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YEAR 16 – NO. 23

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MARCH 29, 2018

State Limits Chief Dodge's Retirement Contribution

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The state board that oversees local public employee retirement systems has ruled that part of the “separation agreement” between the town of Montague and former police chief Chip Dodge may be invalid. The agreement stated that Dodge would resign as of February 12, 2018 but would remain on paid administrative leave for a year. During that period, he would receive his “current rate of pay and usual deductions... including retirement and health insurance contributions.”

However, the Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC) has ruled that “retirement contributions cannot be withheld from administrative leave subsequent to February 26, 2018,” the date Dodge signed the agreement with the town.

The reason, according to a letter from PERAC counsel Thomas F. Gibson to Montague town accountant Carolyn Olsen, is that payments under the separation agreement do “not conform to the definition of ‘regular compensation,’” according

see **DODGE** page A7

NEWS ANALYSIS

Rural Schools Prepare For Funding Fight

By RICK WIDMER

GREENFIELD – Confronting declining student enrollment, rising costs and inadequate state funding, how will Franklin County schools survive? Why hasn't the state fulfilled its promise to fully reimburse school districts for transportation costs?

And, can anything be done about the state's school funding formula, which some say draws funds from rural Massachusetts communities while subsidizing the education of students in the state's most wealthy towns?

Seeking to build a platform and compel Massachusetts state legislators to increase state aid for rural schools, state representative Paul Mark and the Pioneer regional district's HEART committee hosted a working and planning meeting of Franklin County municipal and educational leaders, titled “Re-Envisioning Sustainable Rural Schools,” at Greenfield Community College last Saturday morning.

With roughly 100 attendees from many communities across the county, the meeting began with remarks from state senator Stan Rosenberg, who spoke of funding for rural schools as a priority, and said he hoped that this year the state would make progress towards its promise to reimburse school

see **FUNDING** page A6

CONNECTED AT LAST



JOE KOPERA PHOTO

A crew from Comcast strings wire on West Chestnut Hill Road in Montague, part of the company's long-awaited, state-funded, and at times controversial plan to provide “last mile” high-speed broadband service to underserved sections of the town.

FRTA Warns Of Route Cuts, Seeks Input

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Governor Baker's proposed budget would “level fund” the state's 15 regional transit authorities at \$80.4 million, and if that is approved, the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) will face a deficit of roughly \$185,000 this year, according to FRTA administrator Tina Cote.

At a meeting on March 15, the system's advisory board met and came up with a set of proposed cuts and rate hikes that would balance the budget. FRTA will hold a series of public hearings on the proposed changes in April, including two on April 19 and 24 at the Montague town hall, and another five at the John W. Olver Transit Center in Greenfield.

On Monday night, Cote met with the Montague selectboard to explain the situation.

The proposals include a rate hike



JACKSON PHOTO

The “crosstown” Route 24, pictured, might stop service two hours earlier each evening.

from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per ride, and from 60 to 75 cents for senior citizens and veterans.

They also include eliminating or restructuring Route 22, the so-called “BlueLink Connector” that currently runs from downtown Turners Falls to Millers Falls via Sheffield Elementary, Park Villa, Turners Falls High School, and

Franklin County Technical School in the airport industrial park.

“Currently, we're not seeing the ridership” that supports the trip into the industrial park, Cote explained, though she noted that one of the route's six scheduled runs, which runs from 3:15 to 3:45 p.m., does see some traffic. “We're trying to

see **ROUTE CUTS** page A4

Popular Downtown Bakery Up For Sale

By MIKE JACKSON



JACKSON PHOTO

The building itself is available separately, but the Puchalskis hope to find someone interested in keeping the bakery running.

TURNERS FALLS – “We always kept saying, ‘someday, someday,’” Laura Puchalski says, of a dream she and her husband and 2nd Street Baking Company co-owner Josh have shared for years: to settle down somewhere in Maine, and start a new business.

“Then you realize at some point that ten years have gone by, and you've been running this business for seven days a week,” she goes on. “And someday is just any day: you've got to seize that moment, at some point.”

This week, the Puchalskis announced publicly that they plan to sell their popular Fourth Street business, along with all of its equipment and recipes – ideally to someone who'd like to learn the ropes, and put their own distinctive stamp on it. They are willing to stick around long enough to train the new owners, teach them the company's products and introduce them to its loyal clientele.

“We're really hoping that we can find an owner that would keep at least the bakery aspect of it,” Puchalski says, taking a brief break in the busy kitchen, amid boxes of festive Easter-themed pastries.

“Because it's so important, I think, to the community to have this... We'd like to see it continue on, and we'd love to see what people do with it!”

see **BAKERY** page A8

Pot Farm Site Plan Approved

By DAVID DETMOLD

TURNERS FALLS – The Commonwealth has yet to issue any licenses, and the Massachusetts Attorney General has yet to approve Montague's recently approved zoning changes for the production of recreational marijuana. The US Attorney General is threatening get tough policy measures on states that allow legal pot.

But despite the regulatory limbo and legislative cross currents surrounding their plans to open a 33,000 square foot cannabis cultivation factory and adjacent 2,500 square foot retail marijuana product facility at the Montague Industrial Park, Chris Gallant, Alan Shorr, Marcia Wagner, and their associates in 253 Organic, LLC cheered on Tuesday night when the Montague planning board unanimously approved a special permit for their reuse of the building that formerly housed Hallmark Imaging, Inc., at 253 Millers Falls Road.

The site plan approval came over the protest of Franklin County Technical School superintendent

see **POT FARM** page A5

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Polito Visit Solves Town's Elevator Issue

By KATIE NOLAN

Lieutenant Governor Karen Polito appeared to be well-briefed on Erving when she met with the selectboard at the senior and community center, one stop on a tour of many western Massachusetts towns on March 22. She listened attentively as administrative coordinator Bryan Smith reviewed past successful town-state collaborations, current projects, and challenges the town faces.

One challenge Smith discussed was the problem of the fines from the state Office of Public Safety and Inspections (OPSI) for uninspected elevators at the former International Paper Mill. In November, OPSI levied a fine of \$80,000 to the town for not inspecting and licensing the four elevators in the former IP Mill buildings since their licenses expired in 2002 and 2003. The town acquired the property in 2014 for non-payment of taxes.

In December, Smith said he had contacted OPSI, telling them that the town has only owned the property since 2014, the building is boarded up, the elevators have not been operating for years, there is no wiring or power to the buildings to run the elevators, and that the police department conducts surveillance to prevent trespassing. Smith said he provided OPSI with photos of the

see **ERVING** page A3

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Flowing Downhill

Montague town officials – and many others – are nervously watching Southworth Paper’s Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings. The company abruptly shut down its Agawam and Turners Falls mills last summer, as well as operations in Seattle, laying off over a hundred workers in a single morning.

On Monday, Southworth sold the Agawam facility to investors based in Adams, MA and Tyler, TX for \$1.9 million. According to the *Republican*, 15 workers continue to make envelopes in the building, and may continue to do so. Southworth settled the roughly \$140,000 bill it owed Agawam.

The sale bodes well for Montague. Earlier this month, town administrator Steve Ellis estimated the company owed the town around \$320,000 in back taxes and sewer fees. An auction of the Turners plant was slated for this Saturday, but is now expected to take place sometime next month.

Included in the auction will be Southworth’s inherited rights to water from the Turners Falls power canal: 113 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the canal, less than 1% of its capacity.

What could be done with that much water? It depends on the distance it falls. Documentation from FirstLight’s federal relicensing program mentions that Cabot Station operates at 60 feet of head, and Station No. 1 at 44 feet; the Turners Falls dam is 35 feet above bedrock. If the “Southworth Paper Hydro” wheel has just 35 feet of head, 113 cfs could *theoretically* produce a maximum of 450 horsepower of mechanical energy, or 355 kW.

Southworth had an agreement with FirstLight to only take in water when the canal is full to the brim, and then to only use about 6 cfs, according to a discharge permit application the company filed with the EPA in 2007. About a tenth of that was diverted into a cooling loop, but the rest, at least as of that year, was in fact passing through a wheel to generate electricity onsite.

The water rights for the building

were granted in 1928 by the Turners Falls Power and Electric Company to the Esleek Manufacturing Company. Ninety years later, the canal is ultimately owned by the Canadian government, as part of a pension portfolio for civil servants and Mounties, and the mill by an entity that has officially been bankrupt for six months.

To the west, the White Bridge over the Connecticut River has been deemed obsolete by the federal government and is scheduled for replacement.

To the south, the county housing authority is leaving its offices this spring, and a craft cidery hopes to rehab the building; beyond that lie the burnt-out rubble of the former Griswold cotton mill and its small warehouse annex, handed last year to a developer who hasn’t yet bothered to remove the prominent “F--- Society” graffiti from its door.

To the east, the canal can be crossed by two condemned pedestrian bridges and a grotesquely buckling bridge for vehicles.

And to the north lies the sprawling and crumbling Strathmore complex, which the town owns, and is now sizing up for “selective demolition.” Beyond that are the foundations of a former coal-burning power plant taken under tax title by the town two years ago.

Southworth is a bankrupt mill, surrounded by undevelopable public land, surrounded by power company land, surrounded by water. The town is doing all it can to study, troubleshoot and market the “Canal District,” but at the end of the day the entire landform is simply a gigantic, outdated machine, a way of stretching out the energy of the Great Falls and selling it.

Only the first few lots were ever sold to mills, and their decline began when hydromechanical power was surpassed by hydroelectricity. The machine is controlled by the power company. It profits by selling the Falls’ energy, but stands by watching while the machine excretes its ruined brownfields, one by one, into public ownership.

A CORRECTION

Whoops! In last week’s coverage of the Montague Democratic town election caucus, we mistakenly attributed these two quotes to Jen Audley which were actually said by Elizabeth Irving:

“Democracy in action,” quipped fin com member Jen Audley....

“I wish there was a way to show people, without making their eyes

glaze over, what it’s like to join,” Audley added. “I was wondering why the other 30-somethings I know aren’t flocking to town government. It’s like a giant board game.”

Our mistake. Our apologies to Ms. Audley, Ms. Irving, and to our dear readers.

For the record, Mark Wisniewski was also upset that he was quoted.



Montague library director Linda Hickman checks books in at the Montague Center branch library. A couch, armchairs, and a rocking chair make this branch “the most comfortable one,” according to Linda.

Letter to the Editors

A Brief Window?

I live down by the river.

I was waiting in line when I fell into a mysterious, mystical, Montague masterminds, malodorous moment. There I was in a psychedelic supermarket. Plasticine clerks with kaleidoscope eyes were watching masterminds tripping about trying to find a cardboard taxi to take them away.

“Excuse me, you’re next.” Huh? Oh yeah, I’m just holding up the line at processed frozen food city. Bummer. Where the hell am I going with all of this? Perhaps I’m getting a tad lost in the weeds, so let me bring this back to reality, but only as the most reluctant of tourists.

Presently, we are supposedly enjoying a relative period of economic stability, but it is as good as it’s going to get. A March 20 *New York Times* article, “Up, Up, Up Goes the Economy. Here’s What Could Knock It Down,” stated that:

“Investors may be starting to worry about whether the recovery could be, if not ending, at least entering a riskier phase. In February, markets tumbled after a report showing unexpectedly strong wage growth revived long-dormant fears of inflation. The markets rebounded but have remained volatile, dropping again this month when Mr. Trump announced plans to impose tariffs on steel and aluminum that are expected to take effect this week.

this brief window of opportunity. Pretending that houses of straw or sticks will make it, when the big bad wolf of economic reality bites, is just delusional.

There are tools in the shed that somehow the masterminds can’t find their way to. Tools that could create jobs, bring cutting-edge technological infrastructure, reduce consumer costs, and put in place consumer protections.

The ACLU website (www.aclu.org/issues/free-speech/internet-speech/what-net-neutrality) states that “Network neutrality is a consumer issue, but it is also one of the foremost free speech issues of our time. In this day and age, it is pretty much impossible to get through life without using the internet – which is why it’s essential that our free speech rights are protected both on- and offline. After all, freedom of expression isn’t worth much if the forums where people actually make use of it are not themselves free.”

The best tool in the shed, that protects and provides net neutrality, is the MLP that we created after voting at town meeting two times (MGL 164, Section 34). MLP towns may legally form cooperatives made up exclusively of MLP member towns (MLP 164, Section 47C).

WiredWest is an MLP coop. WiredWest has the best regional plan for this area, bar none. This page from their website, wiredwest.net/project-overview/wiredwest-regional-network-management-plan, provides you the most current, experienced, and informed management plan available.

A mindless montage of misleading megalomaniac, mastermind malcontents have run their course, but we are still well situated to take advantage of this incredible opportunity.

The top of my wish list with the revenues that will be generated by

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the MLP co-op, would be to fund a women’s center along the lines of Cambridge Women’s Center.

