



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 2

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 19, 2017

## Conte Opens Up for Rare Tour

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – “It’s the first time we’ve done it since 2009,” Adria Elskus, supervisory fish biologist at the Conte Anadromous Fish Lab, told us when we arrived toward the end of the lab’s open house last Saturday. “We’ve had almost 300 people so far.”

The lab, located in the far end of the Patch down Migratory Way, belongs to the United States Geological Survey. We wander from station to station, talking directly with researchers about their work.

Most of it involves, in one way or another, understanding the challenges faced by anadromous fish, species that reproduce up rivers but spend most of their lives in the ocean. These challenges include passing through hydroelectric dams.

Research ecologist Ben Letcher tells us about the ways researchers tag fish in the wild to track their migration in rivers and streams. The favored method involves inserting tiny radio transponders into the animals’ abdomens, which register, “just like an EZ-Pass,” when they pass by receivers. Letcher describes tagging tens of thousands of brook trout and brown trout in local streams.

Mike Hayden, a conservation



Research biologist Micah Kieffer proudly displays a shortnose sturgeon spawned 15 years ago at the lab. “We’re forbidden to name sturgeons,” Kieffer says.

biology masters student at Antioch University, also researches brook trout. His goal is to track the age demographics of local populations.

Hayden explains that every day, another ring of material grows on the otolith, a tiny bone inside a fish’s ear, “like the rings of a tree.” He shows us a cross-section of a trout otolith through a microscope.

Amphibian biologists Evan Grant and Jill Fleming introduce us to a mudpuppy, red-spotted newts named Olivia Newton-John and Newt Gin-

grich, and a spotted salamander.

They say they’ve been telling people all day the spotted salamander is the state amphibian, but admit they aren’t actually sure. “If it’s not yet, it’s going to be,” Grant jokes.

We follow signs through a series of halls to find the “wet lab,” where scientists must use their loudest science voices to be heard over the dull roar of pumps and flowing water. Some of the tanks appear empty, but lamprey lie burrowed in the sand

see **FISH LAB** page A8

## Rising Healthcare Fees Hit Town Employees

By MIKE JACKSON

**ERVING** – The brightly painted Erving Elementary School gym, home of the Erving Eagles, was the venue for Monday night’s meeting of the Erving selectboard – and for an ersatz town hall meeting on the ballooning cost of American healthcare.

About 25 members of the public, mostly town employees, came to hear Joe Shea, the executive director of the Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT), explain why their health copays and prescription costs were set to sharply rise.

The rates will also affect employees of Montague, Gill, Wendell, Leverett, and 65 other towns or school districts pooled in the 11,000-member joint-purchase group.

“There’s really no way to control it,” Shea told them. “Everybody across the board, from private insurance to public insurance, has seen the same gigantic growth in pharmaceutical [costs].”

The HCGIT is governed by an “insurance advisory committee,” made up of representatives from each town. That committee has attempted to absorb the impact of spiraling costs over the last few years, Shea explained, by spending down the trust’s cash reserves,



Joe Shea, who administers an insurance trust covering 70 area towns, got an earful Monday from Erving employees, but argued drug costs left the trust little choice.

which have dwindled from over \$27 million in 2014 to under \$19 million as of this summer.

About \$6 million of that loss, he said, can be attributed to the jump in drug prices: by 26%, 39%, and 10% in each of the last three years, nearly a doubling all told.

Recently, the committee voted to make a number of changes to the

see **HEALTHCARE** page A7

## IN SIMPLER TIMES



Greenfield Mayor Bill Martin, Northwestern District Attorney Michael Sullivan, and Montague police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge pose in a photograph we ran February 21, 2013 to publicize the new prescription drug drop box at the Montague police station. Last week, Miranda Davis of the Greenfield Recorder broke the story that fake OxyContin deposited in this box by state police disappeared last year from Dodge’s office, as well as Dodge’s disclosure that he had been targeted in the sting due to his own history of painkiller addiction and managed recovery. No charges were filed, and the state has dropped its investigation. Dodge told the Reporter this week that he has been advised not to speak with us on the topic, and we have little else to add to Davis’ reporting. For more, see our editorial coverage on Page A2, as well as a range of reactions polled on Avenue A, which you will find on Page B6.

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Leverett, Shutesbury Talk Joint Police Administration

By JEFF SINGLETON

On Tuesday, the Leverett selectboard held a preliminary discussion with officials from the town of Shutesbury about the possibility of sharing a police chief. However, the participants attempted to avoid the word “sharing,” because of concerns that this would imply that one town or the other – or both – would lose services.

Another word that was avoided was “regionalization,” which tends to imply the merging of town departments. According to Shutesbury police chief Tom Harding, studies show regionalization is a “dead end”: such an approach tends to be more expensive, partly due to the need to bring union contracts up to

the highest average pay levels of the member towns.

Shutesbury officials who initiated the discussion brought a template for another model to the meeting. The towns of Hardwick and New Braintree have successfully negotiated a “contract for services,” which results in one police chief overseeing officers in the two towns.

Harding noted that he will be stepping down in June, presenting an ideal opportunity to look at the organization of police services. “What is there to lose?” he asked. He described the training for police officers required by the state as “chaotic” and expensive. Small towns pay for the training of part-timers who might not continue to

see **LEVERETT** page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners’ running back Marcus Sanders (20) has a clear lane as Jack Putala (57), Hadyn Patenaude (52), and John Driscoll (40) tie up the Red Hawk defense.

## TFHS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

This week in sports, the Turners Falls volleyball team stayed on top, sweeping two Northern League foes. The football team got its passing game off the ground. On the links, four Powertown golfers scored points.

And with apologies to Rip Miller, the field hockey team kissed their sister.

Also this week, through the miracle of scheduling, I was able to go to games in Belchertown and Northfield on the same night!

**Golf**

St. Mary 13.5 – TFHS 6.5  
Greenfield 17 – TFHS 7

On Tuesday, October 10, the Turners Falls golf team traveled down to Westfield to challenge Saint Mary at the Tekoa Country Club. Because both teams fielded five players, the point total was 20.

Tyler Noyes and Joey Mosca shared Blue’s 6.5 points, with Noyes (54) taking his match 3.5 to 0.5 and Mosca (61) winning his 3 to 1.

The next day, Powertown took on the Greenfield golf team. Kyle Kucienski hit a season-best 40, tying for

course leader and earning 2 points. Porier (64) made it a perfect week by winning his match 3-1. Noyes shot a 55 and scored 1.5 points, and Mosca (57) took half a point.

**Field Hockey**

TFHS 0 – Belchertown 0

On October 11, the Turners Falls field hockey team played Belchertown to a scoreless tie. Turners is a pretty good team, especially against the better teams. They did wonderful against Frontier, Holyoke, and Amherst while against Mohawk,

see **SPORTS** page A4



# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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## Tempest in a Drop Box

"The town of Montague is deeply committed to, and thankful for, all of the staff of the [police] department, who we believe approach their work with diligence and integrity every day on behalf of the citizens of Montague."

That was what Montague town administrator Steve Ellis had to say on Wednesday, when we checked in with him about the week's big news: the admission by police chief Chip Dodge to the *Greenfield Recorder* that he "became the focus" of a 2016 state police investigation of the department's lax prescription drug handling procedures due to his personal history of painkiller addiction and recovery.

Everyone seems to have an opinion on the matter, which stands at the volatile intersection of our society's opioid crisis and tensions over the role of policing.

Miranda Davis, our colleague across the river at the *Recorder*, filed over 5,000 words on the topic last Thursday, and while we've heard many weird rumors as usual, we have no real news to add to her reporting.

Davis was accused by online commenters of "stirring the pot" for her coverage, but it is plainly in the public interest to know that a state sting found pills deposited at the town's public safety complex had disappeared. (That the investigation was closed with no charges filed is also newsworthy.)

After all, residents had been asked for the last 16 months to live with the mystery of the chief's suspension – and the suspension of Montague from two regional programs, the prescription collection and a police resource-sharing task force. In effect, we were expected to trust the benevolent authority of institutions even though it was clear that those institutions did not trust each other.

The drug drop box is back online, with new locks on doors and new handling procedures implemented, but Montague's task force membership remains a loose end.

To add to the sense of factionalism behind the scenes, Dodge's statements that "[s]omeone could have simply entered [his] office after normal business hours and helped themselves to these bags if they really wanted to" has apparently rankled his department's rank and file, who through their union issued a statement that "baseless suggestions like those... tarnish both the efforts and reputations of our officers and sergeants, making a difficult job even tougher."

Dodge, after agreeing to talk with us, wrote back Wednesday morning to say he had "been advised" not to discuss the matter.

That's just fine on our end, but we worry that officials in Montague think this one will be fixed simply by reestablishing communications discipline.

Chief Dodge has an opportunity to step forward as a leader on this issue. Addiction is a health problem that will never be solved simply by policing; this is becoming accepted as common sense, but its application is still uneven.

This week's *Washington Post / 60 Minutes* series on the breakdown of DEA regulation of the distribution of painkillers connects the dots in a breathtaking fashion. Pharmaceutical manufacturers marketed opioids to doctors and downplayed their dangers, drug distribution companies spent millions lobbying to undermine regulatory capacity, and they all profited enormously.

The wave of pills they sent into the American public has had direct aftershocks in users switching to heroin, and a generational scourge of heroin and fentanyl overdoses. We pour public resources into incarcerating street-level pill and heroin dealers without ever stopping to consider that an industry that shipped 2 million pills a year to the 25,000 residents of Mingo County, West Virginia for six years might be the bigger culprits.

At the same time the system favors profits over health outcomes, it rewards the wealthy and powerful with an assumption of legality, and allows power to create the terms of its own legitimacy. This is why OxyContin disappearing at the police station hits such a raw nerve: proper oversight was never established, because most people *both* regard the police as morally infallible *and* regard drug use as a sign of moral fallibility.

So the real story here isn't who took the pills (we don't care), or whether someone in managed recovery can do their job (they can).

It's why, for 3-1/2 years, Montague residents were putting their leftover painkillers in a box, even though no one had set procedures to ensure they would thereby be removed from human temptation.

And it's which assumptions we choose to reexamine, now that we realize we made this mistake.



Shanna Clark just restocked the pumpkins at her farmstand on Federal Street, grown by her 87-year-old grandmother at the Senn Farm in Millers Falls.

## Letters to the Editors



### Loved Stemple

Thank you so much for running Miss Stemple's column. It was a treasured read-a-loud in our family, and we frequently listened to her recall the past as entertainment on a car ride.

I hope the *Reporter* has more treasures in its archives; that was truly delightful and informative.

Best,

**Elizabeth Irving**  
Montague Center

### Resign!

Fifteen years ago, when the Montague Highway Department was found to be responsible for the misallocation of trash sticker receipts from local stores, then-Highway Department Superintendent Edward Mleczo, Jr. took responsibility for the scandal and resigned. Whether he was shielding others in his department who were culpable or not, he claimed to have a gambling addiction, took responsibility for the mess created under his supervision, and resigned.

It is difficult to watch our current chief of police, Charles Dodge, Jr. twist and turn under a cloud of suspicion that he is enforcing drug laws on others that he is unable to follow himself.

The community as a whole, and the police department, need closure now. It strains credulity to hear that our chief of police, finally forced by documentary evidence pried loose by a dogged reporter from a neighboring newspaper to admit to years of personal opioid abuse and addiction, moved the contents of the police department's unused prescription drug drop box out of the video-monitored public lobby and into the privacy of his own office, and then claimed to be unaware of the removal of fake

Oxycontin pills planted there by investigators from the DA's office.

He tries to implicate other officers in the scandal by saying keys to his office may have gone missing. Shameful!

