



LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 21

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 15, 2018

## Hallmark Buildings Under Consideration By Housing Authority, Cannabis Farmers



MIKE JACKSON PHOTOS

The former photography school's administrative buildings at 241 Millers Falls Road (top) may become the headquarters of the regional housing authority, while a new business has applied for a special permit to use 253 Millers Falls Road (below), once the school's imaging lab, for the cultivation of cannabis and the retail of cannabis products.

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Two buildings flanking the entrance to the Montague airport industrial park, formerly occupied by the Hallmark Institute of Photography, may have found new owners.

The Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), currently located next to the power canal in downtown Turners Falls, is ready to purchase the school's former administration building on the corner of Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard.

And a cannabis production company called 253 Organic has a lease agreement with an option to purchase for Hallmark's former imaging lab, also on Millers Falls Road.

"We are very excited that those buildings may soon be occupied," said town administrator Steve Ellis. If you think about the location of those buildings – at the gateway to the industrial park – it has troubled the town that they have sat as long as they have."

### Housing & Redevelopment

According to FCRHRA executive director Frances Pheeny, the

organization's board has approved a purchase and sale agreement for the office building at 241 Millers Falls Road.

Town planner Walter Ramsey noted that the town has encouraged the regional housing authority to relocate within Montague, and that the planned move is "opening up a new opportunity in the Mill District." A craft cidery called Wild Child Cellars will be moving into the current FCRHRA building on Canal Road.

"We need to do our due diligence, but hope to move in at the end of April or early May," Pheeny told this newspaper. "I have been working on this for 2½ years, ever since I became director." According to Montague assessors' property records, the Hallmark building the housing authority is about to purchase was constructed in 1974 and totals 12,066 square feet. Pheeny said her organization needs "at least 10,000 square feet" for its operations.

The housing authority provides a range of services for both low-income renters and homeowners. It also administers Montague's Community Development Block Grant  
see **BUILDINGS** page A5

## Gill-Montague Students Walk Out

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Over 300 students at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School walked out of class Wednesday morning, joining in a nationwide student protest of gun violence.

"Our parents should be able to send us to school with complete faith that we will come home to tell them about our day, without bullet holes in our bodies," freshman Isabelle Farrick, a member of a new organization called Students Take a Stand, read from a prepared statement. "Hardening our schools should not be the solution."

At five minutes before 10 a.m., following a plan negotiated between student leaders and the school administration, middle school and high school students began streaming from two exits and converged in the



JACKSON PHOTO

About 320 middle and high school students marched around the building in silence.

front parking lot.

Many wore orange ribbons, or orange face paint under their eyes. Some carried handmade signs.

Eighth-grader Hannah Warnock

held aloft a sign that read, in orange and black bubble letters, #ENOUGH – one of the movement's hashtags – and underneath it, the slogan I want

see **WALKOUT** page A5

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Town Eyes Meal Tax; Could Fund TF RiverCulture

By MARK HUDYMA

This May, Montague town meeting members will consider adopting a 0.75% tax on all restaurant purchases. The town selectboard did not endorse the idea at its Monday night meeting, but voted 2-0 to place a measure on the annual town meeting warrant.

"Much of the 91 corridor has adopted this," town administrator Steve Ellis told the board, showing them a map of the region. "Based on 2015 receipts, it would result in approximately \$65,000 in revenue to the town. I actually think, with a continuing growth of restaurant and entertainment business in the downtown, that it might do a bit better than that."

The town tax would supplement the 6.25% sales tax already assessed on meals by the state. Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz was not present, but members Chris Boutwell and Mike Nelson directed Ellis to draft a proposal for town meeting.

Ellis suggested that the revenue  
see **MEAL TAX** page A6

### THE BIG PICTURE

## Energy-Saving Endeavors



JACKSON PHOTO

Sally Pick is the chair of the Montague energy committee.

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – I got a chance to sit down this week with Sally Pick, chair of the all-volunteer Montague energy committee, and owner of SJP Environmental Consulting, LLC.

Our conversation was wide-ranging, and this transcript has been edited, mostly for brevity.

**MR:** How did you first get involved in the energy committee?

**SP:** I went to a meeting at the Great Falls Discovery Center for people who would be interested in [forming] an energy committee in town... Pat Allen was then a selectboard member, and she came up to me afterward and asked if I would be interested in being part of it. I said, "Sure!"

I've been in the environmental field for most of my career, in different iterations. I think what really got me moving in the energy efficiency direction, and interested in energy issues in addition to climate change – which was just starting to get into the public view – was having an old house, in Montague Center, that I was trying to make more efficient. That was my first training ground on these issues.

**MR:** How did you end up in Montague?

**SP:** The short answer is that my sister has lived in Sunderland for some time. I'm from the Chicago area, originally, but I've been out East more than half of my life, and

lived in eastern Mass. for a while, and Pennsylvania for eight years.

I was at a transitional point in my life, and I decided I'd like to give living in western Mass. a try because it seemed like a good fit for me – really nice lifestyle, people with similar commitments to environmental issues, and so on.

**MR:** And now you do environmental consulting professionally?

**SP:** Yep, I work with homeowners and help them understand and prioritize energy efficiency and renewable energy opportunities in their homes, and find incentives and loans, and kind of navigate the whole process. Because it can be pretty overwhelming.

And as I found out the hard way, through my own education, if you don't know where to start and how to think about it, you can feel overwhelmed and kind of get stuck.

So I've been through some professional training as a building analyst, and ran the Solarize program for Montague in 2012. I've been involved in the energy committee since 2008.

**MR:** You're a decade in!

**SP:** It's important to me. In some ways, it gives me a sense of hope to do this work.

Because sure, I can work on my own home and change all my lightbulbs to LEDs and all that, but that's only my house. I really want to work with other people and try to have a ripple effect, to the extent  
see **ENERGY** page A4

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Region's Forces Align at Rural School Forum

By RICHARD WIDMER

**SHELBURNE FALLS** – With rural towns in western Massachusetts acutely struggling to support their school districts, civic leaders from across Franklin, Hampshire and Berkshire counties are joining forces, in advance of the 2019 budgetary season, to impress upon state officials the urgent need for greater support.

On Monday evening, in advance of yet another late winter snowstorm, state senator Adam Hinds (D-Pittsfield) and Mohawk/Hawlemont superintendent Michael Buoniconiti, joined by over one hundred regional school committee members, superintendents, parents and concerned  
see **FORCES** page A8



WIDMER PHOTO

The forum at Mohawk brought together citizens, politicians and school boards from across the region to work toward shared solutions to shared problems.

# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

## Editorial Group

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*  
 Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*  
 Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*  
 Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*  
 Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*  
 Lisa McLoughlin, *Science Page*  
 Emily Alling, *Web Coordinatrix*

## Production Group

Don Clegg, *Distribution Manager*  
 Hannah Sanchez, *Ad Manager*  
 Hugh Corr, *Editorial Assistant*  
 Gloria Kegeles, *Editorial Assistant*

## Technical Administration

About Face Computing

## Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold  
 August 2002

## In The Fishbowl

We got another one of those voicemails over the weekend at our office:

"Let's see how fair your newspaper is. Let's, I want to know – I'm going to be inquiring to find out if you will accept cartoons that mock, let's say, Elizabeth Warren. Let's see if that's something that you will accept. Because I've noticed that you've allowed these cartoons of Trump. So how about you let other people pick cartoons of our elected officials to make fun of also? Let's see how that's going to go. Um, yeah. I will be inquiring about that. I think it's time for everyone else to be able to do their... their... their fair share." *Click.*

The frustrating thing about these calls, which are always anonymous, is that they never actually lead to conservatives stepping up to participate in this newspaper, which we provide as an open platform for anyone who lives in or loves these five towns.

(We've been on the edge of our seat all week waiting for someone to "inquire" as to whether we'll run a drawing they found online of Elizabeth Warren as a racially caricatured "Pocahontas.")

The comic strip "T.Rump" is locally conceived, drawn, scripted, now sometimes colored, and hand-delivered to the *Montague Reporter* office by Denis Bordeaux, native son of Turners Falls. "By blood a king, at heart a comedian," his entry in the Class of '67 THS yearbook reads, besides noting he was on Numerous Dance Committees and, oh yeah, those football teams.

"T.Rump" was bumped this week due to space constraints, but it'll be back.

A few years ago we ran a reg-

ular comic that everyone either loved or was baffled by: *Weird Healing*. It was produced by Operatura, a pair of animators who grew up in Erving and Japan and who live in Shelburne Falls, who read the paper, and who approached us offering a strip.

If someone else local wants to draw their own unique local content, then of course – as long as the content isn't hateful of racial, sexual, etc. groups – we would run it. That is literally what we're here for.

We're fair. We're open. We aren't making anyone a profit. Taken as a whole, we don't exist to persuade anyone of any opinion in particular – we may be propaganda, but only in that we strive to be living, breathing propaganda for the value of an independent free press in small towns.

Now, sooner or later, the people who come in and actually want to do the work are the people whose opinions end up getting published in the editorial column (which is what you're reading; it's written by the managing editor, whose name is printed right up above). And their personalities and outlooks determine the impression the paper gives readers. But you've gotta play in the band if you want the music to start sounding much different.

The same goes for written op-ed content – letters and guest editorials – of a socially or economically conservative bent. We aren't censoring them away, we just aren't getting them, and if it's a self-perpetuating cycle, then whose fault is that, exactly?

So to the heavy breathing contingent: Fish or cut bait, folks. And maybe leave your name next time. Where are your manners?



Local artist and musician Jack Nelson is left alone at the Turners Falls Post Office window, after post office personnel ducked from our illustrator's camera!

## Letters to the Editors



### Innovation

North Quabbin is a shining example of what's possible when we invest in our local communities and give small businesses the tools they need to succeed.

Orange Innovation Center is at the heart of that success, and I was proud to highlight all that it's done to help grow our region's economy when I recently visited with Debra Beavin from the US Department of Commerce. Ms. Beavin oversees federal funding to Massachusetts from the Commerce Department, and we were thrilled she accepted our invitation.

During our visit, the Orange Innovation Center was filled with community and municipal leaders from across the North Quabbin region who gathered to learn about the important programs offered by the US Department of Commerce and the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Ms. Beavin briefed attendees on how best to ac-

### Great Falls?

A reader of the *M.R.* (March 8, 2018) writes a Letter to the Editor and signs the letter as being from "Great Falls."

Where is Great Falls? In the Town of Montague, we have Millers Falls and Turners Falls.

There's a Great Falls in Iowa, Montana, Oregon, South Caroli-

na, Virginia and numerous waterways in the country have sections known as Great Falls.

It's nice to know that the *Montague Reporter* may be so widely read.

**Ed Gregory Greenfield**  
 (formerly from Turners Falls)

cess important planning and development funding offered by the EDA to local businesses like ones right here in North Quabbin.

Joining us at the February 13 meeting were elected and appointed representatives of the Towns of Athol, Barre, Erving and New Salem and Orange, as well as executives from local businesses, local planning organizations and Chambers of Commerce.

I believe that the economic future of this region is bright, and it is important to me that the federal government partner with our local

leaders to help fund that future.

Hosting our local elected and business leaders for this event was a great way to highlight the success we've achieved together and to ensure we continue to invest in our community for years to come.

Thank you to all who joined us. I am proud to represent you, and look forward to all we can do to help more local businesses create good jobs and help grow our economy for years to come.

**Congressman Jim McGovern**  
 Worcester

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Montague Residents: Your Local Government Needs You!

By JEN AUDLEY

This past year I've been delighted to see some new faces on Montague's committees and boards and at Town Meeting, and I'm hoping that trend will continue. I'm so glad that people here in town want to help shape our community's future!

There is a lot of work to do, and much of it continues to fall to a dedicated but small group of citizens. At many of the meetings where important decisions are being made, there is still plenty of room for more voices and different points of view.

So how could you get involved?

One way to get a sense of the possibilities is to spend some time exploring the newly-redesigned Town of Montague website: [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov). The "Your Government" section includes tons of information about groups you could be elected or appointed to.

Many of the seats on town committees and boards are filled by appointment, and most of the terms start in July, so now is a great time to get a sense of what's out there. Go to some meetings to see if a particular group seems like a good fit; once you decide, introduce yourself as a prospective member, and ask

the chair for instructions about how to proceed.

Now is also the time to take action if you want to get on the ballot for offices that will be decided in this year's Annual Town Election.

Running for Town Meeting is a great way to get started in local politics, and the Town Clerk tells me that all six of Montague's precincts have open seats this year! Town Meeting members serve for three-year terms; their service involves participating in the Town's Annual Town Meeting on the first Saturday in May, plus a few additional evening meetings that are scheduled during the year on an

as-needed basis.

If you want to get a sense of what Town Meetings are like, you could watch recordings of past ones online at [www.vimeo.com/mctvchannel17](http://www.vimeo.com/mctvchannel17), or you could attend the Special Town Meeting that's coming up on Thursday, March 29, at 6:30 p.m. at Turners Falls High School.

To run for a Town Meeting seat, you need to be a registered voter in Montague and to take out nomination papers at Town Hall (One Avenue A). The Town Clerk's office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30

p.m. Town Hall is closed Fridays.

You'll need to get at least ten registered voters who live in your precinct to sign your papers, and to return them to Town Hall by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 2. That's it – as long as you collect ten valid signatures, your name will appear on the ballot for the Annual Town Election on Monday, May 21.

*Jen Audley is a Town Meeting member for Precinct 4, current chair of Montague's Local Cultural Council, and a newly-appointed member of the Montague Finance Committee. She lives in Turners Falls.*

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

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

Please note new email addresses:  
[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)  
[features@montaguereporter.org](mailto:features@montaguereporter.org)  
[ads@montaguereporter.org](mailto:ads@montaguereporter.org)  
[bills@montaguereporter.org](mailto:bills@montaguereporter.org)  
[circulation@montaguereporter.org](mailto:circulation@montaguereporter.org)  
[events@montaguereporter.org](mailto:events@montaguereporter.org)  
[poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)  
[subscriptions@montaguereporter.org](mailto:subscriptions@montaguereporter.org)

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter  
 177 Avenue A  
 Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is  
**MONDAY at NOON.**

This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.

### Annual Subscription Rate:

\$30 for walking subscriptions;  
 \$40 for driving route subscriptions;  
 \$60 for mailed subscriptions.

Call us or contact  
[subscriptions@montaguereporter.org](mailto:subscriptions@montaguereporter.org)  
 with any questions.

**WE WELCOME**

**YOUR LETTERS!**

Montague Reporter

177 Ave. A, TF, MA 01376

[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)

## Sign Me Up!

**\$20** { 8 months (31 issues) for our walking routes  
 6 months (23 issues) for our driving routes  
 4 months (15 issues) for mailed subscriptions

**The Montague Reporter**

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

# LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by DON CLEGG

Everyone is Irish around St. **Patty's Day**. Back by popular demand, the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls is hosting "Ray and Rob" as they perform their musical talents on Friday, March 16, from 10 a.m. to noon.

Feel free to come for a bit of music, or for the entire two hours. Other leprechauns might show up, you never know. Wear your green, and prepare to dance a jig or two. Free St. Patty's cookies available as supplies last.