Their website (www.cambridge-womenscenter.org/aboutus.html) webpage states that “The goal of the Women’s Center is justice. We celebrate the victories, voices, and the survival of women - individually and collectively. Our mission is: To provide women with the resources and support they need to emerge from conditions of domestic violence, sexual abuse, poverty, discrimination, social isolation, and degradation; To challenge and change the attitudes, actions, and institutions that subjugate women.”

Revenues could also be used to prevent people from being foreclosed on or evicted, compassionate recovery, daycare, expand the Brick House, have the Tech School house and maintain the head end, support for the farming community, and I could go on.

Let’s put the tribalism that is our bane aside, and work together as a whole, on that which is to our mutual benefit.

Charlie Kelley
Turners Falls

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

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Wagon Wheel on Tuesday for our fundraising dinner! We had a great time seeing you, and raised some money to keep the paper in operation.

Thanks, too, to the Wagon Wheel for hosting us. The lasagna was fantastic!

Looking for some new adventures to keep you occupied? Be ready for any kind of weather curled up with a good book! Find cool places to go and interesting people to meet! This Saturday, March 31 from 10 to 11 a.m., the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in

Turners Falls is hosting a **“Bring a Book, Get a Book”** book swap.

Bring books in order to get books – there will be a collection of gently used books perfect for children, teenagers and adults, so feel free to browse for one that will pique your interest.

Light refreshments will be provided, courtesy of the bank.

Children ages 4 to 12 are invited to take part in the **13th Annual Peter Cottontail’s EGGstravaganza** on Saturday, March 31. The siren goes off at 1 p.m. sharp at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

Children will have an opportunity to get their pictures taken with Peter Cottontail, enter into a bunch

of raffles, and of course enjoy the Egg Hunt, where they will have the challenge of finding approximately 5,000 candy and toy-filled eggs strewn throughout the park. Participants must bring their own basket or bag for the eggs.

Montague Parks & Rec co-sponsors for the event are the Montague Elks, Letourneau Plumbing, and Greenfield Savings Bank.

The last chance to visit the very popular **“Dinosaur Footprints in the Connecticut River Valley”** display at the Great Falls Discovery Center is Saturday, March 31.

Many local churches will be holding **special Easter services** on Sunday, April 1. Check with friends, relatives, neighbors and area churches for start times.

The Gill Tavern, 326 Main Road, will be hosting the Greenfield Senior Foundation **trivia contest** on Thursday, April 5. Gather with friends for good cheer and a good cause. The fun starts at 8:30 p.m.

Come with a team or by yourself.

It is \$5 per person to play, with all proceeds going to the Senior Foundation. The winning team gets a \$25 gift certificate to the Tavern.

From the family that inspired *The Sound of Music*, **Elisabeth von Trapp** will be in concert at Our Lady of Peace Church, Seventh Street in Turners Falls on Saturday, April 7, starting at 7 p.m.

Born and raised in Vermont, Elisabeth von Trapp is the granddaughter of the legendary Maria and Baron von Trapp. Singing professionally since childhood, von Trapp has enthralled audiences from European cathedrals to Washington, DC’s Kennedy Center. Inspired by her father Werner von Trapp’s guitar playing and singing, Elisabeth has carried on the legacy of the internationally known Trapp Family Singers.

The concert is free and open to the public. A donation of \$10 is recommended. The proceeds from the concert will benefit Montague Catholic Social Ministries.

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THE TURNERS FALLS WATER DEPARTMENT WILL BEGIN READING METERS ON MONDAY, APRIL 2.

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending March 23:

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Grade 7 Ashanjeriel Santiago Kimberlyn Semb

Grade 8 Jada Jurek

ERVING from page A1

boarded-up doors and windows and empty electrical conduits. The OPSI agreed to reduce the fine to \$16,000, but asked the town to formally decommission the elevators.

In January, the town hired Buckley Elevator of Salem, MA to decommission the elevators at a cost of over \$40,000. At the March 22 meeting, Smith told Polito that Buckley has had trouble getting a permit from the state to decommission them, and that the town had a hearing in Boston on March 29 to appeal the fines. Smith also told her that the town had invested “hundreds of thousands of dollars” in cleaning up the former mill and conducting studies to make it appealing to developers, and it was a problem to have “our state partners” fine the town over the elevators. As she was leaving the meeting, Polito told the board, “I have some follow-up work to do...”

Smith said that soon after Polito left, he received a call from the commissioner of the Department of Public Safety, which oversees OPSI, and was told that “in light of the progress the Town has made,” the town did not need to attend the appeal hearing. Smith said that Buckley Elevator was able to obtain the decommissioning permit and was expected to start work this week.

Town-State Projects

The “successful state-town collaborations” that the selectboard listed for Polito were the construction of Riverfront Park using money from a state Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities grant, the capital planning process initiated this year for the FY’19 and FY’20 budgets, and market analysis and feasibility studies for senior housing in Erving.

Smith also told Polito about current state-town projects. The town is using Green Communities funding to complete energy audits, prepare energy efficiency projects with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and convert streetlights to energy efficient LEDs. Polito said that Green Communities activities will help the state reach the goals of the state’s 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act.

With \$2.7 million in funding from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, the town will be

building a new library on Northfield Road. According to library director Barbara Friedman, ground should be broken this fall. Polito called the library plans “really empowering,” and said that the town was “planning for the next generation.”

Future town-state projects include bridge and culvert preventative maintenance, and developing a complete streets program. The state Department of Transportation (MassDOT) provides technical assistance and funding for “safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit, and motorized vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities.” Polito noted that the state had put \$50 million into funding the complete streets program.

Sidewalk Upgrades

On March 21, the Erving selectboard met with abutters to the federally-funded Route 63 Streetscape and Pedestrian project, which will install or repair sidewalks from Bridge Street in Millers Falls to Care Drive. Design and construction will be done by MassDOT.

The board provided detailed designs to abutters, who are being

asked to sign temporary or permanent easement agreements. Work is expected to begin this fall.

Both Warwick and Wendell agreed to allow Erving to apply for an opportunity zone designation. According to Bryan Smith, the towns of Wendell, Warwick and Erving are part of a shared census tract that is qualified to be an opportunity zone. Under the new federal tax law, investors would get a federal tax break for investing in real estate or businesses in qualified low-income communities.

The Erving board felt that Smith should apply for the designation as the lead town if Warwick and Wendell signed off on the idea, as it might help in finding a developer for former mill properties. Smith sent the application on March 26.

With a unanimous recommendation from the recreation commission assistant search committee, the selectboard hired William Fitzpatrick as recreation commission assistant.

At the March 26 selectboard meeting, highway foreman Glenn McCrory told the board “blacktop clears quicker in snow, and once the trees are out of the tree zone, black-

top lasts longer than concrete.”

He was responding to questions raised by residents earlier in the month about sidewalk repairs along streets under the town’s jurisdiction, as opposed to the Route 63 repairs MassDOT was covering.

However, McCrory said, “I respect homeowners’ opinions” about the aesthetics of asphalt sidewalks and their potential effect on property values. McCrory said he had learned that state Chapter 90 aid could be used for sidewalks, mitigating the extra cost of concrete. He added that a number of trees in the sidewalk tree zone needed to be removed, because the roots destroy the sidewalks.

Board members recommended conducting tree hearings before any trees were removed, and asked McCrory to provide the estimated costs for asphalt versus concrete sidewalks.

At the March 26 meeting, the board also reviewed minor changes to the warrant for the May 2 annual town meeting. The board expects to approve a final draft on April 9, allowing time for it to be mailed to each Erving household.



Erving Town Meeting Approves Cannabis Zoning

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving’s special town meeting on March 26 unanimously amended the zoning bylaws to allow retail sale of marijuana in the Central Village and French King Commercial districts with a special permit issued by the planning board. Additionally, the amended bylaw allows for the cultivation, testing and processing of marijuana products in the Central Village, French King Commercial, and Rural Residential districts through the special permit process.

“If this isn’t passed, the town will have no control” over commercial marijuana establishments, planning board member Jacqueline Boyden told the meeting.

Planning board chair Michael Schaffer warned, “If our bylaws are too restrictive, they won’t pass the attorney general’s office.”

“We wanted to craft a bylaw that would actually work,” Boyden said.

The meeting approved using \$203,390 from free cash to pay

final bills for completion of Riverfront Park. Asked why the town was not pursuing Phases II and III of state funding for the park, Bastarache replied that the recreation commission was considering how the park is utilized, and will plan any future phases.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that the town is currently updating its open space plan, and would look into future park grants.

The meeting unanimously approved allowing the selectboard to erect traffic safety signs on municipal roadways. Asked why the board was getting involved, Smith replied that, with the authorization, the board could act to install signs without getting town meeting approval each time.

Asked about other traffic safety initiatives, Smith said that Erving and Northfield were discussing a truck exclusion on Church and North streets and Maple Street in Northfield.

Mackensity Bailey of Mountain

Road remarked that, if trucks are excluded from Church and North streets, they will be “pushed to Mountain Road.”

Arthur Johnson suggested installing speed bumps. Smith replied the board was “exploring that – rumble strips, and other things.” Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said that the board would consider roadway safety “holistically.”

The STM also approved:

- \$110,000 from free cash to replace the highway department’s 2010 Ford F550 dump truck.
- \$15,000 from free cash to pay for signs and safety improvements on roadways in Erving Center.
- \$14,493 from free cash to correct budget lines missing from the FY’18 operational budget.
- \$5,871 from free cash to pay bills from FY’17.
- \$4,200 from free cash to increase substitute librarian funding up to 14 hours per week.
- \$1,800 from free cash to buy

two laptops for public use at Erving Public Library.

- Amending the winter snow, ice, sleet and parking bylaw to make the fines specific.
- Amending the bylaws to affirm that the planning board will consist of five members.
- Allowing the selectboard to appoint an associate member to the planning board when needed.
- Amending the zoning bylaw to allow home-based businesses to sell retail regardless of where the product is produced.
- Amending the zoning bylaws to establish a 90-day deadline for the decision by the planning board after the closing of the public hearing.
- Allowing the Phase Growth Bylaw that expired in 2015 to remain in effect through 2023.
- Allowing the selectboard to obtain temporary and permanent easements in order to complete the Route 63 Streetscape & Pedestrian Improvement Project.

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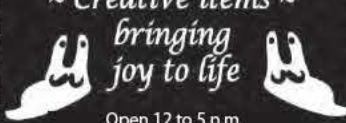
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ROUTE CUTS from pg A1

figure out if that has something to do with the Tech School kids," she said.

Another proposal on the table is to schedule the final run of Route 23, from Greenfield through Turners Falls and Montague to Sunderland and back, and eliminate the last two runs of Route 24, the "Crosstown Connector" linking Turners Falls with Greenfield Community College. The last 24 bus would depart from Turners at 5:15 p.m., and from GCC at 5:45.

"The Crosstown Connector is going extremely well," Cote said, explaining that the goal of those cuts would be to allow all buses to return to the barn by 7 p.m.

The authority is also proposing to "enforce" the status of Route 23, which was designed to facilitate transfers at Sunderland's Sugarloaf Estates to a PVTA bus to UMass, as a limited-service "commuter route," meaning it would no longer "flex" from its fixed path to accommodate handicapped riders.

"Unfortunately, pretty much every RTA in the Commonwealth is facing the same dilemma that we are," Cote told the Montague officials on Monday.

"I think it's absolutely imperative that we have a conversation and figure out what Montague's priorities are," said Jeff Singleton, who serves as the town's alternate, and in practice primary, FRTA advisory board member in place of select-board member Michael Nelson.

"I'm very concerned that we're lurching from what happened last year to cuts that are necessary this year without considering what our goals are in the long term."

Singleton added that he personally supported the elimination of Route 22, and that if the town decided to argue against it, it should find another representative to the transportation

authority's advisory board. "Or, try to convince me," he added.

"Last [year] we went through the public hearing process, and then suddenly there was a very different set of proposals made," town administrator Steve Ellis reminded Cote. "Do you see that other routes in Montague are likely to change in significant ways, outside of Route 22, through the community input process?"

"We don't see that happening," Cote replied.

Housing Authority

"I want to make very clear that these are proposed changes," Cote emphasized.

Ellis, Cote, the selectboard, and members of the public discussed one potential problem that would be exacerbated by eliminating Route 22. Currently, it is the only route that drives into the industrial park; Route 23 drives past its entrance, and Route 32, which connects Greenfield to Orange and is not proposed to change, stops at its entrance.

This spring, the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHA) is anticipated to move its headquarters from downtown Turners Falls to 241 Millers Falls Road, a building next to the industrial park's entrance.

"I believe they're expecting 300 visitors per week, so it's pretty substantial volume," Ellis told Cote. "This could be families with young children."