Montague has been suspended from the Anti-Crime Task Force of Franklin and Hampshire County for more than a year because of this mess. We keep hearing from Dodge how the Montague Police Department is better off because of the problems created under his watch, and how his department is now more empathetic in its handling of the drug abuse problem in town.

Tell that to any of the drug users who have been busted while you have been Montague's chief of police, Chip; they have a much harsher story to tell.

To remove the stain of corruption that has been plaguing the Montague police and restore morale to the department, Chief Dodge, you must take the only honorable step remaining to you. For the good of the police department and the good of the town, it is high time for you to resign.

**David Detmold**  
Precinct 5  
Montague

### Request for Information Regarding Comcast Sales

The Broadband Committee has received some questions and concerns regarding the Comcast sales process.

A salesman, Rick Brooke, has represented to residents of Chestnut Hill that they should lobby their neighbors to sign up in advance, since the number of homes that sign up will determine who gets served first.

Our concern is that he has stated that triple play service (internet, telephone and TV) is mandatory in order to get service.

We're checking the veracity of this claim, and his relationship with Comcast. I'd appreciate it if anyone with information, or who has had a conversation with Mr. Brooke, would contact me directly at [robertjsteinberg@gmail.com](mailto:robertjsteinberg@gmail.com) or call me at (617) 302-9031.

**Robert J. Steinberg**  
Montague Broadband Committee

### Word Fest Praise

My hat is off to Paul Richmond, Dina Stander, and the many volunteers who provided Turners Falls with the Great Falls Word Festival.

From open mics, five-minute stories, and a plethora of writers and poets presenting, it was fantastic to visit multiple downtown venues, meet new people, and have my mind expanded in ways unanticipated. Seeing "Do It Now" perform was

worth the price of admission, and experiencing Cindy Markevich's laser-sharp poetry transformative.

One big surprise was The Shea – my first time inside since new management, and it is simply beautiful. I'm already looking forward to next year's event.

**Bill Waterhouse**  
Turners Falls

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JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by DON CLEGG

The **Friends of Gill Pancake Breakfast** will be held on Saturday, October 21, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Gill Congregational Church. Regular and blueberry pancakes and sausage or bacon will be served. Prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 10, and free for 4 and under.

Frozen, unbaked apple pies will also be available for \$12. All proceeds will benefit the Friends of Gill college scholarship program.

Need something to spruce up those bare walls or add a new theme? Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is hosting their first-ever **painting and wallhanging swap** this Saturday, October 21, from 10 to 11 a.m.

Bring the current painting or wall hanging that is retiring and swap for another. Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the bank.

Also this Saturday, whenever you're ready for a break from the

Great Falls Festival festivities on Avenue A, take a short stroll over to the Brick House at 24 Third Street, where **Great Falls Books Through Bars** will be hosting a book sale from 4 to 7 p.m.

Hundreds of interesting books, including many in hardcover, will be offered at very low prices. Proceeds from the sale will support the all-volunteer group's work of sending free books to people in prison.

Enjoy a community concert with **Roger Tincknell at the Gill/Montague Senior Center**, Fifth Street in Turners Falls, next Thursday, October 26, starting at 3:30 p.m. Attendees will hear seasonal songs and join in on sing-alongs for all ages.

The concert, which is sponsored in part by a Montague Cultural Council grant, is free and open to the public. Call to sign up at 863-9357.

Next Thursday, October 26, the Nolumbeka Project and the Social Justice Committee of All Souls UU Church will host an event **"Protecting the Water: Stories from**

**the Road."** It will feature activists Rhonda Anderson, "From Standing Rock to Otis State Forest"; David Detmold, "From Plymouth Rock to Standing Rock"; and Annie Hassett singing "Songs for Standing Rock."

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at the church, located at Hope and Main streets in Greenfield.

The **Wendell Fire Department** is having an open house on Thursday, October 26, starting at 6:30 p.m. Come meet the chief, firefighters, EMTs and first responders, and learn about fire safety, smoke alarms, how your fire department works, and what happens when you call 911.

There will be an informative and entertaining presentation for the first hour. Folks who want to stay will get a tour of the station and equipment, and some demonstrations to see the firefighters in action. Try on the gear and air packs, and see what it's really like!

There will be some frank talk about the dangers of fire, with video of fire behavior showing how fast fire can move. Nothing gory, but not appropriate for children under 14. The department is hoping folks come out to join them – especially anyone who may be interested in joining up!

Fall is a great time of year, but it is a time when the Red Cross really needs blood. Consider the life you could save.

The **Erving Community Blood**

**Drive** will be held Friday, October 27, from 1 to 6 p.m. at One Care Drive, Erving. For an appointment, call 1-800-RED-CROSS, visit [red-crossblood.org](http://red-crossblood.org), or call the Erving Senior Center at (413) 423-3649. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are always welcome.

Here is a **little distribution info** for you readers. The *Montague Reporter* is currently delivering or selling newspapers in ten villages and towns in this section of Franklin County. We also mail the newspaper to 33 communities throughout Massachusetts.

Now, the bit of surprising information is that we mail the newspaper to customers in 18 different states. Not too shabby for a weekly newspaper!

Thank you, if you are one of those subscribers.

The *Reporter* is **currently looking for a carrier** who can deliver a dozen or so papers within the Patch section of Turners Falls every Thursday.

Our previous carrier did a wonderful job, but his school studies have increased. That change from Kindergarten to First Grade can be a big one! Call 863-8666 if you are interested.

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



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#### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Fire Sale Lot Reignites Capped Well Spat

By MIKE JACKSON

Over an hour of the Erving selectboard's Monday meeting was dedicated to a discussion of rising health insurance fees for employees (*see page A1*), but several other topics were also on the agenda.

A fire last winter burned down the house at 10 Main Street, resulting in the loss of an infant's life. Now the lot, which abuts the former Usher Mill and new Riverfront Park, is on the market for an asking price of \$35,000.

"What would be an intended use?" Bastarache asked. "I don't think the town of Erving should own property just to own property."

"It is a property that could be used for commercial, if I'm not mistaken," said Jacob Smith.

"I have to disagree with you guys. I think it's a desirable property, although it's a small property," selectboard member William Bem-bury said. "It's insignificant as to a loss in tax revenue."

Jeanie Schermesser, who chaired the since-dissolved Usher Mill Re-use Committee, suggested that the well on the property might provide drinking water to the park, which does not currently have any.

When the town discontinued the well on the Usher property, she said,

"it was promised to the committee that there would be the availability – that the town would go forward to site a new well" for the park and potential mill reuse, which would cost \$70,000 just to study.

"We made no promises," said Jacob Smith, who added that the state DEP recommended the well be discontinued, and that "a private water supply isn't the same as a public water supply," and that the Main Street well "could have the same concerns, with proximity to the tracks."

Members of the Reuse Committee had previously spoken out against the discontinuation of both the well and their committee.

Town clerk Jackie Boyden spoke out against purchasing the property. "The town of Erving owns a lot of prime lots," she argued. "Businesses bring in a higher tax rate... It's another piece of land that the town absorbs, and doesn't allow for expansion or growth in the downtown. Downtown's not going to be viable unless we open up some land."

The discussion was tabled, and the selectboard agreed that it would like to see an inventory of town-owned properties, as well as learn more facts about the well and whether it might be a viable source for the park, before moving toward any decision.

#### Other Business

The highway department has received stencils, and will paint safety signage onto the roadway at North and Church streets, part of a promised campaign to calm traffic at that intersection.

The selectboard of Northfield, however, has shot down a proposal to exclude trucks from Gulf Road in that town, which connects with North Street in Erving. "Apparently they're not feeling as concerned with the traffic," administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said.

"We'll continue to look into that," said Jacob Smith.

Negotiations continue with Erving Industries over wastewater sludge from POTW 1 in Erving being shipped for final treatment to POTW 2, which the company operates. Different methodologies are used at the two plants for calculating the sludge's suspended solids quotient, which both parties agree should be capped at 2%.

The selectboard agreed to adopt the company's procedure for testing any sludge shipped, and authorized Bryan Smith to make this concession.

Alan Singer from the Franklin County Community Development Corporation gave a short report of a revolving loan fund which spon-

sors startups in ten "northern tier" towns in the county. Erving is the lead town, having a professional accountant on staff.

Singer said the fund is especially helpful for value-added agricultural businesses and farmstands, which often fall through other programs' cracks.

Two homeowners sent a letter of commendation to the fire department for being "hardworking, diligent, efficient, professional, thoughtful, and caring" during a September 23 house fire. "Please pass that thank you on to the rest of the department," Jacob Smith told fire chief Philip Wonkka.

Peter Mallet was appointed to the capital planning committee through June 2020. George "Moonlight" Davis, Tim Cronin, and Brenda Silva were all un-appointed from the cable advisory committee due to their apparent lack of interest or involvement. That committee needs one more member to achieve a quorum. The town received four bids for the work of assessing FirstLight Power Resources' property on Northfield Mountain, which currently accounts for over 80% of the town's tax revenue. The lowest bid was for \$32,250, submitted by Mainstream Associates of North Hampton, NH. The board voted unanimously to accept their bid.

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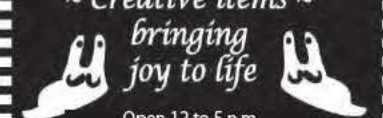
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## SPORTS from page A1

they led early. This is good news if they make the playoffs. They play tough against tough teams.

But to get to the postseason, Blue has to get by some lower-tier teams. And against squads like Belchertown, they haven't done so well.

Wednesday's game was a hard fought defensive battle, and for most of the contest, the play was outside the circles. Only a total of 9 balls made it to the goalies' sticks, with Haleigh Greene blocking five shots. The tie gives the Tribe a record of 5-7-2, with four games left to play.

## Football

Frontier 33 - TFHS 21

On Senior Night, Friday, October 13, Turners lost to the Frontier Red Hawks 33-21.

The Frontier offense employs a tight formation. Their linemen's cleats almost touch. Then they may pull a tackle to the center, and one or two running backs crash into the line. The Quarterback does a 360 and nobody knows who has the rock. Who to block, and who to tackle?

In spite of this, the Blue D moved Frontier back on the first Hawk drive, and Red was forced to punt on 4th and 15.

On their second series, Turners scored on their second play. Kyle Dodge found Andy Craver for a 67-yard completion, and at 6:50, Turners was up by a touch.

Frontier matched the TD 43 seconds later with a 50-plus yard run, but the Blue D stuffed the 2-PAT and Turners got the ball back, leading 7-6.

On Turners' next series, facing 3rd and 4, Dodge hit Marcus Sanders for a 53-yard score. Tyler Lavin kicked his second PAT of the night, and Turners led 14-6.

But twenty seconds later, Fron-

tier answered again. On their first play from scrimmage, the Hawks completed a 42-yard touchdown run. The Blue D again prevented the 2-PAT, and the margin remained 2 points, 14-12.

On Red's next drive, they converted on third down, twice. The second time they faced third down, they scored off a 17-yard run. Again, Frontier couldn't get the 2-pointer, and with 6:50 left in the half, the score was 18-14 Hawks. Frontier scored again with 32.2 seconds to go and by halftime were up 26-14.

The Hawks scored once more in the third, and took a 33-14 lead going into the fourth quarter.

Turners was trying desperately to keep Red out of the end zone after a blocked punt. Frontier had first-and-goal from the Blue 5. They gained two yards on the first play, setting up a second-and-3. On second down, Red moved forward to the 1. Then on third down, Frontier coughed it up, and Hadyn Patenaude recovered the fumble.

Turners began their next drive on their own 3. Again Turners' passing game came alive, and Dodge connected with Craver for an 82-yard TD. After Lavin kicked the 1-pointer, it was a 12-point game, 33-21.

