

LAKE PLEASANT MILLERS FALLS MONTAGUE CENTER MONTAGUE CITY TURNERS FALLS

# The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

\$1

YEAR 16 – NO. 27

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 26, 2018



Patricia Pruitt, a former editor of the Montague Reporter, died on Monday, surrounded by family, from complications of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. Patricia was a poet, a scholar, and a teacher, and played many important roles in our local community, including two terms as a member of Montague's selectboard. Arrangements are being handled by Kostanski Funeral Home. A more thorough tribute to Patricia will appear in next week's edition. For now, we offer our love and condolences to her family. Her warmth and insight will be missed by many.

DAVID DETMOLD PHOTO

## Building Youth Assets at the Brick House



MILLER PHOTO

Left to right: youth programs manager Xinef Afriam checks in with Cici, Eriana, and Lily at the Brick House's afternoon teen center.

By KAREN SHAPIRO MILLER

**TURNERS FALLS** – On a typical day, the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls is a gently choreographed jumble of teenagers. The youngsters – everyone from 11 to 18 is welcome – wander in, sprawl on tattered easy chairs, help themselves to microwaved ramen, sketch cartoons, play video games, dance hip-hop to the music blasting in the front room.

"They've got everything you need," says Gabe Nieves, who is 13, and visits almost every day. "They've got a big screen TV, a projector, they've got some computers, they've got Guitar Hero, they've got snacks, they've got books and board games and a foosball table, an art room – everyone is making art. The Brick House is fun, and if there's nothing to do at your house, you can just come here."

The Brick House was organized in 1989, following the murders of four local women by their partners. Its mission, clearly put by Brick House executive director Dana Lee Mengwasser, is to reduce violence against women and children.

These days, the Brick House serves as a community gathering

place, where local folks hold meetings and classes – currently, it's providing space to a dance class and an acting troupe. A parent and family services coordinator meets with parents and helps them negotiate red tape and transportation issues, so they can use community resources, including food stamps, adult education programs, fuel assistance, and dental care.

And, through its teen center, open every weekday afternoon, Brick House staff members subtly guide local youth toward developing internal strengths that contribute to happier, more fulfilling lives.

"The Brick House is a space where they can be themselves," says Mengwasser. "Mostly it's a drop-in center, and then we also have two structured programs." Through the Momentum arts program, the kids explore art mediums, from watercolor to leather-working to wire sculpture. They also practice skills needed for having jobs.

Through the other program, the Youth Organizing and Leadership Opportunities, the kids learn about sexual health, relationship skills, and conflict resolution. "We've done mediation in that group," says

see BRICK HOUSE page A6

## Boards Cool Toward Town Meeting Revote on Broadband

By JEFF SINGLETON

**WENDELL** – Wendell's two broadband committees and the selectboard appear to have informally decided not to ask that an upcoming town meeting "revote" the proposed broadband project. A June 2015 town meeting vote had authorized the original project, but increasing cost estimates for subscribers since then had led to some requests for a new vote.

Although the original town meeting article did not include a cost estimate, the multi-town broadband cooperative WiredWest, of which Wendell is a member, was believed to have floated a monthly cost of \$49 per household at the time. More recent estimates – still informal – have produced estimates of approximately \$100 per month.

Some residents have also expressed concerns about the impact of borrowing for the project on tax rates.

At a joint meeting of the boards on Tuesday, the idea of a new town meeting article received little support. "It makes me really uncomfortable to be even talking about this," said Nan Riebschlaeger of the broadband operations committee.

Her sentiment was seconded by Carol Judd, also of the operations committee, who noted that the project had already received a substantial amount of grant funding from the state, some of which has been spent on research by consultants. The town has also implemented a pole survey, and is in the process of applying to electric companies for approval of work to "make ready" work to prepare the poles to carry fiber-optic cable.

Christine Heard, chair of both the selectboard and the broadband construction committee, said that town

see BROADBAND page A8

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## District Will Repay Medicaid Over 20 Years; Public To Vote On Nickname Finalists

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – This week, the regional school committee received welcome news when it learned the state has agreed to a long-term repayment plan for reimbursements the district erroneously received for years through Medicaid.

The \$936,225 liability first came to light last spring, when an audit of New England Medical Billing (NEMB), the firm that processed the district's claims for reimbursement from the program, discovered a long-term pattern of billing for paraprofessional services that should have been ineligible.

For years, NEMB had requested the district be reimbursed for all hours the schools' paraprofessionals spent providing specialized services to students on individual education plans, but according to Medicaid guidelines, any given service should only have been eligible under the program if the student was prescribed it by a doctor.

According to an agreement reached this week with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Gill-Montague owes no fees or interest on this "alleged overpayment," but will simply receive \$47,000 less each year in reimbursement over the next 20 years.

The district reached the agreement with the help of the law firm Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas LLP, and according to superinten-

dent Michael Sullivan, "some kind of closure" is also expected with NEMB, which oversaw the claims in exchange for a flat percentage of the reimbursement.

"Considering the \$936,000 total cost, it's really about as best as we could have hoped for," Sullivan told the committee, which voted 8-0 to approve the agreement. Shawn Hubert was absent from the meeting.

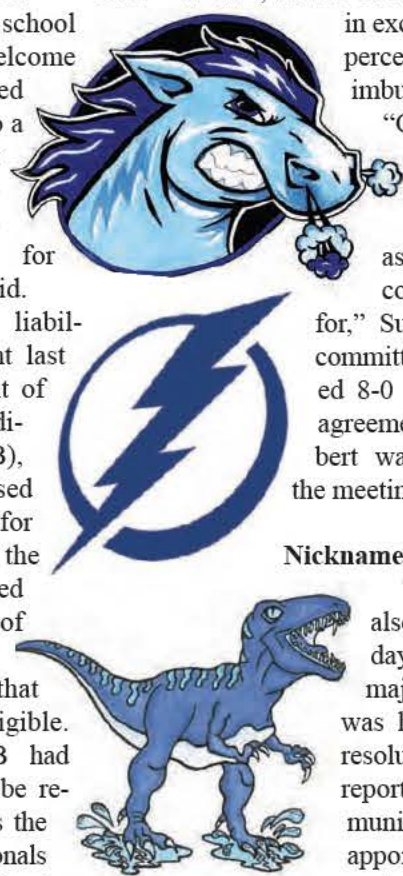
Nickname Polling Opens

The committee also heard Tuesday that another major controversy was heading toward resolution, during a report from the community taskforce appointed to recommend a new nickname and logo for Turners Falls High School.

The school's sports teams have been playing without a name since February 2017, when the committee voted to retire the longtime "Indians" moniker. This year, the taskforce collected hundreds of suggestions, vetted them according to criteria set by the school committee, and gradually winnowed them down to three popular finalists.

Alana Martineau and Betsy Laczynski, alumni representatives on the taskforce, reported to the committee on Tuesday that community

see GMRSD page A6



The public will not be asked to vote on logo designs at this stage, but these examples for Chargers, Thunder, and Raptors were among those received by the taskforce. (The logo for "Raptors" could also be a bird of prey, rather than a dinosaur.)

## TFHS Sports: The Week In Review

By MATT ROBINSON

To the Turners Falls spring sports teams, last week's April vacation meant fewer bodies in the arena. Vacations, family trips, and even a scheduled wisdom teeth extraction

forced coaches to shuffle their lineups to compensate. The teams were also trying to squeeze in previously postponed matches.

Meanwhile, two more storms hit the region this week, forcing additional postponements. Luckily, I'm

assured that the snowstorm we saw will be the last until autumn.

Turners was able to fit in two baseball games, two softball games, and three girls' tennis matches this week. Girls' tennis team finished the week with a record of 2-1, which evens their record to 3-3.

The baseball team stayed home and split their two games. And the softball team... Well, the softball team headed into arguably their toughest week of the regular season.

Baseball

TFHS 5 – Easthampton 2  
Mahar 9 – TFHS 2

The Turners Falls baseball team played two home games this week, beating Easthampton last Friday before losing to Mahar on Monday.

On Friday, April 20, Turners upended the Easthampton Eagles 5-2. East drew first blood in the top of the first, putting across a run. Blue took back the lead in the bottom of the inning, 2-1, but the Eagles tied it up in the second. In the third, Turners took

see SPORTS page A5



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Jaden Whiting races the throw to first during Turners' 5-2 win over Easthampton.



# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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## New “Center for Wellness” Brings Dentists, Doctors, and Counselors Under One Roof

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – Last Friday morning, a new center for healthcare and human services opened on Main Street in downtown Greenfield. Called the “Center for Wellness,” the facility will gather 80 employees under one roof from two organizations, the Center for Human Development (CHD) and the Community Health Center of Franklin County (CHC).

There was a large turnout to the event, with people chatting and enjoying pastries provided by local bakeries. Many joined in tours of the facility before going to the large lecture hall on the second floor.

The CHD reports that it spent nearly \$6 million to renovate the historic building, most recently home to Whitney Hill Antiques. Both agencies are moving downtown from their location at Cherry Rum Plaza, and the Community Health Center will bring its dental practice, currently in Montague City, across the river to join them.

In their opening remarks to those gathered, Jim Goodman and Edward Sayer, the chief executives of CHD and CHC, spoke of the value of bringing together primary healthcare, dental care, and a variety of behavioral health services under one roof. The space in the new building will allow for medical and dental care on one floor, and behavioral health on another.

They emphasized changes underway in the medical world toward more integration between primary and behavioral care. Treating symptoms can be a “revolving door”; good healthcare focuses on treating the whole person.

There was a great deal of thank-

ing in everyone’s remarks: to the architects, the builders and contractors, and all those in government who helped the effort, years in the planning, get funding for the effort. CHC founder Sarah Kemble was singled out for praise.

Greenfield mayor William Martin said the Center for Wellness would contribute to the city’s economy and the wellbeing of its residents. Martin said his government had asked what can be done to maintain the city, and the answer was: “If we could attract what people need, and let the market take care of itself; if we could bring healthcare to the downtown area, have education, the courthouse, provide food, entertainment, have people feel safe in a pleasant atmosphere – that would be extending the life of Greenfield.”

He added, “The work is never done.”

“To be truly healthy, people need healthcare in many spheres, and to have them integrated,” said state senator Stan Rosenberg. “The concept of healthcare professionals working together... [patients] being well, staying well, getting care at the earliest possible stage of an illness.”

Rosenberg brought a citation from the Senate honoring the Center’s opening. An aide from state representative Paul Mark’s office also made some remarks, and read a citation from the legislature.

After the program, many people lingered, snacking on the food as a local jazz band provided music. There was a sense that the event marked an important milestone for Greenfield, and the wider community.

*Mike Jackson provided additional reporting.*



State senator Stan Rosenberg (right) chats with attendees at the opening of the new Greenfield Center for Wellness last Friday morning.

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Divya Shinn holds a baby goat named James Comey, one of 18 kids born at Laughing Dog Farm in Gill this spring!

## Letters to the Editors

### Hopes Process Moves Forward

I was happy to see the article in today’s *Greenfield Recorder* stating that the process for the TFHS mascot change is moving forward. I want to commend the members of the task force for taking on this issue and coming up with some great choices.

I do hope that the process will continue to move forward regardless of who is elected for school committee in May.

The TFHS mascot has a long history and I know many alumni and people in town want to see it stay, arguing that it’s a tradition that honors Native Americans. I will admit when my kids were in marching band I loved hearing the fight song at football games. But, every time they would do “the chop” I would cringe.

For me it’s simple. Native Americans are people with a deep cultural history rooted right here in Montague. Why would we use them, people in our own community, as a sports mascot? How can we say the mascot is honoring people when the very people we want to honor say they don’t feel honored? What does this teach our kids?

The US Commission on Civil Rights “condemns the use of Native American images and nicknames as sports symbols”. The Commission states, “The stereo-

typing of any racial, ethnic, religious or other groups, when promoted by our public educational institutions, teaches all students that stereotyping of minority groups is acceptable – a dangerous lesson in a diverse society. Schools have a responsibility to educate their students; they should not use their influence to perpetuate misrepresentations of any culture or people.” I know the intent was never to be disrespectful. But, intent and reality are not always the same.

On May 21 I will be voting for Jennifer Lively. Jennifer grew up in Montague, attended TFHS, and cares deeply about the school system. She supports moving forward with a new name and mascot and will not vote to turn back time. I urge you to vote for her too and to continue to move forward with finding a new name and a new tradition.

Go TF! Powertown!  
Go Thunder? Go Raptors? Go Chargers?  
I like Powertown Raptors!

Mary Kociela  
Montague

### Meet a Town Meeting Member – Probably a Few!

Montague’s Annual Town Meeting is on Saturday, May 5, and as usual, the 120 people who’ve been elected to represent our town have quite a bit of homework to do.

There are 36 articles on the warrant for Town Meeting Members to consider and vote on May 5; this week, we each received a packet of background information from the Town to help us prepare. (That same information should be available for review on the Town of Montague’s website: [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov) – look under “Town Meeting” for ATM 2018-05-05)

I would like to invite Town Meeting Members from all precincts to

join me on Sunday, April 29, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Gill-Montague Senior Center (62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls) for an informal, unofficial gathering with two goals: to review the materials for this year’s Annual Town Meeting together, and to get a sense of what people’s questions and concerns are ahead of May 5.

This is also an opportunity for members of the public to give input to Town Meeting Members. If you would like to speak to a Town Meeting Member about something related to this year’s Annual Town Meeting, I hope you will drop by the Senior Center between 4 and 6 p.m. on Sunday, April 29 – I’ll be

there, and I’d be happy to talk with you. I expect that several other Town Meeting Members will be there, too.

If April 29 from 4 to 6 p.m. doesn’t work for you, you can also call Town Meeting Members – there’s a list on the town website that includes all of our addresses, and most of our phone numbers. So you don’t have to look it up, here’s mine: (413) 863-3060.

Jen Audley  
Precinct 4  
Turners Falls

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Montague Reporter

177 Ave. A, TF, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

**Celebrate Arbor Day in Montague** by helping plant trees in each of the town's five villages. There will be four plantings this Friday, April 27. Help plant a hawthorn in Unity Park at noon, a yellow honey locust in front of the Farren in Montague City at 4 p.m., apple trees next to the bell tower on Adams Road in Lake Pleasant at 5 p.m., and an Autumn Blaze maple on Franklin Street in Millers Falls at 6 p.m.

At noon on Sunday, April 29, a Daybreak Magnolia and a London planetree will be planted in front of the post office in Montague Center.

Musicians will accompany helpers to many of the plantings, and copies of Arbor Day resolutions to help ensure the health of trees growing in our yards, tree belts, and local parks

will be available. A proclamation by the Montague selectboard in support of efforts to protect and promote our trees and woodlands will be read.