Disability advocate Betty Tegel explained the significance of the move. "People go there to pay rent," she said, "and a lot of the people that are affiliated with [FCRHA] live downtown and do not have vehicles."

She also said that tenants who receive rent assistance through the agency must visit the office every year "to update their contracts, which

are mostly in March... It's a cumbersome process, but they have to meet with their caseworker sometime to review this application, and they need transportation. Right now they can walk over to the office, it's not that far.

"We have elders, and people with disabilities, that will have to go through this process of updating their rent application for housing," Tegel warned. "There's an awful lot of people in downtown Turners who are on housing out of Franklin Regional Housing."

"While we wouldn't necessarily drive into the industrial park, we would have service stopping along the roadside," Cote said. "People might need to cross the street to get into the industrial park."

"It makes me extremely nervous that there's not a crosswalk there," she added.

This led to a discussion of potential safety concerns about riders crossing the busy Millers Falls Road to access the housing authority. Tegel advocated for a bus shelter and curb cut. "That would be on the town," Cote told her.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that the town had recently installed three bus shelters, which Cote said can cost "upwards of \$35,000."

In response to another observation from Tegel, Cote said that FRTA is planning to replace the yard-sign-style bus stop signs with "signs on a higher level," a project delayed by the need to comply with DigSafe guidelines.

(At a planning board hearing the next night, Ramsey announced that cannabis growers who hope to purchase a building 500 feet further down the road have offered to pay for safety improvements for transit riders, including a crosswalk and self-actuated stoplight. *See story, page A1.*)

Public hearings in Montague are tentatively scheduled for 6 p.m. on Thursday, April 19 and 3 p.m. on Tuesday, April 24.



GUEST EDITORIAL

After the Storms: Building Our Green and Clean Energy Future

By SEN. STAN ROSENBERG

AMHERST — Already this month, three nor'easters have come to Massachusetts, two of them producing high tides which surpassed the Blizzard of '78, causing widespread coastal damage as the result of what should have been a once-in-a-century storm. As I write this, we are awaiting what people are calling a "four'easter," a record fourth nor'easter of the month.

Climate change isn't an abstract concept anymore. We can see it with our very own eyes in the form of widespread power outages, closed T stations, downed trees and power lines, and flooded streets. Though the threat of climate change is global, the impact is local. It's time to do more right here in Massachusetts.

To be fair, we're doing a lot of things right already. Massachusetts leads the country in energy efficiency, and it's no accident. We have been named the top state in the county for energy efficiency in eight of the last nine years in the national State Energy Efficiency Scorecard. We have also led in advancing green technology, most especially solar, by putting in place policies and programs that have resulted in Massachusetts consistently being a leading solar state in spite of our long, cold winters.

We didn't stop there. We also started an innovative program in 2010 to help our communities become greener. More than half our communities now receive state grants to support investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy as a result of the Green Communities Act. Since its inception, Green Communities have received over \$65 million in grants to help them reduce their energy

consumption.

Last year, Massachusetts put in place an omnibus energy bill to make our energy supply even greener by increasing our use of offshore wind and hydro power. Though we have reduced our carbon pollution from the power sector by 52% since 1990, according to the Georgetown Climate Center, we need to do much more.

Our goals are ambitious, but what our times require. In 2008, the Global Warming Solutions Act set a benchmark of reducing emissions 10% to 25% below statewide 1990 greenhouse gas emissions by 2020, and by 80% from 1990 levels by 2050. We are making progress in those goals, but we must do more.

The Massachusetts Senate created the first legislative committee on global warming and climate change 11 years ago! Our House of Representatives soon followed suit.

Last year, the Senate Committee undertook a statewide convention on climate change, the "Clean Energy Futures Tour," to listen to people in every part of the state. The message was loud and clear, and consistent: Increasing our use of renewable energy, stopping the buildup of fossil fuel-related infrastructure that will soon be obsolete, developing a market-driven carbon policy, environmental justice, and transportation electrification for both public and private transportation were among the top priorities all across the Commonwealth.

Following the tour, the Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change released an omnibus energy bill, *An Act to Promote a Clean Energy Future: To protect our public health, create jobs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions* (the "Clean Energy Bill"). The provisions are too numerous to detail here, but a

few highlights will have to do.

First, it calls for an increase in our renewable portfolio standard (RPS). The Massachusetts RPS was established in 2003 and requires electricity suppliers to obtain 1% of their electricity from renewable sources, such as wind, solar, and hydro. In 2009, the amount was scheduled to increase by 1% each year, putting us on pace to be at 15% by 2020.

But we can do much better than that, and 19 other states already do. Under the Clean Energy Bill, we would increase the RPS by 3% each year.

Next, we add incremental emissions limits to the Global Warming Solutions benchmark set in 2008 to help us get to an 80% reduction by 2050. Under the new bill we would be at least 43% below our 1990 level by 2030, and by 2040 we would be at least 62% below.

It's time for a state-based, market-driven approach to reduce the use of carbon. The Clean Energy Bill requires the administration to implement a market-based compliance mechanism to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Some possibilities include requiring the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to develop and implement a price on carbon; implementing a specific carbon price with an annual increase and revenue neutrality; or implementing a specific fee, with 80% of the revenue being returned to taxpayers and the other 20% being put into a fund dedicated to transportation and clean energy upgrades.

To make our transportation sector green, electric cars and public transportation must be given more support. In 2014, the Commonwealth entered into an agreement to have 300,000 electric vehicles on

the road by 2025, and rebates were provided to purchasers. By giving certain privileges to zero emissions vehicles, including travel in high-occupancy lanes and designated parking spots in cities and towns, we will help literally "electrify our roads."

To help individuals, families, and businesses, the Clean Energy Bill removes net metering caps. Under the current law, net metering capacity of private users is capped. By removing the cap, we'll make it easier for homeowners and businesses to both switch to renewable energy and lower their energy costs.

We must ensure that ratepayers and utilities are investing in solar, wind, hydropower, and other forms of renewable energy like ocean wave energy, instead of putting resources into large centralized plants and pipelines. That also means that consumers shouldn't have to pay for expanding traditional utility infrastructure that should soon be obsolete in the green energy future we all seek.

We started our journey to this next chapter in building our clean energy future by going to you, the people, to listen to what you want and expect. Now that we have a bold, updated plan for fighting climate change and achieving the clean energy future you want, we return to you.

For this bill to become law, I ask you to continue to speak up and to contact your State Representatives and Governor Baker urging that we join together to think globally, and to act locally, and boldly. Please join in the fight to save our planet by helping us build a truly green energy future.

Stan Rosenberg is a Massachusetts state senator from Amherst, representing the Hampshire, Franklin & Worcester district.

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POT FARM from page A1

Rick Martin, whose opposition to the planned pot facility at the other end of Industrial Boulevard from the regional school he administers was read into the record by horticulture teacher Kurt Richardson.

Martin wrote, “I am deeply concerned,” about siting a recreational marijuana facility, “one quarter mile from a 9 – 12 technical school,” where, he noted, marijuana “is illegal in or on school prem-

ises,” and students may be expelled for its possession.

If Montague approves the facility, Martin warned, “the impact would be profound for FCTS,” as well as for the nearby Turners Falls High School and Middle School.

Although town planner Walter Ramsey said the measured distance between the nearest point on Franklin County Tech School grounds and the proposed recreational pot facility is 1,950 feet – a

third of a mile – and thus well in excess of state regulations prohibiting the siting of a recreational pot facility within 500 feet of an existing school, Richardson responded that students participating in after-school sports commonly walk back and forth between the Turners Falls High School and the Tech School.

Ramsey rebutted this by noting that 253 Organic proposes “to put in a pretty substantial improvement for transit users in terms of a

crosswalk on Millers Falls Road,” with a self-actuated stop light at the bus stop at the intersection of Industrial Boulevard.

That is a busy intersection, and he implied safety would be improved for Tech School students who might use the FRTA bus stop there, or for any students who might walk regularly to or from the Turners Falls High School for after-school programs.

“There is already a great need for a crosswalk there,” said Ramsey.

sale revenues. The company would plan to run two shifts, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week, with approximately 40 employees; Wagner pledged to hire locally.

The town of Montague recently approved a 3% tax on recreational marijuana, which, on gross sales estimated at \$8 million, might bring a quarter million dollars in new taxes to town coffers.

Additionally, Wagner said 253 Organic had agreed to pay the town an impact fee of 3% on gross sales to mitigate any potential negative impacts on the town from its operations.

The partners have promised annual giving toward charitable causes in Montague of between \$5,000 and \$15,000. Pressed on whether the company would favor the higher or lower end of this range of charitable giving, if licenses are secured and revenue estimates hold, Alan Shorr said, “I know we’ll be looking at the higher end of the charitable giving.”

Some modifications to the 16-space customer parking lot may be required to meet code for fire safety, but Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman said his department foresaw no major challenges, and would respond to a fire at a pot-growing facility as they would respond to one anywhere else in town.

Zellman said the reuse of a vacant commercial building, and the prospect of new taxes for the town and fire district, would be a welcome addition.

Asked by Kara McLaughlin from the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership whether 253 Organic was planning to produce “edibles,” Wagner replied affirmatively. She said, “We will go above and beyond the regulations to keep cannabis out of the hands of children.”

No cannabis café is planned for the 253 Millers Falls Road location, Wagner said.

Recreational pot sales are illegal in Massachusetts to anyone under the age of 21; it is likewise illegal to give marijuana products to anyone under the age of 21.

Town meeting member Kathy Lynch asked if Wagner and her company would consider proactive education for adult members of the community to change “judgments that are levied around the community” about cannabis usage, and to change “community attitudes toward the economic engine potential of this new industry.”

Wagner responded positively to Lynch’s suggestion, and promised quarterly community meetings.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Selectboard Chair on “Selectmen”: “We Live in 2018, Not 1818!”

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard meeting of Monday, March 26 included topics ranging from \$803,000 in capital projects to be presented to the annual town meeting in May, to potential cuts in the local bus service, to a possible costly state regulation to require new surfaces on the town’s playgrounds. But near the end of the meeting, the board quickly and with little discussion voted to send to town meeting a bylaw change of historical significance.

“We had a brief conversation recently, and Rich asked me to look into the question of changing the title of the Board of Selectmen to ‘Selectboard,” said town administrator Steve Ellis. “You have notes from town counsel that indicate that, if you wished to do so, it would be through a general bylaw approved at town meeting.”

The title “selectboard” appears on virtually all newspaper accounts of the board’s meetings, as well as on videos posted on the website of the local access station. But the term “Board of Selectmen” remains on posted agendas and the town website, and the chair continues to introduce meetings as those of the “Board of Selectmen.”

“I think given the fact that we live in 2018, not 1818, that ‘Selectboard’ might be a more appropriate term,” responded chair Rich Kuklewicz. He recommended a motion to put a bylaw change on the annual town meeting agenda this May.

Audience member Peter Golrick asked about the impact of “state laws that refer to the official title as the ‘Board of Selectmen.”

“What happens, Peter, if we have a gender change here?” responded selectboard member Chris Boutwell.

Kuklewicz said Golrick’s question “was a good question,” and “we can ask our legal counsel.”

Ellis said he had asked the town’s attorney the question, but “he didn’t comment on that specifically.”

Michael Nelson made the motion to send the bylaw change to town meeting. It was unanimously approved by the board.

Capital Projects

The board approved a set of recommendations from the capital improvements committee for projects to be placed on the annual town meeting agenda. Their recommendations for eight projects total \$803,000, roughly \$282,000 of which are “pay-as-you-go” funded by current taxation or reserves. The remainder would be financed by borrowing, or from dedicated funds like the Colle Op-

era House Reserve.

The projects include the replacement of the front entry to the senior center (\$30,000); repairs to control panel and alarm systems at the water pollution control facility (\$25,000); replacement of intercoms at the Sheffield and Hillcrest school buildings (\$30,000 and \$25,000), and upgrading control systems at the Middle and High School (\$72,000). The board also approved a \$100,000 Discretionary Budget for capital purchases and repairs by the Department of Public Works.

A proposed solar array for the water pollution control facility was the only project funded by borrowing, with the remainder financed by a projected state grant. The information material handed out at the meeting estimated that the array would reduce electrical costs at the sewer plant by between \$50,466 and \$85,536 per year. Debt service to pay for the project would total approximately \$25,000 per year.

Another item was \$190,000 in repairs to the Colle Opera House on Avenue A in Turners Falls. The money will come from the Colle “reserve fund,” hopefully matched by a state Historic Preservation Projects grant.

“All I will say is that several of the selectmen have asked about that particular building...” said Kuklewicz about the Colle appropriation. “Where there’s been funding available, and we’ve kind of ignored that building, I hope we get back to... preventive maintenance... We need to become more responsible landlords to the properties that we have.”

