of acres of Native land taken in 1942 by eminent domain and used for decades as a firing range by the US military.

Uranium-tipped shells pose a particular hazard.

I stopped a few miles south of Porcupine, where Chief Big Foot, suffering from pneumonia and starving, along with his 100 or so lightly armed Hunkpapa and Minneconjou warriors, and the 200 or more old men, women and children who accompanied them, were surrounded in the snow in 1890.

They had left Standing Rock after the assassination of Sitting Bull, the great Lakota medicine man, on December 15 of that year.

They made their way to what they hoped would be the relative safety of Pine Ridge, and the protection of Chief Red Cloud.

They surrendered to Major Samuel Whiteside of the 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry on December 28, and were forced marched to the nearby village of Wounded Knee. Big Foot was given medical treatment.

The next day, his warriors were being disarmed of their ancient carbines and rusty pistols when a shot was allegedly fired by a deaf Lakota man named Black Coyote, who either did not understand the order to disarm or protested he had paid a lot for his rifle.

All-out slaughter ensued, as the army opened up on their own troops and the defenseless Lakota, men, women and children, with a battery of Hotchkiss cannons mounted on a hillside 400 yards away.

I went to the cemetery at Wounded Knee where Big Foot lies in a mass grave with the 300 Lakota who died with him that day, or who froze to death in the blizzard in the days following the massacre. Twenty Congressional Medals of Honor were given out to the US troops who conducted the massacre: more than for any other battle in US history, more than for entire wars. The Lakota continue to call on Congress to rescind those shameful medals.

The massacre at Wounded Knee was supposed to mark the end of open warfare between the US government and the Native American Nations.

But in 1973, when American Indian Movement activists and traditional Lakota elders, medicine men, and hundreds of other Natives

staged an armed takeover of the village of Wounded Knee, demanding international recognition of the sovereign Oglala Lakota Nation and enforcement of the treaties signed with them and violated by the US government, the US responded with armed force, and expended over 130,000 rounds of ammunition on the Lakota defending the village.

I pulled weeds and left sage on the grave of Lakota warrior Buddy LaMonte, a Vietnam veteran who, on the morning of April 26, 1973, stood up from one of the 36 bunkers surrounding Wounded Knee and was shot through the heart by a government sniper. He is buried just south of Chief Big Foot and his people.

As his niece, Bernie Lafferty, commented when I met her outside Minneapolis in early August, "He fought for them. And they killed him."

Lakota who live here now often refer to Pine Ridge as a "prisoner of war camp," not a reservation. Somewhere in the hills to the south of Wounded Knee, the Oglala war leader Crazy Horse, who defeated the US Army on multiple occasions, lies buried in an unmarked grave.

I saw his name on a banner, with the dates 1843 – 1847, on a gullied dirt road between Manderson and Oglala village, where I rode on a sunny day made more beautiful by the fields of wild sunflowers and the fragrance of scrub pines on the bluffs. Did Crazy Horse live here as a child? Perhaps.

I stopped at the Red Cloud Indian School, where, a woman from the desolately impoverished village of Manderson told me, when she and her four sisters attended school, Native children who displayed an independent streak were routinely sent to "the whipping room."

It is still a forbidding structure, but they were kind enough to fill my water bottles.

I found the grandson of Calvin Jumping Bull working at the general store in Oglala. He invited me to visit the Jumping Bull Ranch, where his grandparents invited Leonard Peltier and other AIM activists to defend them in 1975, during the years when unpunished murders were rampant on Pine Ridge, despite the widespread FBI presence.

I visited the ranch and said prayers for Peltier, who remains in jail in Florida 41 years after the shootout that took place on that property on June 26, 1975 between hundreds of law enforcement agents and about 30 Native Americans, during which two FBI agents and one AIM activist were killed. Peltier was the only one convicted for that shootout. Amnesty International cites his case as a perversion of justice; Nobel Laureates and parliaments around the world, along with the National Congress of American Indians, continue to call for his release.