A **Friends of Gill pancake breakfast** will be held on Saturday, March 17, from 8 to 10:30 a.m. at the Gill Congregational Church. Regular and blueberry pancakes, and sausage and/or bacon will be served. Prices are \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 10 and free for 4 and under. Proceeds benefit college scholarship programs.

The 17th Annual **New England Peace Pagoda's Walk for Spring** will be held this Saturday, March 17. Marchers will meet at Montague town common at 9:30 a.m., and at 10 a.m. start walking to the Great Falls (behind the Discovery Center).

Arrival time there should be about 11:30 a.m., and a potluck will be at the Brick House (24 Third Street) starting about noon. Please call David at 863-9296 if you plan to attend the potluck.

Emily Mew, local field representative from the Salvation Army, was deployed last summer to Houston and its surrounding coastline in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Emily will share her experiences and pictures of Mother Nature's fury this Saturday, March 17 at 10 a.m. at the Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls. The bank will provide light refreshments.

Franklin County Technical School, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls is hosting a **Home Show** on Sunday, March 18, starting at 10:30 a.m. Come meet exhibitors from northwestern New England, see some amazing displays, enjoy terrific food and entertain for the entire family. Admission is free.

The Leverett Library is hosting an open **Story Slam** this Sunday, March 18 from 3 to 5 p.m. Co-hosts Steve Adams, the writer and actor known for *Envy* (2004), *Waiting for Forever* (2010), and *No Stranger Than Love* (2015), and writer-historian-humorist-blogger Bruce Watson will tell stories and emcee the event.

Members of the public are encouraged to sign up to tell stories, between 5 and 10 minutes long, about true events in their own lives. The format is similar to The Moth ([themoth.org](http://themoth.org)), minus the competition.

Storytellers should register ahead at (413) 548-9920 or [leverett@cw-mars.org](mailto:leverett@cw-mars.org), or stop by the library. The first 12 to sign up will get to tell their stories; more if time allows.

An **Open House will be held at the Millers Falls Library** on Tuesday, March 20, from 3 to 6:30 p.m. The public is invited to meet the new branch library assistant, Melinda Georgeson, welcome spring, and learn how to maximize the benefits of a library card. Georgeson started at the Millers Falls Library the be-

ginning of March, replacing Liza Graybill, who left in late January.

Refreshments will be served. If you do not have a local library card or have never been inside the building, this is a great excuse to explore this gem. The library is much larger and more comfortable than it looks from the outside, and has a wide variety of books, DVDs, magazines, and audio books.

Also on Tuesday, March 20, from 7 until 8:30 p.m., celebrate the first day of spring with an illustrated evening program on **transforming gardens and landscapes into native bee habitat** at the Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center.

Learn about native bees and what steps you can take to create pollinator friendly landscaping including providing food for bees and nesting opportunities to raise their young.

Join Tom Sullivan, M.A.L.D., of *PollinatorsWelcome.com*, for an evening filled with ideas and inspiration, from simple techniques to community practices focusing on connectivity.

Sullivan is a pollinator habitat designer, land consultant, and educator with a special focus on native bees.

He gives talks and workshops on the nesting, foraging and life cycles of native bee species in New England.

A beekeeper in his youth, Tom switched his interest from honeybees to native bees in 2008 after Colony Collapse Disorder emerged and it became clear how intricately tied whole ecosystem health is to pollinator well-being and human survival. This free event is co-sponsored with the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

The **Montague Democrats** will hold their caucus to select candidates for town office elections on Tuesday, March 20, from 7 to 7:30 p.m. in the first floor meeting room of the town offices, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls. Voting is by paper ballot. Successful candidates will receive the party nomination to appear on the Monday, May 21, town election ballot.

The Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter, on Sandy Lane in Turners Falls, is hosting a **rabies clinic** on Saturday, March 24, from noon to 2 p.m. Cost is \$20. Dogs must be leashed, and cats in carriers.

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

## Social Justice Conference at All Souls

**GREENFIELD** – A conference titled "The Power of an Equitable Community" will be held Saturday, March 17, at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church of Greenfield. Registration, singing, and snacks begin at 9:30 a.m. in the main entrance of the church at 399 Main Street in Greenfield. Cost is \$10.

At 10 a.m. author Chuck Collins opens the conference with a keynote address, "The Transformative Power of Equality."

Following the keynote, there will be a panel discussion covering the economics of climate, healthcare, and Raise Up MA. Participants are representative Paul Mark; former executive director of Massachusetts Home Care Association, Al Norman;

and Western Massachusetts ACLU executive director Bill Newman.

Attendees are invited to enjoy lunch from 12 to 1 p.m. at the Stone Soup Cafe, followed by a time for questions and sharing. From 1:30 to 3:30 p.m., there will be three simultaneous workshops:

- "Raise Up MA, Economics of Climate, Green Banks, Commercial PACE and the "Drawdown" Program," with Chuck Collins.
- "Health Care – Defending Medicare and MassHealth." Led by Al Norman, this will look at proposed changes and effective advocacy.
- "Immigration, Deportation & Sanctuary Churches," led by Bill Newman and facilitated by Molly Chambers.

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Montague DPW Facility: The Planning Process

By JAY DIPUCCHIO

"You're either deluded or stupid," I was told by a voter after our DPW Building Committee's recent presentation on a proposed replacement for our 70-year-old, dangerous and inefficient Montague Public Works Department facility.

Maybe I'm both. After all, I did volunteer for this duty.

There seems to be general consensus, however, about the need for a new facility for the DPW. That the current building is a risk to staff, equipment, and operating certainty, given the possibility of immediate shutdown were it to be inspected by just about any authority, is beyond discussion.

What is tough to swallow is the price tag, currently about \$11.2 million. Presumably, some thought has gone into that number. Indeed, there has been over two years' effort and considerable open public dialogue in the process that will bring us to town meeting on March 29 to consider the proposal.

The town issued a request for qualifications from prospective building designers in October 2015. A seven-member Public Works Facility Planning Committee was then

appointed by the Selectmen to review the designer qualifications and select a firm, all in public meetings. We selected Weston and Sampson, based in large measure upon their experience designing DPW buildings across New England.

Weston then prepared a detailed needs analysis of the DPW, reviewing – along with the committee, DPW staff, and other town staff – the current employee and equipment inventory, along with functions necessary for accommodating the mission of a DPW now and in the future.

In order to address changes in equipment size, cost and maintenance since 1948, and consolidate the current three DPW locations into one, the designer proposed a working floor plan for the size and estimated cost of the typical functions of our DPW. Throughout spring 2016, the committee reworked assumptions and discussed practical needs of the department that wrenched the total space from a preliminary design of 32,575 square feet to 21,119, and back to 27,974, which would have cost \$11.5 million... two years ago.

While the building planning was proceeding, the committee was also evaluating likely sites. Considering and dismissing sites that would re-

move private property from the tax rolls, yet recognizing the constraints of the Avenue A site for expansion, the Committee settled on a town-owned parcel behind Judd Wire near the former "burn dump." Even as planning continued over the next year, we discovered that soils were too undependable or expensive to adapt to build upon.

Finally, in late summer 2017, a town-owned site between the Public Safety building and the cemetery became available when certain environmental constraints were cleared.

Through 2017 we had held tours of the current facility, met several times in public hearings with the Selectmen, Finance Committee and Capital Planning Committee, briefed Town Meeting, and held a public input forum. Committee members had also toured other DPW buildings in the region and central Mass. We continued to revise the draft space design, rotating the floor plan and condensing all into a square footprint, eliminating walls and doors, reconfiguring storage space, dropping stairways, combining a wash bay with a repair bay and other seeming endless revisions to tighten up a draft plan to bring to three public forums held early this year.

RECYCLE

**PAPER**  
Week of March 19  
in Montague

more info? call 863-9254

Shop locally!  
Support  
**Montague Reporter**  
advertisers.

**LIVE IN**  
EST. 1754  
**MONTAGUE?**

[www.MontagueMA.net](http://www.MontagueMA.net)  
local gossip, news & business listings

NANCY L. DOLE  
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

20 State Street,  
Bucklandside  
Shelburne Falls  
413-625-9850  
[ndole@crocker.com](mailto:ndole@crocker.com)  
closed Mondays

**Nina's Nook**

Uniquities,  
Frivolities,  
Un-necessariums  
~ Creative items ~  
bringing joy to life

Open 12 to 5 p.m.  
Thursdays through Saturdays  
125A Avenue A Turners Falls  
413.834.8800

[www.ninasnook.com](http://www.ninasnook.com)

WE HEAT  
FRANKLIN  
COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service

(413) 773-3622

**Fred Holmgren**  
Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay tuned!

(978)544-5494  
[fredholmgren@gmail.com](mailto:fredholmgren@gmail.com)

*Bringing Peace to Tired Muscles*  
From yard work, shoveling or exercise,  
Stiff neck or Plantar Fasciitis?

*Let me help*

**Gretchen Wetherby LMT**

www.gretchenwetherby massagetherapy.com  
14 Bridge St. Millers Falls & 5 State St. Suite 6 Shelburne Falls  
[gretchenwlmnt@gmail.com](mailto:gretchenwlmnt@gmail.com) 413-824-7063

Open every day, 10 to 6

**BOOK MILL**  
440 Greenfield Rd.  
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206 [www.montaguebookmill.com](http://www.montaguebookmill.com)  
Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

**ENERGY** from page A1

that I can: to get the town, and people in the town, to understand how we can move forward and hopefully turn this climate thing around.

**MR:** How much of your client base would you estimate is single-family homeowners?

**SP:** Most of it. The exception to that is that I do some workshops.

**MR:** Is that kind of work being done with landlords of multi-family buildings?

**SP:** That's kind of a different animal, and it's beyond my scope of professional understanding and work. The energy committee has tried to reach out to landlords through some grant programs, tell them about the MassSave program and opportunities for lowering their energy use for their tenants.

But the difficulty is, there's a split incentive. Most of the time the landlord isn't paying for the heat, so they don't necessarily have an incentive to reduce their heat cost, or their electricity cost, because they're not paying those bills.

**MR:** You'd think they would want to have tenants who could afford to pay that much more in rent – that the incentive would be indirect.

**SP:** Well, possibly. And there have been studies that have looked at what the benefits are. If you make a building more comfortable to live in, if the utility bills are lower, then tenants are more likely to want to stay, and you don't have as much turnover. Those are really big benefits to owners...

**MR:** And then there's town buildings, and town facilities.

**SP:** Yes. The energy committee has a very broad scope; they didn't direct us as to what we were required to do, just that we look at the town's energy use, and buildings, and renewable energy opportunities for the town, [and] grants...

We've also done educational programs for the public. We've moved away from that some because it's hard to get the public out to events, but we did do the Solarize program in 2012, and that got the energy committee out into the public eye.

It was a lot of marketing to get people on board to get solar, to drive the price down; the more people who purchased the solar, the more the price went down for everybody.

**MR:** Was there a certain percentage of the houses you had to hit?

**SP:** No, it was based on the total number of kilowatts. There were different tiers, so the more kilowatts that were contracted for – the first tier was 25 kilowatts, and then the price would go down for the next tier.

We got to the fourth tier out of five, so we did pretty well. We more than doubled the number of solar installations in town.

**MR:** Cool. Was the committee also involved in getting the town Green Community status?

**SP:** Yes, actually, I think that was one of the first things we worked on – we were thrown into the fire, it came along right when we started!

We were very involved in that, knowing it was going to be a good opportunity for the town to get grants from the Green Communities program. They focus on energy efficiency first, and then if you lower your town energy use by 20%, then they'll start considering renewable energy like solar...

**MR:** How near are we to that

20% reduction?

**SP:** According to this report [indicates 78-page "Montague Energy Infrastructure Asset" report], I think with the latest installation of a Green Communities grant, we're supposed to get there. You'll have to talk to [town planner] Walter Ramsey, he's the one who keeps track of that.

**MR:** I imagine, especially with these 19th-century buildings which the town just owns, which isn't the most regular arrangement, that there are challenges.

**SP:** There are a lot of challenges. And this report, which the UMass Clean Energy Extension did, really did a terrific job of pulling a lot of information together on the buildings – they went to the town buildings and did walkarounds and evaluations. It wasn't in depth, but it's a very great starting point to look at: which are the buildings that are using the most electricity, and energy overall? And what are opportunities?

They prioritized different retrofits, high and low priority, and they've got a chart on which buildings are using the most energy. Sheffield Elementary school and administrative building came out on top, the highest energy user in town. Hillcrest comes in second.

**MR:** And then the police department, which is a new building!

**SP:** Yeah, that was surprising – and this is something Jason Burbank could speak to better. It's heated with geothermal, which is a complicated setup... You've got different spaces with different needs, and people using them at different times, and they haven't worked out the management system very well.

And that's something that we're going to revisit, and see if there's an opportunity for shifting that. It's just how it's being run right now – it's not being run efficiently. How do you address that, and address the needs of these different spaces?

**MR:** All the next ones – town hall, the Carnegie Library, the Millers Falls Library, the Colle opera house – these are all much older buildings, and less of a surprise.

**SP:** That did jump out on me, and other people on the committee... The energy committee wants to boil this report down into a "next steps" list, with priorities, and break it down to things that perhaps the town can do on their own.

One of the things they cite is the drop box for the Millers Falls library – it's not really a box, it's like a slot on the door, and that's just a big energy loser. So either create a drop box that's outside, or put a little insulated box around this thing. It's sealing air leaks, and that's a big one.

There are a lot of places in the Carnegie Library that could use air sealing. Those kind of simple things are really effective, and cost-effective. So we want to identify the low-hanging fruit that the town can tick off a list as they go.

We also want to look at what things the town can apply for with Green Communities money, or other money. For instance, the Water Pollution Control Facility is the second-highest user of energy...

**MR:** It takes a lot of energy to sort a high-entropy waste stream into its components!

**SP:** It's the motors and the pumps, things like that. That's a really specialized entity, but I did notice in the Appendix: "the Mass Clean Energy Center is offering \$150,000 in funding for the piloting of innovative technologies at publicly owned

wastewater facilities across the Commonwealth."

So, maybe they know about that, but maybe they don't, and if not, that's a funding option to explore.

**MR:** What are some other areas where the committee is looking, where the town could save energy?

**SP:** One of the big discussions we had at our last meeting was about upgrading the street lighting – what are called cobra lights, the tall lights, to change those out to LEDs, which are more efficient.

**MR:** This is something our readers will be familiar with both Gill and Erving working on recently, with their Green Communities money.

**SP:** We were approached by the Turners Falls Fire District because they're interested in exploring it.

It's a complicated thing because the town has all these light districts, and we don't even know how to contact all of them... [and] it would be most effective if we could do all of them at once. My understanding is that Eversource leases the lights to the districts. In order to change them out to LED, we'd have to buy all the lights we wanted to change in, and then pay somebody to change them. Since they're owned by separate districts it gets more complicated – is Eversource willing to work on a district by district basis?

We're just getting into this; the ins and outs of it I'm not clear on. There might be an evaluation of whether some areas are overlit – can any of the streetlights be eliminated?

As building issues come up, we talk about them and try to make recommendations to the town. There's solar being looked at to go on the Water Pollution Control Facility...