Other Improvements

The board approved a letter from parks and recreation director John Dobosz to the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board, commenting on a proposed state regulation that would require all “loose fill” playground material be converted to more solid “pour in place” surfacing. Dobosz stated that the change could cost the town up to \$600, for “playground work.”

Kuklewicz said he supported better access to playgrounds, but “it’s a plan you put in place over a ten-year period.”

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the board authorize the town to proceed with a “Phase 2 Environmental Site Assessment” of the old Indeck power plant property next to the power canal. The assessment would be paid by a grant, and would determine whether or not there are any underground storage tanks on the site.

The board approved the request, as well as a request to allow him to

apply to the Federal Opportunity Zone Program.

Ramsey also requested that the board allow him to apply to a state program for a feasibility study and design of a solar system with storage capacity at the public safety complex and Turners Falls High School.

Finally, Ramsey received approval to issue a request for proposals for a piece of property on East Main Street in Millers Falls. Peter Golrick asked why the property was being sold for \$5,000 when the assessors’ record card had valued it at \$20,000. Ramsey said the property record card said \$5,000, and that “it’s not a buildable lot.”

Those Planters Again

The board appointed Owen Wormser as planter coordinator, to oversee the planters along Avenue A in Turners Falls.

The planters, which are “adopted” by downtown businesses and others, were once the source of a good deal of local controversy. But with the end of the debate over town regulation of what can be placed in the planters, interest in the committee, which the coordinator is supposed to organize, has waned.

Wormser, who oversees several planters, was the only one who had indicated interest in the coordinator role.

Kuklewicz asked about the town hall “interface” with the planter committee.

“So, there’s not a planter committee,” said Michael Nelson. “It’s an *ad hoc* group of people who happen to be coordinated together by the planter coordinator. But there’s not a planter coordinator to assemble said folks together.”

“So it’s like a Catch-22,” said Kuklewicz.

Nelson and Steve Ellis both said that Ramsey was looking at making the planters, their coordinator, and the *ad hoc* committee a part of the new downtown cultural district. There was a consensus that Wormser was the right person – in fact the only person – for the coordinator position.

Other Business

Tina Cote of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) came before the board to discuss potential service cuts and fare increases in response to a large budget deficit. There will be a series of public hearings on the proposals prior to the FRTA Board voting in May. (*See article, page A1.*)

At the end of the public meeting, the board voted to go into executive session to discuss union negotiations.

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Flag Will Be Lit Up

By JOSH HEINEMANN

In the spring of 2017 Wendell resident Harry Williston offered to install, at his own expense, a solar-powered light that would shine down on the American flag at the town’s veterans’ memorial. Williston said then that the law states that a flag that flies through the night must be lit.

But the resident across the street objected, saying the light would shine into his house, which he keeps dark through the night. Other Wendell residents met with the selectboard and also objected to the proposed light, citing light pollution and the natural rhythm of day and night.

In order to accommodate those who objected while not breaking with the law, the selectboard allowed citizen Melissa Grader to organize and coordinate a group of volunteers, who raised the flag after sunrise and lowered it before sunset every day of the summer.

Contrary to Williston’s expectations, the effort was successful through the spring, summer, and fall, and by Veterans Day 2017 when the flag came in for winter’s harsh winds, only a few days had been missed or off schedule. But at a fall selectboard meeting, Grader said she did not want to coordinate that volunteer effort through summer 2018. The selectboard agreed to revisit the issue in the spring.

Spring 2018 arrived, with snow and ice, March 20, and Williston came to the March 21 selectboard meeting along with residents Morgan Mead, and Tammy and Paul Richard.

Williston agreed that the flag raising and lowering was successful, and a “fantastic” effort by many citizen volunteers. He did not renew his offer to pay for the light and its installation, but he restated his concern that the flag should be lighted through the night.

Paul Richard agreed. He said that failure to do so was showing disrespect for veterans. He also said he felt there should be a flag in front of the town office building, as there is at other towns’ main administrative buildings. He said he felt both flags, and all American flags, should be illuminated all night, and flown throughout the year.

Tammy Richard pointed out that a few days were missed the previous summer, but conceded that otherwise, the volunteers did well. She said her son recently “celebrated” his twenty-first birthday in Iraq on his second tour. She said that not respecting the flag is an affront to veterans.

Morgan Mead said the light shining up at the flag in front of the post office was a much larger contribution to light pollution than the light proposed for the veterans’ memorial flag.

The proposed light would shine down from the flagpole’s top, illuminating only the flag, would not shine across the street and into the neighbor’s window. Mead said he would pay for a light, and help with installing it.

Both Williston and Paul Richard said they would help with installation, and Richard said he would contribute to the cost of the light. Board members agreed that they should do that, and thanked them.

Cases and Canes

The selectboard’s first visitor was town IT specialist Peter Golrick, but he was not scheduled to meet until 7:15. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich took the time before his scheduled meeting to bring up some details.

Aldrich said that payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) for FY’18 from the state Department of Conservation and Recreation is \$27,713, up from \$24,327 in FY’17. She and board members said they hoped that the payment is only for watershed land, not all state-owned land within town lines, a payment which selectboard member Dan Keller said has been closer to \$100,000.

Town clerk Gretchen Smith asked for replacements for the two posting boards outside the office building main entrance. The locks do not always hold the clear fronts closed, and wind and rain have scattered and destroyed postings. The posting boards cost \$900 apiece, and Aldrich suggested that a Turners Falls locksmith could install better latching mechanisms at a lower cost.

In order to maintain some distance between the town’s budget and its levy limit, the finance committee is proposing a debt exclusion vote for the note on the newest highway truck. A debt exclusion is voted by ballot, and a ballot initiative vote must be explained thoroughly and unambiguously, with written arguments explaining precisely what is being voted on, and the consequences of a yes or no vote. Writing all that is responsibility of the selectboard or the town coordinator.

Ray McIntire, father of fin com member and broadband committee member Al McIntire, is now the town’s oldest citizen, and should be holding the golden cane. Because cane holders have been remiss in returning the cane after passing on, Wendell holds the actual cane at the office building, and awards a pin to each resident who becomes the oldest citizen.

Board members mentioned dates on which they could meet, and Keller offered to call McIntire and arrange a date to present the pin.

Internet and Other Business

When his scheduled time came,

FUNDING from page A1

districts for transportation.

Rosenberg raised the possibility of some form of rural school funding outside of traditional models, while not necessarily changing the state’s current funding formula.

He reflected on the state’s long commitment to educational reform, and stressed the importance of communicating with state legislators within the next several weeks, while they are preparing school funding legislation for enactment this fall.

Rosenberg also called attention to the “Fair Share” question on the November election ballot, which if approved would add an additional 4% tax on earnings over \$1 million, creating between \$1.6 and \$2.2 billion in new revenue earmarked for public education.

Michele Caruso of the HEART (“Honest Education And Regaining Trust”) group, brandishing her business, financial and community experience, shared her horror when she realized that so many school districts in Franklin County were unsustainable.

Martha Thurber, chair of the Mohawk regional district’s BEST (“Building Education, Sustainability, and Trust”) committee, shared her own district’s experience with a deliberate step-by-step process of cost cutting and reorganization: first, the closing of Heath Elementary; now, the proposal that 6th graders be brought into the high school to make space for elementary students; and the potential for an additional school closure in the future.

Sue O’Reilly, also of HEART, spoke with hope that so many people had gathered who were all working toward a similar goal. O’Reilly cited the *Why Rural Matters* report, issued by the national non-profit Rural School and Community Trust, whose 2015-16 data shows Massachusetts with 3.3% of its students in rural schools, 60% rural districts, and rural students with high scores in math, reading and science.

With this data, O’Reilly painted a picture of positive student outcomes in Franklin County, with many dis-

tricts, few students, towns working hard to support schools, and teachers doing a top-notch job.

Caruso recollected an unruly 2009 meeting with stakeholders from across Franklin County unwilling to accept the state’s recommendations for school district regionalization. Linda Dunleavy, executive director of the Franklin Region Council of Governments, also recalled that 2009 meeting.

O’Reilly shared insight into the state’s push for regionalization, beginning with Governor Patrick in 2007, with local leadership (representative Stephen Kulik and senator Stan Rosenberg) supporting the rights of rural school districts to control their own destinies.

She also highlighted two of the state’s major research reports on rural school funding. The first report led to cost efficiency without dramatic changes to school systems: for example, the first regional transportation bid. The second proposed three different scenarios for school district regionalization in Franklin County, none of which was implemented. O’Reilly added that stakeholders were not desperate enough at the time.

Michael Naughton of the Montague finance committee countered the pro-regionalization recommendations, citing the low impact of regionalization towards the reduction of per-student costs. “Why do it for so little?,” Naughton wondered.

Another speaker raised the issues of local bus companies, scheduling challenges, and sports.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis spoke about the quality of educational opportunity in Franklin County schools. Would extra-regionalization lead to savings, plus better programs? Would it provide an opportunity for better professional development, and better SPED programs?

Dunleavy replied that regionalization could lead to “area-focused” schools, such as dance and arts.

Warwick town coordinator David Young called for a county-wide synchronization of school sched-

ules to allow for distance learning between communities.

Mohawk/Hawlemont superintendent Michael Buoniconti expressed his concern for the unsustainability of Franklin County schools. By federal government definitions, there are 95,000 rural students in Massachusetts. 10% of the state’s approximately 950,000 students; 30% of regional school districts are rural.

Given declining enrollment, increasing costs, and level state aid, Buoniconti argued that efficiency alone will not solve the problem; local schools have been facing enrollment losses between 15% and 40%, but no school would be able to cut costs by 40%.

Calling for “high quality, cost-effective education,” Buoniconti urged united action, and raised the prospect of joining together for the Day On The Hill, a public demonstration event for educators on Beacon Hill this April 25. He suggested that similarly strapped school districts on Cape Cod be included in this conversation, and said the rural coalition should become “a very squeaky wheel.”

Gill selectboard member Greg Snedeker shared some of the work of the recently convened Gill-Montague “civic leaders” group, with a deep dive into the state’s Chapter 70 school funding formula.

Snedeker’s presentation focused on two questions: why do the state’s wealthiest towns still receive state aid when their ability to pay is so much higher than other towns, and where is the fairness in having rural communities fund the education of students in wealthier towns?

Representative Mark described changing the Chapter 70 formula as “opening a can of worms.” He questioned whether wealthy towns would willingly give up the 17.5% of their foundation budget they automatically receive from the state.

Mark spoke of a need for rural districts to come up with their own plan and fight for it. “We must rein in costs, innovate, and collaborate,” he said.



Golrick gave a report of what he has done so far, and spoke of choices for what he could do in the coming months. He cleared up the issue that was slowing the fire department and highway garage internet connection by changing where the wire was plugged in. Before that change, the fire department was getting a signal from the library, and sharing the bandwidth with library internet users, including people who park in the library lot for an internet connection. Now the highway garage and fire station each has its own designated connection.

For town email, Golrick could establish a server which would allow more bandwidth, but would cost \$1,500 per year. He suggested that an outside server would be less expensive and simpler, and he suggested Zoho.

Selectboard members agreed with Golrick that Zoho was a better choice, but member Jeffrey Pooser suggested that Golrick shop around for other options before he commits the town.

The town is paying \$600 a month for a 20-megabit library internet connection through the Massachusetts middle-mile network. Pooser said that each individual household connection of one gigabit should cost \$100 per month after the last-mile fiber-optic network is built, though the exact cost will only be known after the design is completed.

Originally, the last mile was legally required to connect through the middle-mile network, but that is no longer true, which will allow the final cost to be lower. Pooser called the Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) middle mile a financial

equivalent to the Big Dig, and said the middle mile network is losing money, and is being bought by Westfield Gas & Electric.

At its March 8 meeting, the selectboard had declined an invitation to be part of an “opportunity zone,” a part of the new federal tax law that incentivizes development in an area with low economic development. The Erving selectboard intends to apply to become part of an opportunity zone, but Erving’s application needs to include approval from abutting towns Wendell and Warwick. The Warwick selectboard agreed to cooperate with Erving, and so Wendell selectboard members agreed to help also.

Adam Areford was scheduled to meet the selectboard to discuss a marijuana growing license, but he did not come.

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NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Hubie Proposes Naming Field For Coach Mullins

By MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – “I think Gary Mullins has been such an important part of this community, and this school,” Gill member Shawn Hubert said at Tuesday night’s school committee meeting. “It’s not just the wins and the losses, but the thousands of kids he’s impacted through his years: athletic director, teacher, coach, mentor.”

Hubert proposed that the district name an athletic field after Mullins, whose spring softball season will be his 80th season coaching, and who is likely approaching retirement after a recent health scare.

He pointed out that Mullins has coached nearly 1,800 games in softball, basketball, and soccer, and that his nine state championship titles in softball have brought attention to the town.