I visited the Thunder Valley Community Development Corporation, at Sharp's Corners, led by Nick Tilsen. It represents the hopeful future of Native America as well as any place I found on my seven week bicycle tour.

Endowed with millions from major foundations and the Obama administration, Thunder Valley, with a staff of 55, is building sweat equity owner-occupied solar powered homes as it tries to put a dent in the chronic housing crisis at the Pine Ridge.

Hoping to reverse more than a century of food colonization, Thunder Valley is home to large native gardens, a budding geothermal greenhouse, and a brand new chicken coop – where I helped apply joint compound to new drywall, meeting some of the 50 young Lakota who volunteer for small stipends at Thunder Valley. They were expecting a delivery of 600 chicks later in the week.



Nick Tilsen

They run a Lakota immersion child care center, which leads to Lakota immersion elementary studies in the local school. They will house a youth shelter soon, along with artist studio space for Native quilters and craftspeople, concert and recording facilities for Native musicians, and many other programs initiated after ten years of close consultation with the Lakota community, responding to local needs.

Tilsen is now working to bring buffalo back to the land, as a better source of protein and more natural link in a local food system than the calf-to-cow, export-to-slaughter ranching practiced by the well-off ranchers on Pine Ridge now.

He said more than three dozen Native Nations have come to visit Thunder Valley, with an eye toward taking the example of self-empowerment home to their own communities. I believe it is in efforts such as these that real hope for the future of self sufficient, prosperous, sovereign Native Nations lies.

And in their example, the potential for white settler society to finally listen and learn how to live within the natural limits of this continent – how to care for and share its resources with true respect for all its people – will be found.

On Thursday, September 21 at 6:30 p.m., the Nolumbeka Project will present "A Song for Standing Rock" at the Brick House, 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

David Detmold will present snapshots from his 2,500-mile "Plymouth Rock to Standing Rock Bicycle Tour" and tell stories from the road. Music by John Sheldon. For more information, call 863-9296.

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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 [mcbrass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcbrass@vermontel.net) for location and details.

## 2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

## 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.

## 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

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.

## 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.

## 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 early to sign up for 5-10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

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

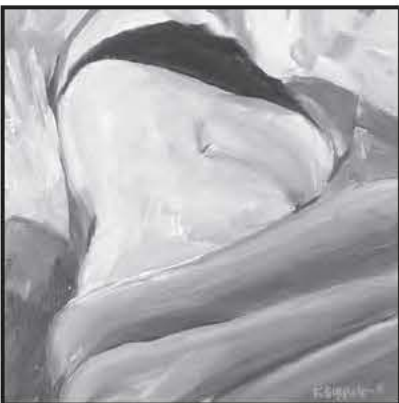
## EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

## EXHIBITS:

Deerfield Valley Art Association and Museum of New England Art, Craft, and Design, Northfield: *Summer Show*. Through September 24.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River of Words*. a public-participation art exhibit. This unique combination of art and public policy urges federal officials to improve the health and recreational use of the Connecticut River. Add your words to the river by joining on September 16 for a reception, 1 to 3 p.m.



*Lust, oil painting by Francine Schrock. Part of the Triple SSS exhibit at Nina's Nook in Turners Falls. Exhibit through October; opening reception, September 16 at the Great Falls Harvest Restaurant.*

Leverett Crafts and Arts. *Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration Exhibit*. Works by founding and past LCA artists and craftspeople, and a commemoration of the history of the Center from industrial box factory to craft and art center. Exhibit runs through September 30. Fridays through Sundays, 1 to 6 p.m. Free to the public. Reception with food and music, September 17 from 1 to 5 p.m. At the Barnes Gallery, 13 Montague Road, Leverett.