The plantings are sponsored by the Montague tree advisory committee, in cooperation with the Montague tree warden and the town of Montague. All citizens of Montague are urged to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations!

A ceremony to **celebrate the sacred Earth** will be held this Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the Mount Toby Meetinghouse, 194 Long Plain Road, Leverett. There will be refreshments, potluck dessert, songs, poems, and a sharing of concerns.

The ceremony will be led by Loril Moondream, artist and wild-

life rehabilitator at Medicine Mammals; cosponsors include the Mt. Toby Peace and Social Concerns Committee, Greening of Grace, and the Native American Inter-Tribal Council of Western Massachusetts. For more information, call Beth at (413) 522-7505.

**Erving's town wide tag sale** starts at 9 a.m. this Saturday, April 28. Maps for participating households are available at town hall, library, and various businesses.

Montague Reporter volunteers will be set up at 80 Old State Road selling mugs, subscriptions, and baked goods. If you wish to donate to the bake sale, contact *friendsofmontaguereporter@gmail.com*, or call me at 863-5125.

The tag sale rain date is Sunday, April 29.

Jennifer Lively and Haley Anderson, **Montague candidates for the Gill-Montague school committee**, invite the community to meet them this Saturday, April 28, from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. on the lawn of 81 High Street, Turners Falls, prior to the Spring 5K and parade.

If you miss them on Saturday, Anderson and Lively will also be joined by fellow candidates Mike Langknecht of Montague and Timmie Smith of Gill on Sunday, May 6, from 3 to 5 p.m. at Element Brewery in Millers Falls. Kids are welcome.

Come and meet **Irene Fariss, a local first-time self-published author** at 88 years young! Ms. Fariss, who hails from Erving, will chat about her first book, *Vanished Into Smoke*, a narrative poem based on facts about the separatists who landed in Plymouth, Massachusetts in November 1620 in their quest for religious freedom.

Twenty years of loving research contributed to this rare find as well as two original paintings of the "Plimou-

th Plantation," other historical documents, photos, and lists of the Mayflower passengers and Native American tribes in the area. Ms. Fariss' youngest daughter is a descendant of Mary Chilton, allegedly the first person to set foot on Plimouth Rock.

You won't want to miss this enchanting event being held at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank this Saturday, April 28, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Bring a friend and learn a bit more "Americana." Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of the bank.

Also this Saturday, April 28, the Great Falls Discovery Center is hosting an **artist reception** with Great Hall exhibit artist Cindi Oldham from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Oldham's *Seen/Unseen* is a conceptual portrait series that explores what it means to be seen, yet unseen at the same time. Viewers can see the subjects' likeness in their portraits, and learn a bit about each one by reading the accompanying narratives. You may learn something about them that is often overlooked, or something you can only notice when you take a second look.

The reception is sponsored by the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community.

**Thinking of starting a vegetable or flower garden**, or interested in some basic skills to manage an existing garden? Stop by the Leverett Library on Sunday, April 29, from 2 to 4 p.m. for a free, hands-on educational program.

Some topics to be covered will be soil pH, creating workable soil, compost basics, seeds, and site choice. Presented by Dawn Marvin Ward, certified master gardener, and sponsored by the Leverett Cultural Council.

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

## Notes from the Wendell Town Clerk

The Wendell **town election** is coming up fast! On Monday, May 7, the polls are open from noon to 8 p.m.

If you need an Absentee Ballot application for May 7, please pick this up at the Town Clerk's office, or fill it out online and mail it in. The application deadline is Friday, May 4 at noon.

The following positions and candidates are on the ballot: Selectboard, 3 years: Jeffrey Pooser (*incumbent*); Board of Assessors, 3 years: Luke Doody (*nominee*); Board of Health, 3 years: Barbara Craddock (*nominee*); Planning Board, 5 years: Richard Asmann (*nominee*); Moderator, 1 year: Kathleen Nolan (*incumbent*); Cemetery Commissioner, 3 years: Sylvia Wetherby (*nominee*); Cemetery Commissioner, 2 years: Judith Putnam (*nominee*); Road Commissioner, 3 years: Michael Gifford (*incumbent*); School Committee, 3 years: Jamie Radner (*incumbent*); Tree Warden, 1 year: Corine Baker (*nominee*); Library Trustees, 3 years: Melissa Grader and Kathleen Swaim (*incumbents*).

No papers were taken out for a second 3-year vacancy on the School Committee. This position

may be filled by a write-in candidate, as can any other position on the ballot.

Also on the ballot is a Yes/No Debt Exclusion Vote, regarding the costs associated with paying for the new highway department vehicle. More information on this vote is available from postings around town, or by calling the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x 2.

Looking ahead, our **annual town meeting** is scheduled for Tuesday, June 5. Please mark your calendars and plan to participate in the "purest form of democratic governing" there is. All voices and all opinions need to be heard.

Those residents who have not yet responded to the **annual street listing**, or licensed their dog, are reminded that these tasks are past due and must be completed soon to avoid consequences.

Finally, if you want to file for a **tax abatement or exemption**, your paperwork is due at the Town Assessor's office by May 1, 2018.

Questions? Contact the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x 2.



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**The MoRe seeks a part-time Volunteer Ad Manager to begin immediately.**  
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A dedicated crew has formed a committee to support the *Montague Reporter's* daily operations. Join us as we strategize about how to increase volunteer engagement, and build on relationships with local businesses.

If you love working with people, are passionate about community journalism, and have volunteer coordination or advertising knowledge, we're interested in talking with you! Email [volunteer@montaguereporter.org](mailto:volunteer@montaguereporter.org) for more information.

## Montague Public Works Open House Event

**500 Avenue A, Turners Falls**  
**Monday May 7, 3 to 5:30 p.m.**

- Tour the current DPW Facility
- Learn about proposed facility
- Q+A with planning committee and town officials

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## More Letters to the Editors

## Headline Misleading

There was an unfortunate and misleading headline atop your April 19 article "WiredWest Is Cheaper Operator For Broadband, Consultants Say."

The error is in the word "Is." As the article itself correctly notes, our consultants concluded that WW "could be" cheaper, depending on certain variables, some unknowns, and several cautionary notes, all of which are detailed in the report, which is now a public document and, as the article states, available

to any interested party through town committees and is also posted on the New Salem Broadband website.

Otherwise, thank you for your first class, very helpful reporting.

**Dan Keller**  
Wendell Selectboard member

*Ack! We regret the error, which was made in the heat of publication by our editorial staff and not by our reporter. Thank you for helping set the record straight! - Eds.*

## Planned Facility: So Much More Than Just A Garage

Many have questioned why the Town of Montague needs an \$11 million, 25,502 square foot "garage," as is being proposed and recommended by the Montague Public Works Facility Planning Committee. Most of the concerns our committee has heard involve the cost and size.

First of all, may I suggest that we all (myself included) take the word "garage" out of the discussion. This is a facility which is designed to meet the safety and environmental needs of a professional municipal workplace not only today but for at least the next fifty years.

Not only does it have a garage for vehicle storage, but also workshop spaces, vehicle repair bays, offices, and employee facilities such as a locker room and break room.

Why should we house so many vehicles and equipment pieces indoors; can't they just be kept outside like most residents' vehicles? The fact is that the proposed facility will house the same amount of vehicles indoors as

the current DPW does, it just does so in a much safer and organized manner which allows employees and other vehicles and equipment to maneuver and work safely, as well as keep all those items immediately accessible for quick deployment.

There would also be an open canopy attached to the building for covered parking of other less critical and expensive equipment.

The square footage proposed, and the cost associated for this size, are in line with comparable facilities built in towns with similar needs and demands as ours.

Construction costs are not going down. Any further delay to this project for the sake of reevaluating things that this committee already has carefully analyzed and considered will ultimately be a waste of our taxpayer dollars.

I ask that you vote yes on May 21 for the article to fund this new facility.

**Mark Williams**  
Montague

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Week of April 30  
in Montague



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## New Salem Town-Wide Tag Sale Is Back!

Saturday, May 5  
8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

On the Common  
in New Salem.

Household goods, furniture,  
antiques, collectibles,  
clothing, and more. Coffee  
and donuts, too! 15+  
sellers in one place.

*Rain date May 12.*

## Riverside Laundromat

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Behind OIC

&

## Village Laundromat

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Greenfield

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### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Green Energy Grants; Cultivator's License

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger brought two considerations to the Wendell selectboard's April 18 meeting. But before bringing them up, she said that the town had saved \$750 in oil cost for the winter of 2016-17 the first year after the town hall heating system ductwork was replaced. Air quality in the town hall also improved.

Riebschlaeger had selectboard chair Christine Heard sign a one-year extension for the PACE (property assessed clean energy) program. That program would allow people and businesses to borrow money for energy conservation, with the money considered a "betterment" – that is, the debt would be attached to the property, and would not follow the owner if he or she moves.

The loans are only available if the money that would be saved is more than that invested.

Riebschlaeger then said Wendell has \$102,000 available in rehab, of which "everyone agrees some can be used for conservation of resources." She said that solar panels on the south-facing roof of the office building would cost \$46,000.

The town still has \$32,000 available from the Green Communities grant, and from that, the town could use up to \$20,000 of rehab money to pay for the solar panels. Electricity generated would offset electricity used by the office building and one other building, possibly the senior center.

Putting solar panels on the roof would use up the remainder of Green Communities grant money, except for the amount that the energy committee is holding so it can give residents up to \$750 for home energy conservation projects. Not many Wendell residents have taken advantage of that money.

### Maintenance

In the fall, the selectboard separated the project to insulate the town hall floor into several pieces that could be open to individual bids. The expectation then was that the total would be more than would be allowed in one year's maintenance budget.

That expectation came true, and so the board authorized spending \$8,400 to excavate the crawlspace underneath the town hall in FY'18 and stop there. That decision came early in the fiscal year to spend that much of the maintenance budget, but late in the calendar year to begin the work.

Now the ground has thawed, and that work can happen. Because it consists mainly of hand digging, it is likely that the work will continue into FY'19. Money from this account may be carried forward, and will be. Completing the total insulation project is estimated to cost \$15,000, more than is left in the budget, so the project will be scheduled as money can be allocated.

Smaller projects – installing a flagpole with proper lighting at the office building; sealing holes in the town hall siding; replacing windows in the senior center; a possible replacement of the picnic table at the

office building – will, on the other hand, fit in this year's budget. That picnic table is so soft with rot that it falls apart when someone tries to lift it or move it.

### Going Legit

A Wendell resident who asked to avoid publicity came to the April 18 selectboard meeting to declare that he plans to get a "craft cannabis cultivator's license" from the state. The state cannabis control commission (CCC) created that category of growing license for small-scale growers to grow their plants outside.

The CCC gives priority to applications from people or communities that have been disproportionately harmed by the enforcement of marijuana prohibition. The resident said he felt he should qualify, having endured four unannounced warrantless raids, low-flying helicopters, time in jail, trespassing, and property damage in the name of enforcing the law. He said he has been pigeonholed by his arrests, and cannot get a regular job.

He said that according to the law, the product would be weighed at his property, then carried by a specially licensed driver to a clearinghouse where it would be weighed again and graded for quality. He would get paid after that. He already has the proper fencing in place, and game camera surveillance.

The CCC treats each application for a craft cannabis cultivator's license individually; one part of the application process is to inform and get permission from the local government. The resident said [police chief] "Ed Chase told me, 'good luck.'"

The board members did not object. The CCC does not consider marijuana edibles food – just as marijuana is not considered a plant – so making marijuana edibles need not involve the board of health.

### Locked In

As members of the broadband committees, both selectboard member Dan Keller and chair Christine Heard were at the joint meeting on April 17. At that meeting, Jim Crowley of Holyoke Gas & Electric Company, consulting for Wendell, urged caution, but in general concluded that working within the framework of WiredWest is likely to be less expensive and more efficient than establishing a single independent town-wide network.

Keller reviewed the report and found that, just like the original WiredWest proposal, the present one would have Wendell pay for the construction and then allow WiredWest to own it:

"The fiber must be provided at no cost to WiredWest and shall be made available to WW via an IRU (Indefeasible Right of Use) agreement between WiredWest and the member town. All legal fees, surveying, and engineering work required to create the IRU shall be funded by each town, and the IRU must be constructed in such a way that allows WW to the continued access and use of the fiber, even if a town chooses to withdraw from the WW coop at a later time..."

### NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Trash Hauling Deals

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, Jan Ameen, executive director of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, told the Erving selectboard that there were issues with the two bids for the town's next contract for curbside solid waste and recycles pickup.

Duseau Trucking of Hatfield, the town's current contractor, bid \$169,878 for two years of waste pickup and disposal, but the references they provided were for other services, not for curbside pickup.

Ameen noted that Duseau's current bid was for \$6,000 less than the 2013 bid, which Ameen questioned, saying it was "not right." In addition, she mentioned that town residents have complained about Duseau's service to date. Alternative Recycling Systems of West Hatfield bid \$221,160 for two years of service, but their bid was incomplete, because no references were provided.

The board decided not to award the contract to either company at this time. The current contract with Duseau ends in July.

The board approved a draft memorandum of understanding with Laurel Lake property owners for disposal of solid waste and recycles from lakeside homes. After the meeting, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith reported that he would send the MOU to the property owners for their review.

Formerly, the owners used the Department of Conservation and Recreation's dumpsters at Laurel Lake, but DCR decided to stop allowing disposal of household wastes. In July 2017, the town agreed to allow property owners to dispose of household solid waste and recycles in bins located at the town hall parking lot.

The MOU specifies that owners of twenty properties located at the lake will be provided with a key to the shed at the town hall parking lot, where the solid waste and recycling bins are located. The agreement expires June 30, 2020.

The board approved a proposal from engineering consultant Tighe & Bond to evaluate the options for repairing erosion at the Erving Center Cemetery for a fee of \$5,300. The board asked administrative coordinator Bryan Smith to begin discussions with vendors who might be able to repair historic limestone grave markers at the cemetery.

The board began initial discus-

sion of "third party wastewater agreement" regulating the operation of POTW #2 and payments for outside septage at the wastewater treatment plant. POTW #2 is owned by the town, but operated by ERSECO, an Erving Industries subsidiary. POTW #2 primarily treats wastes from Erving Paper Mill, but also treats wastes from some Erving residences.

Under an agreement signed in 2017, POTW #2 processes sludge from the town's POTW #1 (Millers Falls plant) for free, as long as the sludge meets certain standards.

On Monday, POTW #1 chief wastewater operator Peter Sanders said that ERSECO has rejected approximately five of the ten loads of sludge from the town, for testing out of specification. Sanders said that the sludge tested within the acceptable range before being sent, but tested higher when re-tested by ERSECO.