Gill-Montague has rarely used the naming of facilities to bestow honor. “The previous policy stipulated that the person was someone who was deceased,” Jane Oakes explained, though the policy subcommittee recently relaxed that rule.

The current policy calls for the committee to establish “an orderly procedure” when a facility might be named, which “clearly reflect[s] the intent to consider, review, and vote on naming opportunities.”

“The suggestion is certainly meritorious,” Oakes said. “If you were thinking of naming a field or a facility, then I would almost think the call should go out to the community for suggestions.”

Committee members named Walt Kostanski, Jack Bassett, George Bush, Wes Snapp, Paul Cournoyer, John O’Riley, and Steve Ciechomski as examples of other worthy figures in the district’s history.

“It’s something that the town could use right now,” Hubert said, arguing that despite the district’s failure to dedicate facilities to earlier greats, Mullins should be recognized while he can enjoy it. “We would make a great day out of it, and we’d certainly honor a man that deserves it.”

“We don’t do a lot to celebrate what we are, and who we are,” he said.

“Maybe we need to put in place a

protocol for how things are named,” said Montague member Cassie Damkoehler.

The committee took no vote, but agreed to explore the idea further, and perhaps to draw up a list of facilities that might be named.

Food Sharing

Food service manager Mistelle Hannah is leaving in May, and the district has already posted for her replacement, and has received a number of applications. Superintendent Michael Sullivan pitched the idea of sharing a food service director with the Pioneer district, an idea that has come up in the context of a resource-sharing study the two districts are engaged in along with Franklin Tech.

“We are looking for opportunities to reduce costs, and be more efficient, and build relationships,” Sullivan said. Pioneer assistant superintendent Gail Healy has been serving as that district’s food service manager, and plans to retire soon. The Pioneer school committee has expressed interest in exploring the collaboration.

Sharing a manager with Pioneer, then hiring someone at a lower pay rate to help with Gill-Montague’s paperwork, could save the district \$20,000, Sullivan estimated. “You don’t need someone with a master’s degree in nutrition to be doing some of that work,” he said.

But the school committee was wary of the idea, especially given the sense that a shared manager might need to focus attention on improving the state of Pioneer’s department. “Our food service is in pretty good shape,” said business manager Joanne Blier. “But Pioneer is in deficit by \$200,000... It’s like recreating the wheel over there.”

“She’s leaving us at a high point,” said Lesley Cogswell of Hannah. “The changes are amazing, as far as the content that’s on that lunch menu.... I’m scared to go down a road that is unknown.”

“If we were further along, it would be easier to be confident,” Mike Langknecht said. “I could be convinced if we had some good hard data.”

“When we voted on the [region-

alization and efficiency study] grant, we voted on the idea of sharing,” Cogswell said. “We didn’t vote on sharing right away.”

“If we’re talking about shared services, maybe outsourcing is the way to go,” said Cassie Damkoehler. “I’m not going to make friends saying that,” she acknowledged.

Blier said that she would prefer not to delay the hiring process to wait for the committee to decide. “I don’t want to be the food service manager,” she added.

The committee took no vote, and indicated that Blier should hire for the position as it stands. “Let the applicants know that down the road there may be, in a year, the possibility of combining food services,” chair Timmie Smith suggested.

“It really is a possibility looming over all of us, in these roles,” Blier replied.

Other Business

The meeting was preceded with an executive session. “We met with our Medicaid attorney to discuss progress on reaching a repayment schedule with MassHealth, and a resolution with New England Medical Billing,” Smith reported.

Later in the meeting, the committee approved payment of a \$1,242 invoice from that law firm, Bulkeley Richardson & Gelinas.

Gill Elementary principal Conor Driscoll sought and received the committee’s approval of a third and fifth grade field trip to the Connecticut Science Center in Hartford on April 3.

He also brought a proposal for a morning summer camp to run at the school during July and August. It would need at least 12 campers from Gill Elementary, at a cost of \$180 for 18 days. “Which comes out to exactly 10 bucks a day for the program, which is a pretty good deal to have a summer program with a licensed teacher,” Driscoll pointed out.

The committee approved the idea unanimously, and Hubert praised Driscoll for “keeping the kids of Gill off the streets during the summer,” to a round of chuckles.

Sullivan and Tina Mahaney, director of information technology, proposed the district contract with

Travis Johnston of the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) to build a completely new website.

“He’s created Greenfield’s website, and Belchertown, and a couple others, I think,” Sullivan said.

Development, training, hosting, and support from CES would cost the district \$8,675, which all present agreed was a great deal. The district currently cannot directly post on its own website, its mobile functionality is lacking, and it is not compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act, among other problems.

“It’s content that would allow us to be able to bring in a lot of information within one page,” Mahaney

said. “We could put some news on it... We could also make all our social media available within that page.” The site would be designed to work well on mobile devices.

“It’s a very welcoming kind of design that we’re hoping for,” she said.

The committee unanimously voted to accept the proposal.

Sullivan reported that elementary teachers are “revisiting” the system of trimesterly report cards instituted over ten years ago. “There’s been a lot of changes in subject area standards since then, and some changes in what’s considered to be best practice about grading,” he said.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was March 20 and March 27, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Montague Center Supporters in Limbo

With the fate of Montague Center School hanging in the balance, the school committee took two votes on one proposal Tuesday night, first failing to advance and then failing to finally reject a plan to create an in district Horace Mann charter school with an emphasis on environmental education at Montague Center. The proposal was prepared by a community group of parents and school supporters led by Sue Dresser of Montague Center and Deb Foucault of Lake Pleasant.

A second community proposal, prepared by a group led by David and Sheri Leh, to keep Montague Center School open as an expanded, K-5 district elementary school did not even come up for vote by 10:30 p.m., when school committee chair Mary Kociela asked for and received a motion to adjourn.

With Terry Lapachinski absent, the motion to accept the Horace Mann proposal failed 5-3, with Ted Castro-Santos joining Sandy Brown and Mike Langknecht in support. Next, the motion to reject the Horace Mann proposal failed on a 4-4 tie, with Kociela joining the three supporters in refusing to finally reject the proposal, essentially keeping it on life support for another week.

Gabe Mason, Asst. Manager At Rendezvous, Dead at 24

Gabe Mason, 24 years old, died Monday night at his home in Shelburne. The cause of death is currently under investigation.

Mason, a veteran of the Iraq War, served in the city of Fallujah as a Navy Corpsman, tending to the medical needs of that city, its residents and the Marines and other servicemen and women stationed there in the last months of 2006 and the early months of 2007.

Since his return from Iraq, Mason had been taking courses at Greenfield Community College in American sign language and anthropology. He was working as assistant manger at the Rendezvous

on Third Street in Turners Falls, where he served as a cook and as a bartender in training.

Overflow Crowd at Budget Hearing

With a tip o’ the tam to St. Patrick, Montague capital improvements committee chair Les Cromack concluded his remarks at a joint public hearing Monday between the selectboard and the finance committee on the \$1.5 million budget deficit facing the town for FY’09 by saying, “There’s no pot of gold coming over the horizon.”

Although the hue and cry went up to petition the legislature for more state aid for schools and towns – and the word “revolution” was bandied about in regard to unfunded state mandates for special education transportation costs – there are also plenty of down-home remedies offered to help Montague pull itself out of the red ink it has found itself in since state aid dropped off, and then flattened in 2002-2003.

More than 60 people attended, overflowing the meeting room and filling the second floor hall and aisles. High school students from the Tech School ran questions from the live cable access television audience forward, and the selectboard fielded them each in turn.

Backyard Sugaring

It’s a beautiful day in the neighborhood, and the highly affable jack-of-all-trades, Mark Lattanzi, is trying to introduce a willing but somewhat slow learner to the mystical but very practical art of maple syrup making.

“It’s actually a straightforward concept,” Lattanzi said, pointing to his elementary but efficient tools. “All you need is a big, open pan like they use in restaurants. Then you stack up your bricks, make a fire pit, and you’re off to the races.”

Mark has been sugaring for more than 15 years now, either helping others or doing it himself. “I thought the process was great right from the very start,” he beamed, clearly a man who treasures the avocation on his quarter-acre property just behind the Congregational church on Center Street in Montague where he hangs buckets on his sugar maples every year at this time.

DODGE from page A1

to the state law and regulation governing public employee retirement.

“With very few exceptions, [regular compensation] has to be for actual work,” said Debra Underhill, the administrator of the Montague Retirement Board.

The ruling would lower the “annuity” portion of the benefit allowed Dodge when he retires. The annuity is essentially a savings account based on annual contributions, deducted from employee compensation.

PERAC’s ruling could also lower the so-called “pension” portion of the benefit, the amount above the annuity that the employee receives from the state system. The pension is based on a formula that takes an average of the three highest years of an employee’s “regular compensation,” multiplies it by a percentage based on their age at retirement, and then by their years of “creditable

service.” The ruling may lower both Dodge’s years of service, by one, and the average of his highest three years of compensation.

Olsen hesitated to comment on the specifics of Dodge’s case, but said she doubted that the ruling would have a significant impact on the annual assessment the town pays into the state system. “There are so many factors involved in that calculation,” she said. “It would probably be very minimal.”

The separation agreement was reached after a town-funded internal investigation of Dodge’s handling of prescription drugs in a “drop box” located at the public safety complex. Dodge, who last October admitted publicly that he was in recovery from addiction to painkillers, had been the object of a state police investigation in spring 2016.

The state ended that investigation the following year without bringing charges. But in response to the investigation, the regional

district attorney’s office dropped Montague from the drop box program, as well as from a regional anti-crime task force.

Last October, news accounts of emails sent by Dodge to state investigators, in which the former chief implied that members of his department might have taken drugs from the box, led to a “no confidence” letter signed by nearly all Montague police officers.

Dodge is allowed to appeal PERAC’s decision to a Contributory Retirement Appeal Board within 15 days of the receipt of the commission’s March 23 letter. Dodge’s lawyer, Austin Joyce, could not be reached for comment as press time Wednesday.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis said he doubted the PERAC ruling would have an impact on the overall separation agreement.



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Celebrating 15 years as a resident of Montague, MA!

BAKERY from page A1

Puchalski started the bakery in 2007 with her business partner Christa Snyder in a rented storefront at 69 Second Street. In 2012, Snyder left to open a store on Third Street called FUNK*SHUN that sold hand-crafted fashion and art, while the Puchalskis moved the bakery into its distinctive Fourth Street building, diffidently keeping its original name.

“It was like a halfway point – five years with [Christa], then five years on our own,” Puchalski says of the move. She says that this year has been the business’s best so far.

In the last five years, she adds, she and her husband have invested over \$25,000 in renovations, including a new roof, chimney repairs, and a modern air conditioning system. The bakery is being offered together with or separately from the building, which includes two residential apartments upstairs.

“We’re feeling really grateful to be able to leave on such a high note,” she says, “instead of all the businesses around us that we’ve seen come and go in this time.”

Puchalski grew up on Greenfield Road in Montague Center; her mother, Jane Paulin, is one of the couple’s nine employees, baking the company’s trademark cakes and cookies.

The business bakes bread on a weekly rotation, and custom cakes, pies, and cupcakes to order. Soups, sandwiches, coffee, and a dazzling variety of sweet and frosted treats are available for walk-in customers. It is one of a handful of locations in downtown Turners Falls where regulars can sit and eat, or work on laptops, or hold meetings.

The building itself has a storied history. In the ‘70s it was part of the Polish Cooperative Stores; in the early ‘80s, the second location of the Turners Falls Youth Center. More recently it has seen a series of short-lived businesses open: in 2002, the Blue Skies Café; in 2004, a restaurant called bellybowl; in 2007,

another bakery called Patty Cake Patty Cake; and in 2009, the convenience store, La Bodega – Latino Connection.

“Realizing this dream – of owning a bakery, and doing it in our hometown – has been amazing,” Laura Puchalski says. “The response to it was amazing, and our customers are very supportive. But we just kind of decided that we’re ready to take another step.”

In October, the couple started mapping out an “exit plan” with their realtor, Mark Abramson of Cohn & Company.

A couple early prospects didn’t pan out, and after a few months, rumors were spreading around town that the couple was selling out, or even that the business might be going under. This week they decided to let the cat out of the bag over social media, where the likes, sad and surprised reactions, hearts, and heartfelt comments have piled up by the hundreds.

“Now it’s just finding the right person,” Puchalski says.

And as for the next adventure? “We will always be involved in food – there’s no getting around it; it’s what we love, it’s what we know,” she says. “Somewhere along the mid-coast of Maine is what we’re shooting for – it’s gorgeous. And maybe scaling it back a little: a little simpler, a more manageable life after all these years of hard hours....”