One of the things we've struggled with, as a newer committee, is to get on the radar of other committees and the town. When there are issues that come up in buildings, people may not be aware of the possibility to make changes that are going to save the town money, in terms of energy use, over the years. We're trying to really educate the committees.

[Town administrator] Steve Ellis has been great; he's come to some of our meetings, and he hears that we would like to be seen as a resource for other committees and for the town when building issues come up...

**MR:** Have you had much communication with the school district?

**SP:** Yeah, we have – we've worked with the schools pretty closely... They had a grant from the state where they were just going to replace the Sheffield boilers with inefficient oil boilers, and we tried to get them to back up and say, "OK, let's look at the bigger picture here – it's not just about replacing the boiler, but can we try to find some funding to make the building more energy-efficient?"...

**MR:** I saw that last week, you were at the selectboard proposing that an article be put on town meeting warrant this May...

**SP:** There have been two bills at the state level, and now there's a third. The legislature is proposing to have some kind of financial incentive that would make things that create greenhouse gases – like fossil fuels: oil, gas, propane – more expensive, so that people are incentivized to make their homes energy-efficient, or buy smaller cars, or things like that.

The two initial bills that have been in the works, both had that fee, but there was a rebate system as well – so it's not a tax *per se*; it's not like you just get charged by having to pay

higher prices for your gas or your oil.

There's a rebate for those two bills that would come back to residents. One of the bills had 80% going to residents, and 20% going to a fund that would fund things like low-income energy efficiency measures.

**MR:** It's a point of sale fee?

**SP:** I believe it's a fee at the level of the fossil fuel companies, but it's going to be passed along. And then there's a third bill, an omnibus bill that senator [Mark] Pacheco, S.2302, [brought] out of the Global Warming and Climate Change committee...

It's likely it might pass the Senate, but the House has been much more conservative in terms of climate bills, and also the carbon fee and rebate bills. I think those passed the Senate last year, but not the House.

**MR:** And this is not something that hits electricity producers.

**SP:** Right, there's a separate system for electricity already.

So the energy committee was hoping that the town would make a statement of support for carbon fee and rebate legislation of some kind, regardless of which one, because it's really the most effective tool for getting people to change their behavior, getting businesses to adapt and focus on efficiency and renewables, and it's a revenue-neutral way to do it.

**MR:** Is there a state network of energy committees?

**SP:** There's not a network, though there is in Franklin County – the Franklin County Energy Committee Coalition, which Bob Dean of FR-COG facilitates. And we meet once every quarter... We share information about what we're doing, and sometimes we have speakers from the state, like about the Green Communities grant or other state-level incentives that are just coming out.

Franklin County is, I think, more organized than other regional energy committees. But there are something like 100 state reps and senators that have cosponsored the carbon fee and rebate bills.

**MR:** And now even our own selectboard has endorsed it.

**SP:** There's really a groundswell happening! There's been an attempt by the state of Washington to pass a carbon fee, which did not pass, but the governor there is in favor.

My understanding is, having spoken with some state legislative staff about this, that Governor Baker is pretty hesitant to be the first state – he's concerned that there'll be an economic impact if we're the leading state. My feeling is probably the economic impact would be positive, because anything that pushes for efficiency and renewables helps generate the thousands of jobs that even just solar has generated in our state.

These are not exportable jobs; these are local, small businesses. Greg Garrison runs a solar company, he lives in Montague, and they employ local people that have been trained at GCC. These are jobs that stay here.

**MR:** Do you think there's been an impact here of Berkshire Gas's moratorium on new customers?

**SP:** I really can't speak much about that, but I think there has been some. I saw an article quite a while ago in another local paper about development being hindered by the gas moratorium in Amherst.

All I could think of was, why aren't they thinking of other ways of heating and cooling these buildings? Like air-source heat pumps, which are very efficient? I think it requires some thinking outside of the box,

and some people don't want to...

And that's where I think the energy committee can come into play: to advise the town and say "are you aware of this? There's a grant for this from X agency."

The new DPW building that's being proposed – I brought up the issue of had they considered heating the bays that don't have to be heated much, for the trucks, with radiant floor heating that would be heated by solar hot water panels? There are significant grants at the state level for solar hot water, so it might be a way to do that that's not going to cost much more, or any more.

Another thing the committee has been talking about is how to think about, not just the up-front costs, but the life cycle costs. Maybe it's going to be more up front to pay for that solar hot water heating. But how much are you going to save over 20 years? What's the energy savings you're going to have in running that building?

**MR:** How would you heat the Strathmore?

**SP:** [Laughs] I wouldn't!

**MR:** Have you seen much push-back on climate issues locally?

**SP:** Well, during the pipeline debate, there were some signs around town of people who felt a new pipeline might bring down their energy costs. So there's that...

**MR:** But not much in terms of, "this is all a hoax designed to..."

**SP:** Occasionally I've had conversations with people, out and about... But no, not most people that I connect with, or run into and talk to...

Being on the energy committee, and doing this work, I've read and thought about how to motivate people to take action about climate change. What's interesting is it's often not by talking about climate change; it's often about, "Do you want to make your house more cozy?"

And it's often not about energy cost savings – that doesn't really motivate people to change their lifestyles, unless it's a big jump in cost. When the energy committee started, in 2008, there was a big jump in oil prices, and so that's when we started doing workshops for homeowners and energy-efficiency programs like the MassSave program.

And we had a lot of interest, but as soon as the prices go down, people forget... When Eversource increases their rates, then people go "oh my god, my bill just doubled," but then when it goes down again it's off their radar.

**MR:** Is there anything else that you want to make sure gets through to our readers?

**SP:** I hope that as a result of this interview people are more aware of what we do, and bring ideas to us. Also, we're always looking for new members – if you have any interest in the topic, and we have people with a whole range of different expertise.

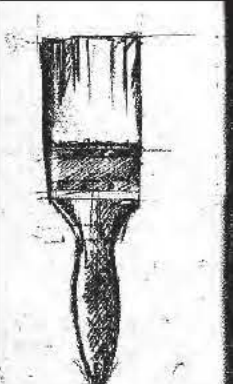
The energy committee is advisory in its capacity. We wouldn't have had the impact we've had in the town without the support of the board of selectmen and town staff, especially Walter Ramsey, who has been key to implementing our recommendations.

For example, with guidance from the committee, Walter submitted the initial application for the town to become a Green Community, and has written subsequent Green Communities grants and reports over the years.

We are lucky to live in a town that stands behind energy-saving endeavors.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666



**BARRY PAINTING**  
Interior and Exterior House Painting

Mark Barry

markbarry8@gmail.com  
413-325-4470  
413-774-5077

Free Estimates/ Fully Insured  
189 Chapman Street  
Greenfield MA 01301

**Dudek Tax Service**  
10 Masonic Ave  
Turners Falls  
MA 01376

**Frank J. Dudek**

413.863.5394 - Office  
413.775.3327 - Cell  
frankd\_74@yahoo.com

**REAL PICKLES**

Locally grown vegetables  
Fermented & raw  
100% organic



A worker co-op in Greenfield, MA  
www.realpickles.com | (413) 774-2600

**WALKOUT** from page A1  
to feel safe in school.

"We should not be feeling scared in school because people have guns," she explained. "It's not okay that that guy killed a lot of kids at school."

At the top of the hour, freshman Mercedes Morales read through a bullhorn the names of the 14 students and 3 staff members killed a month earlier by a lone 19-year-old gunman at a high school in Parkland, Florida, and called for a moment of silence.

Then the students, accompanied by teachers and other staff members and a smattering of parents and

other community members, marched in silence around the outside of the school building.

According to principal Annie Leonard, about 140 students did not participate in the walkout, and were asked instead to report to the cafeteria while it lasted. "Students undoubtedly have varied reasons for participating, and for not participating," Leonard said, "and the student leaders' plan for today was respectful of that range of perspectives."

Morales, a member of Students Take a Stand, said the faculty had been supportive of student organizers. "They take us really seriously, so

a lot of our ideas are heard, and they make them happen," she said.

She also expressed support for her peers who did not walk out. "We try to just ignore negativity, and we support other people's opinions, too," she said. "They had a place to go during this if they didn't want to support it. The same way they support us walking out, we should support them not walking out."

Slogans carried on other handmade signs included *Enough is Enough; Kids Have the Right to Feel Safe; Sacrifice Guns, Not Children; We Call B.S.; and Guns In Schools? We Say No, NRA Has Got To Go.*

"I just want them to stop gun violence," a boy who said his name was Adam explained, of his choice to join the walkout.

When the march returned to the front parking lot, two members of Students Take a Stand read short speeches.

"Just because it hasn't happened in our school doesn't mean it won't or can't affect us," said eighth-grader Emily Young. "As a nation we need to stop waiting for somebody to do something, and do it ourselves. We need to prove to others that this is real, and this is more important than some drama at school."

"As a teacher or as a student, we need to recognize when those who have a mental illness cry out," Young continued, adding that the Parkland massacre "sent shocks through the US - enough for people to finally recognize the bigger picture."

Isabelle Farrick argued against "hardening" schools as a response to the threat. "Fighting guns with guns? That only ends up with more guns, and more violence," she argued.

"Instead of needing to install new security systems, metal detectors - all these extremities to keep us safe - we need to take guns away from the people that shouldn't have them. We need it to be more difficult for a 19-year-old violent man to get his hands on a deadly weapon. We need for people to have licenses, to be background-checked, to overall have more security when it comes to obtaining guns."

Farrick later said that Students Take a Stand, a group of about a dozen students formed in recent weeks, had worked together on the text she read.

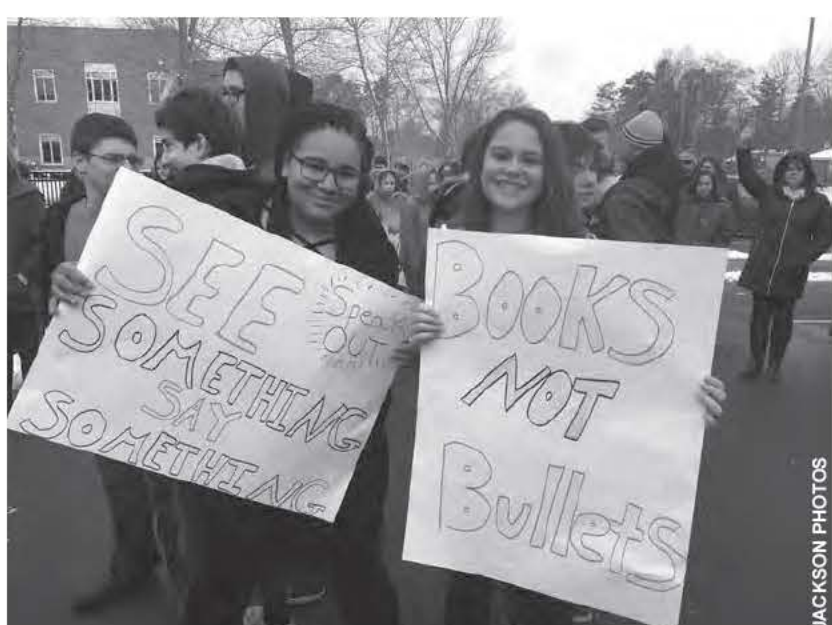
Though many were present for the action's duration, faculty and staff appeared to take a hands-off approach. Principal Leonard said the school "does not promote a particular political position" on the questions of gun violence and school safety, though the Gill-Montague school committee voted last week to endorse a plan to hire a school police officer for the next academic year.

Leonard said that the walkout's organizers "had the vision, and planned and communicated a plan to achieve the vision, and advocated for the adult support they needed to carry out the vision."

"My top concerns are student safety, and creating conditions that enable powerful learning to happen," she added, "and everything I saw today lines up well with those concerns."

The walkout, reportedly one of a number in the area, ended after Young and Farrick read their speeches. The national call had been for a 17-minute demonstration in honor of the 17 dead in Parkland.

The organizers thanked their classmates for "maintaining respect" during the silent march, and at 10:17 a.m. sharp, urged them to return to class.



JACKSON PHOTOS

From the top: Mercedes Morales reads the names of the 17 people murdered last month during a school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Hannab (left) and Adam (right) show their signs. Marchers embark on their trip around the building. Storm (left) and Jordan (right) with signs of their own.

**MILLERS FALLS ROD & GUN**  
**IRISH I WAS POLISH NIGHT**  
**Saturday, March 17, 2018 6:30pm**  
Eat Polish on St. Paddy's Day | All Homemade Polish Food  
\$12 or \$24 a couple Only 60 Tickets  
210 Turners Falls Road Montague, MA 01376  
**For Ticket Info Call: 413-863-3748 Leave a Message**

**MONTAGUE PLANNING BOARD**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**  
Tuesday, March 27, 2018  
Town Hall - Upstairs Meeting Room  
7:00 PM

The Montague Planning Board will hold a public hearing at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 in the second floor meeting room of Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls on an application by 253 Organic, LLC for a special permit and site plan approval under Montague Zoning Bylaws Section 5.2.6(c) and 8.2(g) to permit a marijuana cultivation and production establishment with retail as an accessory use in the Industrial Zoning District.

The property is located at 253 Millers Falls Road and is identified as Assessors Map 17 Lot 31. All interested persons will be given the opportunity to be heard and to ask questions directly to the project proponents. This hearing is also intended to meet the requirements for a community outreach hearing per the draft regulations of the Cannabis Control Commission. Application and plans describing the project may be examined in the Planning and Conservation Office, One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA during regular business hours, Mondays to Thursdays.

**Ron Sicard, Chairman**

**BUILDINGS** from page A1

funds. The FCRHRA's offices house a closely linked non-profit Rural Development Incorporated, which played a central role in rehabilitating the Crocker and Cutlery buildings in downtown Turners Falls.

The FCRHRA move will facilitate the rehabilitation of unused portions of the Canal Street location it intends to vacate. Wild Child Cellars co-owner April Woodward expressed sentiments similar to those of Pheeny. "You have no idea," she told the Reporter. "It's been a long, hard process."

Wild Child, as its name suggests, has ambitious plans to ferment and store cider in a renovated basement space, provide a room for tasting, and create a larger venue for events. Last month, town meeting voted to petition the state for an additional all-alcohol license for the site.

"No one else wanted this building," she said, noting the structure's many historic features. Co-owner Curt Sherrer submitted the sole bid for the building last July, which FCRHRA finance and personnel coordinator Hugh Mackay reported at the time was for \$12,735.

**Edibles & Concentrates**

Meanwhile 253 Organic, created in February 2018 to establish a "vertically integrated recreational Cannabis facility" at 253 Millers Falls Road, will be going before the planning board on March 27 seeking a special permit and site plan review.

These are both requirements for new marijuana establishments, under the zoning bylaw amendments approved at the February town meeting. 253 Organic has presented the planning board with a developed site plan, a 15-page business plan, and 22 pages of "Policies and Procedures."

The company's "primary executives" are Seth Rutherford and Chris Gallant, both of whom are currently consulting for a "production/product manufacturing facility" in Maine. The managerial team also includes Lee Olesen, who has "extensive experience in the cannabis industry by owning multiple retail stores, cultivation and product manufacturing

facilities in Colorado..."

The 253 Organic site plan shows that much of the former Hallmark Imaging complex would be used for growing cannabis and manufacturing "infused" products, edibles and concentrates. A smaller structure attached to the main building will house a "high end boutique store" for retail sale. There is separate parking for employees and customers in the site plan.