Shelburne Arts Co-op, Shelburne Falls: *The Green Show*. An exhibition celebrating the color green features the work of area painters, photographers, printmakers, fiber, ceramics and glass artists. Through September 28. Reception, September 9 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"The Green Show"*, group show. Through September 26.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Village Hill Trio*, funk, fusion etc. 8 p.m., \$

La Mariposa, Turners Falls: *Brenna Michelle Durrah*, acoustic performance, and dance party feat. DJ Pollo Frito and

Hood Sensitive. 8 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Great Falls Coffeehouse, Turners Falls: *Moonlight and Morning Star*. R&B, jazz, gospel. With *Stephen Page*, keyboards, and the *Wendell Community Chorus*. 7 p.m. \$

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Film screening on Dakota Access Pipeline*; fundraiser for Po Metacom encampment in Rhode Island. 7 p.m. \$

66 Sunderland Road, Montague: *Benefits with Friends* featuring *Bennett Konesni, Edith Gawler*, and more. Traditional and work songs, and a dance set. Bring money: benefit for the Pioneer Valley Workers Center. 7 p.m., \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Charles Neville and the New England Nevilles*. 7 p.m., \$

Laughing Dog Bikes, Amherst: *Kindling, Infinity Girl, Bucket, Bedroom Eyes*. Shoegaze, indie etc. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Signature Sounds presents *Eileen Jewell*, album release show. 7:30 p.m., \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Afro Reggae All Stars* with *Shanti Starr & Iganic Sound System*. 8 p.m. \$

Dream Away Lodge, Becket: *Home Body*. 8 p.m., \$

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

Montague Common Hall: Open mic night. 7 to 10 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Storypalooza*, with local storytellers. 7 p.m. \$

Berkshire Pizzeria, Charlemont: *Pat & Tex LaMountain* feat. *John White*, bass, and *Dennis Avery*, dobro. 7 p.m.

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Freestone or Ooze Festival* feat. *Allysen Gallery, Viewer Project, Gary War, Tarp, Omeed Godarzi, Christopher Carmody*, and more. Lineup subject to change. 7 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Vimana, Hierofante, and The Big Why*. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *People Like You*, freak folk, and *Keepers of the Vibe*. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Old Flame* plus *Lexi Weege & The Wonder Twins*. No cover, full bar, pizza by the slice. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rice: An American Band*, classic and psychedelic rock covers, and *Root Shock*, reggae and dancehall. 9 p.m. \$

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Amherst Common, Amherst: *Freestone or Ooze Festival* feat. *Sunburned Hand of the Man, Noise Nomads, Frank Hurricane, Frozen Corn, Pigeons,*

*Dredd Foole, Gracious Calamity*, and more. Lineup subject to change. 12 p.m.

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Quabbin Valley Pro Musica* choral rehearsal with music director Geoff Hudson. Handel and Durante. Open chorus. 7 p.m.

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

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Crafts, Games & Socializing Night* with music by *L.A. Wood*. 7 p.m.

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

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Silent Sky*, play by Laura Gunderson. (See page B1.) 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Heavy Calm*, progressive metal, *The Screaming Hearts*, folk and pop, and *Hoo:Lumes*, indie rock. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Sass-quatch*. Jam band. 8 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Poet's Seat, Greenfield: *Poet's Seat Tower Sounds*. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Danny's Jam Night* feat. Danny Hescoc of *Jimmy Just Quit*. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Silent Sky*, play by Laura Gunderson. (See page B1.) 7:30 p.m. \$

McNeil's Brewery, Brattleboro VT: *Abductors, Pus, Glittergutz, Tides, Smartyr*. Metal, punk and hardcore. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Adwela & the Uprising*, reggae. 8 p.m. \$

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *River of Words* reception, 1 p.m.