“With all these employees, and all the stuff that we do in this building, I’m unable to do everything myself – I’ve gotten away a little bit from the food, which is what I enjoy.... You get where you’ve gone as far as you can with the business, and your vision kind of dwindles, and you’re not seeing where you can go with it anymore.

“But when you have a spark of a new idea, it’s like a renewed life. And that’s the fun thing about baking: that happens every day!”

Serious prospects are instructed to contact Cohn & Company.



Spring Training Time!



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS

Tennis Anyone? Clockwise, from top left: Brody Trott keeps the rally going as the Turners Falls High School boys’ tennis team prepares for the upcoming season. Will Turn races to the ball. Haleigh Greene uses a two-handed backhand shot as the girls’ team springs into action. Amber Taylor prepares for the team’s first home match, as Powertown goes up against the Pope Francis Cardinals on April 4.

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Jinx: Boxes to Slide, Knives to Throw, and Funny Moo Juice

By JERRY “JINX” COLLINS

This excerpt from “Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin’s Life, the Depression through 1952” was written by Jerry “Jinx” Collins about his youth growing up in Turners Falls.

Collins prefers to write in the third person, and in his memoir seeks to present “not just the pleasant memories showing him in a glowing light but also those that aren’t so favorable.” A copy of his book is available at the Carnegie Library.

TURNERS FALLS – In the years that Jinx lived in “The Block” on Third Street, most of his free time was spent playing in the back alley or out on Third Street, in the summers, or sliding and snowball fights in the winter.

Later, when he had moved to

“The Castle” up on Coolidge Avenue, new endeavors like hunting, fishing, and sports would fill in the balance of his non-school or work time.

Cardboard Toboggans

One of the favorite winter pastimes was to slide down what Jinx knew as “Koch’s Hill” – a steep incline down from Prospect Street to L Street – in the early winter evenings under the moon and/or street lights.

The sliding path was developed by the kids to run from the intersection of Prospect and Central Street, at the top, and diagonally to the right where it ended up at approximately the end of Brule’s driveway. This prevented them from sliding out into L Street traffic. Of course, after Jinx got his new “Reindeer” sled, sliding on

see JINX page B4



COURTESY ED GREGORY ARCHIVE

The rear alley of the Cutlery block, known in Jinx’s day as simply “The Block.”



WEST ALONG THE RIVER WAITING FOR SPRING

By DAVID BRULE

ERVINGSIDE – Ah New England! We have to be patient. March is as two-faced as Janus, who symbolized the changeable month of January. But the Romans never had to deal with New England and our month of March.

Patience is a virtue, they say. Lord knows I earned my merit badge for patience all those years spent teaching Junior High, then High School. But still, spring is maddening. The season inches forward two steps ahead, one back.

It’s March 22 out here on the back porch, two days after the calendar called for spring to arrive. But still we wait.

Whoever said the early bird gets the worm? At 7 a.m. I’m up before those lazy birds, besides, in spite of the March Worm Moon, no self-respecting worm is anywhere near the surface of the frozen lawn. The pup,

wanting out, let himself out the door, and trotted through his realm, but not a bird nor squirrel to be chased.

Far over in the tall white pine of the marsh a crow stirs, faint and unenthused, his call coming over the quiet rush of the west-flowing river.

By 7:25, they all arrive at once – the two dozen blue jays, the woodpeckers begin hammering, the cardinal calls – and we’re finally off. Now I’ve got something to sit and think about.

When you do sit and watch as I have perhaps most of my lifetime, at least during spare moments, you notice things. The sun I mentioned a month ago now rises so far to the east that my pine tree sundial along the ridge no longer tells me the time. Before, it peeked through the tree trunks high up over the river; now it reaches the neighbor’s roof line dozens of degrees over towards Northfield.

see WEST ALONG page B4



American woodcock (Scolopax minor), sometimes known as the timber doodle.

Finding the Story in an Object

By NINA ROSSI

WENDELL – Mez Ziemba delights in assembling and disassembling found objects into constructions that tell stories about life, love, loss, and forgiveness. Her exhibit of highly decorated boxes and boards that combine vintage photos and found objects at the Wendell Free Library this month are like poems and stories brought into the third dimension.

“I’m really fascinated with old photos. What is their story? Who are these people? What was their life like? I don’t know, so I create my own story, weave my own tales,” explains Mez.

A prime example of this would be her piece entitled *The Story of Her Life*, based on vintage photographs sent to her by her artist friend Lauren Paradise, who harvested them from flea markets in Wisconsin. The photographs show what looks like the same woman passing through stages of life in the 1920s and 30s, from girlhood through marriage to motherhood. Perched on top of the collage are bisque figurines that look like they are from the same era, and strings of pearls wind around the pictures, tying it all together.

Many of the pieces are dedicated to people she loves, and offer poetry that is either incorporated into the piece or placed next to it. For instance, *Love Home* is dedicated to her two sons Jesse and Christopher and her partner Wendy. The poem reads, “come sit for a while/ drink tea with me/ I will always open the door for you/ turn on the light/ read your face/ hug/ hug you.”

“I also have a fascination with religious icons, and being raised Catholic, I have a real relationship, a connection, with the Virgin Mary, Joseph, and Jesus,” says Mez, who has incorporated some of this religious imagery into her constructions. “I am looking at the Madonna as a mother and a child, something I connect with also as the mother of two sons. I find them to be beautiful! I am also fascinated with motherboards, and different



Mez Ziemba holds her construction “The Story of Her Life” in front of a showcase of her work at the Wendell Library.

pieces of computers. I was lucky enough to inherit some of Dick Baldwin’s computer parts. Hmmm – I never thought about the connection between mother and child and motherboards... but there might be one!”

One piece is a tribute to her mother, and was one of the hardest for Mez to make. She used a photo of her mother on her wedding day, placed inside worn wooden pieces that form a house around the figure. These pieces of wood were sitting in her yard, and a cross-like marking on the wood spoke strongly to her to use it for this particular construction. An accompanying poem, titled

see ZIEMBA page B8

Go Fresh and Local: Farm Store Opens on Route 63

By GEORGE BRACE

MONTAGUE CENTER – A new farm store is open for business in Montague. Red Fire North is owned and operated by longtime Montague resident Paul Voiland, father of Ryan Voiland, Red Fire Farm of Granby’s owner.

The elder Voiland recently purchased the old Montague Inn property on Route 63, and has spent the past year extensively remodeling and renovating the building, adding a greenhouse, and setting up the kitchen as a bakery. Voiland had previously operated the Depot Gardens farmstand on Turners Falls Road in Montague, and a bakery in upstate New York prior to that. Final construction and preparations are still in progress, but the stand is currently open as they gear up for a grand opening in mid-May.

Fresh, Local Inventory

The farm store is to be open year-round, and will offer a wide variety of produce, vegetable plants, flowers, herbs, bulk foods, natural groceries and household items. “Our intention is to be a community store that really offers everything that people need,” says manager Adrie Rose. An onsite bakery will be up and running soon, and will feature “nutritious and delicious” breads, pastries, pizzas, soups, and other prepared foods.

In keeping with a group of principles guiding the business, the shop will be heavily focused on products from local suppliers. “We are so blessed in the valley,” says Rose. “We have so many amazing local vendors.”

Red Fire Farms will be a primary supplier, along with yogurt from Sidehill Farm, cheeses from Chase Hill Farm, eggs from Wingate Farm, tortillas from Mi Tierra, and “the list goes on and on.” Tea and Dean’s Beans coffee are already available, and once the bakery is up

see FARM STORE page B3



BRACE PHOTOS

Top: A fresh mural adorns the side of the former Montague Inn building. Middle: Paul Voiland has ambitious plans for the farm store’s community role. Bottom: The produce corner. The store is open, though final construction is underway.

Pet of the Week

Maximillian is a founding member of the Hamster Aeronautical Discovery Corps (the “Screaming 405s”). Once known as the “Tiny Terror of the Greater Franklin County Skyways,” he has distinguished himself as an explorer, a risk-taker, and a voracious eater of small cubes of cucumber (approximately one per meal). At the young age of 2 months, Maximillian has a long career ahead of him, and needs a stable home base from which to chart his adventures.

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



“MAXIMILLIAN”

Senior Center Activities APRIL 2 TO 6

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 4/2:
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 4/3:
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga w/Andrea
1 p.m. Steve & Tom Welcome Spring!

Wednesday 4/4:
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach
12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 4/5:
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games

Friday 4/6:
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.

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

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

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Monday 4/2: No Lunch Served
9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones
10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 4/3:
8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

Wednesday 4/4:
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing
9:30 a.m. Blood Pressure
12 noon Bingo & Snacks
1 p.m. Veterans’ Guidance

Thursday 4/5:
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 4/6:
9 a.m. Quilting Workshop
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling
11:15 Music, Movement, Mayhem!

WENDELL

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

APRIL LIBRARY LISTING

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

Montague Public Libraries

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

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

ONGOING EVENTS

EVERY TUESDAY

Leverett Library: *Spanish Conversation Group*, 4 to 5 p.m.; *Qigong with Dvora Eisenstein*. 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Adult Watercolor Art Group*. Call Rosie for details. 6 p.m.

2ND TUESDAYS

Dickinson Library: *I'd Rather Be Reading Group*. 7 p.m.

3RD TUESDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Genealogy Group*. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

EVERY WEDNESDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia's Awesome Play Group*, a sand table and lots of activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m. *Self Breema/Mindful Stretching with Luc Bodin & Trudy Smith*, 6 to 6:45 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. *Homeschool Science. Hands-on STEM* (science, technology, engineering, and math). All age homeschoolers. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Tales and Tunes Story Time w/Heleen Cardinaux*. 10:30 a.m. to noon. *Advanced Tai Chi class*. 1:45 to 2:45 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome. 6 to 8 p.m.

1ST WEDNESDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Wednesday Morning Book Group*. Book discussion. 10 a.m.

2ND WEDNESDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry* with Nick Fleck. 3 p.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. For children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

1ST THURSDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Discuss the monthly topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

3RD THURSDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Rep. Paul Mark: Office Hours*. 1 to 4 p.m.

EVERY FRIDAY

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Preschoolers and their caregivers, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Kids' Friday*. When Northfield Elementary gets out early, come across the street to the library. Sometimes we have a program, or just hang out, 2 to 3:30 p.m.

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

1ST FRIDAYS

Carnegie Library: *First Friday Mystery Activity*. Each week will

be different. Possibilities are crafts, science experiments, tech-tools. Of interest to children age 8+ and teens. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

FINAL FRIDAY

Leverett Library: *Movie Night*. 7:30 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Adult Strength Training with Rosie Heidkamp*, 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Advanced Tai Chi*, 10 a.m. *Beginning Tai Chi*, 11 a.m.

1ST SATURDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, dvds, cds, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:45 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Food Pantry*. 11:30 to 2:30 p.m.

EVERY SUNDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Yoga*. Advanced beginning level. Kathy Sward is the instructor for April. 9 a.m. \$. *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

In order to apply for a show, find applications on library websites.

Leverett Library Community Room: *Louise Minks*, paintings. Through April.

Dickinson Library: *The Art of Charlie Shaw*. Through mid-April.

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4

Dickinson Library: *Wednesday Morning Book Group*. “Walking to Listen: 4,000 Miles Across America” by Andrew Forsthoeffel. 10 a.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Leverett Library: *4-H Babysitting Training*. Safety and first aid. Part 2 on April 12. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Environmental Awareness Group*. Reading: “Inheritors of the Earth,” by Chris D. Thomas. 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Book Club*, “Stoner” by John Williams. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Carnegie Library: *First Friday Mystery Activity*. See “Ongoing Events”. 4 to 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 7

Dickinson Library: *Northfield Fix-it Fair*. Don't throw it away, bring it in to have it fixed! (No cell phones, computers, items under warranty, or in need of welding). Sponsored by Transition Northfield with support from Kidder and Co. Inc. 10 a.m. to noon.