The company's timeline shows plans to submit applications to the town and state for cultivation, production, and retail by April 1. 253 Organic plans to begin the build-out of the retail portion of the facility in mid-June, and begin sales in September or October, "to generate revenues while the cultivation facility is under construction."

February's town meeting also established a 3% tax on all cannabis sales revenue in Montague.

According to its business plan, the company hopes to grow up to 295 pounds per month of cannabis flower, and an additional 88 pounds of premium flower tops to consumers onsite.

The rest of the plants it would process into extract, which it would sell as edibles ("baked goods, hard/soft candy, tinctures and drinks") and concentrates ("oil cartridges for vape pens, wax, shatter and clear").

The company pledges to work with the community so that "our building and signage is appealing to our neighbors and the public." According to Ramsey, the facility is "at least 1,000 feet" from the Franklin County Technical School. (The town's newly amended bylaws requires such a facility to be at least 300 feet from a school.)

The proposed signage of the facility does not mention cannabis. A small company sign located on Millers Falls Road would show the company name with the "i" of "Organic" dotted with a leaf, which does not appear to be the leaf of a cannabis plant.

"That's in the new regulations," said Ramsey, referring to policies being finalized by the state Cannabis Control Commission.

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**CHARON ART** VISIONARY TATTOO  
Inspired, holistic tattoos with a focus on personal energy, experience and spontaneous creation.  
www.CharonArt.com  
413.676.9146  
107 Avenue A, Great Falls

**RIVERSIDE RADIATOR**  
General Auto Repair  
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS and HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
Foreign and Domestic  
Propane Filling Station  
Route 2, Gill  
863-4049 1-800-439-4049  
8-5 Monday - Thursday

**Doug's Auto Body**  
Doug Smith - Owner  
**PRECISION REPAIRS**  
MA Reg. #RS2190  
Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road  
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354  
FREE ESTIMATES FREE LOANER CARS  
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

# FOOD ♦ FUN ♦ FRIVOLITY

Shake off the winter blues!

## A Benefit for the Montague Reporter

Tuesday, March 27

The Wagon Wheel Restaurant

5:30—8:30

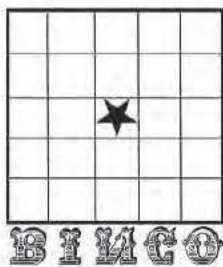
\$30

Walk in—no reservation

or: \$25

With firm reservation by 3/23 at:  
FriendsOfMontagueReporter@gmail.com

**GAMES! BINGO! TRIVIA! and more**



Cash Bar:  
Beer & Wine

### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Abstract or Concrete Sidewalks

By KATIE NOLAN

"Asphalt deteriorates. Concrete lasts much longer than asphalt," Linda Downs-Bembury told the Erving selectboard at its March 12 meeting. She was reacting to a discussion at the previous meeting about repairing sidewalks in the town. One option under consideration was installing asphalt sidewalks instead of using more expensive concrete.

Downs-Bembury said she advocates for concrete for sidewalks because it is good looking, allows good curb cuts, and is acceptable to the community. She said concrete provided a "better presentation for your home" and would support higher property values.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith asked Downs-Bembury, "Did you compare costs of asphalt and concrete?" She replied, "I don't care."

Janice Vega-Liros asked, with the need for extra maintenance and upkeep with asphalt, "Where are the cost savings?" She added, "I don't want our town to look bad — they're so cheap they put in asphalt sidewalk."

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache told the citizens, "no decision has been made" and that asphalt sidewalks were "a potential idea... We didn't take a vote."

Smith told Downs-Bembury, Janice Vega-Liros, and Sarah Vega-Liros, who also attended the meeting, "We're looking holistically, at

the entire town."

Selectboard member William Bembury said he had spent some time researching asphalt and concrete sidewalks, and found that "a number of communities have this issue." He said that for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, "concrete is the best material."

He added that, while concrete is expensive to install, based on esthetics and ADA compliance, he prefers concrete.

Bastarache said that the board will consider sidewalks again, at a time when highway foreman Glen McCrory would be available to come to a selectboard meeting. He invited the women to attend the next time sidewalks are on the agenda.

### Opportunity Knocked

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith told the board that the application for the federal opportunity zone designation must include all three towns in the shared census tract: Erving, Warwick, and Wendell. He said he had approached town administrators in Wendell and Warwick, and had not found much enthusiasm for the idea.

Administrative coordinator Smith said he would talk to the Warwick and Wendell administrators again to find out whether the towns would be willing to sign off on the application, with Erving as the lead applicant. Under the new federal tax law, investors get a fed-

eral tax break on capital gains taxes for investing in real estate or businesses in opportunity zones.

The Erving board has determined it would like the opportunity zone designation for the town, because it might encourage developers at former mill properties.

### Other Business

The board reviewed and edited the 26-page FY'19 budget book, which will be printed and sent to each Erving household.

The board also reviewed and edited the draft warrant for the May annual town meeting. It includes 16 articles. In the warrant, continuing and recurring expenses, usually presented in several articles, will be grouped together, and capital improvement expenses will also be grouped.

The board decided to send the draft warrant to town counsel. Once town counsel responds, the warrant will be finalized, likely at the March 26 selectboard meeting.

### Upcoming Meetings

**Senior housing:** Wednesday, March 21, at 2 p.m., at the senior and community center on Care Drive.

**Roadwork on Route 63:** Wednesday, March 21, at 6 p.m. at the senior and community center.

**Planning board hearing on proposed marijuana bylaw:** Thursday, March 22, at 7 p.m. at the town hall.

### MEAL TAX from page A1

such a tax would generate could be used to support Turners Falls RiverCulture, which has turned to the town following the end of the Massachusetts Cultural Council grant program that supported it. In October, a special town meeting granted the program \$20,000.

"I don't see this as necessary to directly fund, like a line item," Ellis said. "But as we think about pending budget requests in this coming year for formalizing RiverCulture, and have it be institutionalized, to ensure that we have more and more customers for these kinds of places... the town is investing to support these businesses," he argued. "The business they generate should offset that cost."

### Downtown Curb Cuts

Ellis gave an update on the town's efforts to comply better with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). A state grant is funding the town to update its "ADA Transition Plan," last updated in 2001.

"Could you explain what the transition plan is?" asked disability advocate Betty Tegel. "It's an assessment of all town buildings and properties for accessibility for people with disabilities — is that a good summary?"

Ellis said the town's self-assessment for the study was nearly complete, and that the data would be analyzed by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. In the meantime, a project to make Avenue A sidewalks safer is going out to bid this week.

"We originally started out looking to replace — largely with grant funding — a small number of curbs along Fourth and Fifth street," Ellis said. "As we moved on, we saw we could go further than that. This will allow us to make improvements all the way from Second to Seventh street."

The project going out to bid includes 22 curbs, and does not include access to the Carnegie Library, acknowledged as a larger project.

"If we get 22 out of 23 done," said Nelson, "that's a pretty damn good start!"

### Fair Warning

The meeting opened with a presentation from Jeff Singleton, Montague's representative to the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). Singleton presented a proposal he would be bringing to the FRTA advisory board meeting later in the week.

"I put forward a bylaw change — I don't know if you folks support this — to avoid the situation we had a year ago," Singleton said, "where radical changes to the Montague routes were proposed at the end of the route change process."

Singleton's bylaw would prohibit the advisory board from approving route changes unless they had been proposed at least 30 days in advance.

Singleton acknowledged there were "problems" with the proposal, as the authority's process in reviewing routes is dynamic and last-minute changes are occasionally required. "The bylaw committee didn't seem head over heels in love with this proposal," he explained. "I think there's some issues in terms of timeframe here."

"On the other side of the coin, I don't think you should propose things of the magnitude that they did," he argued.

"If the board supported your solution, would that be a good mecha-

nism to get this on the table?" asked Nelson. "I would defer to you and the group you're working with."

"We could move to support the intention to ensure that there is proper time for communities to consider route changes," Ellis said.

The board voted to endorse Singleton's proposal, and gave him their blessing to negotiate for what Ellis termed "another solution that could also meet the need."

### Canal District

"Southworth," Nelson read from the agenda. "How's that bankruptcy going? No good conversation ever started like that!"

"At this point, we still have to watch the drama unfold," Ellis answered.

The Southworth Company, owner of a recently shuttered paper mill on Canal Road in Turners Falls, has been in Chapter 11 bankruptcy since October. In late December, another paper manufacturer had filed plans to purchase it, but the deal apparently fell apart sometime in January.

Southworth received a loan, financed by the eventual sale of the business, to secure the factory building, and attempted to move to Chapter 7 bankruptcy. Ellis said he believes the faster selloff process under Chapter 7 would endanger the interests of the town, which the company already owes over \$300,000 in water and sewer fees. The company's request was denied.

"What we really want to avoid is a walk-away situation," Ellis said, "where the town receives neither its back sewer or real estate taxes, the building gets stripped of its best assets, and we're left with a building that might get unloaded at a loss to the wrong kind of interest."

"Well, maybe we can hope that original interested party is still interested," Nelson offered.

### Light District

The board asked Ellis to explain a recently announced plan to phase out some downtown streetlights, following the recent installation of bright LED fixtures along Avenue A.

"What came to light, no pun intended, is that there was actually too much light in some areas," said Ellis. "Now the light district, which is managed by the [Turners Falls] water and fire district, is cooperating with the town and looking at the possible abandonment of the cobra-style lights."

The Fire District, which is weighing the possibility of retiring the old, orange glowing high-pressure sodium bulbs, plans to turn off some lights for a few months to monitor for any positive or negative impacts to residents.

"We can look forward to being a bit more energy efficient — a bit more elegant downtown," Ellis told the board, adding that the town hopes to extend the LED lighting "all the way to the bus stop by Food City."

The selectboard entered an executive session at the end of the meeting, to discuss collective bargaining with the New England Police Benevolent Association.

"I will just clarify and emphasize, this has absolutely nothing to do with the recent discussions with the police chief," Mike Nelson clarified and emphasized. "This is strictly collective bargaining, just with the union, about negotiations. So, nothing about that, so anyone who might have thought there may be some excitement there, there is not."

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

## DOLAN & DOLAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A  
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS  
01376  
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

## IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

413-883-7323

Easy in-town location  
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF  
SIZES  
THE BEST  
PRICES



OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshows Vendors  
and Artists encouraged to inquire

## Millers Falls Community

### Improvement Association

Join us & add your voice on how to build our community.  
Meetings the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7pm.

Library—23 Bridge St. Millers Falls, Ma

Get the latest information and contact us at:

<https://millersfalls.wordpress.com>

[millersfalls.improvement@gmail.com](mailto:millersfalls.improvement@gmail.com)

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Brook Bridge Finally Out to Bid; Trash Bag Alternative Sought

By JOSH HEINEMANN

For the second consecutive meeting, the Wendell selectboard met one day late, March 8 instead of March 7, with the result that board members, visitors, and the town coordinator avoided traveling through a snowstorm. Roads were still wet and sandy, but mostly clear of snow by the time they met.

When the meeting opened, highway commissioner Phil Delorey met the board with several separate issues to talk about.

First was the Wendell Depot Road bridge replacement project. He said the easement for moving a utility pole and brace onto private property has been signed, and Verizon is working on and has promised to provide their estimate for moving the poles, as required for the bridge construction, within ten days.

Construction has gone out to bid, and bids will be opened on April 4.

Selectboard member Dan Keller said that Wendell resident and tree worker Matt Edwards estimated \$1,900 to remove the trees on the roadside in south Wendell by the concrete dam that holds MacAvoy's Pond. The state Office of Dam Safety calls those trees a threat to the dam, because the road is considered part of the dam.

Edwards and his crew will cut the taller trees that have to be dropped through electric wires, and take the logs and slash away. Delorey said that the town road crew can clear up the brush and cut the smaller trees.

### Community Solar

Delorey said that the planning board allowed that the fence which would surround the community solar project proposed for the lot at 97 Wendell Depot Road may be placed within the setback required for the panels. That decision will allow the solar field to be larger, and so give more ratepayers a chance to buy panels, and the project to make higher "payments in lieu of taxes" to the town.

Planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger sent the selectboard an email that said no demolition crew would take down the house at 97 Wendell Depot Road unless there was certified confirmation that the building contained no asbestos. The small home test that came out negative is not enough.

Asbestos can be in plaster, in joint compound, in caulk. Removing the house is considered part of the community solar project, because its lot is close to the solar field. It is one of the oldest houses in town, and is still in good structural condition. If it were somewhere else it would be worth restoring, but it is close to high voltage wires. Board members, and many other citizens,

would like it to stay in town and be preserved somehow.

Greg Garrison of Northeast Solar, who is advising for the solar project, expects to have the licensing agreement ready by July 1. Keller suggested that the solar cooperative may pay some of the legal fees for that licensing.

### Recycling and Transfer

The highway commission oversees Wendell's WRATS, and Delorey reported that tipping fees for waste disposal are up 35%. WRATS stickers and disposal fees pay about 40% of the cost of running the WRATS, and taxpayers, the same people, pay the rest, but not in proportion to the amount of trash they create and dispose of. Some people are fastidious about recycling, and composting, while some are not.

Citizen Sharon Gensler objected to using the town plastic bags for disposing trash, saying that they last nearly forever and are a hazard. They break open in the compactor, adding to the amount of trash created by townspeople, and they serve only one purpose: to provide a standard measurement for collecting disposal fees.

Gensler will meet with the highway commission with the hope of making an arrangement that allows citizens to avoid using the bags and still pay their fair share.

At last Tuesday's meeting, Delorey suggested that the WRATS attendants might measure a standard size of barrel, certify it and mark it, and charge the citizen the equivalent of a bag fee each time it is emptied into the compactor. But, he also said, "some people are honest, some are not."

### Costs and Benefits

Keller said that a good part of the town's extra legal expense comes from the effort to get a fiber-optic internet connection to Wendell households. He said that the broadband committee might pay all or part of that expense, possibly from the money that Massachusetts granted the town for the internet effort.

The bill can wait two weeks for the next selectboard meeting, but board chair Christine Heard suggested, "Just pay it."

Keller told a story of a town contractor who does not think the town should borrow more money to get the fiber-optic network. The contractor uses the internet, but with a combination of a satellite dish and Verizon, has a workable system.

Selectboard clerk Amy Palmer countered that view by saying that property values will get lower without real and reliable internet service, and that students in more and more schools will not be able to do their homework without it. She mentioned

one homeowner who uses a super soaker to clear snow off a satellite dish, out of reach otherwise.

### Other Business

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich brought up two available programs that might help Wendell veterans. One would allow a qualifying veteran to work to pay part of property tax. Aldrich said that in New Salem, that program proved so difficult to administer and implement that it was useless.

The second program would allow a taxpayer to check a box on the tax form and pay into a fund that would help a qualifying veteran with food, or fuel expenses. Wendell already has Good Neighbors providing food, and the Friends of Wendell, who offer any Wendell citizen help with food or housing needs.

Board members did not have much interest in an email from FR-COG giving information about federal economic opportunity zones. Someone who invests inside a designated opportunity zone can avoid capital gains tax for 8 years.