A team that can pass can never be counted out. Coach LaPointe banked on that as he called an on-side kick, and it worked. Power-town got possession and drove all the way to the Red 10. When they couldn't convert on fourth-and-6, however, Blue gave up the ball.

Powertown got one final chance. Their defense held Frontier to 1 yard, and the Hawks were forced to punt on fourth and 9. Turners blocked it and took over inside the 15 - but an interception put the loss in the books.

Under Center, Dodge went 9 for



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners' Andy Craver powers past the Frontier defense.

18 for 260 yards and a pick. He completed passes to five different receivers: Craver (2/149), Sander (1/53), Jaden Whiting (4/41), John Driscoll (1/12) and Ryan Campbell (1/5).

Carrying the ball for the Tribe were Sanders (16/55), John Torres (7/38), Driscoll (3/11), and Craver (2/9).

## Volleyball

TFHS 3 - Mahar 0

TFHS 3 - Pioneer 0

On October 10, the Blue Tribe traveled to Orange and swept Mahar 25-19, 20, 12.

A day later, they went to Northfield and swept Pioneer. The two wins gave Powertown a 13-1 record.

In the Pioneer game, the first match was tied at 14 when Skylar Thompson took service. Turners

pulled away and by the time Abby Loynd rotated to server, the score was 21-15. Turners scored four straight points to put the first match on ice, 25-15.

In the second match, Power-town skyrocketed to a 15-3 lead. The teams played even through midgame. Then with the score 24-13, Pioneer committed a net violation for the match point, and Turners took the second 25-13.

Turners opened the third match with a 9-0 run, courtesy of several aces from Sienna Dillensneider. They expanded it to 14-3, and cruised to a 25-8 victory.

Next week: My two favorite football teams go helmet to helmet when Franklin Tech hosts Turners Falls in the Blue Bowl.



## LEVERETT from page A1

work in their communities.

Leverett selectboard chair Peter d'Errico stressed the difference between the Hardwick-New Braintree model and regionalization. "We have municipal agreements," he said. "There is no need to invent another wheel." He also noted that "we are helping each other out all the time."

Leverett selectboard member Julie Shively stated that the towns discussed the issue "several years ago." "We looked at a couple of models from Maine and the Midwest," she said. "Maine came here and did a workshop." However, according to Shively, some police officers, including "rank and file officers from other towns," were opposed to the idea.

Leverett police chief Scott Minckler said that under joint administration, not much would change. He would continue to set his own schedule and those of other officers, dividing time between the towns.

"You are policing an area now," said d'Errico, suggesting that the notion of separate town responsibilities, given frequent mutual aid, is "just an illusion." D'Errico and Minckler also noted that Shutesbury currently has two full-time officers in addition to the chief, whereas Leverett has only one.

The timeline for making a decision on the issue was discussed. Shively stressed that the Leverett selectboard would need to meet with the finance committee to discuss the budget impact of any change. For the decision to go to town meetings in the spring, a new organization of

the police department would need to be part of Leverett's budget process, which begins in November.

The meeting ended with Shutesbury selectboard chair Michael DeChiara telling the Leverett board that "you are always welcome up the hill [in Shutesbury]... as long as you drive slowly."

After the Shutesbury discussion the Leverett board reviewed a section of the police policies manual, which is being updated by Minckler. D'Errico asked why there was a reference to the death penalty, which does not currently exist in Massachusetts. The reference is "in the [state] statute" on arrest policies, Minckler responded.

## Nine-Tenths Of The Law

The board discussed a petition by Gordon Fretwell and Fay Zipkowitz. The petition, signed primarily by senior citizens, urged the town to enforce its right of way in the parking lot behind town hall. The resident who actually owns the property has placed barricades in the middle of the lot, interfering with access. The petition expressed "displeasure, outrage, and grievous inconvenience" as well as "humiliation" as a result of this "deplorable situation."

The petitioners requested that the town take the land in question through eminent domain. However, the board decided to inform the landowner that the town will be enforcing its current easement - or right of way - on the property by removing the barricades.

"Eminent domain costs money,"

noted d'Errico. "And we would have to go to town meeting first."

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson reported on a discussion he had had with a homeowner with property near the former landfill. Due to pollution problems caused by the capped landfill the town had dug a new well and donated it to the owner of the house. However, she complained to Hankinson that the water pressure was extremely low, showing him a filter filled with clay.

Peter d'Errico noted that after digging the well, the town had "donated" it to the homeowner, who "took ownership." "The point is, that is her well," he said.

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said she had a complete file on the issue, and the homeowner should contact her for the name of the firm that constructed the well.

The selectboard discussed an email from the board of health about a building in North Leverett which may be occupied in violation of building and health codes.

D'Errico stressed that dealing with the problem was the job of the health board, which should request that the police department monitor the situation more closely. He also stated that the board should get documentation from witnesses who claim to have seen people illegally occupying the structure.

"Is anyone sleeping there?" asked Julie Shively. "That's the issue."

## Other Business

The selectboard briefly discussed potential members for a hiring com-

mittee to fill a new vacancy in the highway department, but did not take a vote on the issue.

They briefly discussed guidelines for the school budget, but did not take a vote on the issue. D'Errico stated that there would probably be a large increase in the regional school district assessment, and that the "only place to get it" was out of the budget for the elementary school.

The board approved a statement supporting state legislation guaranteeing the "right to die." D'Errico noted that several other towns have supported the Massachusetts House and Senate bills, but "if we do it today, we preempt NoHo."

They approved a letter to the state Department of Revenue about the funding of the town's Municipal Light Plant (MLP). The issue at stake was whether the town should establish a separate enterprise fund for the MLP.

Potential projects to be funded by a "risk management" grant from the town's insurer, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association, include a camera to image energy loss from town buildings, a highway speed sign, and a security camera.

The board approved and released minutes of a number of its executive sessions from 2012 to 2017. It also set a date for the spring annual town meeting of April 28.

The next scheduled Leverett selectboard meeting will be held Monday, October 30 at 7 p.m.



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## Montague Historical Society Annual Meeting



The Montague Historical Society's archives are housed on the second floor of the Montague Common Hall, on Main Street in Montague Center.

The building was formerly a church, then a grange, and is now a common hall. The Friends of the Common Hall have been working on restoring its unique qualities.

The annual meeting of the Society will take place Sunday, October 29 at 10 a.m. at the hall. A short business meeting will be followed by a historical slide presentation by Ed Gregory. The public is welcome.

The Board of the MHS thanks you for your support in our efforts to preserve our history.

If you have questions concerning the Society, please email Mary Melonis at [marymelonis18@comcast.net](mailto:marymelonis18@comcast.net).

### NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## District Waste Management Director Talks Trash With Town

By JEFF SINGLETON

"I could talk about trash all night," Jan Ameen told the Montague selectboard at its October 16 meeting. Ameen, the executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD), appeared before the board to present an "update on District activities."

Ameen said that she frequently deals with town administrators, highway superintendents and their staffs, "but over the years, I spend less and less time with selectboards." She presented the board with a summary of her agency's activities.

Under the heading "administrative services," funded by an annual assessment to the town, the district tracks the amount of recyclables, trash, bulky items and metal shipped under Montague's hauling contracts, compiling reports on these items to the state. The town's 2017 assessment, approved by the selectboard and town meeting, was \$25,035.

The FCSWMD also applies for grants on behalf of member towns, operates three collection centers for household hazardous waste, assists schools and hosts public educational events, conducts periodic reviews of town collection systems, and gives input on state and national policy development.

A second category of services are funded individually on a "fee for service" basis. These include administering contracts for the hauling of recyclables to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield; for hauling trash, bulky wastes, appliances and metals; and for hauling sludge from a town's wastewater treatment facility.

The agency also administers a new program to recycle wood pellet bags and agricultural plastic, inspects landfills and transfer stations, and organizes annual collections of household hazardous waste.

Ameen presented some data on the Montague's new paper compactor, funded in part by a state grant. In July 2016, the monthly bill for hauling just recycling was "almost \$1,300." In May 2017, it was \$420.

She projected that the town would save approximately \$2,000, "maybe more," over the compactor's life. "The town had to invest eight or nine thousand dollars," she said, "so you are going to pay that

off pretty quickly."

Ameen also reviewed revenue of various towns in the district from recycling brought to the MRF. Her chart showed that in the first six months of 2017, Montague recycled 275.43 tons of material, for a net revenue of \$4,519.16. The revenue goes into a revolving fund to be used for recycling purposes.

Town administrator Steve Ellis asked about towns using a "single-stream recycling system" where, unlike in Montague, residents would not have to sort paper and plastic.

Ameen replied that single-stream recycling is "extremely expensive," because workers at the recycling center have to sort out materials. Hauling costs may be lower for towns like Orange that use single stream, but their recycling revenues are significantly lower. She also noted that single-stream recycling costs have increased significantly after the government of China placed recent restrictions on imported recycled materials.

Finally, Ameen reviewed what she called "the most exciting program," whereby the state gives points and awards funds for various local recycling activities, such as curbside recycling, yard waste collection, and items such as mattresses, paint and textiles. Montague received twelve points, for a total of \$7,200, in 2017.

### Contracts Awarded

The board voted to award a contract for replacing exterior ductwork at the town-owned Shea Theater to the firm B2Q Associates. The contract totals \$87,500 and is funded by a state Green Communities grant and a Montague town meeting appropriation.

B2Q is the same engineering firm that installed the HVAC rooftop unit on the Shea last year, according to town planner Walter Ramsey. Ramsey said the work would get started on October 23, and take "about three weeks."

The board voted to award a \$9,800 contract to reseal the so-called "lower roof" of the Shea to Adam Quenneville Roofing and Siding. Ramsey stated that it "made sense" to reseal this roof while the duct work was off. He also said a project to seal the upper roof is planned for next spring.

The board awarded a \$24,914 contract to Nichols Services LLC to board up the buildings at the former Strathmore mill complex. Ellis said the plan is to board "all the first- and second-grade level openings in the building... to insure that it is as tight, to those who might want to get into it, as possible."

Ellis said there were 73 such openings in the main complex, and an additional 11 in the free-standing Building 11. He said the work should take about two weeks, with an "outside" completion date of December 15.

### Other Business

The board voted to endorse the town's priorities for a potential grant from the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency, for programs related to "risk management." The first priority was \$3,000 for LEL meters, which detect dangerous gases in confined spaces. The meters will primarily be worn by employees of the highway department and Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF).

The second priority, estimated at "up to" \$6,600, involved upgrades to video recording systems in town buildings. The third involved an upgrade in the firewall in the town's computing system.

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard appointed Jeremy Call as a new driver/laborer in the highway department, and endorsed two letters of commendation to various staff members of the Water Pollution Control Facility for activities in the month of September.

A one-day beer and wine license was granted to the Amherst Survival Center for a fundraising event which will take place November 4 at the Montague Retreat Center on Ripley Road. The board also granted a permit for the use of public property for the Rag Shag Parade down Avenue A on October 31.

Ellis announced that there is an opening on the town tree advisory committee, and that there will be a "Clean Sweep" bulky waste recycling day on October 21 (see page B2). The Montague transfer station also accepts these bulky items.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held October 23 at 7 p.m. in the community room at Highland School Apartments, 446 Millers Falls Road.