SUNDAY, APRIL 8

Leverett Library: *Common Threads Poetry Discussion Group* with poets Janine Roberts and Janet MacFadyen. State-wide project by Mass Poetry to

encourage engagement with poetry at all levels. 3 to 5 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10

Dickinson Library: *I'd Rather Be Reading Book Group*. “Walking to Listen: 4,000 Miles Across America” by Andrew Forsthoeffel. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11

Dickinson Library: *Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction & Poetry*. “Walking to Listen: 4,000 Miles Across America” by Andrew Forsthoeffel. 3 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Leverett Library: *4-H Babysitting Training*, Part 2. Learn appropriate activities and snacks for children. 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Wendell Free Library: *I Married a Witch* with Veronica Lake and Frederic March. Part of the Science Fiction/Horror Movie Night Series. 7:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 19

Millers Falls Branch: *Whale Tales*. Musical puppet show featuring creatures from the deep blue sea. 3 to 4 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Live Birds of Prey* presentation with Tom Ricardi, from the Massachusetts Birds of Prey Rehabilitation Center. This program was postponed from February. Weather permitting, Ricardi will release an owl outside at 5:30. Program begins at 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 20

Carnegie Library-sponsored event at the Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Author Jonathan Hall of *Toto the Tornado Kitten* will be doing a read-along at the Discovery Center, where “we will also celebrate those who help others”. 1 to 2 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24

Dickinson Library: *History of Baseball in Western Massachusetts* with Stephen Robert Katz, author of “Ware's Boys of Summer.” 6:30 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26

Dickinson Library: *Book talk and signing* with Andrew Forsthoeffel, author of “Walking to Listen: 4,000 Miles Across America, One Story at a Time.” Coming-of-age memoir. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Ukelele Play-Along with Julie Stepanek*. 7 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27

Leverett Library: *Movie Night*. Call for title. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28

Carnegie Library: *Lego Lady*. Children 6+ and their caregivers are invited to play and build with Legos. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 29

Leverett Library: *Beginning Garden Basics* with Dawn Ward. 2 to 4 p.m.

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FARM STORE from page B1 and running, the stand will also have grab-and-go sandwiches.

There are currently no plans to set up restaurant facilities, but there are tables and chairs available for a quick snack or cup of coffee. The store has filed paperwork to accept EBT cards and food stamps, and Rose believes they will be receiving approval within a few weeks. Supporting yearly memberships are available for \$50, with members receiving a 5 percent discount on store purchases, and they are in the process of figuring out how to possibly integrate membership in Red Fire North with Red Fire Farm of Granby.

It Started with Pumpkins

The original Old Depot Gardens farmstand on Turners Falls Road was opened 28 years ago by Paul's son, Ryan, when he was 12 years old. Ryan started with 25 pumpkins that were left over from his father's garden. From there, he went on to sell produce at farmers markets and wholesale items to local customers, renting more land to grow more crops as he went along, and eventually acquiring the property that has become Red Fire Farm in Granby in 2001.

In 2009 Red Fire acquired a 110-acre farm property in Montague, which now produces roughly half the farm's crops. Ryan was helped along the way by father Paul and mother Jean, with Paul maintaining the original farmstand until deciding to transition to a year-round business at Red Fire North. The two businesses are being run separately at the present time, though they are closely associated and share a set of values.

Red Fire North's motto is "Food that sustains the people of the planet." The simple statement speaks to the business's goals and principles as well as their offerings, and these principles extend to every area of the business.

In brief, Voiland says he is committed to organic growing; sustainable business and farming practices; the availability of healthy, organic food to all people, including those with lower incomes; a vegetarian, plant-based diet; and the local community. Voiland and the staff are passionate about these issues, and seek to "actively promote" healthy foods. They are also passionate about

education, and a significant aspect of the business will be providing helpful information to the public. Voiland describes himself as a "hard-nosed, scientific kind of person," and emphasizes that the facts are there to support the types of activities and approaches he is undertaking and advocating. He says he could mass produce plants and food if he wanted to, but his choices are economically viable, and better for the planet and its people.

Big Plans

Voiland has ambitious plans for the business, and says he is working hard to create "a unique farmstand, unlike any other in the valley." He is also in it for the long haul, and laying the groundwork for the stand to outlast him and provide good, healthy food, meaningful jobs, and exist as an asset to the community for many years to come.

The stand shows every indication that it's going to hit the ground running, and is filling up with food and plants, but there will be many improvements and additions in the coming months and years. Some of these additions, such as providing employment opportunities for disabled workers through Riverside Industries, and the planting of an orchard of nut trees from which to produce nut butters and oils, are already in the works; others, such as classes or informational gatherings on gardening, organic growing techniques, cooking and food topics, will come along in the near future. Voiland also mentions he would like to eventually convert the business to a worker-owned cooperative.

Responsiveness to the needs and desires of the community is also an element of the business plan, and Voiland will be incorporating such feedback in the business's activities. "A lot of big goals are part of the mix," says Voiland, adding that one of them is for the stand to "illustrate that what you do makes an impact."

When asked about spring in the midst of a recent cold snap, a busy Voiland laughed and said, "It's coming. It's definitely coming." And as the weather warms, it seems certain Red Fire North will grow and blossom along with it.

For more information, stop by the store or check out redfirenorth.com.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Differences Resolved; Laptop Stolen; Eversource Impostor Afoot; Fireworks

Monday, 3/19

6:32 a.m. Party into station reporting that he struck a deer near Turners Falls and Swamp roads. Vehicle sustained front-end damage on the passenger side. Party was unable to locate deer when he circled around. Officer *en route*. Resident of nearby home called reporting that there is a dead deer in front of his residence; appears to have been struck by a vehicle. DPW advised.

10:44 a.m. Caller from East Taylor Hill Road reporting that a black Chevy pickup with five people in it pulled into her driveway; parties got out and rang the doorbell. Caller states her daughter did not answer the door; advises they left a Jehovah's Witness flyer. Caller is concerned about whether they really are Jehovah's Witnesses or canvassing the area. Advised caller to have her daughter call back if they show up again.

12 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street advising she called 911 to have an unwanted person removed from her apartment, but once the person saw her call 911, she left without further incident. Caller advises that the person was initially an invited guest but became disruptive. Upon officer's arrival, the previously unwanted female was present in the apartment. Both claimed that neither of them called and that a third unknown party who left prior to the officer's arrival must have placed the call. Caller advises she and the female have resolved their differences, and she is now welcome in the apartment.

12:30 p.m. Caller from a downtown business requesting to speak with an officer about a larceny. A package was taken and has since been recovered, but caller is concerned that this may happen again. Advised of options.

12:55 p.m. Report of Verizon crew working without a detail officer on Randall Road. Follow-up phone call placed.

1:36 p.m. Caller requesting a welfare check on her daughter; advises she had been on the phone with her daughter when a man came to the door, possibly selling insurance, and the daughter's phone went dead. Subject's credentials checked out; same was an adjuster with the homeowner's insurance company. Daughter's cell phone battery died while she was on the phone with her mother.

6:31 p.m. Caller from Grove Street reports that her neighbor's dog was barking for approximately an hour and fifteen minutes. Caller did not

see the dog but speculated that the dog was likely outside. Neighbor has since brought dog inside. Advised to call back when in progress; referred to animal control officer for follow up.

7:02 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports hearing a banging sound on her bedroom door upstairs and believes someone may have broken in. Officer advises that apartment was locked; no one found inside; no sign of forced entry. Residents will follow up with building maintenance tomorrow.

Tuesday, 3/20

8:47 a.m. Report of chimney fire on West Chestnut Hill Road. No flames visible at this time; caller advises the occupants tried to extinguish prior to calling but were not successful. Advised occupants to evacuate building. MCFD and MPD responding. Officer reports sufficient fire personnel on scene.

9:23 a.m. Payne Gang crew running cable on West Chestnut Hill Road without a detail officer. Job shut down. Crew will only be working in driveways for the rest of the day. Crew requests detail officer for tomorrow, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.; will meet at Stone's on Route 63.

2:45 p.m. Caller requesting extra patrols at Millers Falls Road and Norman Circle around FCTS dismissal time; states today he witnessed who he believes is an FCTS student pass another vehicle in a no passing zone. Advised caller that this would be logged so officers would be aware and could monitor the area.

Wednesday, 3/21

2:28 a.m. Officer assisting Massachusetts State Police with traffic stop in area of Railroad Salvage.

1:22 p.m. Caller reports that a male was causing a disturbance behind the Five Eyed Fox. Removed to hospital.

8:29 p.m. Caller states that her mom just called her from a Fourth Street apart-

ment stating that people are fighting in a neighboring apartment; caller's mom is concerned for their well-being. Officers checked all surrounding apartments; no sign of a disturbance.

[No log provided for Thursday, March 22.]

Friday, 3/23

7:33 a.m. 911 caller reporting two loose horses on Lake Pleasant Road near the Scalpers Lodge. Message left for ACO. Owner found horses, who are back in the barn now.

7:57 a.m. Caller from T Street would like an officer to come down and pick up a bottle of unknown pills he found. Item retrieved; report taken.

1:56 p.m. Officer on Ferry Road observing a fox in a field walking in circles, mangy and sick-looking.

5:01 p.m. Caller from Park Street reporting that a male party was at her apartment asking to speak with her mom, who was not home. Party was wearing an Eversource jacket and a hard hat. Caller advises that male said he was from Eversource and needed to do a follow up. Caller's mom called as well, stating that she has no idea about any follow up with Eversource and believes this was a scam or someone casing the area. Officer advises he saw a male matching the description on Seventh Street heading toward Avenue A; checking area. Spoke with Eversource, who advised that they do not have anyone matching that description who works in this area and that their crews are not out this late on a Friday evening. Officer checked all over downtown and surrounding areas; no sign of this subject.

6:33 p.m. Caller from Grove Street reporting her neighbor's dog is barking again; ongoing issue. Officer advises he did not hear any dogs on arrival but did speak with the owner, who is aware of the complaint.

7:50 p.m. Multiple calls reporting loud bangs, un-

sure if they are gunshots or fireworks, in the area of Unity Park. Officer advises passerby in the area states that they saw what they believed were fireworks coming from the hill area. Resident of Prospect Street also reports fireworks from area of Central Street. Unfounded at this time.

8:08 p.m. [REDACTED]

was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of drugs (second offense); possessing an open container of alcohol; marked lanes violation; and improper turning.

9:14 p.m. 911 caller reporting possible breaking and entering into vehicle in progress on Park Villa Drive. Officer spoke with male; same was walking dog and had cell phone out with flashlight. No problems.

Saturday, 3/24

12:25 p.m. Caller states that he and a few others were threatened with violence and property damage by a group of people who just left the skatepark. Officers spoke with involved male, who explained his side of the story. He will stay clear of the skatepark today.

12:59 p.m. 911 caller reporting a large group of people in front of her home on Second Street yelling at each other. Verbal argument only; parties separated and moved along; advised there may be charges if this happens again.

2:13 p.m. Walk-in reporting that his laptop was stolen from the Third Street laundromat while he was there doing his laundry. Report taken.

7:47 p.m. Report of fireworks being set off on Unity Street. Officers made contact with residents there who are having a small fire in a fire pit. They did not deny having fireworks, but none were observed by the officers. They do not have a burn permit, so the FD is going to respond to advise them of the burn rules and possibly extinguish the fire.



Top: Coffee and tea are available, and will soon be joined by fresh-baked goods. Bottom: Employee Carly Skye Raber lays patio stones in the building's greenhouse.

MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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WEST ALONG from page B1

Down here in the yard, the Siberian pup patrols the last bit of snow-covered yard, keeping his contact with the snowscape he was born to. He enjoys his bed in the snow bank, but it is shrinking day by day.

By March 24, I'm still waiting for a special end-of-March sign. In the evening my expectations are rising, since according to past records of spring, I should be having a special visitor at dark any time now.

If you are at all versed in country things, you know that the weird little woodcock, a woodland sandpiper, is synonymous with late March and spring evenings. I've been expecting him, in spite of the 25-degree nights and the lingering snowfield in the back yard.

He is an odd little bird, all humpy-dumpty and wall-eyed, with a long bill that has a flexible tip. Evolution has equipped him with a pencil-long bill especially suited for probing in the softening mud for earthworms. Lucky for him this is the month of the Full Worm Moon.

Woodcock have come here along the river since the dawn of creation, but in more recent centuries after sharing these damp lowlands with tribal people, they've had to deal with my family, who moved into their territory almost one hundred and fifty years ago.

Great-grandfather was a crack shot, and loved this plump little bird, especially in the roasting pan. His son Abe, my grandfather, always claimed the little woodcock was good eating.

Abe and his shotgun would harvest them just below the farm house here in the fall of the year. Along with trout, bull head, and products from the modest subsistence farm, the woodcock supplemented family meals all during the Depression, so I guess the family owes this wee little bird a thank you.