They felt that Wendell is not a likely site for investment, the type of investment is not likely to be suitable in Wendell, and competition for inclusion in an opportunity zone is likely to be intense.

Board members signed a finance committee appointment slip for Brandon Reed, and an alternate finance committee appointment slip for Cailyn Reed.

Raymond McIntire, father of fin com member Al McIntire, is Wendell's oldest citizen. Board members decided to present him with the pin that the town gives in place of the golden cane at a time when all three board members can attend.

The conservation commission will be invited to the next selectboard meeting, March 21, to read the essays on the importance of Nature that will have arrived by then in a competition for two camperships to Mass Audubon's Wildwood camp.



**GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE**  
Locally Owned Since 1919  
269 High Street - Greenfield  
(413) 773-9639

**Local Farmer-Owned**

Products for the home, farm, pets, yard & garden

If you Feed it - Seed it - Weed it We GOT it!

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com



## Partridge-Zschau Insurance

Receive a \$25 Amazon Gift Card for a Referral  
Visit Us for More Details

25 Millers Falls Road  
413-863-4331  
www.pzinc.com/referrals

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was March 13, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Two Plans for Future of Montague Center School

"We didn't expect two proposals, and we didn't expect two such outstanding proposals," said interim superintendent Ken Locke, following Tuesday night's Gill-Montague school committee meeting. Back in December of last year, the committee voted to close Montague Center School and Hillcrest School, but not before throwing out a lifeline to any community group that wanted to come up with a viable proposal to keep either elementary school open.

One question for the committee, as they prepare for a Thursday, March 20 working session to go over the proposals, which both aim to keep Montague Center School open, is whether they can give both plans—and the groups backing them—the green light to move forward, if they both meet the criteria.

The first proposal came from husband and wife team of David and Sheri Leh of Montague Center. The gist is that the school should remain an elementary school within the district, and expand to become K-5 elementary school, with the town of Montague paying for capital improvement costs associated with making the schools wheelchair accessible.

The second proposal was presented by Sue Dresser of Montague Center and Deb Foucault of Lake Pleasant. It called for the creation of a Horace Mann Charter School centered on the theme of environmental education, and taking advantage of the natural resources surrounding the school, including

the Sawmill River watershed.

Montague Center is already one of four "Environment as Integrating Context" schools in the Commonwealth, with a grant-funded program incorporating environmental learning into all aspects of the curriculum.

### Usher Mill Demolished

Ronald Bussiere and his son Kurt, owners of Patriots Environmental Corporation of Worcester, a company that engages in demolition, asbestos remediation and environmental cleanup, had been negotiating the purchase of the Usher Mill in Erving when arsonists set fire to one of the five buildings in the complex. The Bussieres eventually bought the property and are now demolishing the fire-damaged building with an eye to salvaging usable material.

"We're recycling as much of the building as possible," Kurt Bussiere said. "The beams are southern pine; they go to a company in Southbridge, MA. They'll clean them up and ship them to South Carolina where a company saws them into flooring. The Southbridge company will chip the waste wood trimmings and ship the chips to a bio-fuel electricity generating plant in New Hampshire."

Patriots Environmental Corporation's workers are salvaging whole bricks. The firm owners plan to crush broken brick and concrete rubble to make "hardback," a crushed gravel substitute.

Bussiere plans to move the company's portable stone crusher to the Usher Mill to crush approximately 5,000 cubic yards of concrete and brick rubble. The firm also plans to salvage scrap metal and truck it to local scrap yards.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



**Pipione's**  
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Paintball & CO<sub>2</sub> Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week  
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246



**COUTURE BROS.**  
Since 1910

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor  
Commercial • Residential • Industrial

"SERVING WESTERN MASS FOR OVER 100 YEARS"

www.couturebros.com  
400 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA  
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:  
6 Main Road, in Gill  
(formerly Jan's Package Store)  
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456  
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030  
Gill: (413) 863-5730




**French King**  
Restaurant & Motel

OPEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER  
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 7 A.M.



**EDWARDS TREE SERVICE**  
Matthew Edwards  
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals  
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture

Residential / Commercial / Municipal  
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping  
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM  
Wendell, MA  
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties

413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

**Kristi A. Bodin, Esq.** Call 413.549.3766  
Attorney and Counselor at Law

LEGAL SOLUTIONS IN PLAIN ENGLISH, PC

Business Law • Liquor Licenses • Special Permits  
Zoning & Land Use • Civil Litigation • Personal Injury  
(And more)

150 Fearing Street, Suite 19 • Amherst, MA 01002  
Tel. 413.549.3766 • Fax 800.760.1225 • Cell 413-695-9848

KAB@LawyerAmherstMA.com • www.KABESQ.com  
Twitter: @KABESQ • Facebook: @KABESQ

Celebrating 15 years as a resident of Montague, MA!

**FORCES** from page A1  
citizens, gathered in the Mohawk Trail Regional High School gymnasium for an open forum to discuss funding for rural schools.

Joking that he felt like Phil Donahue, Hinds facilitated the discussion. Before a question and answer session, the assembled group first listened to state representative Steve Kulik (D-Worthington), superintendent Buoniconti, and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) director of school finance Rob O'Donnell.

Senator Kulik spoke with clarity about state budgetary restrictions, the regionalization of schools since the 1960s, and called for the state to make progress towards its promise of 100% funding for school transportation.

Buoniconti succinctly described the unsustainability of current school funding models, and called for additional rural school aid.

O'Donnell brought to life the recently completed "Fiscal Conditions in Rural School Districts" report (available online), offering data and conclusions to depict population loss, enrollment decline, and funding challenges from the state's point of view. The DESE report makes several recommendations for future directions, including increased local aid, efficiencies through regionalization, and economic incentives.

Senator Hinds clarified three areas of strategic focus: transportation reimbursement, some form of rural aid, and a reconsideration of the state's "foundation budget"

formula. He then opened the floor to those in attendance.

One audience member asked about the growing weight of teachers' benefits. Another challenged some of the DESE report's basic assumptions. The heavy weight of school district funding upon rural towns – 70% of some local town budgets – raised general ire.

Another line of thought challenged the state's funding formula, which is based upon property tax instead of personal income, and therefore disregards individuals' ability to pay and disproportionately impacts senior citizens and others with fixed incomes.

One of the most interesting suggestions of the night was made by Montague finance committee member Michael Naughton, who questioned the state's reasoning behind giving Chapter 70 aid to wealthy school districts, while other districts struggled. This suggestion seemed to be well-received by Senator Hinds, who said he would consider including this as a fourth strategic objective.

The urgency of rural school funding issues, and their impact on both the broader social and economic health of the region and the education of its children, has struck a broad nerve across western Massachusetts.

Monday's forum at Mohawk demonstrates that a broad, cross-county coalition is beginning to emerge to advocate for greater state support for the education of rural students.



# MONTAGUE REPORTER



Lorraine Mosca of Turners Falls reads her Reporter in front of the USS Hornet in Alameda, California, with the skyline of San Francisco in the background.

# ON THE ROAD

Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

**Jeffrey Collura, D.M.D.**  
Cosmetic Dentistry

7 Burnham Street  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Telephone (413) 774-6553  
TurnersFallsDental.com

Office Hours By Appointment

**CEREC : SINGLE-VISIT DENTISTRY**

**magpie**

- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

magpiepizza.com  
21 Bank Row, Gld.  
413-475-3570

**woodfired pizzeria**

**IN GOOD COMPANY**  
A SKILLED ELDER COMPANION SERVICE

Offering focused attention, engaging activities, outings, and respite for caregivers.

sitalang@ingoodcompanynow.com  
www.ingoodcompanynow.com  
413-834-7569

**Sita Lang**  
Hospice trained  
CPR certified

Dennis L. Booska  
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax  
413-863-3690

**Booska's Flooring**

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member  
The Flooring Network.

**Tile Lino Carpet**

**BLUE DRAGON APOTHECARY**

CUSTOM CRAFTED HERBAL PRODUCTS  
TRADITIONAL MEDICINES & HOLISTIC HEALTH  
OFFERING BODYWORK AND CONSULTATIONS

RETAIL HOURS: TUE-FRI 10-6; SAT 10-4  
413-773-3730, INFO@BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM  
158 MAIN ST, SUITE 10 GREENFIELD, MA 01301  
BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM

**Obear**  
CONSTRUCTION

413-367-6022  
www.obearconstruction.com

**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.**  
SCSC "Rock solid service with level advice"

**Complete Masonry Supply**  
Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more. **Idéal**

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322  
and at our new location 529 S. Main St, Brattleboro or 802-579-1800  
www.shanahansupply.com

**TURN'S LAWN CARE**

Landscape Design & Maintenance

Accepting New Snow Plowing Customers  
(within 5 miles of Montague Center)

413.522.2563

www.TurnLawnCare.com

**Geri Johnson, Realtor**  
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES  
413-863-9736 • GeriJohnson@Realtor.com

**Don't settle for less**  
Choose a CRS (Certified Residential Specialist)

Only 4% of all REALTORS hold this prestigious designation. The CRS is my badge of expertise and your shield of assurance. Put your trust in the best to get the job done. Whether buying, selling or referring, always choose GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

66 French King Hwy., Gill  
(413) 863-9736 • WWW.GJAR.COM

**HEART & SOLAR**  
WORKER OWNED SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SINCE 2002

**PV SQUARED**  
HEART & SOLAR

311 WELLS STREET, SUITE B  
GREENFIELD, MA 01301  
413-772-8788  
PVSQUARED.COOP  
MA ELEC. LIC. A13764 MA HIC 140077

Certified Corporation

**Peter Waters Painting Services**

Interior/Exterior  
Custom Residential  
Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534  
Cell: 413-461-5172  
Wendell, MA  
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

SINCE 1888

**A.H. Rist**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

**Savings & protection for your WHOLE FAMILY!**

Competitive rates & discounts for all of your insurance needs!  
159 Avenue A | Turners Falls MA | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

**GREAT FALLS HARVEST**  
fresh • local • creative

Rich flavors from around the world with a local state of mind.

Thursdays - Fridays 5 to 9 PM  
Saturdays 11 AM to 9 PM  
Sundays 11 AM to 8 PM

Brunch Saturday & Sunday  
11 AM to 3 PM

413-863-0023  
50 Third Street  
Downtown Turners Falls



# MoRe

YEAR 16 – NO. 21

B1

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MARCH 15, 2018

## The Vehicles of Montague: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Tuesday, 1/3/14

4:22 a.m. Call from DPW reporting abandoned vehicle in the middle of Old Leverett Road preventing plowing.

Saturday, 3/8/14

6:25 p.m. Caller reporting a female on a scooter with a shopping cart in the middle of Seventh Street; afraid she is going to be hit.

Saturday, 4/5/14

3:19 p.m. Spoke to skateboarders in the roadway on L Street. Skaters were very polite and receptive.

Saturday, 4/19/14

2:04 p.m. Report of subject riding a go cart in the road at unsafe speeds on Randall Wood Drive.

Wednesday, 7/30/14

2:01 p.m. Six kids reported playing chicken with traffic on Avenue A. One fell off his bike while trying to do a wheelie in the middle of the road and was almost hit by a car.

Wednesday, 10/8/14

5:51 p.m. Officer spoke with a party skateboarding in the roadway on L Street. Party provided with copy of "Coasting Laws" and advised that if he did not agree with the law, that he could address this with Town Meeting.

Tuesday, 10/28/14

11:54 a.m. Report of a silver truck parked sideways in the road on Seventh Street blocking part or all of one travel lane. Vehicle out of gas.

Thursday, 2/19/15

11:27 a.m. Caller reports that she was traveling on South Prospect Street behind a DPW plow truck. At some point, the truck stopped in



the roadway and began backing up. Caller was able to back up and avoid being struck, but felt that the driver was not paying attention, creating a dangerous situation.

Thursday, 5/14/15

9:58 a.m. Caller from Davis Street reports that his neighbor is spray painting a vehicle in the roadway and is concerned about the spot in which it was parked for this activity.

Thursday, 6/4/15

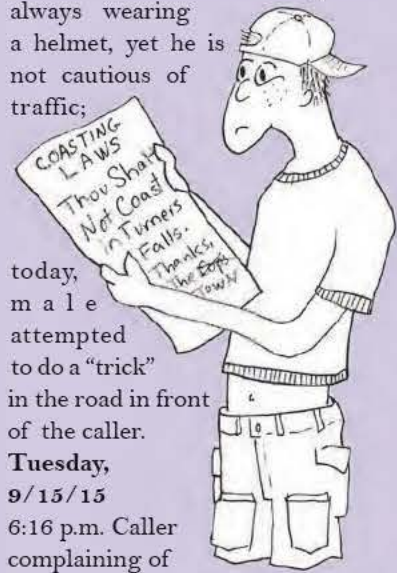
5:40 p.m. Caller reports that she sees a younger/teenage male riding his skateboard down the hill in the area of L Street almost daily. He is always wearing a helmet, yet he is not cautious of traffic;

today, m a l e attempted to do a "trick" in the road in front of the caller.

Tuesday, 9/15/15

6:16 p.m. Caller complaining of several four wheelers and dirt bikes in the roadway at Randall Wood

see VEHICLES page B2



## Turners Falls Sculptor Carves Out His Own Final Resting Place

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

TURNERS FALLS – Tim de Christopher arrived in Turners Falls in 2001 with two things: a feeling of fate, and a plan.

"I'd come here with the idea that I was going to build a project, because it was cheap," says de Christopher. De Christopher had just bought a house full of junk, and he became suddenly, raptly aware of the providential movements of the cosmos when he discovered a sign – a teddy bear identical to his own childhood companion animal.

It may have been a sign that after a life of somewhat rootless movement, he had at last come home. And his plan, which he'd been thinking about for over a decade, was to complete a final and monumental work of sculpture, in which he would be interred. In Turners Falls, he had found a home in which to die.

The same year, 2001, de Christopher purchased the Williams Garage and adjoining empty lot on First Street. "I wanted to build my project there," he explains.

This work, which he has at different times referred to as the "Cathedral Project," the "Time Capsule Project," and now "Last Will and Testament," will be a monumental sculpture garden currently slated to be built on de Christopher's Second Street lot adjacent to his current home and studio.

The process of aging, and a diminishing supply of stone, gives de Christopher a sense of urgency about the project. "I'm halfway through [the stone]. If I'm lucky, I've got 20 years to go. I've gotta do it now or shut up. I haven't lost the dream. So I'm trying to put all my energy into that."

### An Eye on Legacy

In one sense, de Christopher built his career as a sculptor on a windfall – acquiring 120 tons of



Tim de Christopher says his final work will be "Last Will and Testament," a sculpture garden in downtown Turners Falls in which he plans to be interred.

limestone for free from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, where he had worked as a non-believing stone carver. Events like this occur because of strange economics: large building projects like cathedrals buy stone in bulk, and often waste much of it.

"Its like if you buy a block of cheese," says de Christopher. "You take a slice, and put the rest in the fridge."

The fridge, in this case, is the dumpster. For the Cathedral of St. John the Divine, giving it to de Christopher for free was cheaper than paying to dispose of it. It took six tractor trailer truck loads to bring the stone from New York City to western Mass. "I've been using it ever since," he explains.