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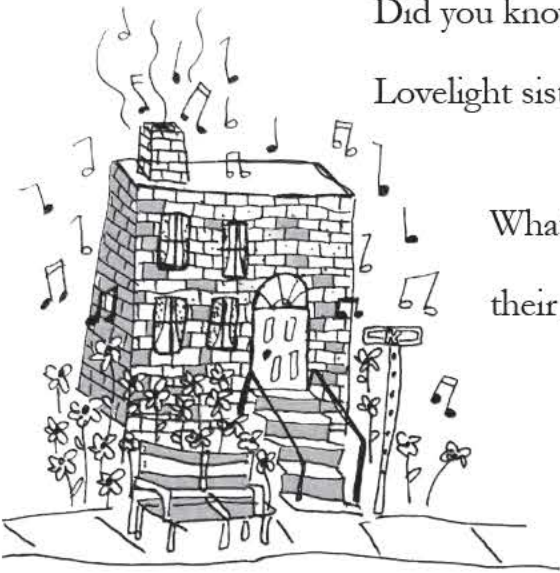


# The Children's Page

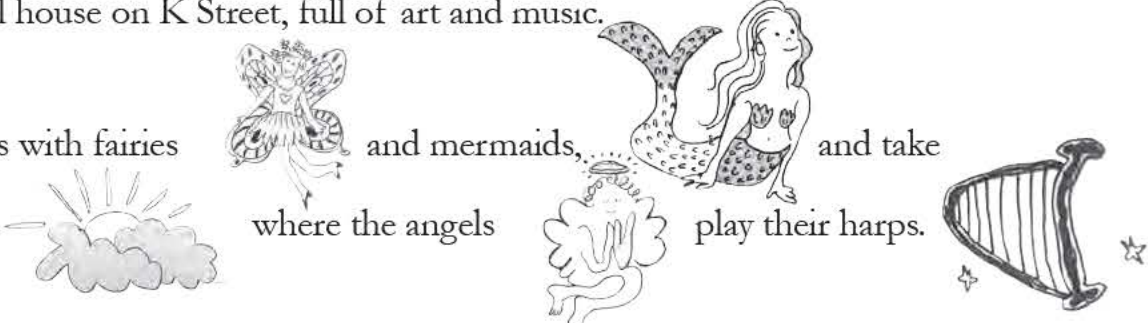
YONERDOD ILLUSTRATION

Words by BEVERLY KETCH  
Illustrations by HANNAH BROOKMAN

Did you know that right in your own town, there lives a family of sisters, the Lovelight sisters? They live in a magical house on K Street, full of art and music.



What's more, they make friends with fairies and mermaids, and take their picnics up in the clouds, where the angels play their harps.



Their whole neighborhood is full of flowers and borage grows everywhere, with its sparkling blue stars. According to the old ways, any home surrounded by borage has happy occupants.



Of course, the Lovelights are also great travelers, as the love for art and music often leads people to faraway places...

But my story begins with Chella Lovelight, the eldest, right in the middle and the prime of life, looking at a picture book under a tree in the yard. Looking up from her book, she noticed her neighbor, Mr. Harbinger, walking up the road.



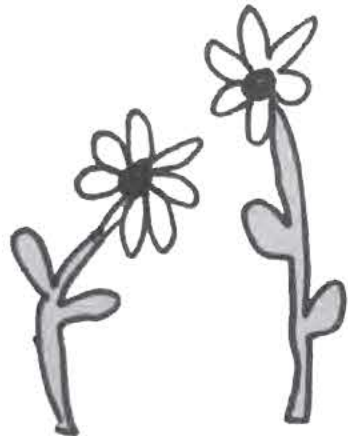
"Hello Chella," he said,  
"I see that you are sitting in the grass. How nice! ...



"I do hope that there are no fire ants there, or scolopendra centipedes. They are venomous."  
"Oh, thank you, Mr. Harbinger," said Chella fondly.  
"You always do look out for all of us!"



Getting up, she brushed off her skirt thoughtfully. "I am remembering now that I really have so much to do!"



Just then, Viola Lovelight appeared. "Oh yes, I happen to have our to-do list right here!" said Viola. Taking it from her pocket, it rolled out all the way to the ground!  
"Let's see. First on the list: select outfits for the dance contest on Saturday.  
Next: develop exciting new moves; also, perfect the Watusi. Paint backdrops for..."



But here she was interrupted – by a dazzling flash in the sky!

The three stood in awe as a tiny spaceship descended, surrounded in sparkling light. Floating gently to earth, it landed right in the yard before their eyes. The spaceship was just the right size for its sole occupant: a baby, dressed in silver, and smiling at them all.



Chella approached the baby in amazement.

to be continued next month...

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NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

# Redmond Named Permanent Chief; Police, Prisoners Will Be Separated

By GEORGE BRACE

Following a brief executive session on Monday, the Gill selectboard unanimously approved hiring acting police chief Chris Redmond as permanent police chief, subject to contract negotiations.

Board member John Ward was unable to attend the meeting in person, but voted by phone. “I think it’s a great choice,” said chair Randy Crochier.

The board then approved a request for \$7,565 presented by Redmond for equipment to convert and upgrade the town’s 2013 cruiser from an unmarked administrative vehicle to a patrol-type vehicle. The requested improvements included new radar units, lettering to identify the vehicle, and a partition to separate the driver’s compartment from the rear seat where prisoners are held.

Redmond pointed out that Gill was recently called upon to transport a prisoner in this vehicle, and the lack of isolation was a safety issue for officers.

Fire chief Gene Beaubien presented a purchase order for new flooring for the radio room and his office in the public safety complex, to replace the decrepit flooring there currently. Crochier brought up the question of the flooring in the police area of the building, which may also need replacing.

The board decided it would probably be more economical to do both areas at the same time if the police area needs flooring too, and agreed

to look into this and take up the fire department’s request again when they hear back.

Beaubien then reported that the body work has been completed on the rescue truck, and it passed inspection.

## The Million Dollar Question

Tupper Brown of the finance committee appeared before the board to raise questions concerning the Gill-Montague Regional School District’s Medicaid paycheck issue.

In April of this year, the district was made aware that certain billing reimbursement requests made through its Medicaid billing provider, New England Medical Billing, were incorrect and had been retroactively rejected.

The district later received notice from the state that, due to these errors it was legally responsible to pay back roughly \$936,000 in Medicaid payments it had received for which it was not eligible, from a five-year period ending in 2015.

Brown raised several concerns, chiefly having to do with wanting to make sure that district officials and taxpayers have sufficient information to really know what happened.

He noted that it was incumbent upon district and town officials to provide taxpayers with a thorough explanation, but also said that in his experience, when something like this occurs, a detailed investigation of the problem will often provide “a basis at least for the distribution of the pain,” and maybe the basis

for the negotiation of a more satisfactory result.

Selectboard members Crochier and Greg Snedeker both expressed agreement, and said they had many of the same questions and concerns and more information was needed.

## Cable Advisory

Tom Hodak of the cable committee presented a pay raise request for the audio-visual workers who record town meetings which would bring their compensation more in line with that of similar towns in the area.


The proposal was to raise the rate from a flat stipend of \$30 per meeting, regardless of the time involved, to a minimum stipend of \$30 for meetings of one hour or less, plus \$15 per hour for additional time. As there is an extra hour spent setting up and taking down equipment included in the base stipend, this would result in an effective rate of \$15 per hour for audio-visual work.

A motion in favor of this proposal was made and approved.

Janet Masucci then presented a request for several new microphones. A consensus approval was granted for these, not to exceed a total of \$1,000, with the money coming from the account of “public, educational, and governmental” (PEG) monies provided by Comcast under its contract with the town.

## Records Conserved

Town librarian Lynda Hodsdon Mayo appeared before the board and reported that the town records



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conservation project has been completed. She brought some of the conserved documents, and pictures of others, to show the board.

Upon seeing the finished products, Randy Crochier said “wow” twice initially, and twice more as he looked at additional documents.

“Amazing,” Snedeker added.

Hodsdon Mayo expressed gratitude to the board and town for supporting the project, and encouraged people to come check out the results of the project.

## Other Business

The Gill Elementary school well project continues to proceed smoothly, according to administrative assistant Ray Purington, who has been following up with the Department of Environmental Protection and the vendors involved to ensure everything is on track.

The River Road project is finished, with the exception of some guard rails which remain to be installed by an outside contractor. Catch basin cleaning was scheduled for Wednesday and Thursday of this week. Updates on several other ongoing projects will be presented at the next meeting.

Purington presented a grant appli-

cation to the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) for an emergency eyewash and shower station for the highway department building, totaling \$1,865. The application was approved by consensus and signed.

The deadline for MIIA grant applications is November 2. Purington added that multiple grant requests may be made, and may total up to \$10,000. Two additional possibilities are currently being explored: backup cameras for the fire trucks, and a security camera system for the public safety complex.

The board approved the creation of a fund account for accepting donations and general use related to Gill’s 225th anniversary celebration, as well as a sewer commitment payment of \$26,663.55 for the bill date of October 17.

The trivia bee to benefit the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class of Gill Elementary this week-end has been cancelled, though they hope to reschedule it.

The Friends of Gill are holding their pancake breakfast this Saturday, October 21, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Gill church. The breakfast is \$7 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$3 for children under 10.

Children under 3 eat for free.

## HEALTHCARE from page A1

FY’19 benefit plan that will push some more costs onto employees, including copays for specialist office visits rising from \$15 to \$40 per visit, the introduction of deductibles for prescription drugs and a hike in higher-tier drugs from \$45 to \$65 a bottle, and for the first time, copays for a range of services ranging from MRIs to inpatient admissions and surgery.

Those changes will take effect next July. The premium rate for FY’19 has not been set, but Shea said the new fees are expected to soften any necessary premium hike by about 5.5%.

## A Social Compact

“To me, this is a substantial increase,” said Erving Elementary employee Pam Ososky. “It unjustly affects people who need the coverage most.... To me, it feels an unfair disadvantage to people who have health needs.”

“That’s a fair statement,” Shea replied. “We’re asking people who utilize the system more to cost-share more.”

He added that of the 110,000 prescriptions the trust covered last year, 919 of them accounted for 45% of the total cost. “I would prefer to see some kind of tiering,” he said, “where very expensive drugs would cost a little more.”

“There are a lot of people who work for the town who don’t make a lot of money,” Ososky told him. “When you’re asking them to increase their pay, because they have people ill in their family, that much,

it feels grossly unfair to me.”

Shea said that the HGCIT’s previous benefit package, with very few copays or deductibles, was “really unheard of in the industry.” Even after the hikes, he said, the plan was still much better than that of the state Group Insurance Commission (GIC) pool. He also noted that many trusts are exhausting their cash reserves and dissolving.

“What efforts are being made by the trust to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies?” asked Kathleen Bridgewater, a retired teacher. “What effort is there through the state, to bring these costs down to what they are just a few hundred miles to our north?”

“Good luck,” Shea told her. “Congress, Senate, you name it are basically bought by the drug companies.... The drug companies make contributions, and contributions talk.”

He noted that the trust does buy generic, tier-3, maintenance drugs from Canada through the CanaRX program, and waives the copay.

“It seems so punitive to ask the people with the greatest need to shoulder this larger expense,” said Emily Samuels, another retired teacher. “I understand the point about ‘people should pay for what they use,’ but in healthcare, we have a social compact, I think, that really needs to come into play.”

“The financial burden of a 10% increase, year after year... is a budget buster for municipalities,” Shea said. “The only other lever is changing some of the benefits.”

## Paying the Piper

“This is highly relevant to all of us,” Steve Ellis, Montague’s town administrator, told the *Reporter* of the trust’s decision to raise fees. “Any time there is a change that might adversely impact the town or its employees, it’s a matter of concern.”

Ellis said he intended to convene Montague’s own insurance advisory committee, which is comprised of representatives of its unions, retirees, and non-union employees, to discuss the rising rates. “I expect the conversation to be similar in its scope to what went on in Erving,” he said.

**“It’s much larger than an 11,000-member trust. This is a national problem in the US today.”**  
**Scott Bastarache,**  
**Erving selectboard**

“The trust increased premiums in the vicinity of 10% last year, and they still lost money,” Ellis continued. “We need the trust to remain sustainable. It’s been a real asset, and it’s done a good job over the years of maintaining benefit levels and premium rates.