The board asked Smith to invite Erving Industries to the April 30 selectboard meeting to discuss the agreement.

The board decided to ask for input from the assessors before considering a structured tax agreement with the solar installation proposed for 151 Northfield Road by Solstage LLC of Jersey City, New Jersey.

The board sent a request to the finance committee to use \$10,000 from the reserve fund for a new water heater for the senior and community center and to replace the heat controller.

Smith reported that he had obtained all of the property owner easements for the Route 63 streetscape and pedestrian project. The board voted to allow easements on town-owned property within the project area.

The federally-funded project will install or repair sidewalks from Bridge Street in Millers Falls to Pearl Care Drive. Abutters were asked to sign temporary or permanent easement agreements. Work is expected to begin this fall.

Smith reported that, at a recent Route 2 task force meeting, the state Department of Transportation asked for town input about which projects to prioritize. Smith said that the Gill representatives asked for a focus on the French King Bridge safety barriers. The Erving board decided to send a letter to MassDOT supporting Gill's request, with safety improvements in Farley as a second priority.

Crowley's report continued: "Membership within the WW network stipulates that a town may not withdraw within five years after the town is operational, and a given town must provide notice one year in advance of withdrawing from the WW network."

"Depending on the satisfaction of provided services and proposed cost reductions, five years is a considerable time to be locked into a contract, and should be evaluated carefully, given that there is no operational history at this time, of WW performing the proposed functions."

### Other Business

The Friends of the Wendell

Meetinghouse have not returned any comments on the request for proposals (RFP) that Keller drafted with the intention of transferring the meetinghouse to the Friends. That RFP will be circulated generally, and the Friends are likely to be the only group that responds.

State representative Susannah Whippis filed legislation that would allow Wendell and other towns that voted to allow 16- and 17-year old people to vote in local elections. That bill was put aside for study, effectively killing it.

Town voter rolls are shared with state voter rolls, and so separating the voters qualified only for a local election from those allowed to vote generally is not a simple problem.

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SPORTS from page A1

back the lead 3-2 and added two insurance runs in the sixth for the 5-2 victory.

The Dodge brothers pitched for Turners, with Jake getting the win and Kyle the save.

Then on Monday, Powertown lost to the Mahar Senators 9-2. Turners held their own and trailed by just two runs, 3-1, going into the sixth. But errors and mental mistakes in that inning gave the game to the Senators, as they put six additional runs across the plate. Turners did get one Pride run in the seventh to make the final score 9-2.

James Robison, Hayden Patenaude, and Brian Murphy pitched for the Tribe, with Robison recording the loss. The loss gives Turners a 2-3 record, 0-0 in the Hampshire West Conference.

Girls Tennis

TFHS 4 – Sabis 1

TFHS 3 – Frontier 2

Mohawk 4 – TFHS 1

The Powertown lady netters went 2-1 this week, defeating Sabis and Frontier before dropping their match against Mohawk.

On Wednesday, April 18 they beat the Sabis Bull Dogs 4-1 in a home match. Carlie Kretchmar (6-4, 4-6, 6-4) won the first singles match

and Haleigh Greene (6-3, 4-6, 7-5) took the third. Amber Taylor (3-6, 3-6) lost in the #2 spot, while Rachel Tucker and Izzy Farrick (6-3, 6-4) won their first doubles match. The Bulls forfeited second doubles to give Blue the 4-1 victory.

Then on Friday, April 20, the team traveled to South Deerfield and defeated the Red Hawks, 3-2. It was still cold on Friday, and the wind made it feel like the dead of winter. While their supporters were dressed in winter coats, huddled under blankets or watching from idling vehicles, most of the ladies on the court wore leggings and sweatshirts. But a few brave souls played the entire game barelegged.

Turners won two of the singles matches, but dropped the first singles. “If you play a lefty, you might as well give away the match,” Coach Victor Gonzalez observed while watching the first singles match. Coach Vic was referring to southpaw Victoria Speth, who sports an amazing 18-2 record.

Kretchmar did her best, and won two games in each set, but the ball came over in unfamiliar angles and frequently hit the net before dribbling into her end.

Taylor, playing with a new confidence, won second singles in straight sets, 6-0, 6-1, while Greene took third by an identical score.

The Hawks forfeited the second doubles, giving Blue the victory, but meanwhile, the first doubles match went on and on. With the game already decided, the players in the first doubles match were just playing for pride.

And after two hours and 10 minutes of grueling action, Frontier won the third set tiebreaker, 15-13. In that final set, both duos had their chances to put it away. Turners was leading 9-8, a single point from victory but Red came back and turned the tables, forcing their own match point, 9-10. But Tucker and Farrick rallied and again were one point from the win, 11-10. However, Frontier stole the next point. The teams ping-ponged to a 13-13 knot but Red managed to get the last two points for the well-deserved two-hour-plus win.

Then on Monday, Blue hosted the Warriors of Mohawk. With Kretchmar out of the lineup, Coach Vic had

to shuffle around his players against the top team in the Tri-County North. Taylor had to step up to #1 singles, Greene moved up to the second spot, and Tucker abandoned her partner to play in third. In doubles action, Farrick teamed up with Steph Peterson, while Ceci Wood and Maria Labelle played in the second match.

Turners dropped all three singles matches in straight sets, but held their own on the doubles courts. Farrick and Peterson won their match 6-4, 6-4, while Wood and Labelle won their first set 6-4 but lost their next two in tiebreakers.

The loss gives the Blue Ladies a 3-3 record, which puts them smack dab in the middle of the TCN.

Softball

TFHS 19 – Athol 4

Greenfield 1 – TFHS 0

“They’re heading into their toughest week all season,” Mr. Bush told me. He was referring to Greenfield, Frontier, and Wachusett, two ranked teams in Western Mass and a Central Mass Powerhouse. Last week, MassLive ranked Turners as the best softball team in Western Massachusetts, and Greenfield as a close fourth. This week, Frontier powered into the Top 20 while Turners and Greenfield went head to head.

On Friday, Turners defeated Athol in yet another mercy-shortened win, and traveled to Greenfield on Tuesday to take on the Waves.

The Turners Falls softball team drove to Athol on April 20 to defeat the Red Raiders 19-4 in six innings. Powertown was ahead 14-0 going into the bottom of the fourth. According to the mercy rule, if they hold at least a 12-run margin through five innings, the game is called. But in the fifth, the Raiders put four runs across, forcing a sixth inning and requiring Blue to win by 15 to preserve the mercy.

Turners proceeded to put across five runs in the sixth then held Red scoreless, achieving the 19-4 mercy shortened victory.

Tuesday, Powertown crossed the river to play archrival Greenfield. The big news in the baseball world is that for the first time ever, there will be more strikeouts in a month than hits in the MLB. And that certainly held true in the Blue-Green softball game.

Turners’ pitchers struck out eight batters while allowing just two hits. And although Turners only suffered five strikeouts at the plate, three of those left runners stranded.

In the top of the first, Turners got a runner on base when Taylor Murphy drew a 1-out walk, but came up empty when Aly Murphy hit a high fly directly to the centerfielder. In the bottom of the first, Green hit a 1-out double followed by a RBI single, and that’s all she wrote. Greenfield held on to win the game 1-0.

Turners did get runners on base in three more innings but couldn’t put any runs across. In the fourth, they got two on. Aly Murphy hit a 2-out line drive, followed by a walk by Peyton Emery, but a K ended the threat.

In the sixth, again with 2 outs on the board, Olivia Whittier cracked a hit to the outfield followed by a single by Aly Murphy. An error advanced the runners to second and third base. Then Emery drew a walk to load the bases. But again, Blue came up empty after a 3-pitch strikeout.

Turners’ last chance came in the seventh. Lexi Lacey led off with a line drive base hit. The first out of the inning came via a strikeout, and the second came on a fielders’ choice, sending Lacey back to the

dugout and putting Eliza Johnson on first. Cassidhe Wozniak followed with a base hit, putting two men on base, but again, a strikeout ended the threat, the inning, and the game.

The loss gives Turners a record of 4-1, dropping them to fourth in the Franklin Conference and propelling them out of first place into fifth on MassLive’s Top 20. But as many of

the True Blue Faithful said as they were folding up their lawn chairs, “We’ll see them again.”

Indeed, we will see Greenfield again. But before that, Turners has many more teams to concentrate on.

Next Week: The season heats up. Hopefully.



The Turners Falls High School Logo/Nickname Task Force is now presenting the options for the community’s vote.

Voting opens April 26, and will conclude May 16. Each community member, parent/guardian, and alumnus can vote only once, and may choose only one of the three finalists:

- 1) THUNDER
- 2) CHARGERS
- 3) RAPTORS

Voting methods to register your choice include:

Google Poll URL: [vote.tfhslogo.com](https://www.google.com/polls/vote/tfhslogo.com)

Website: [www.facebook.com/tfhslogo/](https://www.facebook.com/tfhslogo/)

USPS: TFHS Logo/Nickname Submission, P.O. Box 514, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Email: [submissions@tfhslogo.com](mailto:submissions@tfhslogo.com)

Paper ballots: At senior centers and libraries in the Montague villages, Gill, and Erving.

Students in grades 5-12: Through schools in Turners Falls, Gill, and Erving.

Parents/families of current students will receive an email with the link to the poll.

NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

# Leverett Prepares For Annual Town Meeting

By ROB SKELTON

The Leverett selectboard met with moderator Larry Farber to review the annual town meeting warrant Tuesday in advance of Saturday’s conclave. Farber was asked to enforce a three-minute limit on pre-meeting announcements to conserve time for budgeting; reducing the lunch hour was discussed.

Board members were leery of “announcements” morphing into “presentations.” Signed up thus far are Leverett Alliance, Friends of Leverett Pond, and the fire chief John Ingram.

“I don’t want him to use this as a vehicle [to promote his department’s budgeting priorities], given we praised him two town meetings in a row,” Farber said, referring to Ingram, whose penchant for “bells and whistles” presentations and dedication to regalia is no secret.

The proposed budget for FY’19 hovers around \$6 million, \$83,000 (1.39%) over FY’18.

Bethany Seeger of the school committee briefed the board on her talking points to justify a one-time \$20,000 school expense to “offset revenue losses.”

Article 6 would spend \$38,000 on a fire chief’s vehicle, unprecedented, as historically Fire has inherited former Police vehicles.

Town hall chimney repairs and a library paint job are up for approval as Articles 8 and 9, respectively.

Article 10, which sets aside \$88,521 to complete sprinkler repair at the school, may have to be defended; selectman Tom Han-kinson, who has been studying the blueprints, agreed to do so.

The budget contains 2% em-

ployee cost-of-living allowances, and 2% increases in department expense accounts.

Danielle Barshak of the Conservation & Presentation Act committee will be present at the annual town meeting to defend its \$106,000 disbursement from the committee’s slush fund, earmarked for purposes such as open-space preservation, low-income housing, and historical maintenance. \$21,000 is slated to fund a land-use planner from the county government, to complete the town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan.

Article 27 allows the town to tax retail sales of marijuana products at 3%.

“I’ve learned a lot about the marijuana business,” attorney Farber noted, as he has been representing a couple of start-ups. “Send them our way!”

The potential pot farmers who recently sought an audience with the selectboard decided that Montague contained more of the required infrastructure touchstones than Leverett was able to provide.

Four seats are open on the board of health.

The post office, which is still on the market, has extended its lease for another five years. Neighbor Dean Alfange, who has proposed financing the purchase and donating it to a non-profit for tax advantages, is still on board to help keep an operating postal service in town center.

Officer Jill Bancroft, newly-appointed to a full time position, will be paid \$18.88 hourly, the rate unspecified when she was okayed two selectboard meetings back. Part-timers make \$17.78.

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## 16th Annual Anti-Racism Film Festival

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### Film Schedule:

1:30 p.m. - *Whose Streets?* (2017)  
Directed by Sabaah Folleyan and Damon Davis. 90 minutes. Discussion leader: Gloria Matlock.

4:15 p.m. - *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016)  
Directed by Raoul Peck. 93 minutes. Discussion leader: Momodou Sarr

6:30 p.m. - *Supper!* A nourishing meal of local foods cooked by our favorite chef Kirsten Levitt from the Stone Soup Café will be served. Vegan and gluten free options. Sliding Scale donation \$4-\$10. No one will be turned away.

7:30 p.m. - *Wind River* (2017) Directed by Taylor Sheridan. 107 minutes. Discussion leader: Strong Oak.

For more information call:  
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Molly Chambers at (413) 772-0003

## LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING Leverett Conservation Commission

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on May 7, 2018 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by Gregg Woodard for a **pre-existing dock at 36 Putney Road**. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at [masspublicnotices.org](http://masspublicnotices.org).

## LEGAL NOTICE of PUBLIC MEETING Leverett Conservation Commission

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on May 7, 2018 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Notice of Intent submitted by Salvini Associates for the Friends of Leverett Pond for **installation of an access road to the Leverett Pond dam**. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3. This notice is also available at [masspublicnotices.org](http://masspublicnotices.org).

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**GMRS**D from page A1 members, students, and alumni will have between now and May 16 to choose between the three options: the Thunder, the Raptors, and the Chargers.

Polling boxes will be placed at senior centers and libraries, and votes can be cast online at [vote.tfhslogo.com](http://vote.tfhslogo.com), by emailing [submissions@tfhslogo.com](mailto:submissions@tfhslogo.com), or by mail to TFHS Logo, PO Box 514, Turners Falls.

All residents of Gill, Montague, and Erving are encouraged to weigh in, and as a safeguard against ballot-stuffing, will be required to provide their names. Students grades 5 through 12 will be polled at school.

The taskforce will reconvene on May 17 to tabulate the votes and make its recommendation, and the school committee plans to meet on the afternoon of May 18 to formally approve the community’s decision.

After the name has been selected, the only part of the process remaining will be the graphic element. “We were given the task of being the logo/nickname taskforce,” said Martineau. “It’s really difficult for people to get behind just a name without an image, but in order to move forward – if we open up submissions for possible logos for three

candidates, we were going to extend this process even longer.”

“I would be interested in staying on to complete that process,” she later added.

“I really appreciate all of the work that you have put in, and the fact that we could step back and trust in you,” Montague school committee member Cassie Damkoehler told the taskforce representatives.

“I was very impressed with the way you guys worked together,” committee member Michael Langknecht said. “A very effective bunch, representing a lot of different views, and a lot of emotion and passion involved. But you plowed through it, you worked with each other, and you got done what you needed to get done.”

**Audit Report**

The committee also heard a report from two representatives of the firm Melanson Heath on the district’s FY’17 internal audit.

Revenue for that year came in \$167,144 under budget, driven by a reduction in planned Medicaid reimbursement following the revelation of overbilling as well as lower-than-expected Erving tuition. The district was able to rein in expenses

by \$157,794 as compared with the budget, leaving a negative net close of \$9,350.