De Christopher is a Baby Boomer, and, like many of his generation, is beginning to contemplate

the meanings and realities of death. Some of these thoughts may also come out of the profession of stone carving, where religious commissions and the headstone business are associated with death.

De Christopher has his own personal reasons to contemplate this terminal prospect as well. "I was diagnosed with MS in '86," he says, "and realized life wasn't forever."

"Last Will and Testament," in one sense, is his way of coming to terms with these ideas: "It's hard not to think about it – the end. It's a way of coping, it's a way of putting my life in perspective – a way of not being forgotten. I've been yanked out of towns, cities, states, losing friends all along. I wonder if people still remember me."

Without children to take on the legacy of inter-generational family see SCULPTOR page B4

## THE AUTHORS' CORNER: ROB BUYEA

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Hi! It's Izzy Vachula-Curtis! I am one of the new columnists for the *Montague Reporter*. Today I will be reviewing one of Mr. Rob Buyea's books, *Because Of Mr. Terupt*, and I have a super special interview with Mr. Rob Buyea himself!

*Because Of Mr. Terupt* is about seven kids going into fifth grade. They are all extremely different from one another, but when their teacher gets into a crucial accident, it brings a group of his students closer together.

This book is sad, funny, exciting, and ridiculously hard to put down. I recommend this book to all readers, especially readers who like suspenseful books, funny books, realis-

tic fiction books, and family books.

The book has eight main characters, including Mr. Terupt, and one of the things I really like about this book is that I think every reader can identify with at least one of the characters.

Up next is a super special interview with Mr. Rob Buyea, one of my favorite authors!

**Izzy V-C:** What was your favorite book to write?

**Rob Buyea:** No favorite. I had fun with all of them. There are scenes and sentences from beginning to end in each of my books that I love.

**Izzy V-C:** In the "Mr. Terupt" series, who is your favorite character?

**Rob Buyea:** Same answer. No favorite. I love them all. If there was one I didn't like as much as the others then I know that character wouldn't have had a voice telling the story.

**Izzy V-C:** Are you planning on writing any more books in the "Mr. Terupt" series?

**Rob Buyea:** Undecided. Stay tuned.

**Izzy V-C:** Will *Mr. Terupt* be made into a movie? If it did, who would you see playing Mr. Terupt?

**Rob Buyea:** There has been interest from movie companies/ see AUTHORS page B2



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

By DAVID BRULE

MILLERS RIVER BEND – Spring's been a-teasin', starting with the first question posed by the song sparrow at the beginning of February, and up to tonight's winter storm. The tease began with warm weather and the first precocious redwing who dropped into the snowy yard on February 14, a full two weeks ahead of his typical schedule, which I've been recording for the past 60 years.

As an aside, I need to explain that as a boy of ten my interest in birds was inspired by Mrs. Keough, our 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher back in grammar school on Crocker Avenue, and by the Erving historian Pearl B. Care, who visited our class once a month to talk about nature.

The two women arranged a field trip for us to the Arcadia Wildlife Refuge, back when field trips were a rarity. That trip hooked my friend Francis Dobosz and me on a life-long interest in birds. We're still at it six decades later.

But back to my redwings. The first one arrived weeks ahead, the true harbinger of spring (you can't

count on robins or bluebirds anymore, many spend the winter here up north!), and within days the yard was filled with the morning songs of redwing *oak-a-lee* calls and puffed-up scarlet epaulets. Even the females, typically traveling later and separate from the males have begun arriving, along with their cousins the grackles, and those cowbirds of ill repute. Now even the juncos and tree



LOUIS AGGASIZ-FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

Agelaius phoeniceus, the red-winged blackbird.

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER SKETCHES OF WINTER INTO SPRING... AND BACK!

sparrows have joined the chorus, with occasional yodels from the blue jay clan.

Not much of a winter, and many a false spring day. The bare ground has thawed, and the dog has discovered the joys of digging holes in the lawn once again. He's into hiding away old, hardened end crusts of the household *baguette*, the tell-tale signs of joyous digging lingering on the length of his nose.

The residual dirt winds up on my notebook as a taunt to invite me to chase him around the yard so that he can show off his husky racing speed. He pretends to be scared, which spurs him on even faster.

March 6 has brought us a brilliant warm day. This weather has given those in the household a chance to continue some late fall raking, left unfinished since November. There was wood to split too, now that the warming sun has melted back the snow covering the wood pile.

It's warm enough to work up a sweat, with the temperatures hovering near 75! But the weather man is putting out Winter Storm Warnings, see WEST ALONG page B6



Our columnist with Mr. Buyea's debut novel, *Because of Mr. Terupt* (2010).

# Pet of the Week

Algernon is a semi-retired mouse with a keen interest in the pre-Da-daist works of Duchamp and sunflower-based seed mixes.

He is six months old, and has been neutered. He loves to run on his wheel and tunnel through all the tubes in his cage. Give him a box

to hide in and he'll fluff up his bedding into a soft nest.

This is his first book.

Take Algernon home with you this week! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



GALEN HUCKINS COLLAGE

## “ALGERNON”

### Senior Center Activities MARCH 19 to 23

#### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 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 3/19:**  
8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)  
1 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo  
**Tuesday 3/20:**  
9:15 a.m. Tech Help (by appt.)  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea  
1 p.m. Knitting circle

**Wednesday 3/21:**  
9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 3/22:**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games

**Friday 3/23:**  
12:30 p.m. AARP Tax Prep (by appt.)

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

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

**Monday 3/19:** No Lunch Served  
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

**Tuesday 3/20:**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting

**Wednesday 3/21:**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12 noon Bingo & Snacks

**Thursday 3/22:**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Create 2 Donate

**Friday 3/23:**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
11:15 Music, Movement, Mayhem!

#### 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.

#### AUTHORS from page B1

producers several times now, but there is nothing definite in the works. Maybe someday.

I was at a school visit when a young girl told me it had to be Ryan Gosling to play Mr. Terupt. He might be getting too old now, though.

**Izzy V-C:** *In the back of Because Of Mr. Terupt, it says that you taught third and fourth graders, and high schoolers. Do you and Mr. Terupt have a lot in common? Do you give out crazy projects, like counting blades of grass?*

**Rob Buyea:** My characters are bits and pieces of different people from my life, along with bits and pieces of me and my imagination all glued together.



Author Rob Buyea.

So yes, I have a few things in common with Mr. Terupt. He was the teacher I tried to be. Yes, I had a class figure out blades of grass in the soccer field.

I like to use my memories in

my stories, but I never write things down the way they really happened. I always change it so I can make it better for the book. It's fun.

Thank you so much for reading this interview with Mr. Rob Buyea, and my review of his book *Because Of Mr. Terupt!*

If you like *Because Of Mr. Terupt*, so far there are two other books in the series, *Mr. Terupt Falls Again* and *Saving Mr. Terupt*, which are also really good.

I will be back soon. Bye!

*Izzy Vachula-Curtis is a student at Great Falls Middle School. She is also the CEO of a rival publication, the Turners Falls Waterfall.*

## FACES & PLACES



Drivers who have found some reason to travel from Turners Falls to Greenfield may have seen this installation on the Fifth Street Bridge across the power canal. An anonymous artist has used (and credited) Brenna Youngblood's 2017 mixed-media piece Uncle Grandpa, on display at Mass MOCAs, and added succinct textual commentary on the state of the 1954 polygonal Warren pony truss bridge's deck. The deck has buckled, creating a raised point in the middle that is by all accounts damaging low or hastily-driven automobiles. The adjacent pedestrian bridge has been condemned, and is fenced off.

#### VEHICLES from page B1

Drive and Randall Road. One male party has no helmet. Second caller reporting parties "screaming" up the road at high rates of speed; at one point they witnessed one of the bikers with a baby on a bike (small child still in diapers).

**Thursday, 9/24/15**  
5:09 p.m. Caller inquiring about laws regarding bicyclists in the roadway. Earlier, a biker did not stop at the red light downtown and flipped off the caller for "stopping in front of him."

**Tuesday, 11/24/15**  
4:59 p.m. Caller from Central Street advises that her neighbor brought home a broken down truck which is now stalled and smoking in the middle of the street. Caller does not feel safe with this situation.

**Friday, 2/29/16**  
11:08 p.m. Caller from Depot Street reporting 4 large diesel trucks idling in the road and blocking a driveway; they are very loud, and caller cannot sleep.



**Wednesday, 6/15/16**  
1:54 p.m. Walk-in report of a youth on a scooter pulling another youth on a sheet of plywood in the middle of the road on Montague Street.

**Monday, 8/8/16**  
5:49 p.m. Report of subjects skateboarding in the road on Fairway Avenue and creating a hazard. Subjects were making a promotional video for the Shea Theater. Officer stopped traffic briefly while they finished their shoot.

**Saturday, 8/13/16**  
4:39 p.m. Caller reports male party on bike with children riding a "Powerwheels" in the road. Caller concerned for safety of children; caller and male could be heard arguing over line. Caller

stated she is continuing home as she has cold items in her car.

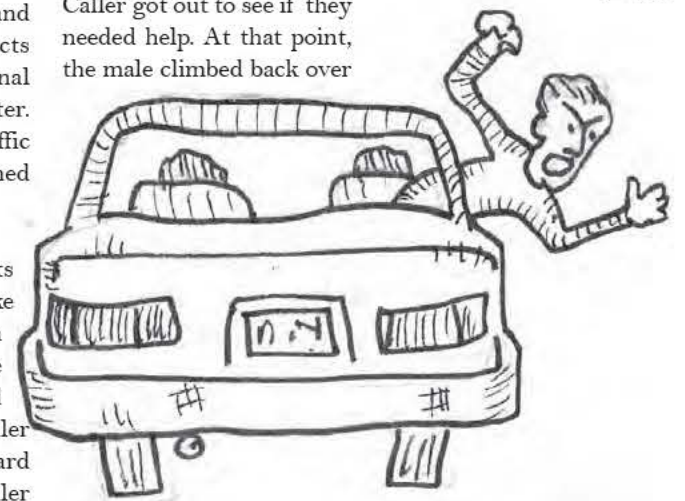
**Sunday, 5/7/17**

1:37 p.m. Report of two youths yelling at passing cars while riding their bikes near First Street and Unity Street. Caller had driven by the youths earlier and reports that they were lying in the road prior to riding their bikes.

**Wednesday, 5/31/17**  
5:22 p.m. Caller reporting that while crossing the old metal bridge by the Erving paper mill, he saw a car parked in the middle of the bridge. When he stopped, he saw a man hanging off the bridge railing and being held up by two females. Caller got out to see if they needed help. At that point, the male climbed back over

the railing and started swearing at the caller and coming towards him in an aggressive manner. Male was highly agitated and in caller's face. Caller pushed the man away from him a few times while the two girls were screaming at caller to leave them alone and get out of there. Caller got back into his vehicle while the two girls dragged the male subject into their faded blue sedan; last seen sitting in paper mill parking lot with male hanging out one of the windows, screaming.

**Friday, 8/11/17**  
8:23 p.m. Caller from Burnett Street states that some kids are driving a golf cart around in the streets.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

**B. RUBIN & SONS INC.**  
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS  
Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters  
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change  
194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236  
10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES  
MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

"Home Town Auto Care - The Way It Used To Be"  
**JP TIRE & AUTO**  
Complete Quality Auto Care  
147 2nd St.  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
413-863-5423  
Foreign - Domestic - Tires - Diagnostics  
Aftermarket Accessories - Installation

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
DOORS & OPENERS  
**Devine Overhead Doors**  
Gerry Devine  
106 West Street Hampshire: 586-3161  
Hadley, MA. 01035 Franklin: 773-9497

**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

# This Week on MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Do you think there will be any more big snowstorms before the spring buds can relax and grow in peace (and sunlight)?

Well, if you end up snowed in again, pass the time by checking out Montague Community TV on Channel 17 or at [montaguevtv.org/p/76/Latest-Videos](http://montaguevtv.org/p/76/Latest-Videos). Local programming & more, on a screen near you!

New this week from MCTV include two sermons by Carlos W.

Anderson, "The Others: The Parable of the Good Samaritan" and "An Attitude of Gratitude."

Is there something going you'd like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguevtv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguevtv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We're excited to work with you!

## Next Week at the Shea...

Wednesday, March 21, 7 to 9 p.m.: **Spirit Medium Karen Tatro Presents: Into the Light.** Join spirit medium Karen Tatro and near death survivor Robert Neal Marshall discuss their new TV pilot: *Life, Death, and the Journey Spirit Takes*. Tickets are \$10.

Karen often describes herself as helping assist spirits who linger to the door or as many may describe as the Light, while Robert Neal Marshall is a man who had gone through that door, only to get a glimpse of the magnificent journey our spirit takes back to our source.

An NBC camera/film director reached out to Karen and Robert to come together for this insightful

look into Paranormal, Spirituality and the Near Death Experience.

Friday, March 23, 7 p.m.: **Improv Comedy at the Shea featuring Josie's Magical Flute.** Tickets available at the door for \$7.

Mandy, in addition to her shenanigans with Josie's Magical Flute, is also a member of the Happier Family Show cast. Julie is always grateful for the transformative power of laughter, and for the amazing talent of her sister Fluters. Sally Ekus is both producer and a cast member of the Happier Family Comedy Show, a once a month improv show for kids and their families hosted by Happier Valley Comedy.

### THEATER REVIEW

## A Night of Theater with the FCTS Players at the Shea

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – Franklin County Technical School has many departments to its name. One is the Theater department. There is a group called the Franklin County Technical Players that are part of this department.

On March 9 and 10, they put on two shows at the Shea, one called *Good Cop Bad Cop* by Ian McWethy and Jason Pizzarello and another one by Ian called *21 Guaranteed Ways to Get Detention (Even When Your Principal Doesn't Want to Give You One)*.

According to the summary about the performances on the Shea's website, the two shows were supposed to be very funny. I went on March 10 at 6:30 p.m. Someone from the school announced that the players have outdone themselves, better than previous years, before the start of it.

This was the first time I saw them acting. The start of *Good Cop, Bad Cop* was like the start of a *Dragnet* episode, where they announce that the names have been changed to protect the innocents. Two of the actors who played the cops were dressed pretty well as detectives. I mean, if you saw them, you would think they're detectives.

Each time they switched to a new scene, a sound was made that I believe you would hear in a *Law and Order* episode. Each scene switched to them talking to a new person connected to their case. I didn't get any of the comedy in the play, except for them questioning a mascot that was dressed in a costume of an eagle, which was funny.

After that, they started to talk to characters you wouldn't find real cops talking to during a case. One

was a magician, and the next was Mario from Mario Bros. That was an amusing direction to go in. The audience really liked that scene.

At one point, one cop started to act quite outrageously to an old lady. Because of that, she came back and beat him up, which was another funny scene. They continued with showing outrageous characters as people they were questioning, one being a baby and another being Mario's brother Luigi.

I wouldn't say that they have "outdone themselves," but the acting was good.

In the second one, the actors played outrageous students, who were stereotypes you would find in movies and TV, talked to by the assistant principal. The first funny scene involved a female student and Chewbacca from *Star Wars*. One student acted like she was talking to a cop instead of a principal. Another acted like an ad executive selling something.