“At the same time, I’ll note that when this change was first considered [in July], the town of Montague voted no – not because we weren’t open to the argument that it

was necessary, but because we just needed to hear more information.”

Gill administrative assistant Ray Purington said that the premiums charged by the HCGIT to his town and its employees rose by 6.6% in FY’17, and 9.4% in FY’18. The town of Gill shoulders three-quarters of the costs each year.

Reached on Wednesday, Purington said it was the first he had heard of the scheduled increases, but that he was not surprised. “It’s time to pay the piper,” he said.

## A National Problem

“You’re caught in the middle, basically,” Erving resident Jeanie Schermesser told Joe Shea at Monday night’s meeting. She cited a recent *60 Minutes* special report that painted a picture of a weakened Drug Enforcement Administration whose regulatory agents are hired away to become pharmaceutical lobbyists.

“The opioid epidemic was a direct result of the drug companies,” Shea agreed. “They pumped it out as fast as they could, paid doctors to write prescriptions, and this is what you’re left with.”

“It’s going to take people power,” Schermesser continued. “It’s going to take people rising up and doing something about it.... Our way of life is going to change really rapidly.”

“It’s much larger than an 11,000-member trust,” said selectboard member Scott Bastarache. “This is a national problem in the US today, and I would love to think that we could solve it here tonight.... There are absolutely discussions that have to happen, going forward, with ev-

ery level of government that has any input on pharmaceutical companies, or other insurance driver costs that are out there.”

Bastarache added that, “as a member of the GIC, I look at these numbers and I think, ‘I wish I had those.’”

“As someone who is in the private sector,” said selectboard chair Jacob Smith, “I wish these were my premiums...Although compensation in the private sector may be higher, it doesn’t offset the difference.”

“I know it’s painful,” he added.

“Would our trust say yes, we will work to join together with the rest of the population and have a single-payer program?” Bridgewater asked Shea. “Do you have conversations with other trusts around the state?”

Shea replied that he is involved in statewide meetings with his counterparts and with mayors, who all face “premiums going berserk,” but added that, given the GIC’s woes, he was “not sure if you really want the state running” an insurance pool covering all its residents.

“In the ideal situation, absolutely – single-payer makes complete sense,” he said, “but there’s too many people with too much money that probably will stop that every way you can look at it.”

“Eleven thousand people are going to make more impact on politics than one, or two or three, or ten trusts,” Jacob Smith said. “It’s politics, and drug money... Each person’s voice in trying to help that move forward is going to be more successful than a trust, in my opinion.”



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FISH LAB from page B1

that lines their floors.

Here we hear about fish physiology: how the gill cells of anadromous fish change as they pass from fresh to salty water and eventually back again; how toxic aluminum is; how juvenile fish go through a kind of puberty as they migrate downstream. Only 2% of the world's fishes are anadromous, and it is no wonder.

At the lab's far wall, a lone brown trout swims in place inside a murky tube connected to a set of pipes and valves. It looks remarkably like a piece of low-budget steampunk interior design. "This is our fish treadmill," Shannon Bayse, a postdoctoral researcher, shouts as he throws a switch. A grinding whine fills the room, and the tube trout must suddenly struggle to stay in place. "We're interested in how they're using their energy to do that," Dr. Bayse explains.

Fish, he tells us, don't feed well in freshwater, so during the journey upstream to spawn they must burn through energy stored in fat. A special hand-held sensor measures body fat using microwaves, and we have some fun checking our own lipid contents.

"You can see how fat changes over the course of migration: Old Lyme, 7%, Holyoke 6%, here at Cabot it's 5, and at Vernon they have 3% fat," Bayse reads, using a colorful poster with bar graphs. "Cabot, 2% on the way back, and at Holyoke they only have 1% fat.



Guests gawk at the pet salmon.



Does your job ever feel like this?

They've used everything they have since the start of migration."

A biological technician named Dan shows off some of the 200 or so Atlantic salmon who live their whole lives at the Conte. "These guys are basically pets at this point – they've served their purpose," he says. "We ran some trials on photo period – how they respond to time of day – and salinities, and stuff like that."

The salmon wriggle around in the little blue tank. Most fish-passage infrastructure, such as the ladder at the Turners Falls dam, was built with them in mind. But restoration of salmon to the Connecticut has been largely unsuccessful. The focus has turned to helping weaker fish: "redesigning fishways, putting different spacing between pools, different flow characteristics – changing it up, so it allows more species to pass," as Michael Long put it.

Long, a UMass grad student, does his field work with horseshoe crabs on Cape Cod, but he's based at the Conte, and is showing visitors the facility's outdoor "burst flume." A very long, narrow tank, the burst flume is essentially another treadmill. "We start slow," Long says, "and then ramp it up, and see at what point fish are not able to get upstream."

Ladders are built with a series of walls so fish can rest, gathering energy, before making fat-burning "bursts" of motion – either over a weir, or through a low orifice, in the case of bottom

dwellers like eels and shortnose sturgeon.

Research biologist Micah Kieffer answers questions about these famous, local, endangered sturgeon. They subsist on "mussels, anthropods, worms, anything that's making a living on the bottom," he begins – then, grabbing a net, transfers a scaly, black beast from a tank to a tub. Young and old, we crowd around, snap photos, and exclaim in terror. Kieffer flips the sturgeon over to show us its sharklike belly, its funny little chemosensitive barbels, and its "very specialized mouth," a scary tubelike mechanism that can deploy from its body to probe for food in the muck.

"These animals have been on earth for 150 million years," Kieffer says, "so it's a very successful animal design. They were around when the Tyrannosaurus was walking around." He himself has been at the lab since 1991, and this fish, which "probably could live another 25 years," since 2002.

"All the fish passage structure research that's occurring now includes sturgeon," he continues. "Right now there's so much going on in the river, as far as fish passage issues go.... The [FirstLight] relicensing could result in a change of flows, which may affect spawning."

"We've been studying this population since the ladder opened," he adds, "so we happen to have a great understanding of what the sturgeons do, and what they need."

We speak next with Kevin Mulligan, a research hydraulic engineer who recently completed his PhD at UMass's fish passage engineering program.

"Everybody talks a lot about upstream passage," Mulligan says, but he wrote his dissertation on designing guide walls for downstream fish passage, which is "a whole 'nother issue: keeping them out of turbine intakes, giving them a safe route back to the ocean."

Mulligan shows us large models of ladders. "Dealing with certain velocities, getting the right flow patterns, the right levels of turbu-



Dr. Kevin Mulligan, with a model fish ladder.

lence: all those things are important to getting fish up over a dam," he says.

The Turners Falls Fishway, he explains, "has had rather low passage rate over the years – maybe 20% of the fish that get to that point actually migrate upstream. The dam is so high, they need to have so many pools and weirs to get there – fifty or sixty at that one site. All those points are possible confusion for a fish."

In a cavernous building at the end of the line, we find research ecologist Alex Haro. This is where real fish are run through full-size simulations of obstacles, flows, and gates, their movements tracked by computer. "It's all about try before you buy," Haro says, "so when we go to design one of these things, which cost millions of dollars, they can use the proper gate design. If we can't get the fish into a fishway, it doesn't matter how good that fishway is."

Haro, who has been at the Conte since 1992, says that it is "the only facility like this in the world, expressly designed to do experimentation in fish passage.... We want to develop new things that work for just about every [species]." The Turners Falls Fishway "worked great for salmon, but for shad, not so well," Haro says.

But he has high hopes for the current hydro relicensing process. "The agencies are discussing with the power company about, 'can we replace that with something better?'" he says. "We will see."



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## Shirtless Males of Montague: A Police Log Restrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

**Wednesday, 9/11/13**

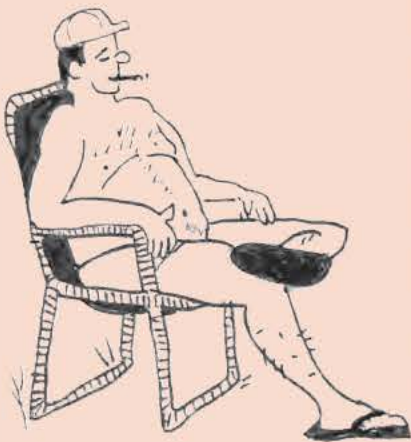
6:22 p.m. Young shirtless male reported screaming obscenities at passers-by near the bike path at Eleventh Street. Investigated.

**Friday, 10/4/13**

9:36 p.m. Shirtless male observed walking on Montague City Road. Responding officer advised that subject became hot during his walk, so he took his shirt off.

**Monday, 7/21/14**

9:22 a.m. Caller reports seeing a man completely in the nude sitting in a chair on the side of Montague City Road and picking things up off the ground.



Upon arrival, officer determined that subject was wearing tan shorts that may have been difficult to see from a distance.

**Tuesday, 8/5/14**

4:17 p.m. Report of shirtless white male on the porch of a Canal Street apartment building growling and jumping up and down. Officers located and spoke with party; advise he is O.K.



**Thursday, 8/6/15**

8:42 p.m. Caller advises of shirtless white male standing in middle of road near Avenue A and Fourth Street yelling profanities and threats at someone inside an apartment. Second caller advises of same. Unable to locate; will be on lookout.

**Monday, 5/9/16**

4:46 p.m. First caller advising of intoxicated male party walking in the area of Fourth Street and Avenue A. Male described as white, bald, no shirt, no shoes, white shorts, approximately 6 feet tall with a beer belly. Caller also stated that male was belligerent, came into someone's apartment, "trashed the place, and stormed out." Second caller advising of male party, ID'ed as same, appears intoxicated, walking on Montague

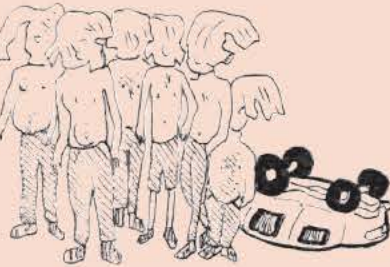
Street near ballfields. Officer checked area; unable to locate. Third caller reports intoxicated shirtless party staggering while walking in area of Letourneau Way walking toward Turnpike Road. Units out with male party, who was walked into his mother's residence. All set now.

**Wednesday, 5/25/16**

10:54 a.m. Caller reports that there is a shirtless man planting something approximately 200 feet from a house on Lake Pleasant Road; as far as caller is aware, no one is supposed to be at that house. Upon arrival, a female was planting onions in a garden and female's husband was trying to make repairs to get a vehicle running. Officer spoke with Eversource (property owner), who still does not want anyone on that property. Eversource and woman planting garden given each other's contact info so arrangements can be made for the garden, etc. to be removed. Parties also have beehives on site, which Eversource also wants removed.

**Sunday, 7/17/16**

3:37 a.m. Caller reports that a group of six shirtless white males wearing masks or with their shirts pulled over their heads just flipped over a yellow Smart car in the parking lot of Keith Apartments. Investigated.



**Monday, 7/18/16**

12:23 p.m. Caller was just involved in altercation on Avenue A near St. Kaz: he was eyeballing two males and they were eyeballing him back, some words were exchanged, and the males came after him but did not make physical contact. One subject unknown race; other white male, shirtless, with nipple piercings and white shorts. Officer spoke to caller, who may have made some comments that instigated the altercation. Advised of options.

**Monday, 7/25/16**

7:02 p.m. Report of heavily intoxicated male party believed to have driven away from Poplar Street area. Party was reportedly struggling to carry his fishing equipment, could not find his shirt, keys, or phone, and had several beers as well as some Dr. McGillicuddy's around him. Gone on arrival.