“I wouldn’t say it’s a concern now, but as a trend going forward, it’s not feasible to have a deficit close over and over again,” audit supervisor John Jasiewicz told them.

“That Medicaid amount is certainly going to be significant going forward,” CPA Patricia Squillante added. “We audit a number of Western Mass regional school districts, and everybody has challenges – some more than others, but Western Mass is tough.

“You’re in a two-town district, that’s hard for assessments; transportation, you’re in a rural area, transportation costs are high. I’m not telling you anything you don’t know.”

The firm’s review identified one “significant deficiency” – not as serious as a material weakness, the auditors explained – concerning incomplete record-keeping around payroll transactions.

They also pointed out that the district’s “total assets” – \$25.5 million, including \$20.5 million in capital assets – were outweighed this year by its “total liabilities” on the books. These amounted to \$25.6 million, led by \$3.6 million in pension li-

ability and another \$18.2 million in a category known as “other post-employment benefits,” or OPEB.

Accountants are changing the standard way risks associated with the healthcare and life insurance cost of former employees are measured, and Jasiewicz warned the committee that next year, this will mean a drastically higher OPEB liability will appear on the books.

“You can expect that 18 million to turn into about 30 to 35 million,” he said, explaining that this is because the reality of OPEB is being “phase[d] in.”

Squillante explained that this is because government accountants no longer felt they should record OPEB “incrementally.”

“This just forces a recognition that that liability does exist,” she said. “It’s based on agreements that were made to current and former employees.”

**Other Business**

Acting Montague police chief Christopher Bonnett is reviewing a job description for a school police officer, according to Sullivan, and the school committee may be voting on the position at its next meeting.

The committee approved a

\$1,428.30 bill from Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas, the law firm handling the Medicaid overbilling case, for work performed between March 16 and April 13.

They reviewed administrative positions and salaries, and voted to extend business director Joanne Blier’s contract through June 2021. They also heard a presentation from Sullivan offering a self-assessment of his job performance.

Montague town meeting members will vote on that town’s school assessment at their annual town meeting on May 5, and though Gill’s town meeting will be split between two dates, the assessment should be voted during the first part on May 7.

The committee approved the May 21 school committee election warrant. Eight candidates, including two incumbents, are running for four available seats.

Chair Valeria “Timmie” Smith noted that there would only be one more regular meeting before the committee’s reorganization. “I’m proud of the way we work together,” she said. “It’s been an honor and a pleasure to go on this roller coaster with you people this year.”

The committee’s next meeting will be held May 8.



**BRICK HOUSE** from page A1 Mengwasser. “We’ve learned about patterns of oppression.”

In developing programs, the Brick House staff relies on research showing that kids with certain resources – “assets” – are better able to thrive than kids who lack them. Some assets, like adult support and a feeling of safety, must be provided to the kids. Others, like having a sense of purpose, and taking responsibility, come from the kids themselves.

The more assets a kid has, the better that child will do. Research conducted by the Search Institute of Minneapolis shows, for example, that nearly 60% of kids with over 30 assets get mostly A’s in school, but only 8% of kids with less than 10 manage the same achievement. Brick House programs, says Mengwasser, “help the youth develop those internal resources.”

“A lot of what we do is in the moment,” says Xinef Afriam. Afriam, a thoughtful 26-year-old, is the Brick House youth programs manager. He and an AmeriCorps member, Alida Proctor, work directly with the teens.

“We try to offer them opportunities based on their interest, encouraging the things that they’re really excited about,” says Afriam. “I’ve discovered, working here, that a lot of the stuff we do doesn’t happen in the programs. It happens interpersonally, throughout the day – maybe learning about what’s going on at home, or being there for them if they’re having a tough time. Most of

it happens in passing – while we’re playing a game, or if we’re having a free art time.

“We want to be that place where, if you need somewhere because home is hard, **we exist. But hey, while you’re here, start thinking about the future!** Think about the kind of person you’d like to grow into.”

**Loss of Funding**

One of the Brick House’s main sources of funding has been the Youth at Risk program of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. Last year, though, the Department dropped that line item, cutting the Brick House’s budget by \$25,000. “It was significant,” says Mengwasser.

That grant had funded someone who helped the kids to write resumes and search for jobs. Now that’s gone, and they are no longer able to do street outreach in Turners Falls for kids who are homeless, or unstably housed. The grant had also funded half – \$4,500 – their AmeriCorps fee. Now, Brick House staff scrabbles together funding for that.

Losing that funding “was a bit of a blow,” Mengwasser says. And it’s been a wake-up call.

**Art Exhibits**

The kids like art, and over the winter, they started holding art exhibits. “We just kind of talked about the idea over time, and Dana’s like: ‘yep, do it,’” says Alida Proctor. A high-energy, enthusiastic 20-year-old, she just picked a date: “I was like, ‘We’re do-

ing it on this day – guys, make some art!’” It went really well: the show raised about \$700.

At first, she says, she had to encourage the kids to make art. Then they got into it. “They went out on their own, they ended up finding wood scraps and painting them – large things, that people were paying 50 bucks for!”

The art show provided the sorts of experiences that the Brick House staff wants. “The youth saw the results of their work,” says Afriam, “in a language – money – that they recognized as validating: ‘I got some money for this artwork, and so someone else sees the value of what I’m doing.’”

When young people are recognized for taking initiative and contributing to their own community – whether it’s holding an art show, or cleaning up a spilled drink – then something, says Mengwasser, shifts inside of them: “They can see themselves as people who are capable, as people who are ‘excellent rock stars,’ who can do so much.”

**New Funding Goals**

After the Youth at Risk program was defunded, the Brick House received emergency support from the Community Foundation of Western Mass. With that, “we were able to squeak by” according to Mengwasser.

But they began making changes. Before, the Brick House’s volunteer board had handled many of the Center’s managerial tasks. Last year, they created the position of executive director.

“We wanted someone who [had enough time to] to focus on diversifying funding...We don’t want to be in a position where if one thing gets lost, it’s the end of the world for us,” says Mengwasser. They wanted to develop flexibility – “enough diversity in our funding sources that we can lose one thing and make some small shifts without losing a big piece of our programming.”

They’ve applied for more grants. And they’re trying to raise funds through other means as well.

“We’re trying to triple the support we receive through our Valley Gives Campaign this year; we’re hoping to raise between five and six thousand dollars,” says Mengwasser. “And the



*AmeriCorps member Alida Proctor jokes with Jovani.*

Brick House 5K – that’s an annual race that we’ve done for the past two years. I think we can double our participation there.” The 3.1 mile race will be held Saturday, June 16 on the bike path in Turners Falls.

Brick House programming is still suffering from that funding loss. “That really is a big motivator for us,” says Mengwasser. “We’re doing such amazing work. We know there are people who want to support it.”

**Tolerance – and Treats**

On a lazy April afternoon, Alida and Xinef are hanging out with Lorie Wood, 15, and Journey Smalls, 16, at a long table in the social room. Xinef, who the kids call “Xi” – pronounced like “Z” – is working at his laptop. Alida’s thumbing through a sheaf of papers. The girls are drawing.

“I come to the Brick House to hang out with my friends – mostly Journey – and to make art, like paintings,” says Lorie. Right now, she’s sketching a cartoon. Her work was in the last art show. “I made \$130,” she says, with satisfaction. Is she going to be an artist? “I’m going to try!”

Alida, across the table, smiles.

“I like to draw too,” chimes in Journey.

Both the girls come to the Brick House almost every day.

What have they learned here?

Lorie giggles. “Patience. How to tolerate things. Like people.”

How did she learn that?

She giggles again. “Through experience.”

“Yeah,” says Journey. Now she’s

laughing, too.

“Some of the people here are kind of rude and annoying. But as members of the Brick House community, you kind of got to get used to it, and just be a community,” explains Lorie. She looks thoughtful. “Xi is pretty helpful, with patience and stuff. He’s very patient. He’s very good with all these kids, too. And Alida’s pretty cool – she taught me a lot about negotiation.”

Now she and Journey start to laugh again.

“Bargaining skills!” chortles Lorie.

Alida and Xinef start to laugh, too.

“I’m in the negative for Brick Bucks, because I bought a speaker,” explains Lorie. “**And I have been** for about a week.” She casts a mischievous glance toward Alida. “But I keep negotiating Brick Bucks from other people. And candy from Alida.” She giggles again. “I have candy right now.” She grins, and waves a crinkly morsel overhead.

To learn more about the Brick House, or to sign up for the 5K race, visit them on the web at [brickhouse-community.org](http://brickhouse-community.org). Or, stop by during the center’s Valley Gives Day party on Tuesday, May 1 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. for tours of the building, refreshments, crafts, and a children’s dance performance at 5:30.

The teen center is open from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays, at 24 Third Street.



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*Youth let off some steam at the teen center’s punching bag.*

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Tree Plantings Scheduled for Villages as Board Approves Arbor Day Proclamation, Advancing Town Toward “Tree City” Status

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard has voted to endorse a proclamation supporting Arbor Day proposed by the town tree committee. According to David Detmold, the chair of the committee, the proclamation will help the town in its quest to be designated as a “Tree City USA.” This, in turn, will help Montague apply for grants from the state to fund more tree plantings.

The proclamation listed many virtues of trees, and urged “all citizens to celebrate Arbor Day to support efforts to protect and promote our trees and woodlands.” “And further,” it continued, “we urge all citizens to plant trees to gladden the heart and promote the well-being of this and future generations.”

Detmold sat at the front table of the selectboard room accompanied by tree committee member Michael Marcotrigiano. Marcotrigiano is a former professor of biological sciences at Smith College and the former director of the college’s Botanical Garden, and retired in 2017.

“We’re lucky to have him because his expert advice has been really helpful,” said Detmold.

The tree committee has organized neighborhood plantings this Arbor Day which, as a national holiday in the United States, falls on the last Friday of April. According to Detmold, there will be plantings on April 27 in Unity Park in Turners Falls (noon), Montague City (4 p.m.), Lake Pleasant (5 p.m.), and Millers Falls (6 p.m.), as well as in Montague Center at noon on Sunday, April 29.

Detmold said the plantings are being coordinated with various village organizations, and that the general public is urged to participate. “Just bring work gloves,” he said. “The holes will be dug, the trees will be there, and we’d love to have community participation.”

Detmold added that fiddle player David Kaynor will perform at the plantings “to make it a more joyous occasion.”

When asked who would be responsible for maintaining the trees, Detmold said that community groups will be encouraged to help the tree warden with this task. “We’re going to be handing out some resolutions that Michael has developed about the care of trees, both in your own yard and on the tree belt,” he said.

On Tuesday, the tree committee learned that the state Department of Conservation and Recreation had awarded Montague a \$6,400 grant to cover the planting of trees in Millers Falls.

According to Detmold, the committee plans to plant 32 trees in the village center, in coordination with the tree warden and the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association.

## Wastewater Plant Hiring

In other news, Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) superintendent Bob McDonald announced that the town had been awarded \$150,000 in grant funding by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to help fund

a 200 kW solar array at the water treatment plant.

The remainder of the funding for the project, which town administrator Steve Ellis estimated would be approximately \$371,000, would be funded by town borrowing.

Selectboard Chair Rich Kuklewicz urged McDonald and Ellis to look at a shorter borrowing period on the loan so the town could reap the net benefits of the project more quickly. The project is estimated to save \$33,823 in electricity costs annually, according to the DEP.

McDonald also reported on the process for hiring a new chief operator for the plant, as former operator Tim Little is moving on to work in Northfield. He said that the posting for the job ends this Friday.

McDonald reported that WPCF employee Tim Pura has now qualified for his Grade 5 lead mechanic’s license.

Finally, he made recommendations on six requests for sewer abatements for the second half of FY’18. They were all approved by the board.

## Other Business

The board approved a request by Steve Ellis to designate recently-retired building inspector David Jensen as an alternate building inspector. Ellis said that Montague would also retain the current alternate inspector, whose availability is limited because he lives in Danvers.

The board approved a request by Zaharia Nichita for a license to sell automobiles at the “rear” of 48 Randall Road. This business, called Zak’s Auto Sales and Repair, will be behind Mike Fuller’s auto body shop.

The approval will be pending the building inspector’s approval of the space and a surety bond required by the state.

The Montague public libraries made two requests for the use of public spaces. One space will be for a cello concert, book reading and “craft activity” at the Montague Center Common on the morning of July 24. The other public space is Peskoms Park, for a puppet show on the morning of August 3. Both requests were approved.

At Ellis’ request, the board delayed considering documents associated with the connection agreement between the solar developer Kearsarge Energy and the electric company Eversource. Ellis said that on returning from a week’s vacation he had found errors in a key document known as “Schedule Z.”

The board approved the warrant for the May 21 annual town election. The warrant includes a Proposition 2.5 debt exclusion request for a new town highway garage.

Ellis announced that the town has received notification that it has been approved as a federal “opportunity zone” candidate. “We don’t entirely understand how that tax break program will function,” he said, “but it may provide some advantage to redevelopment efforts in some portions of the community.”

The board then retired into executive sessions to discuss the Southworth Company’s bankruptcy proceedings and to consider the release of executive session minutes, many of which involved discussions regarding former police chief Charles “Chip” Dodge. The board voted to release minutes for March 5, 2018, but voted to “never release” minutes for October 23 and 30, 2017.

Minutes for June 27 and July 11, 2016 and December 18, 2017 were sent back to town counsel for further review.

The board’s next scheduled meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 30.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was April 24, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

### Accusations Fly At Airport

The Narragansett Indian Tribe has filed formal complaints with Governor Deval Patrick’s office and the Massachusetts Attorney General’s office over racial slurs made by Massachusetts Aeronautics Commission executive director Robert Welch and Turners Falls Municipal Airport commissioner Mark Fairbrother at a meeting.

Welch referred to “tree-hugging Indians” and Fairbrother referred to “rock-hugging Indians.” The controversy is holding up a \$5 million federal and state grant funded runway construction project.

Narragansett Tribal Historic Preservation Officer John Brown said he had talked to the airport manager Mike Sweeney, and that Sweeney had confirmed to him that “clearly Robert Welch made the comment.”

According Susan Quinones, an

official from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Transportation, and a report in the *Boston Globe*, Welch insists he used only the term “tree-huggers” in his comments about delays in progress at the airport, not “tree-hugging Indians.”

Sweeney claimed in a phone call that he knew who made the remark, in response to Welch, about “rock-hugging Indians,” but that it wasn’t Fairbrother. He wouldn’t say who it was.