Great Falls Harvest, Turners Falls: Opening reception for *Nina's Nook SSS Show*. Opens at 5:30 p.m. Talk by sex educator *Yana Tallon-Hicks*, 6:30 p.m. Raffle, refreshments, and a closing set by rock band *She Said*.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Greg Abate Quartet*, legendary jazz saxophonist. 7 p.m. \$

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Silent Sky*, play by Laura Gunderson. (See page B1.) 7:30 p.m. \$

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *David Roth*, singer-songwriter. 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *The Shadow Twisters*, '60s & '70s classic rock dance party. 8 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague: *Rachel Laitman, Joshua Baum*, and *Joshua Crane*, singer-songwriters. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Blu*

*Groove Organ Quartet*, 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Scott Hall*, three sets: guitar and piano. 5 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Silent Sky*, play by Laura Gunderson. (See page B1.) 7:30 p.m. \$

Parlor Room, Northampton: *The Huntress and the Holder of Hands*, album release. 7 p.m. \$

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GARDENER’S from page B1

pesto to freeze.

The butterfly bush hums with transient beauties filling up for their long journey ahead. We revel in the last roses of the season.

There is still harvesting and putting food by to be done before it is garden cleanup time. In the far north where my sister and her family live, there were frost warnings when we were at forty degrees one day. We’re not there yet.

It’s time to plant the lilies I picked up on sale and to set in any other perennials we may buy. Later still, time to plant bulbs for beauty next spring. In this way the garden never really goes to bed. The cycle continues as we bring in plants we’ve loved to winter over in the sunroom, and save what harvest we please.

We have a beautiful full moon this week which is already stunning. Maybe not as dramatic as the eclipse was in the southland but still hauntingly close, winking at us.

Nature is full of danger and disaster but it is dispassionate and by the same hands strews beauty in all weathers and all seasons.

Enjoy the harvest and the plenty of fruit and produce.

An easy way to preserve fresh herbs for future seasoning is:

Spread clean leaves on paper towel and place in the microwave for 30-60 seconds depending on how strong your machine is. Remove the leaves to cool. If crispy, crumble gently and store in a jar with a tight lid.

Happy gardening!



BAZER from page B1

excess, and let it sit for five or ten minutes like a cake cooling, it shrinks a little. Then I can tap it out with a mallet, tap! tap! And it plops out.”

Deb has a degree in ceramics from UMass, and also studied at the Moravian Pottery and Tileworks in Doylestown, PA. This tile factory was founded by Henry Chapman Mercer and was at the forefront of the Arts & Crafts movement in the US; it is now a working history museum, producing tiles with locally dug clay.

Tiles are what Deb sells most of, primarily at the Shelburne Arts Coop. She also sells some slab built dinnerware made from terra-cotta colored stoneware, but she’s been working on a series of ceramic sculpture which she pulled out from the storage area in her basement for us to look at during my visit.

“I’ve been looking at buildings that nobody



NINA ROSSI PHOTOS

A work in progress by Bazer, inspired by her walks around the Northfield Mount Hermon campus after it closed.



Deborah Bazer squeezes clay into a mold using a press that she made with her father.

is living in, and how nature takes over – how quickly it takes over, once people vacate,” said Deb. Inside the carved clay buildings were trees growing through or animals cavorting or sleeping. On the yet unglazed walls of these structures, beams and branches intertwined.

The inspiration for the abandoned buildings series of sculptures came from walking around the old Northfield Mount Hermon campus in Northfield after it closed about ten years ago. “I would see foxes and deer trotting across lawns,” she said. “It’s beautiful and inspiring. The architecture is incredible there. But if it weren’t for the maintenance crew, I think the whole place

would be in brambles.”

In 1999, Deborah went back to UMass to get a degree in education, and has been teaching preschool pretty much full time since. This leaves less time for her art, but she manages to squeeze it into the corners of her busy schedule.

If she were to ever explore another medium, she said it would be fiber. “I’ve always loved fiber... I would love to do more with that. I have been doodling around in that realm and I really enjoy the colors and textures. I would do felting. I have done it with kids, dying the wool with natural materials. I look to nature for everything that I do!”



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