**Sunday, 8/7/16**

7:12 p.m. Report of shirtless white male with messy hair and tattoos who appeared to be "on drugs" walking on Third Street and raising his hand as if to hit people. Officer in area found no one matching description.

**Friday, 9/29/17**

9:14 p.m. Female caller reports shirtless male party, swinging shirt around and yelling at cars and people in middle of road. Last seen heading down Griswold Street toward Davis Street.

## Edwin Potter's Bottles

By JERI MORAN

**OLD DEERFIELD** – There are some sounds that can evoke memories. The sound of an approaching train on the tracks can be one, or the hoot of a foghorn.

The clink of glass against metal is one for me. It connotes milk bottles in a metal crate, like the one the milkman delivered to our home when I was growing up. In the summer, the sound of the milkman walking up the neighbor's driveway could signal for us that it was time to run down to his truck, jump in the back and get hunks of ice that were packed around the top of the crates. We would sit in the back of the truck, sucking on the ice, as the milkman drove through our neighborhood. He would drop us off on his route back by our house.

It was a more innocent time.

Given those happy memories, I was very pleasantly surprised a few weeks ago to find an exhibit of milk bottles in the Memorial Hall Museum in Old Deerfield. There was one large dairy company that delivered milk in my midwestern city, so all the bottles bore one name.

In contrast, here in Franklin County, over the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there were more than 100 dairy farms. They each had glass bottles embossed – or pyroglazed, with heated enamel applied to the glass surface through a silk screen – with the dairies' names, and many had advertising also. Mr. Edwin Potter's milk bottle collection is proof of this.

Potter lived in Turners Falls and worked for the Massachusetts Farm Bureau, visiting many of these dairies in his work. In the 1960s, when square waxed cardboard cartons had already replaced 70% of the glass bottles, Potter started collecting the bottles, which he knew were now going out of production. He collected them as a hobby, and also as part of Franklin County's rural history.

Ultimately, he collected over 350 bottles from over 100 dairies in 17 Franklin County towns. The bottles range in date from 1906 to the 1960s. Potter's collection was pristine, and he kept the bottles neatly lined



Mr. Potter posing with his milk bottle collection, circa 1964.

up in his basement.

He also wrote a booklet which included an inventory of the bottles, drawings of the bottles themselves, and a short history of the dairy from which each bottle came. He was a wonderful historian in this regard, as it gave depth and authenticity to his collection, and this information was then available to others.

Near the end of his life, he wanted his collection to remain intact and available for people to see as a piece of Franklin County agricultural history. He picked the perfect place to offer it to: the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, which manages the Memorial Hall Museum in Old Deerfield.

I met with Sheila Damkoehler, the curatorial assistant there, who was the primary lead in mounting the display in the museum. She said that Potter gave his collection to the museum in 2007, and this semi-permanent exhibit has been in the museum for visitors to see since 2008. Besides a representative number of milk bottles, milk caps, and other ephemera associated with the milk industry, and gadgets such as a cream extractor, the exhibit explains who invented the glass milk bottle and why, and how other refinements came about to assure a hygienic and attractive product.

"The exhibit helps the museum capture part of the history of agriculture and small town life in the Connecticut River Valley," Damkoehler told me. The milk see **BOTTLES** page B4



Some of the many printed bottle caps that covered the glass jars of milk in the old days.



By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – When fall comes, we expect crispy dry air, bright leaves, clear light and the scent of wood smoke in the air.

So far, not so much.

We did indulge in our first fire in the wood stove at the end of September, but the first week of the new month dawned with a string of days in the seventies and cooling to the high forties or low fifties at night.

As the warmth persists, we have not had the burst of foliage color we usually expect, but the warm dry weather has blessed us with a third blooming of the beach and bush roses. The dahlia has continued with extravagant blossoms. Earlier this summer, the clematis vine which drapes one corner of the pergola began to show signs of tiny flower

### THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

## Summery Fall

buds, yet no flowers. Then a week or so ago, suddenly it burst into a bloom of hundreds of white stars like a wedding train; spent a week or so in its glory; then just as suddenly, the blooming stopped.

In early summer, I also planted a pot of morning glory starts at the base of the ugly yellow guy wire which protects the electric pole. It has filled in with thick green foliage and it, too, surprised us with large blue blossoms just a few days ago. We hope that it will reseed itself for an earlier start next year.

Now that the vine crops have been removed, the nasturtiums have sole use of the sunshine, and have thanked us with bright multi-colored blooms. The sweet peppers continue to turn from green to yellow or red.

All of this blooming tempers our reluctance to face the shorter, colder days to come. We are losing hours of daylight quickly, although we still remain in daylight savings time according to the clock. But when the sun drops behind the mountain, the temperature drops sharply, and

it is full dark by seven o'clock.

The cat is in the twilight of pre-hibernation behavior. She wakes up an hour later than the six o'clock wake-up in the summer. She commands a visit to the outdoors as soon as she has had breakfast. Then, after hunting and sprinting about the yard tackling leaves, she retires to the sunroom for the first of many naps. If we leave for the morning to go to the Y or to run errands, she sleeps until we return.

This is the season for midday lunch in the yard, walks in the early morning or late afternoon, and gatherings around the fire pit in the early evening dark. The crickets and katydids still sing and scratch their soporific songs, and in the light of the half-moon the constellations are pricked out in sharp shapes against the dark sky.

One older neighbor next door – now long gone – had a huge sugar maple in her yard which turned every fall into splendor with orange and yellow leaves. That tree was see **GARDENER'S** page B3



# Pet of the Week

Hola, I'm Mina. I was rescued from Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria! It was a very long journey, but I'm so glad to be here.

I hear there are loving families willing to take in a homeless cat like me. Will it be you?

Come over and spend some time

getting to know me.

I may be shy at first, but once I'm feeling safe and cared for you'll have a dear friend for life.

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



“MINA”

## Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 23 TO 27

### 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 10/23**  
8:15 a.m.: Foot Clinic Appts.  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday: 10/24**  
1 p.m. A Matter of Balance  
**Wednesday 10/25**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday: 10/26**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
NO Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
3:30 p.m. Roger Tincknell Concert  
**Friday: 10/27**  
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 10/23**  
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones Balance  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
**Tuesday: 10/24**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
Mid Day Pot Luck & Music \$5  
**Wednesday 10/25**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12:15 p.m. Bingo, Snacks, Laughs  
**Thursday: 10/26**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
**Friday: 10/27**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
10 a.m. Food City Shopping Trip  
11:15 a.m. Music/Magic/Mvmnt.  
1 to 6 p.m. Blood Drive

### WENDELL

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

# Fall Festival Returns this Weekend

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – It is that time of year again, when Turners Falls braces for its annual influx of visitors at the Great Falls Festival on Saturday, October 21. Estimated to draw eight to ten thousand people into the downtown for the day long festivities, the event features food and craft vendors lining Avenue A between First and Seventh streets.

Organizer Michael Nelson has renamed the festival from Pumpkinfest to Great Falls due to low turnout for pumpkins – see last week's article in the *Reporter* for details – but jack-o-lanterns are still expected at the event, and festivalgoers are encouraged to bring them. They may be checked in in front of St. Kaz as early as 10 a.m. and at a second check-in station on Second Street and Avenue A from noon until 6 p.m.

Nelson has added an inducement. “Every pumpkin brought allows the guest a spin on our prize wheel for a chance to win gift certificates from event vendors and downtown businesses,” he says. “Folks who would like to decorate a free pumpkin for the display can do so, at our area next to the Creemee on Second Street, from 2 until 6 p.m.”

Traffic will be routed up and down First and Seventh streets, with Avenue A closed to accommodate 130 food and craft vendors lining the street. Park at Turners Falls High School or the Sheffield School to catch a free shuttle in to the festival area from 2 until 10 p.m. Nelson advises people to leave their pets at home for both the pet's safety and the safety of all guests. Costumes are encouraged!

Two stages provide musical entertainment during the day and evening: the Lundgren Honda stage at Fourth Street and Avenue A, and Scotty's stage in Peskeomskut Park. The beer tent at Peske Park will feature seven local brewers.

Scott Kuzmeskus has lined up the following local bands:

### Lundgren Stage

Community Smokes, 2 p.m.  
Curly Fingers Dupree, 3:50 p.m.  
Mammal Dap, 5:40 p.m.  
Crazy Diamond, 7:30 p.m.

### Scotty's Stage

Blueprints of the Heart, 2 p.m.  
Jen Tobey's Alter Ego, 3:50 p.m.  
Honey Badger, 5:40 p.m.  
Jimmy Just Quit, 7:30 p.m.



Greenfield-based party band Jimmy Just Quit – Adam Kelley, Danny Hescocck Jr, Chris Richardson and Paul “Chuck” Tacy – closes out the event on Scotty's Stage at Peskeomskut Park at 7:30 p.m. They have been playing together for five years. The band says that the “primary idea behind JJQ is to bring a fun, energetic all inclusive dance party to any event, with a song list that covers the most popular music from the past 60 years and changes from show to show, so you never know what you are going to hear next!”

## This Saturday: “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its Fall “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day this Saturday, October 21, from 9 a.m. to noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility, at 66 Ashfield Road (Route 112 South); the Northfield Highway Garage, at 49 Caldwell Road; and the Whately Transfer Station, at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any District town may bring bulky items, such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible. Disposal fees apply for most items.

Residents are encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their town's transfer station, or at the Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call your local store for details.

Various charities and non-profits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

Bulky Rigid Plastics will be collected for a special recycling program at \$5 per load. Plastic items larger than 2.5 gallons are too bulky to be processed with regular household recycling, but some



items can be collected separately and recycled.

Due to a change in the program, the list of “yes” items has been reduced. Acceptable items include 5-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash barrels, recycling bins, laundry baskets, storage totes, and milk crates.

Items that are now on the “no” list include toys of any type, clothes hangers, plastic shelving and kiddie pools, and plastic plant pots and nursery trays. Unacceptable items for bulky rigid plastic recycling also include Styrofoam, PVC pipe/tubing, vinyl siding, fencing, toolboxes, hoses of any kind, pesticide/chemical containers, and plastic bags and films. All bulky rigid plastic items must be empty and free of batteries, soil, rocks, and liquids.

Clean, dry textiles and books will be accepted for free. Textiles must be contained inside a sturdy plastic bag. 95% of all textiles can be recycled or reused; clothing or linens that are torn, stained, with

Karen's Dance Studio will perform hourly in Peskeomskut Park, and the North County Line Dancers will kick off the festival at 2 p.m. at the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street.

The intersection will also host Franklin County Community Chorus, Pizazz Dance Studio, MEGA Dancers, and Fire Dancers at various times throughout the event.

Free children's arts, crafts, and games are available in a special area on Third Street from 2 until 6 p.m.

Have a safe and enjoyable evening in downtown Turners Falls this Saturday!

For more details about the festival, see [facebook.com/greatfalls-festival](https://facebook.com/greatfalls-festival).

missing buttons or broken zippers can be recycled into insulation.

Acceptable items include clean and dry clothing, shoes, bras, purses, curtains, pillows, comforters, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition (except moldy or wet). Books can be in any condition (except moldy or wet), and can be hardcover or paperback. No encyclopedias!


District residents are from the towns of Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell and Whately.

Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site.

A complete list of prices for the most common items is online at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html), and will be made available to participating town halls, town transfer stations, and the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

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

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**GARDENER’S** from page B1

the mother and grandmother of many other trees, several of which grew in our yard.

In the last few years our maples have developed what may be maple dieback, but in any case means that these once beautiful trees no longer turn beautiful colors and instead turn brown or briefly yellow before dropping.

We see such bright red colors in maples sometimes called soft or swamp varieties, and we think it would be fun to try a couple of these in the damper areas of the yard, as we see these trees surrounding ponds and wet areas. **We’ll give it a chance.**

Meanwhile, while the colors in the valley overall were more muted this year, there have been lovely displays of red and yellow in the area that have been a pleasure.