An ancient ceremonial stone site at the Turners airport is scheduled for demolition, along with the entire hill beneath it, as a part of the 1,200-foot extension of the 3,000’ runway.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, federally recognized tribes are granted consultative status on construction projects on which federal dollars are being spent, where artifacts deemed by archeological experts to be of cultural significance to the tribes are determined to be located.

Another area at the airport, the so-called Hannemann site, with

12,000 year-old encampment levels, has been deemed eligible for listing on the National Registry of Historic Places, according to a report by Michael Nassaney for UMass Archaeological Services.

### Sonya Lamonakis Victorious In Heavyweight Bout

On April 18, At Madison Square Garden, Manhattan, Sonya Lamonakis of Turners Falls fought among boxing giants at the 81st Annual Golden Gloves Championship. Lamonakis, the two-time world female heavyweight champion defended her title against Shayna Hargraves of Brownsville, New York, a woman half her age.

Lamonakis was the aggressor throughout the four-round battle. She attacked as her opponent reluctantly gave ground. Lamonakis bulled her way forward, forcing the taller Hargraves onto the ropes multiple times.

Hargraves tagged her repeatedly, but Lamonakis was undeterred. She

took some punches and doled out a few of her own, rocking Hargraves with her formidable left hook.

“I never doubted it for a minute,” Sharon Lamonakis, Sonya’s mother, said after the fight. “Not for a minute.”

### Anctil Buys Saint Anne’s

John Anctil, the Lowell entrepreneur who for the past 18 months, through fire, flood, and sudden reversals of fortune has continued to express interest in purchasing the Strathmore Mill complex in Turners Falls, made his first big move in the Turners real estate market by Purchasing Saint Anne’s church and rectory on Sixth Street.

According to the Franklin County Registry of Deeds, Anctil bought the property for \$325,000. The seller was the Bishop of Springfield.

Anctil plans to rechristen the church as the Swift River Music Hall. He anticipates completing renovations by September to cost up to half a million dollars.



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For more information on both of these programs, come to a 1-hour long informational session at the Leverett Town Hall on **Wednesday, May 2 at 7 p.m.** Or contact Melanie Gaier at the Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority via email at [mgaier@fcrhrra.org](mailto:mgaier@fcrhrra.org) or by phone (413) 863-9781 x149. Applications are also available at [fcrhrra.org](http://fcrhrra.org) and [leverett.ma.us](http://leverett.ma.us). Please contact FCRHRA to arrange for free translation services.

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**BROADBAND** from page A1  
legal counsel had determined that the original article voted by town meeting was general enough “to cover whatever system we would come up with.”

The brief discussion ended without any proposed motion on the subject.

**Together or Apart**

Tuesday night’s meeting began with a discussion of a report by Holyoke Gas and Electric (HG&E) comparing two “business models” for operating the system after construction. One model has the system being administered by WiredWest in cooperation with as many as 21 other towns in the region. The other was an independent or “stand alone” operation by the town, as is currently the case in Leverett.

Focusing solely on cost comparisons, the HG&E study concluded that “over time, as operator of a regional cooperative network, WiredWest could offer a better value to all member towns, as opposed to operating their network independently.”

Selectboard member Dan Keller began by noting a number of issues raised about WiredWest by HG&E. For example, fiber built and paid for by an individual town must be maintained and made available to WiredWest even if the town withdraws from the network. Keller called this provision “unbalanced.”

He also noted that the report questioned the requirement that towns commit to the network for at least five years. WiredWest, not the

towns, would oversee billing and collection. “This raises concern that if there were a shortfall for operations, could collected fees be used in the short term to fund the gap?” he asked.

Lou Leelyn of the operations committee responded: “Every time we come up with another known, there are two more unknowns. We have to decide we are going to take a leap – we are going to have to take responsibility for the unknowns.”

Judd said that WiredWest “seems viable, but we still have a lot of questions. We have a vote on WiredWest. I actually trust them being able to work with our input.”

“What do you propose that is a viable alternative to WiredWest?” an audience member asked Keller, who responded that Wendell could operate the network on its own, or combine with a few neighboring towns, such as New Salem and Shutesbury.

**Prepping Poles**

Another topic that generated a good deal of discussion was the timeline for make-ready work on the poles: applications have been submitted to Eversource and National Grid, who own the poles, but should the work start when approvals begin to trickle in?

Some committee members strongly argued for beginning the pole reconstruction immediately, to get the project started more quickly, while others believed it would be more efficient to wait until all the applications have been returned.

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On this and other issues discussed at the meeting the committee took no votes.

Leelyn reported on discussions with Westfield Gas and Electric, which is designing and may construct the network, about design options. Wendell may need to commit to either a Gigabit Passive Optical Network (GPON) or a “more centralized network.” Leland said that GPON, which loops and splits the fiber network, creates “redundancies” in order to keep the network running when one connection is disabled.

She also said GPON might cost the town as much as \$30,000 more. Bill Ennen of the state Execu-

tive Office of Housing and Economic Development reported on an upcoming disbursement of grant funds awarded to Wendell. He said that the next disbursement could be made when the make-ready applications begin to come back from the electric companies.

The sentiment among committee members was that the town should hold off on a public broadband hearing until more information is available on the design and cost of the final project.

The next joint meeting of the broadband committees and selectboard meeting will be held Tuesday, May 8.



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# Our Industrial Heritage Enters a Cyber World

By MIKE JACKSON

**GREENFIELD** – Until recently, the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, headquartered in a small wooden building on the former Green River Mill site off Mead Street, was essentially a tool museum. Artifacts from the region's manufacturing heyday – from cotton and paper, to cutlery and precision hand tools, to its apex as the nation's tap-and-die powerhouse – have been gathered together, catalogued and kept clean as a labor of love by a small group of volunteers.

Visitors can view them during Saturday afternoons in the warmer months, or by appointment. The museum, operated as a non-profit, includes a demonstration workshop, and hosts school field trips.

But those volunteers have been busy, and the museum has quietly begun to take a new technological leap of its own.

I met last week with Chris Claw-



Weavers in Colrain's Griswold cotton mills, circa 1880s. Image from the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage's new online database.

son, the museum's digital curator, and historian Ed Gregory to hear about the official launch of the "MOIH Database" project, an ambitious plan to assemble an uncured collection-of-collections pertaining to Franklin County's industrial revolutions, browsable by anyone with an Internet connection.

"History was an intact thing that, after it happened, got broken up into many pieces," Clawson told me. "Some were lost, some got scattered. The idea of the database is to collect all of these pieces, from anywhere, and put them into one collection where they can be studied and examined – so new discoveries can be made out of it, and new stories can be told."

The museum's website at [industrialhistory.org](http://industrialhistory.org) already hosts a number of gems: a painstakingly restored and narrated film taken in 1943 at the Millers Falls Tool Company; aerial high-resolution photographs the viewer can zoom in on; maps and presentations and charts and company histories.

But the MOIH Database is a much more ambitious undertaking. It launches this spring with three feature collections: 238 high-

resolution images from Greenfield Tap & Die; another 328 from the Griswold/Kendall textile mills in Colrain; and last but not least, 414 pages of letters written in the hand of John Keith, owner of Keith Paper Company in Turners Falls, between 1875 and his death in 1886.

## From the Pen of a Paper Magnate

The Keith letters will be of special interest to anyone interested in the early history of Turners Falls, or in the sprawling complex he had built for the manufacture of specialty paper here, now abandoned, publicly owned, and known as the Strathmore.

The letters come from an onion-skin book that Keith used to record his outgoing correspondence. He would lay the thin pages on top of the fresh letters, moistening them with a sponge to draw up a tracing of the ink. When this one-of-a-kind artifact went up for auction last fall, it attracted much local interest.

"I was bidding, because I wanted to get it into my personal collection," said Ed Gregory, who serves as chair of Montague's historical commission, "and I was outbid at the last few

see **HERITAGE** page B5

# My Arbor Day Resolutions

By MICHAEL MARCOTRIGIANO

*A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in.*

– Greek Proverb

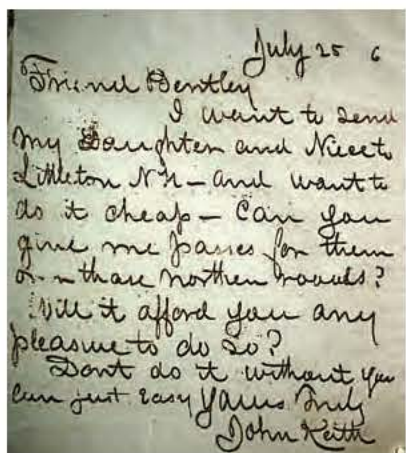
**MONTAGUE** – Trees play an important role in the life of a town. They remove particulates from the air and shade sidewalks and buildings, which reduces the heat island effect caused by concrete, brick, and asphalt. Trees provide habitat for animals. The mere presence of trees has been shown to reduce human stress. In addition, trees increase property values.

The list of benefits goes on and

on. Therefore, I have decided to make some Arbor Day resolutions to keep my garden trees and the tree on the tree belt outside my house happy and healthy; a scientific reason for each pledge is provided.

A brief biology lesson will help you know how trees work. First, it is much easier to kill a tree than to grow one. While treetops can break in storms (often an issue of choosing a weak-wooded species or of improper structural pruning), most trees die because their roots are failing. Tree roots can extend well beyond the diameter of the crown of the tree, so we often underestimate our impact when we engage in certain activities near a tree.

see **ARBOR DAY** page B4



An 1876 letter from Turners Falls paper mill owner John Keith to the superintendent of the New London Northern Railroad: "Friend Bentley, I want to send my daughter and niece to Littleton NH – and want to do it cheap – Can you give me passes for them on those northern roads? Will it afford you any pleasure to do so? Don't do it without you [??] just easy. Yours Truly, John Keith."



## WEST ALONG THE RIVER: BIG TWO-HEARTED RIVER

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – Suddenly it's spring, on an April Sunday morning. It's actually snowless. The sun slants early through the yard in a pure Sunday kind of way. The line blurs between the prose of the slowly awakening woodland, and the poetry of the racing river just yonder on the other side of the trees.

A faint haze of a rose wash beyond the edge of the garden signals the maples are stirring.

To confirm the turning of the season, I move my writer's chair from the nook of an ell near the back porch roof that shelters the dwindling woodpile. All winter long that south-facing nook kept me warm, out of snow squalls, and snug, up against rows of oak, maple, hickory and birch.

But now, the north wind blows no longer, and out on the broad deck, I can savor a cup of sunshine and birdsong.

For some reason, a short story

from long ago rises up in memory. Hemingway would have been smugly pleased that I thought of him, but probably critical of my writing, unless I sought what he sought. But I'm just guessing.

The way he would describe it: It's a clean and good morning. I am happy. Pleased with my morning. I stood up. I went upstairs. There is a bookcase up there, in the north bedroom, closed all winter. I took his collected short stories down, etc.

I remembered Hemingway had written a good story about a river, *The Big Two-Hearted River*, that I had read long ago, when I was fourteen. That sparse and pure prose would fit a morning like this, where the landscape retains its winter simplicity for the time being, maybe not for long.

Today, my river is racing by, like the river in Hem's story. Cold sparkling riffles and rapids are all noisy and light-hearted as streams are in the spring.

*Nick had looked into the stream and seen trout. They were very satisfactory...his heart tightened as the trout moved. He felt all the old*

see **WEST ALONG** page B4



Winslow Homer, "The Blue Boat" (1892)



A healthy thornless honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis*, or "Shademaster") shades parked cars and pavement on a city street.

## Trees of Montague: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

**Thursday, 7/11/13**

2 p.m. A gutted deer was reported hanging from a tree in Millers Falls. Referred to environmental officers.

**Thursday, 8/8/13**

11 a.m. Raccoon reported eating a peach under a peach tree on Turners Falls Road. Raccoon did not appear to be ill, and nearby chickens were unfazed by its presence.

**Monday, 9/23/13**

12:48 p.m. Subject seen cutting trees on town property. DPW advised.

**Wednesday, 6/18/14**

8:41 a.m. FRTA reports that the window of one of their buses was damaged by falling debris at the Avenue A/Third Street bus stop; debris was from tree work being performed by a company that is contracted out by DPW. No passengers on bus at time of incident. DPW and officer will be following up.  
3:34 p.m. Caller stated that upon returning home from work today, he found his car, which was parked on Fifth Street, covered with wood chips, dust, and shavings from tree work done next to the car. Officer observed damage to vehicle. DPW stated that work was being done by an outside contractor and that this was the second complaint about them today.

**Tuesday, 7/1/14**

11:21 p.m. Caller reporting vehicle driving through woods and under the bridge on Newton Street into Erving. Caller can hear trees and brush breaking as vehicle drives. Unable to locate.

**Tuesday, 9/2/14**

7:02 p.m. Model airplane crashed into a tree at airport, causing the tree to catch on fire. No buildings endangered, but more trees nearby. TFFD notified and en route. Fire extinguished.

**Friday, 10/17/14**

5:44 p.m. Caller reports that some teenagers are cutting down brush and trees with a machete at the end of an alleyway on Third Street. Officer who talked with one of the kids reports that it was just twigs and that they were going to stop.

**Saturday, 12/13/14**

11:43 a.m. Caller reports that there is a deer sitting under a tree in her backyard. She thinks it may be injured; it hasn't moved much.

**Monday, 1/5/15**

9:48 a.m. Request for officer assistance with dispute over branches fallen from neighbor's tree into reporting party's yard.

**Thursday, 3/5/15**

5:13 p.m. Caller reports damage to his yard caused by a vehicle en route to the manhole on Millers Falls Road. Caller states that it looks like a giant plow truck just drove through his

see **TREES** page B2



# Pet of the Week

They say that only the bravest among us would dare that great leap to the cold and black unknown, slip those surly bonds of the kennel to venture towards the eternally unfulfilled promise of the Milky Way.

Benjamin (FIV+) is just such a visionary: a cat of great ambition, drawn to outer space by his very nature, or perhaps by a carelessly aimed laser pointer.

He is training for his next mission at the Greater Franklin County Feline Mission Control and Operations Center and seeking permanent shelter as part of the GFCMCO's housing program.

Be a hero for science and welcome Benjamin into your home today! Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



“BENJAMIN”

## Senior Center Activities APRIL 30 TO MAY 4

**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 4/30:**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Tuesday 5/1:**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Jean  
12:45 p.m. COA Meeting  
**Wednesday 5/2:**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 5/3:**  
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga  
10:30 a.m.: Brown Bag  
10:30 a.m. SNAP applications  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
**Friday 5/4:**  
12 noon Pizza Party  
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

**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.

**ERVING**  
Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals.  
Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.  
For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.  
Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.  
**Monday 4/30: No lunch served**  
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones  
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi  
**Tuesday 5/1:**  
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
**Wednesday 5/2:**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
Noon Bingo & Snacks  
**Thursday 5/3:**  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick Up  
**Friday 5/4:**  
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
11:15 Music, Movement, Mayhem!