Like the first play, there were characters who were out of the same place, which was Chewbacca along with Darth Vader. An interaction with a principal and assistant principal was amusing, and the two ended up cutting a deal with this one student. The student made an announcement over the intercom, which I found very enjoyable to hear, and was the highlight of this play for me.

Both plays had this thing where you have characters from some type of entertainment present. It must be something Ian McWethy likes to do in his plays. I say that because he is a writer of both.

However, I liked the comedy in *Good Cop, Bad Cop* better. I might go to see another play that FCTS Players do, depending on what they do next time.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Goat And Deer Carcasses; Coaster Threats; Embellishing Interactions; Yard Plow

**Tuesday, 3/6**

7:36 a.m. 911 caller reporting she was just in a minor accident near Scotty's. No injuries.

9:04 a.m. 911 caller reporting she was just in a two-car accident behind the Salvation Army. No injuries.

3:14 p.m. Caller from Park Villa Drive requesting to speak with an officer regarding drug use by a neighbor. Neighbor has been smoking inside the building, causing caller to feel ill. Caller has reported to management, who said there was nothing they could do. Advised of options.

4:43 p.m. Report of tool sticking out of hydrant on Pinewood Circle. Caller advises the Water Department was working on the hydrant earlier today and left the tool behind. TFFD will retrieve tool.

4:47 p.m. Report of a board in the road near the golf course with nails sticking up out of it. Same appears to have fallen off a vehicle. Officer checked area; advises the board is out of the road off to the side. Second call received for same. Message left for DPW.

5:53 p.m. Report of goat and deer carcasses discarded on Beech Road off of Green Pond Road. Referred to Environmental Police.

10:43 p.m. Officers out attempting to locate a male with active warrants seen by an off-duty officer on Second Street near the bar. Foot pursuit on First Street toward Unity. Male spotted on roof of Town Hall.

██████████ was arrested on a default warrant and a straight warrant.

**Wednesday, 3/7**

2:59 p.m. Caller advising two vehicles in the Bookmill parking lot may have been involved in a drug deal. Report taken.

4:05 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle off road at Turners Falls and Hillside roads. Officer advises vehicle is not there; states you can see where the vehicle went off the road.

4:12 p.m. Caller states she is on South Prospect Street and cannot get up the hill; keeps sliding backwards; is now afraid of becoming a hazard. Officer and DPW notified. Rau's requested for tow.

4:20 p.m. Caller advising possibly disabled motor vehicle on L Street hill with its hazards on. Officer requesting DPW to come and sand area so that vehicle can get up hill. DPW advised and heading there.

5:05 p.m. Caller advises that a little while ago while driving north on

Route 47 toward Montague Center, she went off the road briefly and clipped a guardrail. Report taken.

5:33 p.m. Officer out on South Prospect Street again for another motorist having trouble getting up the hill.

**Thursday, 3/8**

11:16 a.m. Caller from Worcester Avenue requesting to speak with an officer re: a suspicious person who was taking pictures and video of her house and other houses in her neighborhood yesterday around 12:30 p.m. Advised of options.

2:25 p.m. Report of a male cleaning snow off of vehicles then throwing the snow into the road near the church on Sixth Street. Gone on arrival.

3:24 p.m. West Brookfield PD found a wallet belonging to a Turners Falls resident. Contact made; message delivered.

4:13 p.m. Request from Farren Care Center to speak with an officer about a staff/patient complaint. Ongoing issues with a patient being non-compliant with staff and embellishing interactions between them.

**Friday, 3/9**

2:13 a.m. Officer out with vehicle at Salvation Army. Female operator was just dropping things off.

7:52 a.m. Report of injured raccoon in a parking lot on Hillside Road. Raccoon had been in the building overnight but is now outside. Animal control officer checked area; unable to locate.

8:47 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle in driveway of a house on Federal Street whose resident passed away recently. Subject on site was owner's nephew.

10:37 a.m. Report of low-hanging wire over the travel lane on Third Street near the Brick House. Officer advising it is a cable wire. TFFD notifying Comcast.

1:14 p.m. Disabled vehicle in intersection of Avenue A and Third Street. Sirum's *en route* for the tow. Officer will return to assist with traffic when tow truck arrives.

4:11 p.m. Party into station to report that his vehicle was struck by another vehicle in the parking lot of Cumberland Farms. Party's vehicle has damage to both doors of the passenger side.

**Saturday, 3/10**

7:26 p.m. Officer flagged down by someone reporting that the vehicle that was in front of him on Main Street was operating very erratically. Officer followed vehicle in question for quite a while. Nothing of note observed.

9:08 p.m. Caller from Great Falls Harvest states that a customer was writing threatening statements on beer coasters and receipts. Report taken.

**Sunday, 3/11**

3:09 a.m. 911 caller from Third Street requesting assistance with male party in his apartment that he does not want there any longer. Officers *en route*. Caller advises that other male has become violent and hit him. Other male can be heard denying same in background. Line disconnected just prior to officers' arrival. Officer requesting that caller be told to let officers in. Call placed back to caller for same. Caller could be heard telling other male to "just leave now." Other male could not be heard any longer; caller was heard going downstairs. Officer has checked rear of building and alley; no sign of other male. Officers clear of Third Street. 911 call received from second half: male states that he was the one who was just assaulted and pushed out the back door; requesting that officers meet him at apartment above Second Street bar. All units clear. Both parties have been advised

of options. Report taken.

1:18 p.m. Party into station reporting larceny of a camera from his vehicle. Item is metallic red Vivitar GoPro-style camera that was mounted on the outside of the driver's side of party's Jeep. Item taken from behind address he was visiting on Second Street. Report taken.

2:24 p.m. 911 caller advises that she was just assaulted by a female with blonde hair. Suspect located on Eleventh Street.

3:31 p.m. Caller from Great Falls Harvest advising that male party from yesterday's call came in again today and they refused to serve him. Male went into the bathroom for a while then left. Caller states that he wrote more stuff down and left three flyers behind, one indicating a specific church event. Officer retrieved items and will be heading to Rendezvous, where subject had reportedly been as well.

3:31 p.m. Caller reporting that today during the 10 a.m. service at Our Lady of Peace, a male party in a black hat and black coat walked into the church and was going up and down the aisles raising his fists. Caller wanted this on record, stating that several people were disturbed by his actions. Advised to call MPD if party returns. Referred to an officer, who believes that this is the same male from the previous call and several others.

6:59 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road requesting officer to come and view damage to her front lawn that the town plows made. Caller advises she has lived there for twenty years and has never had this happen before; states they plowed way up onto her lawn, and she has an irrigation system. Officer advised caller to contact DPW superintendent tomorrow and call back if she does not get assistance.

## MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

CR EZD UDM I  
BUZZARDS ZR BONITO  
CA I HIPPOS ZR NCAO,  
EZD TOM BONITO.

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: [MONTAGUEREPORER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MONTAGUEREPORER@GMAIL.COM)

**PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666**

**Brian R. San Soucie**  
**Locksmith - CRL**  
certified - bonded - insured

863-2471  
28 Montague St  
Turners Falls, MA

*Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of locks & entry devices for business & homes*



**- Dead Bolts**  
**- Household Lock Sets**  
**- Master Keys & Re-keys**  
**- Safe Combinations Changed**

## Rau's Auto

**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR**

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing  
Best service licensed Mechanics

INTEGRATIVE ACUPRESSURE  
REIKI T.A.T. REFLEXOLOGY  
CLINICAL ACUPRESSURE  
POSITIONAL RELEASE THERAPY  
TONG REN THERAPY  
No Needles/Fully Clothed



Nationally Certified Bodyworker since 1993

Janet Masucci, ABMP, NCTMB 413-863-8694

Helpful for: Aches & Pains, Allergies, Anxiety, Arthritis, Boosting Immunity, Depression, Headaches, Insomnia, Low Energy, Stiffness, Stress, & more...

**SCULPTOR** from page B1

memory or the burden of burial, de Christopher has decided to take on the responsibility himself.

Most people do not construct their own tombs. Generally, it has been the pastime of pharaohs, popes, and other rulers, and de Christopher believes that his place of rest could be a tourist destination like theirs. "There are plenty of these constructions around the world, and they're visited by thousands of people," he says.

**Religious Themes**

While not a part of a hereditary ruling dynasty, de Christopher gets a taste of their supreme power through miniaturization and model-making. De Christopher wonders rhetorically if "Last Will and Testament" is about "wanting to realize my fantasy of having my model railroad."

After college, de Christopher ran a business called "Tim de Christopher Model-Maker," in which he was commissioned to build architectural models. One time he built a 6' by 8' model of a golf course for \$30,000. "I didn't sleep for days on end," he remembered. "I delivered it to Long Island; I was driving home and I fell asleep at the wheel. I woke up headed straight for the median. They called the next day and said they hated it."

Some of his stone works today, like "Angel of Industry" or "Rock, Paper, Scissors" on Avenue A and Third Street, have the feeling of being models, miniature cities.

Apparently, de Christopher's family was aware of his propensity for self-inflation through miniaturization: "My brother used to say 'It's like you want to be God!'"

De Christopher's sculptural work is often described as narrative interpretation of place. He creates narratives in stone that demonstrate the intertwining of individual human stories, sweeping historical change, and natural history as recorded in the physical structure of a place. Some of his works, for example, deal with deindustrialization and its effects on towns and the people who live in them.



De Christopher works last year on "Rock, Paper, Scissors," a public sculpture now installed at the intersection of Avenue A and Third Street in downtown Turners.

As a stone worker who studied architecture, de Christopher is preoccupied with the meaningful artifacts of human history that we usually refer to as buildings. De Christopher focuses on monumental constructions, like factories and churches, and how they represent and embody the dominant spirit of their time. He is especially interested in the Renaissance and the early industrial era, and the transitional period between them.

During that period, many architectural motifs from churches were used in factories, in order to make factory life familiar and comfortable for a new type of person – the industrial worker.

"There was a design choice to connect religion with industrial work," says de Christopher. "Religious life has all these rituals around the hours of the day, just like the in-

dustrial work day."

Religion also became a tool to control the worker outside of the workplace. While in the factory, the worker's life was ruled by the logic of efficiency and economic production, while outside, it was controlled by a moralizing church that promised salvation only after death.

De Christopher says he sees these historical periods architecturally – each symbolized by their own monumental edifice: "The Industrial Era supplanted the Cathedral Era. The industrial buildings were the cathedrals of that era."

De Christopher is inspired by Turners Falls because of his interest in work, its social constructions, and the built spaces that it produces. Of all the arts, stone sculpture seems particularly associated with the working class – great strength is a necessity, and it requires tools that

themselves are symbolic of work, like hammers and chisels. Like the idea of the farmer, the idea of the stoneworker is an archetype of the worker. Further, the process of shaping stone into sculpture is really just a continuation of the same process that began with quarrying, in which a large piece of stone becomes smaller and smaller.

**Anchoring in Place**

In my own home state of Vermont, quarrying and fine-art sculpting both occurred in the town of Barre, sometimes by the same individuals, usually Italian immigrants. De Christopher's family is a part of the larger story of this migration – his grandfather immigrated to the US in 1910 from Italy. "He went into the monument business," remembers de Christopher. "His front yard was always full of gravestones. His house was in between a graveyard and a golf course."

In "Will and Testament," de Christopher intends to illuminate some of the narratives embedded in this place – the village of Turners Falls. "It will have stories," he says. "It's unclear as to what actually they are – it's the stories that are held here. Desautels, Old Yipper, Poor Dickey Williams. Every place has a story. It's going to be a combination of perspiration and aspiration, people's dreams. I want it to be as big as I can make it."

The work will delve both into the lives of certain individuals, and also into the broader sweep of history. "It's a stylized interpretation and representation of daily life," he continues. "The backdrop here is the river and mills. It's about work, interactions, social engagement."

De Christopher has been completing commissions for clients

since the early 1990s, yet "Will and Testament" is his first chance to express his own inner artistic vision. Why are people like de Christopher compelled to create, to give form to their ideas and emotions? It could be to seek the kind of fame available to eccentric builders, the particularly American fame of roadside attractions. This fame, one that depends on automobility and the omnipresent practice of driving, is based on the enduring principle that "if you build it, they will come."

De Christopher believes that his monument will become a pilgrimage site. "I just know that as word gets out, people will come. They'll come to see something that doesn't exist anywhere else. It will be a landmark. It's something about ego, there's no question about it," he explains. "It's partly because I can, and I want to, and I want to leave a legacy, leave a mark. Also, it'll be good for the town."

As a youth, de Christopher never had a hometown; his family uprooted itself several times. The family moved across the country to LA with his father, who had an early children's TV show called *It's Chris*.

Later he followed the Maharishi to Europe and then upstate New York, before leaving the Transcendental Meditation community and going to school in New York. He spent the majority of his life as somewhat of a migrant – until he became encumbered with 120 tons of stone.

"I've moved around all my life," de Christopher says. "There isn't one place that's calling out. Turners has become that."

Home is both a place to live, and a place to die. De Christopher plans to begin working on "Last Will and Testament" this spring.



Sixty tons of limestone for the project, stored behind de Christopher's Second Street home.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666



**FIVE EYED FOX**

FRESH LOCAL COMFORT FOOD  
BREAKFAST LUNCH DINNER  
CRAFT BEER ESPRESSO

37 3RD ST  
TURNERS FALLS

**Renaissance  
Builders**

Quality. Craftsmanship. Original Thought.

www.rebuild.net  
863-8316



Cell: (413) 834-4444  
bedson1@comcast.net  
Home Fax: (413) 863-0218  
Maniatty Real Estate  
92 Federal Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301

Barbara A. Edson-Greenwald  
Realtor, Broker, ABR, CRS, e-PRO, GRI, SRES, CBR  
Ma. License #009535800



www.ManiattyRealty.com



Authentic American Food & Drink  
at the Montague Bookmill

THEALVAHSTONE.COM • 413.367.5345 • OPEN 7 DAYS + NIGHTS

New Mortgage Special  
Limited Time Offer\*

Check it out at  
**BestLocalBank.com**

GREENFIELD Cooperative Bank NORTHAMPTON Cooperative Bank

\*On loans applied for on or after 3/12/2018 and which close by 9/30/2018; subject to change or end without notice.

# 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.

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

### FIRST SUNDAY MONTHLY

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

### EVERY MONDAY

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

### 2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

### EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Music and Movement with Tom Carroll & Laurie Davidson*. Children and their caregivers. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

### 1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Open Mic Night*, 7 p.m.

### 2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Karaoke Night*, 8 p.m.

### EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

Tilton Library, S. Deerfield: *Book Discussion*. 6:30 p.m.

### EVERY FRIDAY

Hubie's Tavern, Turners Falls: *Acoustic Country with Heath Lewis*, 9 p.m.

### EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

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.

## EXHIBITS:

Art Garden, Shelburne Falls: *Great and Small*. Community art exhibit about the creatures we love. Closing Reception April 14 at 6 p.m. Through April.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Cen-

ter, Brattleboro: Six new Spring exhibits open Saturday, March 17 at 11 a.m. *Best of Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys; 100 Views Along the Road; Bottle in the River; We Walk in Their Shadows; Gloria Garfinkel; Susan Calabria*.