We have been slow to do the end of season chores in the delight of these unexpected soft, warm days. It still remains to cut back the asparagus – still quite green – and to clean up the weeds, turning any recalcitrant areas with the broad fork. **We’ll make a general map of what** will grow where next year, and give our hand tools a good clean up before storing them.

Then, the pleasure of apple picking and the continuing muscle

stretching of stacking the cordwood. Almost mid-month and still no sign of frost here by the river. Experts have been warning us for some time that global warming will bring longer heat waves and extended growing seasons, but also increasing rainfall in some areas while others will become more arid. We can expect more flooding, wild fires and drought. **It’s hard not to imagine** that we are already seeing some of these changes right here, right now.

One of the things we can all do is to be informed and to pay attention to what our national leaders propose in the way of efforts to control climate change. Then well-informed, you can use your vote to make good choices.

Some other easy changes to make in your own life are: using EPA guidelines to choose Energy Star products; limiting the use of your car by a day or two a week; making sure your home is well insulated and, believe it or not, if you enjoy it, having a backyard garden. If you do, feed it with compost, work the soil lightly, rotate your crops to avoid plant disease, and avoid using chemicals.

Better for you and better for mother earth. **It’s time to be active** stewards of the gift we’ve been given.

Happy gardening!



EVENT REVIEW

The Great Falls Word Festival

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – The 8<sup>th</sup> Great Falls Annual Word Festival, founded by poet Paul Richmond and presented by Human Error Publishing, started on October 12 and ended on October 15. I decided to go and review the first day.

There was an open mic at the start outside of the Shea Theater, the café and bookstore for poetry sharing. The first night also had at the Shea, published works of people at the festival. Two were books by Jan Maher entitled *Earth As It Is* and *Heaven, Indiana*.

Then there was The Mole, an hour at the Shea where several storytellers told five-minute stories.

Susan Cocalis’s story was of how she got her first dog. She mentioned why she disliked dogs at first, then why she likes them. She also stated the pros and cons of various dogs she had. It was a cute story. I am a dog person, so I liked this story.

Arnie Hyson told what it was like to grow up in Turners Falls. Then she spoke of dating, and how she learned about love from a man who said he couldn’t love her. It was an all right story, but I couldn’t really relate to it.

The one where I could better was by Alice Barrett about her mother, who worked at a Western Union, and how she got a robber to go away. She stated they had no money and another one did. It worked and the guy went away. The whole story was very funny. Incredibly, this was a true story, like the rest.

John McKenna spoke of how he became interested in music, and mentioned being in a band and doing gigs. That led to playing at the

second Clinton inaugural, which ended up on TV and was seen by his mom – who disapproved of his music. Needless to say, his mother is not like that with him now. That was a very cool story to hear. The closest I have come to that is my first paid camera running gig.

Eve Brown-Waite’s story was about dealing with a problem with her voice. She said she could have tried everything to fix her voice. Due to that, she went to Mass Rehab to get job help. There she decided to be a counselor like the one she had. I could relate to this story very well, and it was inspiring, because this lady didn’t let that keep her down.

Marian Kelner mentioned two encounters: one she had with her sister, about cookies, and the other about being in Israel. Next, she spoke about being charitable, which she appears to have gotten better at when she got older. Definitely a story with a message.

*Do it Now* featured John Sheldon, who I had heard before at the Shea, and Paul Richmond. An array of instruments was there for the performance, including two or three drums among them.

Electric guitar music by Sheldon was what I heard first, and then words. Words concerning climate change and clean water were mentioned. It almost sounded like New Age music. But instead it was rock music, with words spoken by Richmond.

John Sheldon is still very good. No complaints there!

The stories were told well by these individuals. They were actually kind of amazing because they were true. I liked some of them more than others, the top two being McKenna’s and Brown-Waite’s.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Unauthorized Camping; Unauthorized Bonfire; Parking Lot Rock Thrower Remains At Large

Sunday, 10/8

7:27 a.m. Caller from J Street reports that a female is outside the apartment building yelling in the street. Officers responded. Peace restored. Female was upset about a lost item. Advised of options.

11:09 a.m. Report of panhandler asking customers for money outside of Food City. Female with long white hair, black shirt, and possibly purple floral pants. Unable to locate.

Monday, 10/9

11:18 a.m. Report of hit and run accident. Caller unsure which parking lot it happened in; possibly Turners or Greenfield. Officer observed damage to vehicle. Advised of options.

2:36 p.m. Caller from Court Square reports hearing gunshots for the past ten minutes, but they have since stopped. Officer checked area; unable to locate.

6:30 p.m. Caller from East Main Street requesting to report theft of a car axle that was being stored in her unlocked shared enclosed porch. Report taken.

11:15 p.m. Caller from K Street states that the people on the second floor of the location have been arguing; he believes they are using drugs because of a weird smell and drug talk coming from the apartment. Caller also thinks someone is in the attic because his daughter heard the door open. All quiet upon officers’ arrival.

11:25 p.m. Caller states that she was driving on Turnpike Road in the area of Judd Wire when a deer ran into the side of her car. Tow en route.

**Tuesday, 10/10**

11:48 a.m. Report of two loose horses on East Chestnut Hill Road. Officer and animal control officer advised. Party called back to advise that the horses are actually on West Chestnut Hill Road, not East Chestnut Hill Road. Officer and ACO checked area; gone on arrival.

4:22 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street requesting that an officer check on an opossum that has been hiding in the bushes and darting after people that walk by. Area search negative.

7:04 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road states that at the end of his driveway there is a steering wheel lock that looks like it may have been broken somehow. Referred to an officer.

9:40 p.m. Caller states that he has been having problems all night with a male who has been banned from Connecticut River Liquor and Wine. Male is no longer at location but keeps

calling and harassing the caller. Advised of options.

**Wednesday, 10/11**

8:23 a.m. Report of a motorist who struck a cat near the ballfields on Montague Street. Motorist is standing in the road trying to keep other vehicles from hitting the cat again. Caller pulled over with her hazards on to keep other cars from hitting the other motorist who is standing in the road. Officer and ACO advised.

6:08 p.m. Caller reporting that two trespassers are on her property (campsite) and are refusing to leave. Trespassing parties reportedly made threats to harm caller’s daughter and daughter’s husband if they continued to tell the parties that they couldn’t be there. Officer advises parties are heading out; situation mediated for now. Investigated.

8:58 p.m. Caller reporting that a group of teenagers are skateboarding and being really loud in the alleyway between Third and Fourth streets. Officer spoke with kids, who were advised of the complaint; states they will be quiet now.

9:35 p.m. Officer advises he is back in the Third/Fourth Street alleyway; advises kids are having trouble down there with another guy in the area.

[REDACTED] was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct (subsequent offense) and resisting arrest.

9:36 p.m. TFFD requesting police assistance with a report of a bonfire at Peskeomskut Park with five to six subjects involved. Officer advises that TFFD is putting out fire, which was in a BBQ area; subjects are picking up now.

10:12 p.m. Caller reporting that he saw a vehicle pulled over to the side of North Leverett Road as he was driving home; as he passed by, vehicle flashed lights. Caller feels someone should check on them. Officer spoke with operator, who stated he was pulled over using his cell phone earlier because he has no service at home.

**Thursday, 10/12**

4:39 p.m. Caller reports that her windshield was smashed within the past 24 hours in the Third Street public parking lot. Officer recovered rock that was thrown through back window. Consistent with other recent incidents. Report taken.

5:20 p.m. Walk-in party requesting to speak with an officer re: a man in his 30s who has been coming around and trying to play with her grandchild while the caller is babysitting. Advised of options; also advised to have daughter contact MPD so that an officer could speak with her.

5:45 p.m. 911 caller reporting Microsoft scam involving his computer. Advised of options.

**Friday, 10/13**

4:40 a.m. Caller reporting that two dogs in the area of Highland Park have been barking for going on two hours. Officer out at address; unable to make contact with male or female parties. Officer advises dog will not approach officer and only barks louder. Message left for ACO. Officer clear; unable to safely gain control of the dog.

9:50 a.m. Caller reporting incident that occurred this morning in front of Sheffield Elementary School; while pulling into drop-off area, caller was cut off by another parent in a car. Male got out of vehicle and began to yell at her. Incident was witnessed by many students and parents. Officer will attempt to contact school and male involved.

3:31 p.m. Report of hit and run accident in front of Salvation Army in Turners Falls. Caller followed other vehicle to Stop & Shop in Greenfield and confronted other driver, who went inside the store; passenger is still inside vehicle, and caller is still in the parking lot. Greenfield PD advised and responding.

5:23 p.m. Caller reports that her son was threatened by a group of kids at Unity Park today. Officers spoke with involved parties. Caller advised of options.

6 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports hearing what sounded

like rapid gunfire for the past five minutes. Same has since stopped. Area search negative.

7:09 p.m. Caller reporting he just hit a deer near the hatchery on Turners Falls Road. Officer attempting to locate deer, which is injured pretty badly. Unable to locate.

9:39 p.m. Officer out with vehicle down by Railroad Salvage. Clear; parties have been moved along.

10:34 p.m. Caller advising that they have found drug paraphernalia in the ceiling of the bathroom at Cumberland Farms. They believe they know who is doing this. Officer clear; items disposed of properly; caller advised of options.

**Saturday, 10/14**

2:12 p.m. Two- to three-vehicle accident at Unity Street and Hillside Avenue; no smoke, fluids, airbag deployment. Officer requesting MedCare for female complaining of head/neck pain. Patient transported with her child.

7:55 p.m. Officer checking on suspicious person near Turners Falls Water Department. Party was looking for WiFi. Same was advised to do that elsewhere.

8:27 p.m. Report of sewage backing up at a Dell Street residence. DPW advised.

9:11 p.m. Caller requests to have on record that a package was stolen off her porch on Park Street.

10:05 p.m. Caller found half-opened package in laundromat on East Main Street; possibly stolen property. Officer called package owner and advised her where her property is.

11:31 p.m. Caller reporting that as she was about to leave the Third Street parking lot in her vehicle, someone threw a rock and it dented her hood. Caller states that other rocks were thrown but did not hit her vehicle. Investigated; still unable to find out where rocks are being thrown from.

**Sunday, 10/15**

2:43 a.m. State police requesting K9 for track; they had a male party jump off the Stillwater Bridge in Greenfield; party is now on foot. Officer en route.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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**BOTTLES** from page B1

caps' advertising reveals that several of the farms were selling raw milk as well. There are also histories of a few of Franklin County dairies on display, such as the Tenney Farm Dairy in Greenfield.

It's the bottles themselves, and the cardboard discs that covered the top of the bottles, that captured my interest. Many of the names may be familiar to people here, such as

Socquet Hillside Farm in Turners Falls. The artwork and design of the caps and bottles are varied and intriguing; the square shoulders and simple art deco design of the lettering on the Turners Falls Dairy bottle was my favorite.

Go and visit the museum to find your own favorites and learn some interesting things about the history of our area, or have some of your own memories evoked. The muse-

um is open Tuesdays through Sundays, June through the end of October, and weekends in May.

The book that Edwin Potter wrote may also be viewed at the museum by contacting Sheila Damkoehler and setting up a time to go and look at it. It's a nice resource for the collection. Call the museum for more information: (413) 774-7476.



Details from Potter's meticulous collection reference book.

# Stitchers Needed for Moe's Mitten Project

**WENDELL** – The Wendell Library invites area residents with sewing machines to come help sew mittens for Moe's Mitten Project, a grassroots effort to distribute hand-crafted mittens to individuals who are currently homeless. The event will run from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. this Saturday, October 21.