**TREES from page B1**  
yard and broke a couple of his trees. Investigated.  
**Monday, 3/9/15**  
10:01 a.m. Caller reports two males in neon colored shirts soliciting for tree work. Officer advises that this was Jim’s Tree Service. Gone on arrival.  
**Saturday, 4/4/15**  
5:02 p.m. Caller advises that some “crazy people” are attempting to cut down his landlord’s apple tree. Responding officer reports that people were attempting to prune/trim the tree and did not appear to have caused any damage to the tree.  
**Monday, 4/13/15**  
2:50 p.m. Report of suspicious person walking around Unity Park. Male, unknown race, wearing jeans but no shirt, carrying a compound bow; may have climbed a tree at one point.  
**Sunday, 5/10/15**  
5:36 p.m. Second call regarding a rabid raccoon who had climbed a tree earlier. Animal is now back and on the porch; resident cannot get into house.  
**Tuesday, 6/16/15**  
8:08 a.m. Inquiry about options to make intersection at Chestnut and Unity streets safer; bushes and trees on private property limit visibility.  
**Thursday, 7/16/15**  
2:03 p.m. Caller reports that he was cutting trees for Asplundh and was threatened by a resident on Taylor Hill Road; a female reportedly came out of the house and accused him of cutting down cedar trees. Caller tried to assure female that he was not cutting any cedar trees, but she proceeded to threaten to get a gun if he did not stop cutting trees and leave the area. Officers spoke with female, who does not own a firearm, and advised her that the trees that Asplundh was cutting down were the proper trees.  
**Thursday, 9/3/15**  
5:14 p.m. Officers out with a bald eagle in the airport curve area of Millers Falls Road, checking to see if bird is injured. Eagle was dining on the side of the road, causing some traffic issues. Eagle has flown into a nearby tree and its dinner is being relocated off the roadway. Parties on scene taking photos were asked to move along to avoid obstructing traffic.  
**Wednesday, 9/9/15**  
11:24 a.m. 911 caller advises no emergency, called to advise that two goats wandered into her yard. Caller tied goats to a tree and left them water; advises that if the owner calls, they can come on the property to retrieve the goats.  
**Wednesday, 10/5/15**  
7:31 p.m. 911 caller reports that a house that she drives by with her granddaughter on the way to/from school has its front yard decorated like a graveyard for Halloween with people hanging from a tree.  
**Tuesday, 11/3/15**  
11 p.m. Caller reporting some sort of green laser light aimed toward traffic on Montague City Road in the area of Greenfield Road. Caller states that it is bright enough to temporarily blind vision of oncoming motorists as it did to her and her husband. Responding officer reports light not pointed toward road; it is pointed up in a tree.  
**Saturday, 12/12/15**  
9:46 a.m. Caller reports



## Millers River Plein-Air Paint-In and Show

**SOUTH ROYALSTON** – To increase appreciation of the Millers River’s scenic beauty and stimulate artistic growth, the Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) and the Athol Public Library are pleased to co-sponsor the second annual Millers River Plein-Air Paint-In and Show.

A free outdoor painting/drawing workshop will be held Saturday, May 5 in South Royalston from 9 a.m. to noon with instructor Tom Kellner, near the Birch Hill Dam picnic area off Route 68.

Check with Tom for details, and if you need materials, at [Tomkellner12@gmail.com](mailto:Tomkellner12@gmail.com).

Members of the public are invited to submit plein-air (outdoor) works for a Show that will run at the Athol Public Library during June. Submissions must be landscape-related drawings or paintings of some aspect of the Millers River. For submission details, contact the instructor or view the MRWC website’s homepage at [millerswatershed.org](http://millerswatershed.org).

## Protect Yourself from Medicare Fraud

**TURNERS FALLS** – Did you know that \$60 to \$90 billion of our tax dollars are lost to Medicare fraud each year?

We all can have an active role in protecting Medicare for ourselves and future generations. Come meet a representative of the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol (MA SMP) Program on **Tuesday, May 8, at 1 p.m.** at the Gill-Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, and participate in a discussion on how to prevent, detect, report healthcare errors, fraud and abuse.

This free, informative workshop will provide you with the tools to become a more informed and engaged health care consumer.

For more information and to reserve your seat, contact Roberta Potter, the director of the Montague Senior Center, at (413) 863-4500 or at [COA@Montague-MA.gov](mailto:COA@Montague-MA.gov).

If you cannot attend this workshop but have questions about your healthcare bills, Medicare Summary Notices, or other health insurance explanation of benefits statements, please call the MA SMP Program office at (800) 892-0890.

This event is jointly sponsored by the Montague and Gill Councils on Aging and the Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program. The Massachusetts Senior Medicare Patrol Program is funded in part by grant number 90-MP 0226-03-01 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Community Living, Washington, DC 20201.

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# May 5: “Clean Sweep” Day

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding its Spring “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to noon. The three drop-off sites are: the Buckland Recreation Facility at 66 Ashfield Road (Rt. 112 South), the Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and the Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane.

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

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

The list of “yes” items was reduced last fall. Acceptable items: 5-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash barrels, recycling bins, laundry baskets, storage totes, and milk crates.

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

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

torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers can be recycled into insulation. Acceptable items include *clean and dry* clothing, shoes, bras, purses; plus curtains, pillows, comforters, sheets, towels and stuffed animals in any condition (except moldy or wet). Books can be in any condition except moldy or wet, and can be hardcover or paperback.

No encyclopedias.

Electronics are accepted, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their town’s transfer station, or at Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call your local store for details. Various charities and non-profits accept working electronics, including Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

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

Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register for the collection. However, there are charges for most items. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. A complete list of prices for most common items is at [www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklin-countywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html), and has been provided to participating town halls, town transfer stations, and the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield.

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

# The 61st Annual Kiwanis Auction

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Kiwanis International, according to its website, was founded in 1915 as the “Supreme Lodge Benevolent Order of Brothers” by a group of businessmen in Detroit. The name was changed to Kiwanis “a year later.”

The Greenfield Kiwanis Club was chartered in 1922 on Leyden Road in Greenfield, and they have been supporting community and youth projects in the area ever since. In the last few years, they have worked with the Franklin County Community Meals Program, and give three meals per year at the Second Congregational Church, feeding as many as eighty people at each meal.

Besides being in Greenfield, there are a couple of Kiwanis clubs in Shelburne Falls, a couple in Bernardston, and two in Northfield. (See [www.greenfieldkiwanis.org](http://www.greenfieldkiwanis.org) for more information.)

On May 2 and 3, the Kiwanis will hold their annual auction at the Greenfield Community TV station, and it will also be broadcast on the radio – namely Bear Country (95.3 FM) and WHAI (98.3 FM) of Greenfield will broadcast the event.

Bryan Smith has been president of the club in Greenfield for two years. I was told by Bryan that “most

years, we raise around \$17,000 to \$18,000” from this event.

“We have many local businesses that have donated things,” Bryan said. “Local salons, local camps, local nurseries. We have local artists, local potters, and local jewelry makers and wood workers.” They also have, in past auctions, auctioned off “gift certificates to local restaurants and food markets.”

Beside various items from local businesses, artists, potters, and crafts people, at 9:15 p.m. on the first day of it, they are auctioning off “four tickets to any show at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls.” The value will depend on the show, but is about \$80 to \$100.

This had quite a few volunteers for the event. “About 20 volunteers helped with the auction,” Bryan told me.

I have also managed to learn a bit more about the radio stations broadcasting the event from Dan Guin, the general manager at both stations for 17 years. He said, “We broadcast the auction live on both stations, both nights.” He believes this has been done for 50 years.

Due to the good results they are getting, and how long this has been going on, when it comes to what the Kiwanis club is getting out of this auction, it would seem they have been doing all of the right moves.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Bridge Hole; Shady People; Shots Fired; Skunk Trap; Surveillance Disputes; Brush Fire; Disdain For Barrier; Drugs

Monday, 4/16

8:23 a.m. Caller from Park Street states that she just arrived home from work and has discovered that someone had entered her home; now, some items and money are missing. Report taken.

8:43 a.m. Caller from Federal Street states that his neighbor is continuously harassing him by filming him, calling the police on him for moving vehicles around his property, etc.

9:12 a.m. 911 caller states that there have been two separate accidents at Greenfield Road and Sherman Drive in the last few minutes. One involved a tow truck and one involved a passenger car. Second 911 caller reporting that a tow truck took out a sign and hit a concrete barrier. Report taken.

9:59 a.m. 911 caller reporting a very loud, aggressive verbal argument between a male and female on Second Street. Officer determined there were two separate disturbances occurring, neither physical. Peace restored.

10:57 a.m. 911 caller from G Street reporting that his truck was almost hit by a silver sports car with a black top that was speeding around the Patch. Vehicle has no plates on it. Officer spoke to owner of vehicle, who stated he was not driving it around; he had just moved it.

5:18 p.m. Caller from Rite Aid reporting a homeless man who has been in the store since before 1 p.m. Customers have complained about his odor, and staff believe that he is intoxicated. Courtesy transport provided.

Tuesday, 4/17

7:34 a.m. Caller states that a male is standing on the side of the road near Subway on Avenue A waving down cars and causing a traffic hazard. Officer checked area including both sides of bridge; unable to locate.

9:41 a.m. Caller reporting a fairly large hole on the northbound lane of the General Pierce Bridge, near the sidewalk. Rebar can be seen in the hole. MassHighway contacted; they will check it out.

10:13 a.m. Officer advising strong odor of diesel coming from a drainage pipe under the #1 power plant, along with a film of some sort coming out and into the river. Officer contacted FirstLight, who advised that it would be a town DPW issue. Officer contacted DPW supervisor, who is now headed down to meet him at the power plant. DPW determined cause of problem

and will work on it.

1:48 p.m. Party into station to report that last night a couple of guys came to his home to meet with his son about buying a vehicle from him. Party just wanted it on record in case one of these guys came back at night to steal the car or something. No threat was made to do such a thing, but the party felt that they were shady people.

Wednesday, 4/18

9:41 a.m. Caller reporting man who is waving at vehicles stopped at the traffic light at Third Street and Avenue A. Caller also reports that this man came into her place of employment and asked for money. Officer off with party at Avenue A and Second Street. Party was looking for money for a ride to Greenfield. Officer escorted party back to his residence.

11:45 a.m. Caller reporting panhandler following people in the Food City parking lot. Officer spoke with subject about complaint. Subject reported he was going to return home.

5:04 p.m. [redacted] arrested on a default warrant.

6:23 p.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle behind train yard in Millers Falls. Occupant was on laptop doing some office work. No problems.

Thursday, 4/19

9:05 a.m. Two parties calling for same verbal altercation. Female caller is a former tenant of the male caller and was at the building with her dog visiting a friend. Male caller was upset that the female had her dog with her. At time of call, parties had returned to their own residences. Each party claimed that the other threatened them with physical harm. Advised of options.

2:10 p.m. Caller complaining that neighbor trapped a skunk in a Havahart trap but has yet to release it. Caller also inquiring with whom to lodge a complaint about a cluttered/messy yard; concerned that con-

dition of yard will attract vermin and bugs this summer. Advised caller that skunk complaint would be referred to animal control officer; referred caller to Board of Health for yard complaint. Caller called back advising she no longer needs to speak with the ACO; homeowner’s son just came out to remove the trap and relocate the skunk.

3:47 p.m. Caller reports that he locked his keys in his truck at the high school out by the locker room doors. Services rendered.

4:20 p.m. Caller reports that a male party just locked his keys in his truck at Scotty’s. Services rendered.

8:09 p.m. K9 unit assisting with separate calls in Erving and Deerfield. In both instances, officer advises that Artie alerted to a positive location of a narcotic that he is trained and certified to detect.

9:34 p.m. Caller from Old Stage Road reporting that she was woken up by people walking in the road with flashlights, screaming and fighting. Unable to locate.

Friday, 4/20

2:08 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road requesting to speak with officer re: several items that were stolen from his residence. Items included several patio chairs, a propane tank, and a zero gravity chair. Advised of options.

2:16 p.m. Caller expressing concern about motorist safety at School Street and Court Square; vehicles have to pull out into the intersection to see if traffic is coming. Referred to officer and to DPW.

Saturday, 4/21

1:15 a.m. [redacted] was arrested on a default warrant and also charged with possession of a Class A drug and resisting arrest.

7:56 a.m. Caller from G Street complaining of neighbor looking into her home with security cameras. Advised of options.

1:03 p.m. Caller from G

Street reporting that his neighbor has caused damage to his security camera; claims that party ripped down a board associated with the cameras with a hammer. Ongoing dispute between neighbors. Advised of options.

5:52 p.m. Complaint of loudly barking German Shepherd on Grove Street. Officer parked in area for several minutes and heard no dog barking.

Sunday, 4/22

1:43 a.m. While investigating burglar alarm at Millers Falls Rod & Gun, officer took report of shots fired on Turners Falls Road, possibly in area of Roberto’s, and then a vehicle speeding away. Unable to locate.

12:03 p.m. 911 caller reporting kitchen stove fire on Canal Street. FD and PD responding; FD advising under control.

12:08 p.m. Report of brush fire on Turners Falls Road. MCFD and TFFD responding. Fire extinguished.

1:39 p.m. Officer advises that vehicle operator disregarded barrier on Maple Street and drove around it, interfering with the race. Female became very rude and condescending when officer tried to advise her as to what she had done.

1:44 p.m. Report of dog barking on Grove Street for over 40 minutes. Officer parked in area for several minutes and spoke to a neighbor; no barking heard.

5:20 p.m. [redacted] was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor (second offense) and operating to endanger.

9:31 p.m. Report of tractor trailer parked on Canal Street that has been running since 4 p.m. Officer advises that refrigeration unit is running and no one is with tractor at this time. Officer left note on tractor asking operator to call MPD. Caller advises that truck is normally moved each morning at 3 a.m.

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WEST ALONG from page B1

feeling. He turned and looked down the stream. It stretched away, pebbly-bottomed with shallows and big boulders...

But to tell the truth, after scanning his story that morning, it became clear to me that whatever inspired me as a boy in the 1960s was probably not the actual storyline. Seen from today, he seemed to be practicing, honing his style, documenting a detailed description of a fishing trip taken by some likely tragic figure with something in his past that probably sent him on a solitary trip to a lost river. I was interested in something else.

Nick was happy...He had not been unhappy all day. This was different though. Now things were done. It had been a hard trip. He was very tired. That was done. He had made his camp. He was settled. Nothing could touch him. It was a good place to camp. He was there in a good place. Now he was hungry...