Deerfield Valley Center for the Arts, Northfield: *DVAA Members Winter Show*. Painting, sculpture, photography. Through April 1.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Recent Work: Artspace Pastel Studio*. Artists from Rebecca Clark's pastel studio exhibit work with their mentor in the pastel medium. Through April.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne: *Our Vanishing Wild*. Watercolor portraits by Maureen Moore of endangered species. Through April.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Sweet*. Members' exhibit with work on a "sweet" theme. Glass, fiber, ceramics, wood, paint etc. Through March.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School Presents Godspell*. Musical. 7 p.m. Repeats Saturday March 17 at 2 and 7 p.m. \$

Memorial Hall, Shelburne: Pot-hole Pictures presents *The King & I*. (1956). 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Big Takeover* and *Shokazoba* to perform world and fusion funk. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*. Acoustic folk and Americana. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MARCH 17

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Gay Mayor, Jubilee, Breast Milk, Poacher*. 7 p.m. \$

Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Sam Gleaves and Tyler Hughes*. Duo will play old time country music. 7:30 p.m. \$

Wendell Free Library: *The Time Machine* (2002). Hoping to alter the events of the past, a 19th century inventor instead travels 800,000 years into the future, where he finds humankind divided into two warring races. Part of the Sci-fi series. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Irish Twisters*. Enjoy Irish tunes with Sean Callaghan, JT McKenna and the Band, plus some classic 60s and 70s rock. 8:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit Saint Patty's Day Bash*. Four piece rock/groove cover band. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *St Patty's Day with Paddy's Rambles*. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MARCH 18

Leverett Library: *Story Slam* hosted by Steve Adams and Bruce Watson. What is a story slam? True stories, told live, in 5 minutes or less. Come ready for a chance to share your story (not a competition), or just to enjoy the show. 3 p.m.

Polish American Club, South Deerfield: *FESTIVAL - DANSE CAFÉ* presents a French & Breton Music & Dance Party. 4 p.m. \$

### TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Young Irishlanders*. Experience Ireland's traditions in music, song and dance presented by some of the most talented young performers in the world. 7 p.m. \$

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Roots of Creation*. Reggae-Rock. 9 p.m. \$

### THURSDAY, MARCH 22

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Play-Along* with Julie Stepanek. Ukuleles available to borrow for the program and even a uke to check out and take home. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Matt Stamell CD Release*



*This photograph by Paul Shoul of residents at the now-demolished Northampton Lodging, a single-room occupancy boarding house, is part of an exhibit at Historic Northampton focusing on the history of boarding houses in the city. Guest curator Cassandra Holden and photographer Shoul will discuss the process of getting to know the former residents of Northampton Lodging and how they approached the project intellectually, emotionally, and artistically on Thursday, March 15 at 7 p.m.*

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *"Green Houses in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts,"* by Peter Alan Monroe. Photographs of houses by Monroe, who grew up in Queens, NY and moved to western Massachusetts in the 1970s. Through March 31.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rodney Madison*. Recent work by local painter with an exuberant style. Through April.

Historic Northampton, Northampton: *Single Room Occupancy: Portraits and Stories from Northampton Lodging, 1976 - 2016*. Northampton Lodging was demolished in 2016. Cassandra Holden interviewed residents and Paul Shoul took portraits of them just before they were relocated. Tracing the waning years of boarding houses in Northampton and existence at the edge of the community. Through June 10.

Hope and Feathers Gallery, Amherst. *Spring in the City: Urban Landscapes* by painter Mishael Coggeshall-Burr of Montague. Through March.

Leverett Library: *Potpourri* Paintings by artist Louise Minks of Leverett. Through March.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Slice of Humanity*. Five artists depicting the human figure in unique portraits: Robert Bent, Suzanne Conway, Lauren Paradise, Nina Rossi and Jeff Wrench. Through March.

Smith College Greenhouses, Northampton: *Spring Bulb Show*. A spectacular array of blossoming crocuses, hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies and tulips provide an early glimpse of spring. The suggested donation is \$5. Through March 18.

Whately Library, Whately: *Winter Light: Art Exhibit*. Handmade paper scrolls and origami lanterns by Sheryl Jaffe in the Muse Cafe. Through March 24.

## AUDITIONS:

Silverthorne Theater at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: 2018 Open Season Auditions for three shows, Friday, March 16 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, March 17 at 1 p.m. By appointment only, (413) 768-7514. Plays: *The Road to Mecca*. *White, Black, and Blue*. *Delectable Durang*. Details at [silverthornetheater.org](http://silverthornetheater.org)

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, MARCH 15

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Pat & Tex LaMountain*, featuring Dennis Avery on dobro. 6 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Pinedrop, House Sparrow, and Lexi Weege*. 8 p.m. \$

### FRIDAY, MARCH 16

The Brick House, Turners Falls: *Youth Art Exhibit* and *Open Mic*. Family friendly, snacks, public open mic. 5 p.m.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

Party. 7 p.m. \$  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Hilary Chase*. Songs from the soul. 8:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall Theater  
**POTHOLE PICTURES**

Friday & Saturday  
March 16 & 17 8 p.m.  
**MY MEXICAN SHIVAH**

Live music: Wholesale Klezmer Band, 7:30 p.m. both nights. Saturday includes discussion with author Ilan Stavans!

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

**THE LADY KILLIGREW:**

Awesome Beer  
Amazing Food

Amazing, Awesome Employees!

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA  
7 Days / Sun - 11pm (at least)  
(413)367-9666

**The Brick House**  
COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER  
24 3rd Street, Turners Falls

Brick House Teen Center  
**Drop-In Hours:**  
2:30 to 6 p.m.  
Mondays through Fridays

[www.brickhousecommunity.org](http://www.brickhousecommunity.org)  
413-863-9576

**The Rendezvous**  
bar with food

**THURS 3/15 7:30 pm**  
**Half-Shaved Jazz**

**FRI 3/16 9:30 pm**  
**Ragged Blue**

**SAT 3/17 9:30 pm**  
**St. Patty's Day with Paddy's Rambles**

**MON 3/19 8 pm**  
**BINGO**

78 THIRD STREET  
TURNERS FALLS, MA  
RENDEZVOUSTFMA.COM  
TEL: 413-863-2866

**Renaissance Excavating, Inc.**

COMPLETE SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam

Main Road, Gill  
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462  
[renexc@gmail.com](mailto:renexc@gmail.com) cell 413.834.2201

**HUGE WASHERS!**

**HOT DRYERS!**

Open 365 Days  
6 A.M. - 10 P.M.

**SUZEE'S THIRD STREET LAUNDRY**

TURNERS FALLS

FREE WIFI

Suzee's  
THIRD ST. LAUNDRY  
413-863-2866

**THE PEOPLES PINT**

OPEN DAILY  
LUNCH and DINNER

24 Federal St., Greenfield  
773-0333 / [thepeoplespint.com](http://thepeoplespint.com)

The Pint Says: **TURN THE KEY!**  
When you idle your car's engine for more than 10-20 seconds, you're wasting fuel.  
Save on Gas - Save our Climate

**TNT Productions**  
DJ & Karaoke specialists

413-522-6035  
[www.tntprodj.net](http://www.tntprodj.net)

413-256-6217

*fine instruments bought and sold repaired and restored*

**Fretted Instrument Workshop**  
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

**Bryan G. Hobbs Remodeling Contractor**

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation  
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows

Email: [bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com](mailto:bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com)  
Now accepting credit cards.

Home/Office  
Telephone: 413-775-9006  
Fax: 413-475-3255  
Lic # 083982 | Reg # 139564

Bryan G. Hobbs  
346 Conway St.  
Greenfield, MA 01301

**mass save**  
PARTNER

WEST ALONG from page B1 with another nor'easter on the way.

Just the same, we take lunch break outdoors in shirt sleeves, wolfing down a sandwich in the sun.

Dusk brings a freshening breeze under brightening stars. The wind from the northeast rattles dry milkweed stalks, the ones that produced four monarchs this past August.

Seeds on the platform feeder blow away in the breeze. Tossing wood ash from the cookstove onto the kitchen's herbal garden lying dormant, the ash billows off from northeast to southwest.

By 9 in the evening, clouds drift in to cover the full Worm Moon.

March 7 I'm up at 2 a.m. to answer the call of nature, as we used to quaintly name that function before the world got more crude.

Still nothing from the heavens, no muffled snowfall as expected. Weathermen got it wrong again. Schools had closed in anticipation, but it wasn't until noon that it first started drifting down, and by nightfall it was finally getting serious.

By then birds were packing in to the feeders, furtive lispings shadows, stoking inner fires to last them through the night. They need stored energy to allow them to shiver during the night, thus maintaining body temperature to keep from freezing.

fat stores daily during the winter to survive the frigid nights.

March 8 gives us a pause in the snowstorm to reflect on International Women's Day. The observance is belatedly catching on around here; even WHAI has mentioned it, so it has penetrated even into deep Franklin County.

First I had heard of it was in Russia, when I spent a memorable month of February and part of March in the Republic of Karelia, near the Finnish border.

The women teachers at School #17 all received bouquets of flowers and corsages from their students on that day. All these lovely stalwart Russian women of the '90s, Tatiana, Nina, Galina, and Ninel, wore huge smiles and were celebrated, Soviet and post-Soviet style, way up there in the northern city of Petrozavodsk.

Russian teacher icon Jude Wobst of Leverett never lets me forget that day since we spent those months with our exchange students on our Russian sojourn. We celebrated the first of March up there near the Arctic Circle because we had all survived the Russian winter, and we celebrated Women's Day because the women had kept the winter at bay.

But back to the snow.

The season need but turn his hour-glass round, And, Winter suddenly, like crazy Lear, Reels back...

With frosty streaks and drifts of his white beard All overblown...

The snow is heavy, yet fluffy, there has fallen a good foot of it for the Siberian pup to bathe and play in, to run and leap for the joy of it. Dogs love the glorious fresh snow!

Birds still furtively venture to the feeder. They are silenced briefly by the shadow of a hawk, but resume after the alarm of an air-raid has passed.

The snow still drifts down at 7 p.m., all is muffled and quiet, are we alone in the universe? Where are the plows, where are the neighbors?

March 9 is the aftermath. All is white again like the past December Christmas.

But the birds could care less; as we sensed on March First up near the Arctic Circle, they are convinced that this is a mere setback and we're almost in the clear. The song sparrow sings his heart out, two dozen juncos are trilling their spring song and chasing one another through the yard, the air swirls with redwings.

No snowfall will dampen instinctive spirits. One foot of snow? Hah! Grey skies and freezing temps? Who cares? The cardinal rises to the top of the black cherry tree to sing his cheer-up song.

This is just a temporary setback to be ignored, not worth mentioning, when in their small minds and hearts, it's time to get busy. Sing, and cheer the end of winter. The glacier of winter is retreating reluctantly.



# ArtScape Landscaping Design

## Now Scheduling Spring Clean-ups & Landscaping Projects!

Fully Insured  
Competitive Rates  
Senior Discounts Available  
19 years of friendly & personable experience

### CALL 413-834-7001

So it must have been when the last real glacier retreated 12,000 years ago. Sullenly giving way, it left us glacial kettle holes, lakes and rivers behind. The same rivers still flow, and these same birds' voices that we hear now, rose up then to greet that first simple springtime.

But wait! By March 13, Old Man Winter lurches back once more, not ready to give up yet.

Dog and his human being sit in the cold and watch the snow swirl again as if winter's ghost glacier had never left. A third nor'easter bears down, and that false parody of real spring slips out the back door in shame, having totally missed her cue.

But as for this observer with my thumb-nail sketches, finally driven back indoors once again, a brief retreat.

Warmly walled with books,  
While my wood-fire supplies the sun's defects,  
I take my poetry down from the happy shelf  
Where perch the world's rare song-birds in a row,  
And beg an alms of spring-time,  
ne'er denied...

- Adapted from *Under the Willows*, by James Russell Lowell (1819-1891)



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE! (12 WEEK MINIMUM.) CALL 863-8666.

**Turners Falls Pizza House**  
Family Owned & Operated  
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years  
Dave Argy, Family & Staff

PIZZA, GRINDERS,  
DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS

www.turnersfallspizza.com  
119 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863-8000

**Richie Richardson FAB**  
ETHNIC CHIC FASHION  
FAIR TRADE FASHION ART BOUTIQUE  
67 Second Street, Turners Falls  
info@richierichardsonfab.com  
413-863-5587

Serving Home Grown  
Farm-inspired Food & Drink

**H & O**

44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301  
Ph 413 774 3150 | hopeandolive.com

**Bob's HOME PROS**  
413-221-3837 WWW.BOBSHOMEPROS.COM

25 Years Experience in Commercial and Residential Building & Remodeling

**CRUISE & TRAVEL COMPANY**  
30 Montague Street  
TURNERS FALLS

413-863-3143 • 888-763-3143  
www.cruiseandtravelcompany.com

**About-face Computer Solutions**  
Turn your computer troubles around!

(413) 863-5447  
151 Avenue A, Turners Falls  
WE FIX COMPUTERS!  
www.about-facecomputers.com

**A BEAUTIFUL Smile Starts With Healthy Teeth**  
GEETU SHOKEEN, DMD

Montague Dental Arts  
General Dentistry  
300 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 • 413-863-2288

**BUY LOCAL**

- Free-Range Turkey
- Chicken
- Grass-Fed Beef
- Grass-Fed Lamb
- Eggs
- Lumber

**Diemand Farm**  
Our meats and home-style comfort foods are sold year round in our store.

126 Memon Hollow Road, Wendell, MA 01375  
www.thediemandfarm.com • 978-544-3806

**Catering Available**  
Onsite Seasonally (up to 50 guests)  
Offsite year-round (5-200 guests)  
Onsite events held under our tent overlooking the sunset on the majestic West County Hills.  
Reserve your spot now!

**MUSIC & MOVIES**  
TURN IT UP!

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

Follow the Sun into the Future

**allEarth SOLAR PREMIER DEALER**

2 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield  
413.772.3122  
solarstoreofgreenfield.com

**GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE**  
Quality and reliability you can count on.  
AllEarth Trackers are engineered and made in VT. A system that's effective and efficient every day.  
Panasonic Solar AUTHORIZED INSTALLER Not affected by tariffs.  
Artist: Christine Pellerin

**The Gill Tavern**  
Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

www.thegilltavern.com Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM  
326 Main Road Gill, MA 413-863-9006

**LS TRACTOR**  
Get more tractor for your money!

**SIRUM**  
FARM • TIRE • INDUSTRIAL  
413-367-2481  
MONTAGUE, MASSACHUSETTS

Rte 63, Montague 413-367-2481  
sirumequipment.com

**Reward Yourself**  
with the FREE GSB Debit Card BUZZ Points Program.

**Greenfield Savings Bank**  
buzz POINTS

Earn Rewards with Every Purchase! **2X POINTS LOCALLY\***

**\$10 BUZZ Points Sign-up Bonus\*\***

(413) 774-3191 • (413) 584-4441  
greenfieldsavings.com

\*Double points earning offer (2X points) applies only to locally-owned businesses which are in the GSB-Buzz Points Database at time of purchase and is not applicable at local outlets of national or regional chain stores or businesses.  
\*\* Must open account by 3/31/18 and sign up for BUZZ Points by 4/10/18 to qualify.  
Member FDIC/Member DIF • Equal Housing Lender