Moe St. Onge, the namesake of Moe's Mittens, was homeless for many years on the streets of Amherst. He died on October 6, 2013 from complications related to his use of alcohol and drugs. Moe's Mittens was founded by his sisters, Camille and Suzanne, to bring a message of hope, comfort and compassion to those who receive the beautiful handcrafted mittens.

All mitten parts, precut from recycled wool sweaters and polar fleece, will be provided. Camille Magin, who organizes the sewing workshops each year, will be on hand to offer



Mittens made for Moe's Mittens by the Wendell / New Salem Swift River School Retired Teachers Group.

assistance and instructions. Coffee, snacks and a hearty vegetarian soup will also be provided!

Participants are asked to bring along a functioning sewing machine that they are comfortable using, but there will also be several machines on hand for those who can't bring their own.

While all of the mittens made at the library workshop go to Moe's Mitten Project, participants will leave with the ability to sew more pairs at home for themselves, their friends, or for Moe's Mittens. Donations of wool sweaters – at least 70% wool, washed in hot water and dried – are accepted by the Mitten Project at anytime, including at the Wendell workshop; even sweaters with holes are acceptable.

If you would like to participate in this Saturday's workshop, please RSVP to the Wendell Library at (978) 544-3559. Moe's Mittens can be contacted at [moesmittens@gmail.com](mailto:moesmittens@gmail.com) to discuss other ways to get involved, or for further information.

# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was October 18, 2007: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

## Police Station, Strathmore Spending Approved

Montague town meeting approved spending \$5.6 million on a new police station on Thursday, October 11 – subject to the approval of a town-wide debt exclusion vote to be held Tuesday, November 6.

Town meeting also passed a warrant to spend approximately \$300,000 to fix the roofs on two fire-damaged buildings at the Strathmore Mill, repair the fire alarm system there, and change the mill's sprinkler system to a dry system, to avoid the necessity of heating the complex this winter.

The special town meeting opened with a protracted debate about the import of the town of Montague continuing to pay operating expenses from town reserves. The debate, conducted largely between Mike Naughton – the former chair of the finance committee – and John Hanold, the committee's present chair, revealed doubt about the town's short-term financial stability.

## Call for Art for New Wendell Town Office

The Wendell town office building will hold its official dedication ceremony this Saturday, October 20, at 12:30 p.m. Visitors and town residents will be able to admire the new office building's skylit rooms, handsome new offices, spacious meeting hall, and landscaped exterior. But they will also notice two corridors of tall, nearly blank walls, begging for works of art to relieve the eye and elevate the soul.

Enter the interior design commit-

tee. "We're not picking upholstery fabric for couches," said Susan von Ranson, who along with Carolyn Manley, Mary Gilman, Jean Forward, and Pam Richardson will be soliciting works from area artists to hang in the halls of the new town hall building this fall.

The selectboard has given the committee \$1,500 from excess construction funds to work with to begin to establish a permanent collection for the building.

## United ARC Celebrates Groundbreaking

"We want to be part of the downtown Turners experience," explained Chris Peltier, family support director of the United ARC of Franklin and Hampshire Counties, a regional advocacy group for people with developmental disabilities. "We took a junky backyard and made it look like this."

He pointed to the backyard of the ARC's Fifth Street Project in Turners, now mulched and landscaped with flower gardens, and sporting a new play area, while a spontaneous debate about the Patriots-Dallas game heated up around him. A small group of neighbors sat on lawn chairs trying to keep dry, sipping cider and eating snacks. A toddler looked longingly at the backyard slide, but it was still tied with a big red ribbon, and dripping wet.

Four of the seven units on the site, formerly owned by the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, are now home to ARC clients, living independently and receiving as needed counseling, cooking and cleaning help from ARC staff. When the project is complete, six apartments will house ARC clients, and one will house a host family.

# MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS This Week on MCTV



By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

It's getting chilly out – it must be the season of goblins, ghouls and

ghosts!

Take a look at the week ahead on Channel 17 – your local access station – by viewing our TV schedule at [montaguetelevision.org/p/55/TV-Schedule](http://montaguetelevision.org/p/55/TV-Schedule).

We hope we'll see you this Saturday in Turners Falls for a very spooky Great Falls Festival! (Also known as Pumpkinfest!)

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

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

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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 [mcb Brass@vermontel.net](mailto:mcb Brass@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 to 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

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

### EVERY FOURTH FRIDAY

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

### EXHIBITS:

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Great Hall Art Display: *Migration: Connecting through Art and Culture of the Americas*. Guatemalan art display curated by local artists. Through October 28.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield:



*The Guatemala Art and Culture Connection is honored to present "Migration: Connecting through Art and Culture of the Americas," now on exhibit at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls. The vision of the Guatemala Art and Culture Connection is to utilize the art and the crafts of Mayan artists and artisans as a means of connecting people across borders and cultures and to support the artists and local initiatives in the communities they work with.*

Paintings by *Charlie Shaw*. Through October.

Leverett Crafts and Arts, Leverett: *New Oil Paintings* by Lori Lynn Hoffer. Resident artist Hoffer exhibits her recent work. Through October.

Baystate Medical Cafe, Greenfield: *Healing Journey*, paintings by *Fran Corriveau*. Through October.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Triple SSS: Sensual, Sexual, Smut Erotic Art* show, 25 local artists. Through October 21.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Whimsical, Fanciful, Mystical and Magical*, group show. Through November 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *"We Just Felt Like It."* Lynn Perry, Flo Rosenstock, Sue McFarland and Paul Cohen: four distinctive ways of working with the medium of felt, utilizing both needle felting and wet felting techniques. Through October.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Local Focus* by *Dave Rothstein*.

This light-hearted series honors our local heroes – the Valley's talented farmers, chefs, bakers, brewers, vintners and frozen treat makers. Miniatures are paired with local specialties, distorting our perspectives of space and place, and engaging

our childlike sense of wonder. Through October.

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *In Response to Paper*. New art exhibit by Wendell artist Julia Rabin through November.

Deerfield Valley Art Association Center for the Arts, Northfield: *Art as Expression of Cultural Heritage*. Art Inspired by cultures all over the world. Through November 12.

### EVENTS:

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19

Shea Theater, Turners Falls. *REFUGEE*. Play that examines

The Barn, 70 Main Street, Montague Center. *Mishael Coggeshall-Burr*. One night sale of paintings to benefit Puerto Rico hurricane victims. 5 p.m.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, Leverett: *Détournement Majure*. An evening of traditional Québécois music on acoustic guitars. *André Marchand* on guitar, *Pete Sutherland* on piano, banjo and violin, and *Jean-François Bélanger* on guitar. 7:30 p.m. \$

Wendell Free Library, Wendell: *Teen Wolf*, movie about human-wolf hybrid teen angst. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Joe Belmonte Experience*, with special guest *Duo Fusion*. 7:30 p.m. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Diane Cluck*, singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist, with *Sam Moss*, finger-picking guitar player. 8 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Josh Levangie & The Pistoleros*, outlaw country band. 8:30 p.m. \$ after 9 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Khalif Neville with Charles Neville*. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Free Range Cats*, groove. 9 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *REFUGEE*. (See Thursday listing.) 2 p.m. \$

Underdogs Lounge, Shelburne Falls: *Dave Dersham*. Folk covers and originals. 6 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Shad Ladder Radio Hour*, with *Wild Bill and the Sparks*. Locally-sourced, live-recorded community radio. 7:30 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lungs*. The world is getting hotter, there's unrest overseas, and one couple is thinking about having a child. *Lungs* is a smart and funny drama that follows a couple through their relationship as they grapple with questions of family and change, hope, betrayal, happenstance, and the pain that you can only cause the people you love. Fundraiser for Silverthorne Theater's production of *Your Voice, a Poet*, a free performance/discussion featuring the play by Haitian playwright Jean Dany Joachim, winner of STC's Playwrights of Color competition. 7 p.m. \$

#### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26

Root Cellar, Greenfield. *Prozacs, Rebel Base*, and *Belle Machine*. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: The *Super Star Open Mic* hosted

by Phil Simon of Rice: an American Band. 8:30 p.m.

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**FRI 10/20 9:30**  
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**SAT 10/21 7pm**  
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**SUN. 10/22 9pm**  
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# Word on the Avenue: Montague Police Controversy

Photos and Interviews by MARK HUDYMA



"I commend him for sharing his story."

Kara McLaughlin, Gill-Montague Community-School Partnership



"Was he carrying a gun on drugs? Driving a cruiser? It was bad. I think he should go. The select-board, too, for protecting him."

Charlie (last name withheld, photo declined)



"When I heard the rumors, it disturbed me. You're trusting the police to be on the up and up. I've put medicines in there. I have people in my house who I don't know: cleaners, nurses, contractors. It was a safer option. We put [police] on a pedestal – if they want us to trust them, they can't do this."

"Bella" (Assumed name; photo declined)



"They were talking about some of the officers may have gone into his office. Not that I'm surprised. It's scary when it's the chief."

Wendy Andrews (Photo declined)



"I heard some drugs went missing. I don't know if he should be in charge if he's stealing drugs. The other officers were probably in on it. Maybe he should step down, let somebody else do the job. What if they make a bust and the drugs go missing?"

Joseph Watkins



"It seems like he threw his officers under the bus. I mean somebody did it. It's tempting when you're around it like that."

Name withheld (Source says she interacts with the police to uphold a restraining order, and fears reprisal.)



"Even if it's a public office, he has a right to privacy. I do think Suboxone is an okay thing for him to be on. There is no proof whether he did it or didn't. What makes them suspect him? Until he is proven guilty, he should remain in place. If it's true keys are missing, how long have they known? If you lose your house key, you change your locks. I'm generally in favor of the police, but there's a lot of dirty cops."

"Virginia" (Photo declined; source says she knows the chief.)



"Someone said because he's in recovery he should be fired. He should put in a lot of work! It's unfair that they're busting people. He definitely shouldn't be in charge – he should be watched. He shouldn't be a member of the drug task force."

Courtney Weaver



"I think police need to be kept under a strict eye. There's good cops, and very corrupt cops. I think there should be a stricter punishment for people who break the law."

Jeannette Washington

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## My Third Idea (This Is My Fave)

By DENIS BORDEAUX

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – This reptile fits so many categories for our logo. He's as local as "The Plains" or "Red Rock," both of which were his stomping grounds. His footprints – literally – have been embedded here for millennia. (Real millennia, not just a thousand years.)

Velociraptors were supposedly very smart, to the point of being cunning. They were fearless, and worked together for community gains.

Adding "River" to the name does two things. It separates us from Toronto of the NBA, and it includes our longtime vital artery for powering the mills and homes of Montague. The river has been used for transportation for centuries, and today is a recreational paradise.

We were, are, and always will be a river town. Amen.

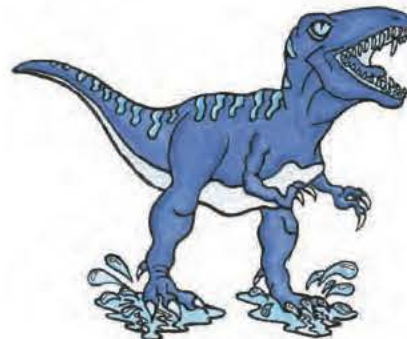
One only has to go visit the Pratt Museum at Amherst College to see where most of the giant footprint slabs and reptile fossils came from. About 80% were found between our dam and the Holyoke dam.

This is a very old river.

We know now that today's raptors are direct descendants of velociraptors, and our area and river are loaded with osprey, hawks, falcons, owls, and of course eagles.

So forget the lions, tigers, and bears. Oh my! Let's latch onto something that is uniquely and totally ours. The raptors were the first natives of Montague, and they still rule the river.

They also had feathers.



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