Maybe it was the simplicity of the phrasing that worked for me way back then. But this morning, it didn't have the same effect. More likely what had stuck with me was the tight sparse description of the atmosphere, the detail, and the message of rivers.

By stretching literary comparison, out of the blue Marcel Proust comes to mind, of all people.

The macho, fist-fighting, hard-drinking, breast-beating Hemingway would possibly have found Marcel way too effete. Not true and direct and clean enough.

Young Marcel, one morning, when he was feeling particularly bored and burdened by life's vicissitudes, chanced to negligently bring a small cake, a *madeleine*, to his lips, and was suddenly sent back to his youth, when he had often tasted the devoutly plump and unassuming cakes with an infusion of *tilleul* in the room of his elderly



Aunt Léonie at Combray.

However, seeking that same thrill of remembrance of that lost time, the second taste of the *madeleine* provided only a diminished sensation of memory that faded even more by the third. The startling memory became less and less vivid.

That's kind of what happened to me, if I can stretch the comparison. Bear with me.

Retrieving Hemingway's story of the river, the vivid recollections that the story at first triggered in me upon reading the first few pages, faded rather quickly, but only to open the door on memories of other rivers and other times in my life. I too found myself traveling back in time.

The Connecticut, the great long river that has threaded through the lives of so many of the residents of these parts, was only the first of the many entwined in my life. I lived on its banks through my formative years. I've written many, many stories about time spent there.

Other rivers and flowing water drew me away from this Valley and back again.

I roamed and romanced on the banks of the Seine, watched spring-time swallows migrating up from Africa along the Loire, daydreamed on a high cliff above the muddy

Rhône, spent time in the shade of palms along an unnamed *oued* in the Middle Atlas Mountains, fished for trout in Four-Mile Brook and Lyons Brook with my son, after finally settling for the last 40 years on the banks of my ancestral river, the *paguag*, or the Millers to you.

Memories like that flare up, then fade.

This particular remembrance ends at noontime on this true spring day. I finished the short story, and thought about how the sun feels. It feels good.

I can see the river from here. It sparkles and ripples, singing a different song. Water flows over rounded pebbles of quartz, yellow or white, over black basalt stones. It rushes white against and around larger boulders.

A white-throated sparrow sings from the bare lilac at the edge of the lawn. Like the spring-flowing river, his song is pure, clear, simple, cleanly whistled, a number of notes and syllables, liquid.

Not plaintive, just simple and optimistic, with a hint of loneliness and yearning, but it could only be meant to welcome at long last the arrival of the spring time light.



ARBOR DAY from page B1

Tree roots provide the top of the tree with water and nutrients taken from the soil. Roots need oxygen to live and they get that from atmospheric oxygen penetrating the soil spaces. Most of the roots that absorb moisture and nutrients are located in the top 12 inches of soil.

The thicker, deeper roots act more as anchors to keep the tree standing tall. If a tree does not have enough healthy fine roots, the top will start to decline as a defense mechanism to keep the rest of the tree alive. Once the top begins to decline, a tree becomes more dangerous and it is more susceptible to diseases and insects.

Therefore, I promise:

I will not regrade over tree roots.

Adding lots of soil on top of tree roots will decrease the oxygen that can get to the fine roots and the tree will start to die. I have seen trees slowly decline and die after someone raised the grade in their yard by only six inches.

I will not compact the soil around my tree.

I will not park, drive over, or lay down construction equipment or materials anywhere under my tree as this will compact the soil permanently and cause less oxygen to get to the tree roots. Interestingly, the ideal soil for root growth is actu-

ally 50% empty (or "pore") space for air and water and, unless you have very sandy soil, compaction will cause pore space values much lower than this.

I will not dump chemicals on soil near my tree.

Concentrated fertilizers, paint thinners, oils, concentrated herbicides and a host of other chemicals are toxic to tree roots. De-icing salts are a major cause of tree decline, so avoid the over-application of salt.

I will not trench near a tree and cut roots.

Even with best intentions (e.g. to install an irrigation line) cutting all but some fine roots could destabilize a tree and remove enough roots to disrupt tree function. There are ways to avoid this to achieve excavation needs without doing extensive root damage, but it is too long of a discussion for this article.

I will not pave over roots.

Adding asphalt, concrete, or any other impermeable material over a tree's root system will cause root suffocation. You may be saying, "then how can any street tree live?" Simple answer: if a tree pit is large enough and the tree planted is small enough, it will not grow roots that extend too far under paving if they do not have enough oxygen. This confines the roots to a smaller than

normal area so only some tree species can tolerate street life.

I will not apply weed killers too close to my tree.

While certain contact herbicides (e.g. Roundup®) do not harm a tree, if they do not contact its leaves, others (e.g. broad-leaf weed killers used for lawns) do not distinguish between weeds or trees – the trees are just bigger weeds. So growing a lawn right up to a tree (rather than laying down a mulch ring) and applying lawn weed killers can damage a tree, especially if you over-apply the chemical.

I will be very careful with a weed whacker or a lawn mower.

The most important part of a tree is just under the bark. This is the live part of the tree trunk, which is not technically wood. It provides the cells for new growth each year (the familiar growth rings are left behind each season). If you weed whack a trunk or drive a vehicle into it you can permanently damage the area under the bark, essentially cutting the circulatory system that connects the roots with the treetop.

I will not "volcano mulch."

Mulching around a tree with fine bark chips or shredded bark is a good thing as it prevents water loss and the growth of weeds, but it is harmful when done improperly. A

16th Annual Anti-Racism Film Festival

GREENFIELD – Next Saturday, May 6, the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church will host its 16th annual Anti-Racism Film Festival.

Organizers write: "We are proud to present this film festival at a time when conflict around race, religion and class threaten to divide us. We offer this Festival in hopes of creating greater tolerance and collaboration as we build a community that is strong, healthy and respectful of difference."

Three films will be screened, each followed by a facilitated discussion. Admission is free, and free child care is available.

For more information, call All Souls UU Church at (413) 773-5018 or Molly Chambers at (413) 772-0003. The church is located at 399 Main Street in Greenfield.

Film Schedule:

1:30 p.m., **Whose Streets?** (2017) Directed by Sabaah Foleyan and Damon Davis. 90 minutes. A raw, unflinching look at present-day race relations and the Ferguson uprising, told by the activists and leaders who live and breathe this movement for justice. *Discussion leader: Gloria Matlock.*

4:15 p.m., **I Am Not Your Negro** (2016), directed by Raoul Peck. 93 minutes. Based on James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript, *Remember This House*, and narrated by actor Samuel L. Jackson, the film presents a historical perspective of race relations in America from the 1960s to the present. Winner of many awards including the BAFTA for Best Documentary. *Discussion leader: Momodou Sarr.*

6:30 p.m. **Supper.** A nourishing meal of local foods cooked by our favorite chef Kirsten Levitt from the Stone Soup Café will be served. Vegan and gluten-free options. Sliding scale donation \$4 to \$10; no one will be turned away.

7:30 p.m. **Wind River** (2017), directed by Taylor Sheridan. 107 minutes. A chilling thriller that follows an FBI agent (Elizabeth Olsen) who teams up with the local game tracker with deep community ties and a haunted past (Jeremy Renner) to investigate the mysterious murder of a local girl on a remote Native American reservation. Viewer discretion advised: rated "R" for mature audiences and violent subject matter; only 16 years and above. *Discussion leader: Strong Oak.*

mulch ring should barely touch the tree trunk and then taper out slowly to make a large shallow bowl. Many homeowners and commercial landscape companies, perhaps to avoid future weeding around a tree, pile mulch onto the trunk. The result is a volcano of mulch. Deep mulch heats up as it begins to compost. The organisms that decompose mulch do not distinguish tree bark from mulch. The tree can begin to rot and overheat. This can be lethal over time.

I will try to remember to fertilize my tree.

In nature, trees shed their leaves and the leaves rot below the tree, releasing the minerals that their roots absorb during that growing season. But when you remove leaves (raking, wind, etc.) those minerals are carried off with the dead leaves. At some point, the soil can become nutrient depleted. Some kind of fertilization, in moderate doses, will help a tree grow more vigorously and prevent any specific mineral deficiencies that can cause problems down the road. Remember, too much of a good thing will injure roots, so use fertilizer as directed.

I will never plant a tree without checking its root system.

Trees, especially those grown in circular pots, often develop swirling circular root system as the growing

roots wrap around the sides of the pot. If planted this way, many years down the road, these roots will become thick, and the trunk will essentially be encircled and choked off; the technical phrase for this is "root girdling." Although you may hesitate to do this, thinking you are doing harm, it is much better to unravel or cut encircling roots to prevent the death of a tree that is just starting to mature. And fyi – you should never plant a tree on town land without permission of the tree warden.

I rarely keep my New Year's resolutions because most of them are too lofty. But I promise my best to keep my Arbor Day resolutions so that after I am long gone, my trees can benefit those on my street, and the children of those on my street...

If there are enough people interested in hearing a more comprehensive talk on tree health, selection, and care, along with a slide show, let us know by sending an email to [montaguetrees@gmail.com](mailto:montaguetrees@gmail.com), and we can arrange to have a public talk on this subject.

Michael Marcotrigiano is a member of the Montague Tree Committee, and Emeritus Director of the Smith College Botanic Garden.



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**HERITAGE** from page B1  
seconds of the closing bid.”

Fortunately, the winner was a friend of the museum, and Clawson ended up contacting Gregory for his help in transcribing and annotating the letters.

“Ed spent hundreds of hours doing this,” said Clawson, who photographed the back of each page and reversed it for upload to the new database. “He was thrilled when he found out that we had it.”

“We didn’t have an impression of this guy before this book,” Gregory explained. “There’s very little written about his life and times elsewhere... This guy liked his cigars, he liked his beer, and he ate a lot of S.S. Pierce foods, which during that time was a very expensive canned food line.”

“This man did not write letters like he was a college boy,” added Clawson.

Many of the letters seem to be strictly about Keith’s business dealings, and as it turns out, running a massive mill in 19th-century Turners Falls was an uphill battle, even to the men perched at the top. Keith wheeled and dealt endlessly among sympathetic fellow captains of industry, pulling together capital and endorsements on loans, often trying to postpone their payment, begging politely for reductions in interest, and restructuring them into new loans.

In some years, the enterprise yielded dividends for stockholders. Others were not so good – such as 1878, when the entire mill burned down and had to be rebuilt, or the grim recession of the mid-1880s.

John Keith’s style tended to be blunt, but he stirred in jokes for his friends. Complaining to the head of a railroad about slow delivery of the rags used for paper-making, he wrote that “[u]nless there is some slight possibility in regard to time we shall have to buy an old horse and do our own transportation and slide the goods home on skids.”

“It is customary at the season of the year to make presents of useless things,” he wrote his adult daughter in late December 1881. “I have no taste in selecting them and so send



Chris Clawson (left) and historian Ed Gregory (right) in the Museum’s main exhibit room. Visible through the window behind them is the still-intact Mill Street dam, which began providing Greenfield’s early European settlers with industrial energy three hundred years ago, setting the county on course to be a manufacturing hub.

you my check for fifty dollars for you to use to buy a present for yourself and little Sally.”

The letters are searchable by keyword, as is the whole database.

“We’re just getting started, and there’s not going to be any final point to this,” Clawson said.

#### Telling an American Story

Part of the motivation for building the database goes beyond educating locals about the region’s history. Franklin County was the site of changes in industry – technology, and the working life that comes with it – that may be of more widespread interest.

“Not everyone in Greenfield’s going to be interested in it,” said Clawson, “but we have kindred people in every city in the country that aren’t going to have the opportunity to go through our collection and see this stuff.”

One of those changes was the shift in industrial scale after the Civil War, made possible by a number of factors. “The birth of American Industry was done on a very small scale – by individuals, families, and concerns – and it had limited resources, and limited ability to manage things,” he continues.

The Museum itself, situated on

JACKSON PHOTOS



Chris Clawson shows off one of the Museum’s early tap and die sets, manufactured nearby by the Wiley & Russell Manufacturing Co. under an 1877 patent.

the Green River just below the Mill Street dam and above the Wiley & Russell dam, connects with this stage; the first grist mill at that site was built around 1718. “The idea of damming the Connecticut River would have been absurd – it was a highway!”

But as rail transportation expanded, and consumer markets grew with Western settlement and Eastern urbanization, it began to make more sense to marshal large sums of capital for such pursuits. Men like John Russell, who already ran a cutlery works at Green River; Joseph Griswold, who owned cotton mills up in Colrain; New York’s Edwin Bulkley, and the paper magnate Alvah Crocker of Fitchburg all converged on Turners Falls in an attempt to build something bigger together.

“You had the senior leaders of industry, who had a full career at this point, ready to take America to the next quantum level of manufacturing,” Clawson explained. “We’ve got an American story, and one generation was responsible for two major episodes of it.”

Clawson showed me around the Museum’s collection of tools and related ephemera. He mentioned that a near-term goal for the research database is adding an inventory of the museum’s existing collection, and in the longer run, photographs and explanations of every item.

A second major American story was told in the room’s display cases, in the form of tap and die kits. The earliest date to the 1880s and were used to allow blacksmiths to quickly make standardized, threaded nuts and bolts.

The county became the cradle of this very specialized industry, and between 1913 and 1921, nine different companies were merged into Greenfield Tap & Die. It was through GTD that Greenfield would become an esteemed hub of WWII production, as well as, for the first time, a union town.

“Most museums will get something neat, and keep it clean on a shelf somewhere,” Clawson said. “It’ll have a catalog number, and if someone happens to know it exists, maybe they can see it. With the cyber world, we have an opportunity – a UCLA student can sit in his dorm room and discover these treasures.”

#### Forward Through the Past

Clawson and Gregory told me they hope the database’s launch will draw attention to the work the Museum has been doing – and attract participation. There are three reasons for urgency.

#### FROM A KID’S POINT OF VIEW

## School Safety (Part 2)

By FINTAN ANDREW JONES

**GREENFIELD** – If you are parents or grandparents or anybody that sends a child to school, or even if you don’t have a child, it’s just a good thing to know: You always should walk on crosswalks instead of crossing in the middle of the road. At schools, they need to hire crossing guards.

If you come across a stranger, don’t talk or listen to strangers. If you are able to walk with a friend, do it. Never walk in the middle of the road. Walk on the sidewalk if there is one, but if there isn’t one, then walk close to where a sidewalk might be. Walk facing traffic so you know when it’s coming.

Also, listen for traffic, because it could randomly curve around the corner.

Rarely, a fire might start in a school or any other place. If a fire breaks out in a school, pull a “pull alarm.” Also, if a teacher is in the

room listen to them. If they aren’t in the room, or if you are in the bathroom, use common sense to escape.

Schools need to do a ton of fire drills.

On the bus, you have to behave yourself, because there is only one bus driver and a ton of children. Always listen to the driver of the bus because they know what to do. When kids get off the school bus they should cross slowly in front. And when they exit, they should look both ways.

Some kids can get depressed or scared because of stuff like what happened in Florida, so schools need to talk about stuff like that when it happens. Sometimes bullies can be very mean and they don’t “treat people the way they want to be treated.”

In school, there are *no* drugs, smoking, weapons, or drinking.

Watch out for my next column!



LYN CLARK PHOTO

The columnist reviews a back issue of the Reporter in our office.

First of all, as the last generation that remembers mass industry in Franklin County continues to age, there is a worry that memories and knowledge that have not been recorded will slip away. Second, and more literally, there is a deterioration in the existing records; all the early mass-produced acetate film, for example, is breaking down and should be professionally digitized.

“With digital, nobody has to give up their stuff,” Clawson pointed out. “All you have to do is copy it, and provide it for the community.... All that safety film is going to crumble into dust. There’s some pieces of history that, if you lose it, it’s gone forever.”

Third, the Museum hopes the database can become a central point where the various historical societies of the county can contribute – where the puzzle pieces can be brought together. The Griswold/Kendall collection was shared by the Colrain Historical Society. “They get to learn about us, and we’ll get to learn about them,” Gregory said, adding that these collaborations could extend to museums beyond Franklin County.

The Museum will hold an open house this Saturday, April 28 at 2 p.m., marking the database’s official launch. The event is free, and light refreshments will be offered.

Members of the public who wish

to support the effort financially will have a chance to do so online the following Tuesday, May 1, which is Valley Gives Day.

As of press time, the research database has not yet been linked directly from the website home page, but readers can get a sneak peak by navigating through [archive.industrialhistory.org](http://archive.industrialhistory.org). Clawson said he is developing the site himself, using open-source software.

“Our world today is the consequence of the benefit of this experience,” he said, explaining what drives him to put his time into restoring and preserving our links to the past. “We’re not going to be able to make decisions about the future unless we have that context of our history to consider when we move forward.”

“This is one reason I’m a very strong advocate of history: this is more than just a collection of old stuff, and stories about dead people. This is a template, and a legacy that teaches us how to live our own lives, and guides us in our own decisions....

“How do you conduct yourself in this cyber world? There are precedents in history that can guide us into a good society. But if you jump into technology without that guidance, you might be heading for disaster.”



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It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.  
  
- William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
*Montague Reporter* at: 177 Avenue A  
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or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

# April’s Featured Poet: Kevin Smith

## Commitment

The glue that holds  
us together is  
golden, grace  
amid turmoil  
in a world of flux.  
Flaxen strands shimmer  
on our skin, the smile  
we cannot hide  
from those who know  
how to look.  
Committed to  
our souls’ adhesive core,  
our songs stretch  
taut like joy  
in a resonant laugh.  
Caprice dance of life;  
a rainbow’s reminder  
before the moon,  
and the sun’s reassurance after.  
There is no revenue in running,  
and the safety nets  
we once built  
are now danger zones. To feel  
pain is to feel  
from the ground up;  
no fraud,  
nor friendly foe’s promises  
of Edens in the air.  
Just solid, honest ground,  
and the spiral of knowing  
which emerges –  
graceful willow, rooted  
in truth, billowing  
prism, faith.

## Sing A Song Of Mike Pence

*(Sung to the melody of “Sing a Song of Sixpence”)*

Sing a song of Mike Pence,  
A pocket full of crap;  
He’s so clean and wholesome,  
A prefab Christian chap;  
When his mouth was open,  
I heard him blithely say,  
“Wasn’t this a dainty time  
To pray away the gay?”  
The plutocrats were backstage,  
Counting all their money;  
Meanwhile, Mike said therapy  
Stopped him from feeling funny;  
“If I’d not converted”,  
He said with Bible near,  
“Rather than vice president,  
I’d be a raging queer.”

## 6/8

Happiness glides on the 6/8 of time,  
Its lilt unmistakably merry;  
Frolicsome images, lighthearted rhyme  
Reside in the realm of this fairy

Whimsical tapestries weave buoyant grins  
On faces of those in attendance,  
Counterpoint to the pedestrian din’s  
Corroded and lackluster pendants

Tedious egotists rant at the world,  
Their voices pedantic and dour,  
Deaf to the hymn in a bumblebee’s swirl,  
And dead to the scent of a flower

## Renewal

A distant memory ignites the vast, resplendent sphere  
Whose cosmic breadth evaporates my temporal veneer;  
A seismic shift, a fertile rift,  
The blessing of renewal’s gift;  
With infinite exuberance, it makes its life force clear  
Our better daimons light upon a brilliant alpine peak,  
To view the devastation that our fallen angels wreak;  
The two are wed, their yearnings fed;  
Dichotomy is put to bed  
And, in its dream sleep, forms a dialectical mystique  
Agape’s petals open with devotional desire,  
Surrendering to Eros and its pure artistic fire;  
Here earth meets sky, and Heaven cries,  
A child is born, an elder dies;  
While sunlight ushers in the day, the star commits to pyre  
Another winter bows down to the clement reign of spring,  
As seasonal rejuvenation glows and now takes wing;  
The cycles turn, our spirits yearn;  
The flames of inspiration burn  
With incandescent power from the force renewal brings.

## The Ornament

“I’m cold”, she said,  
“Though the night is warm.”  
“I’m tired,” he said,  
“From the passing storm.”

A blanket wrapped itself  
around them, a blanket  
blue like ocean at sunset. Night messengers  
sailed upon it,  
in a strawberry ship  
with clouds for masts,  
guided by  
the breezes of sleepy breaths.  
I dream your dream,  
we give and take over seas of seem,  
to isles of wake

They’ll find me frivolous, lacking the tone  
Such seriousness would require;  
I’m just a feather; their dogma, a stone  
Devoid of elan and desire

So, with a smile, I depart their domain  
And fly to the palace of pleasure,  
Joyfully singing this verse’s refrain,  
Immersing myself in its treasure

Happiness glides on the 6/8 of time,  
Through life’s carousel of emotions;  
Riding this cadence, the world feels sublime,  
Abundant with magical notions.

## Creature Guilt

A foal is born.  
In a few hours  
its wobbly legs  
strengthen, take form, mobilize.  
I am born.  
Uniquely helpless  
in the animal kingdom,  
my symbols will be the foal’s instincts.  
Swaddled by giants,  
I am a crippled, salivating philosopher.  
The universe’s awesomeness  
crushes me with every breath,  
a nipple my sanctuary.  
Each constrictive suck  
narrows my options,  
and keeps me from starving.  
Born into natural guilt  
which mystifiers manipulate  
and psychologists don’t understand,  
the only remedy  
is megalomania’s malignant surgery.  
New age gurus shout “ego death,”  
from wobbly id rooftops,  
their own egos the only defense  
against anxiety’s hurricane.  
I am split in two.  
A neurotic is just a sinner without a God.  
My vacillating neck  
seeks a precarious balance,  
somewhere between  
the ostrich’s hole  
and the guillotine’s severing admonition.

## The Cruellest Month?

T.S. Eliot says you are the cruellest month.  
Feeling alive is cruel,  
when the numbness  
of stale living death  
is one’s heartbeat.  
A refractive raindrop  
is a mirror  
for the horror  
of no worthwhile illusions.  
You are the supreme interrogator,  
each hatchling nest a torture chamber.  
February’s blanket of oblivion  
is scorched by your cold vernal fire,  
that spits and crackles like remorse.  
Once, up to my neck in an enveloping May morass,  
I thought May was the cruellest month;  
crueler, even, than July,  
the month I was born.  
By then, you had come and gone,  
and I recall no such cruelty from you,  
at least that year.  
Maybe when T.S. Eliot says you are the cruellest month,  
he means you are the saddest month,  
at least for some people.  
I think you are like the sea,  
so If you are cruel  
then the sea is cruel.  
When my brain suffocates  
my heart, the sea  
will wash me away,  
a refractive raindrop in April,  
a tear.

CHRISTOPHER CARMODY PHOTO

## Contributor’s Notes

Kevin Smith, this month’s featured poet, has been contributing occasional verse to this page for more than a decade, so it seems only fitting that he should have the page to himself this month.


Kevin has been writing poetry since he was a kid in the Monadnock Region of New Hampshire, describing it as “his disturbed gift” (or curse, depending on the time and setting). He received a poetry and music scholarship to Hampshire College, which

he says has been priceless for the better understanding of free verse it instilled in him for a lifetime, as well as the eventual opportunity to be rejected by a host of mainstream poetry journals.

Regarding his poetry, Kevin says he seeks posthumous fame, and hopes he will be alive to see it. Kevin lives in Turners Falls, with his wonderful and inspirational girlfriend, Stephanie, along with a dog and two cats.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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: *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 Center, Brattleboro: Six new Spring exhibits: *Best of Springs, Sprockets and Pulleys; 100 Views Along the Road; Bottle in the River; We Walk in Their Shadows; Gloria Garfinkel; Susan Calabria*.

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Seen/Unseen, portraits by Cindi Oldham*. A conceptual watercolor portrait series that explores what it means to be seen, yet unseen at the same time. April 6 through May 30. Reception April 28.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Speaking Figuratively*, by Eric Grab. He will do a life drawing demo at his reception on Friday,



*I Anbassa Movement delivers high energy, original world reggae, grounded in Rastafari roots music, laced with rock, funk and afrobeat. Their lyrics are described as about "self-awareness, consciousness, positivity, and above all, Jah love." Performing at the Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse at the Old Town Hall Saturday, April 28. Benefit for The Orange Revitalization Project.*

April 27. Exhibit through May.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Art of Onge*. Paintings by Andrea "Onge" Newland that range "from portrait to abstract where worlds collide in a kaleidoscope of color." Through May 15.

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.

Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett: *Embraced by Natural Beauty*. Paintings by Stacey Temple. Through April.

Leverett Library: *Potpourri*, paintings by artist Louise Minks of Leverett. Through April.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Turners Falls Show*. Nina Rossi presents work about Turners Falls from over the years. Through May 15.

McKusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Precarious*. Art by Alice Thomas. April 16 through May 31.

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

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Heavenly Bodies*. New multi-media work by Nina Rossi featuring back lit clouds and flying figures. Through April 30.

Wendell Library: *Mez Ziemba*

musical force of diverse influences. Opens with *Rhythm Incorporated*. 8:30 p.m. \$

## FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Eric Grab Reception and Performance*. Live figure drawing with the artist. 5:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: John Sheldon in *The Red Guitar* and *Do It Now: Manual Over-ride* with Paul Richmond and Tony Vacca. Presented by Serious Play Theatre Ensemble as a fundraiser performance for the 2018 Edinburgh Fringe Festival. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Gaslight Tinkers*. Bluegrass. 8:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond Jam Session*. 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Cowell Gym, Shelburne Falls: *Hilltown Draw Around*. Twelve hour drawing marathon to benefit teen art programs at the Art Garden. Donation.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Artist Reception for Cindi Oldham's Seen / Unseen*. 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Big Saturday Jam-Boree with Under the Tree Music Co*. Music will be from 4 to 5 p.m., art from 5 to 6 p.m., and an art showcase at 5:45 p.m. Fun for the family dance. Refreshments. \$

Wendell Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell Old Town Hall. *I Anbassa*. World Reggae fusion. Open mic starts off the evening at 7:30 p.m. Donation to benefit Orange Revitalization Project.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Deep C Divers* and *The Wendell Warriors* drumming group plus *The 2 Elements*. 8 p.m.

Original Funky Alternative Pop Rock & Reggae From The Heart. Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lobsterz from Marz*. Dead tribute band. 8:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Indie bands *Oroboro*, *John Trudeau*, *Rebel Base* and *Joy on Fire* at 9 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Village Hill*. World music jazz fusion. 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Activist Art Generator*. To bring artists and makers together from all different genres to share ideas, knowledge and to create an action plan for activist art. RSVP: [lmcciner@gmail.com](mailto:lmcciner@gmail.com) 10 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Your Exquisite Corpse*. An interactive art project with Nina Rossi and Jeff Wrench. Play games with words and become part of a surrealist art ex-

hibit! 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Avenue A, Turners Falls: *John Landino* art and performance with Anthony Zito, who will be painting attendees. Outside Shea Theater on the sidewalk. 1 p.m.

## THURSDAY, MAY 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Professor Louie & The Crowmatix*. Rock 'n' Roll legends. 7:30 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Yarn, Mamma's Marmalade*. Roots/Americana. 7:30 p.m. \$

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## THE AUTHORS' CORNER: JOANNE WHITEMORE

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**TURNERS FALLS** – Hi! This is Super Izzy Vachula-Curtis! I'm back and I'm going to be reviewing one of my favorite books ever, *Supergirl: Age of Atlantis*, by Joanne Whittemore.

This book was inspired by the CW show, *Supergirl*. I am a huge fan of the CW superhero shows, so when I saw this book, I got really excited.

I really, really loved this book! It was really suspenseful, and it mentioned hints of other heroes such as Aquaman, the Wonder Twins, etc. This book was really good, and I can't wait to read the sequel, *Supergirl: Curse of the Ancients*.



PHOTO COURTESY IZZY V-C

*Our columnist, fluent in the superhero genre.*

This book was soooo good and hard to put down. It was funny, suspenseful, action-packed, and just awesome! Next up we are going to "fly" into action with a super duper special interview with Joanne Whittemore.

**Super Izzy V-C:** Who is your favorite superhero?

**Jo Whittemore:** My favorite superhero of all superheroes? Batman.

**SI:** I love writing. How did you get your start on writing?

**JW:** I got my start writing when I was a kid, coming up with fun little stories just for myself and my family. It wasn't until much later as an adult that I realized writing books was something that everyone could do. So at that point, I started pursuing it as a career.

**SI:** Will there be an Arrow or Legends of Tomorrow book in the series?

**JW:** All three books are about Supergirl, so unfortunately no Arrow or Legends books!

**SI:** What do you do when you're not writing books?

**JW:** When I'm not writing books, I love to travel and bake.

**SI:** Do you have any advice to give young heroes?

**JW:** You don't need a cape or superpowers to be a hero! Look for ways you can help people around you who are in need. That's being a hero right there.

A super special thank you to Joanne Whittemore! Your book was so good, and I can't wait for the next one.

If you enjoyed this book then make sure to catch the next one, and read Barry Lyga's book inspired by the CW series as well, *The Flash*.

Thank you for reading, and I'll see you soon. Bye!



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## This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

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- Messier Mantra: Interview with Julian Lowenthal
- Turners Falls Annual Fire Department meeting

• US Foreign Military Base Contamination 2018 Presentation

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