Once plucked, you would find beneath the feathers a plump-breasted little sandpiper the size of a small





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Summer I – May 21-July 11

ACC 203-3	Management Accounting*	ENG 094-1	College Reading Strategies*
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AGR 115-1	Permaculture Landscape Management and Installation	ENG 114-1	English Composition II: Literature and Creative Writing
ANT 104-1	Cultural Anthropology: Tribes, States and the Global System*	ENG 247-1	Women in Literature I
ART 141-1	Color	HFW 108-1	Personal Fitness Training
ART 151-8	Photography Foundation	HIS 105-1	History of the American People to 1865
BIO 126-1	Biology I	LED 171-1	Yoga
BIO 215-1	Human Anatomy and Physiology I	MAT 107-1	College Algebra*
BIO 130-1	Human Nutrition*	MAT 096-13	Intermediate Algebra
BIO 130L-1	Human Nutrition Lab*	MAT 114-1	Introduction to Statistics*
BIO 205-1	Microbiology	MAT 095-1	Introductory Algebra
BUS 155-1	Business Law*	MAT 117-1	Mathematical Problem Solving*
BUS 205-1	Principles of Management*	MAT 094-1	Preparatory Course for Algebra
CIS 140-1	Microcomputer Software Tools I*	MOM 110-1	Medical Terminology*
CIS 141-1	Microcomputer Software Tools II*	PCS 141-1	Interpersonal Communication*
CIS 145-1	Relational Database Design and Application*	PHI 103-1	Introduction to Philosophy*
CMN 153-1	Media and Popular Culture	PSY 209-1	Abnormal Psychology
ECO 101-1	Principles of Macroeconomics*	PSY 217-1	Human Growth and Development*
ECO 102-1	Principles of Microeconomics*	PSY 101-1	Principles of Psychology
EGR 210-1	Thermodynamics	SCI 117-1	Meteorology*
EGT 105-13	Robotics Control	SOC 101-1	Principles of Sociology
EMS 101-1	Emergency Medical Technician- Basic	SOC 101-3	Principles of Sociology*
EMS 204-1	Management of Cardiovascular Emergencies	THE 101-1	Introduction to Theater*
EMS 204-3	Management of Cardiovascular Emergencies	TSW 650-5	X Welding

Summer II – July 12-August 29

AGR 112-8	Food Preservation and Storage	MAC 112-13	Human Body in Health and Disease
BIO 126-13	Biology I	MAT 090-2	Basic Mathematics Skills
BIO 216-2	Human Anatomy and Physiology II	MAT 107-13	College Algebra
CHE 105-13	Basic Principles of Chemistry	MAT 096-13	Intermediate Algebra
CIS 140-13	Microcomputer Software Tools I	MAT 095-13	Introductory Algebra
EGR 105-13	Introduction to Engineering, Science, Technology, and Society	MAT 117-2	Mathematical Problem Solving
ENG 090-2	College Writing Strategies	MAT 108-13	Precalculus
ENG 207-2	Creative Writing and Literature: Themes and Methods*	NUR 112-2	Introduction to Professional Nursing and the Nursing Process
ENG 101-2	English Composition I: Expository Writing*	OLP 112-A	Wilderness Orientation Expedition for Outdoor Leaders
ENG 112-2	English Composition II: Exploring Literature*	PCS 101-2	Public Speaking
ENG 112-4	English Composition II: Exploring Literature*	POL 101-2	American Politics*
GGY 101-2	Introduction to Geography*	PSY 217-2	Human Growth and Development
HIS 102-2	Western Civilization Since 1500 A.D.*	PSY 101-2	Principles of Psychology
HIS 218-2	Women and Gender in the American West to 1920 CE	PSY 101-4	Principles of Psychology*
		SCI 141-13	Cosmic Life Becomes You: Scientific Literacy for Today
		SOC 201-2	Social Problems*
		THE 117-2	Experimental Performance

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Outdoor Leadership Program (OLP)

Join us for these free and fun
90 minute informational presentations:

Thursday, April 5 from 2:00 – 3:30 pm
Tuesday, May 1 from 4:30 – 6:00 pm

All OLP Info Sessions meet in the OLP classroom at GCC, room N102

- Meet Outdoor Leadership Program Coordinator; Bob Tremblay.
- Visit the OLP classroom and the indoor climbing wall.
- Learn how to tie the safest knot in all of rock climbing!
- Ask questions and get answers!

OLP has been training students to become working outdoor professionals since 1980. Our graduates are highly sought after throughout the outdoor recreation and adventure education fields in Massachusetts, New England, and across the United States. Our graduates can be found working in such dynamic outdoor industries as:

Climbing Gyms	Wilderness Guides	Outdoor Equip. Retail
Camps	Ski Areas	Rafting Companies
Challenge Courses	Outing Clubs	State and National Parks
Colleges & Universities	Wilderness Therapy	Cycle Touring
Kayak Guides	Tour Guidesand much more!

For More Information contact: Bob Tremblay
at 413-775-1126 or email at TremblayB@gcc.mass.edu
RSVP encouraged but not required!
Visit our website at: www.gcc.mass.edu/olp
Follow us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/outdoorleadershipprogram

COME VISIT !

The best way to learn about GCC is to experience it in person. Campus tours are a great place to start.

Next tours are Friday, Friday April 6 – 10:00am
and Tuesday April 10 – 3:00pm

Contact hardyt@gcc.mass.edu or 413-775-1801

Necesita traducción? Llame al 413-775-1804
o admission@gcc.mass.edu

GCC Foundation

“Striving and Driving for GCC Scholars” Golf Tournament

Monday, May 21, 2018
Country Club of Greenfield

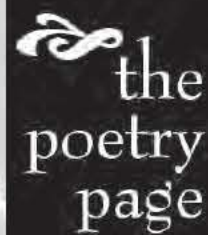
Shotgun start at noon

The tournament (modified callaway scramble) includes a bag lunch, prizes and awards, dinner at the club.

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REGISTER NOW:
www.gcc.mass.edu/foundation/golf

Greenfield Community College is an affirmative action/equal opportunity institution. For disability accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (413) 775-1812.



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
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

March’s Featured Poets: David Rowland & Julian Nangle

Lines For Nora

All night I’ve tended southward, past the sprawled
unsleeping cities, down the unstarred dark,
drifting toward morning. Does a dreaming lark
still recall sunrise? Can a house unvalled
by brute necessity still live, give way
to new days? In the human heart’s dumbshow
and drama, shall the unsaid things we know
ever find speech? (I reach for you to say
nothing and everything, drive on alone.)
Now night lapses toward dawn. Light swells through rain
past Richmond, bathes my truck. With luck, such pain
as endings bring may help us each to own
some share of greater joy, teach us to rise
like birds through broken weather toward blue skies.

– David Rowland

Solus

I drift and wake, await your late-night call
from Oakland, Utica, Bangor, New York,
and watch the winter lightning’s pale flames fork
frail absences in air. Your letters all
find me where I fall still, unseal desire
and spill fresh news of rosemary and rue,
laughter and longing hair, false starts and true
confessions. Were you come before this fire
kindled against bleak night, I’d sooner light
our son to sleep, hang up your Christmas cape,
put off this poem and let my lips undrape
the dawn behind your eyes.
Torn skies requite
such fancies; and alone, love’s fragile art
transcends the random weather of my heart.

– David Rowland

Change (for P)

Everything changes, it’s true
it would be unrealistic to bury
or challenge the view,
but how does the 70 per cent water we are
filter the feelings the rest of us carry ?
Change implies loss
I do my best to distract,
sometimes jump ship
other times absorb it
allow to let slip
resistance to circumstance,
mourn changes brought
by illness of a loved one, fragility transparent,
where transparency crosses out thought
responsibility, reason, love or age
can halt, Canute-like, the unfoldment
of what is, and the accompanying rage.

– Julian Nangle

Colour

When your face lost its colour
and became a pale ghost
with eyes upturned,
I knew we had arrived
at the end. Your demeanour,
compact, composite, was lost
in transitional peace
while my eyes burned
tears so alive and livid
there was nothing to replace
the pain but agony,
no route out away from the ending
save a road searching a journey
that might bring some understanding.

– Julian Nangle

Brighton Beach (for anna)

She stood and wept
as he put each foot
on every steep step
up towards the road.
While he gripped the rail of iron
he rose above the beach
further out of reach
from her tender touch.

Alone, bereaved,
a child of theirs gone,
he did not turn back
for a farewell look
lost in his world of make believe
with thoughts only sad men weave.
He failed to realise
she watched his every move
with eyes of love
no other could give.

Now, still standing and weeping
as sight of him slipped away
she brushed back her hair,
golden and windswept,
hearing only seagulls’ cries
filling the windblown air -
that
and children at play
which she clutched at
heart-tight
for safe-keeping.

– Julian Nangle

Beyond The Real

Another year, another southbound night
along the BosWash corridor where bruised
air thickens and the clotted lights confuse
all sense and purpose. Can we know the right
of things yet settle for the merely real?
Crossing the Hudson, I can feel you near:
lover turned friend turned stranger, disappeared
into some new life. I could turn the wheel,
go seek you as a madman seeks the moon
marooned in mirrors. I drive on instead,
headlights in flight unraveling the dead
past with its antic dreams. True love’s buffoon
I may have been – may be – yet have no doubt
what’s right as, freed by dark, bright stars come out.

– David Rowland

Untitled Sonnet

The familiar equilibrium once present is now shattered;
the change monumental. A conversation,
a bullet, suicide bomber or doctor,
they all leave the same mark, a life in tatters.
The south facing terrace once home to the sun
now droops in a mist of rain and neglect
spent blossom smudges the damp wooden boards.

Where friends gathered chatting, now there are none
heard by the one in shock.
He stumbles over minutes to reach hours and days,
weeks pass as he assembles a façade of normality,
waits for the pain to release its grip, to unlock
a semblance of what was, a life in tandem,
a smile, a companionship, a sweet end-of-day amen.

– Julian Nangle

Contributors’ Notes

David Rowland, who lives in Northfield and is retired now, was for many years Theater Program Director at Northfield Mount Hermon School. In 2012, the school dedicated the then new Rowland Studio Theater to him. (Fun fact: Uma Thurman and Laura Linney were his students.) Once retired, Rowland, with Lucinda Kidder, established Silverthorne Theater Company, a professional non-profit summer theater here in Franklin County.
Writing about his poems: “For many years, one of my annual late winter rituals has involved a road trip to Daytona Bike Week in Florida. I load the bike into the back of my truck and head south on I-95 along with thousands of other snowbirds, drawn by the promise of warm weather and some relaxed riding.... Some years back, bored

with the interminable drive down I-95, I came up with a way of keeping ennui at bay: I compose a sonnet in my head, waiting to write anything down until I have reached my destination and am sitting somewhere with paper, pen, and a cold beer. For whatever reason, most of these sonnets have turned out to deal with love. Back home, I keep them under the collective title *The Unhollow Heart*. (Extra points to anyone who recognizes the source of this title.)”

Julian Nangle, poet and bookseller, lives in Dorchester, England. The poems appearing here are from his new collection *Poems of Grief*, written in response to his daughter’s recent illness and death from cancer.

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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 for location and details.

2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

The Perch (4th floor), Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band & Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 20 piece ensemble play son, salsa, chacha and much more. 8 p.m. Free.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

1ST AND 3RD THURSDAYS

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

2ND AND 4TH THURSDAYS

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

EVERY THIRD THURSDAY

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

EVERY FRIDAY

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

EVERY THIRD FRIDAY

Arms Library, Shelburne Falls: *Open Prose and Poetry Reading*. Arrive early to sign up for 5 to 10 minute slots. 7 p.m.

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

EXHIBITS:

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

Brattleboro Museum & Art 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*.

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

Great Hall, Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Seen/Unseen, portraits by Cindi Oldham*. A conceptual watercolor portrait series that explores what it



The Greenfield Community College Chorus will perform their annual Spring Concert "Think Spring!" on Friday, April 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Episcopal Church of Saints James and Andrew, Church St., Greenfield. The chorus is under the direction of Margery Heins, with Marilyn Berthelette, Accompanist, playing both piano and organ. Soloists are from the chorus. Includes sacred and secular choral pieces from the Renaissance to the twenty-first century celebrating spring and various spring holidays.

means to be seen, yet unseen at the same time. April 6 through May 30.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Green Houses in the Connecticut River Valley of Massachusetts*, by Peter Alan Monroe. Photographs of houses by Monroe, who grew up in Queens, NY and moved to western Massachusetts in the 1970s. Through March 31. Starting April 6, *Speaking Figuratively*, by Eric Grab. He will do a life drawing demo at his reception on Friday, April 27. Exhibit through May.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rodney Madison*. Recent work by local painter with an exuberant style. Through April 5. Beginning April 6, *The Art of Onge by Andrea "Onge" Newland* whose "paintings range from portrait to abstract where worlds collide in a kaleidoscope of color." Opening reception April 6, 5-7 p.m. 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.

Hope and Feathers Gallery, Amherst: *What Will Happen?* Mixed media portraits by Jason Antaya. Opening reception Thursday, April 5, 5 to 8 p.m. during Amherst Arts Night Plus. There will be an artist reception and DIY collage with Jason on Saturday, April 21, 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

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

and Brazilian music. 7 p.m. \$

Turners Falls: *Shad Ladder Radio Hour*. Monthly live-recorded radio hour with music, skits, readings. 7:30 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jake Manzi*. Singer/songwriter. 8:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Ask Wanda*. Local band performing jazz and high energy pop/rock/folk/funk music. 7 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond Sessions*. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 31

The Perch, upstairs at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mockingbirds at Moonlight, Fievel, Zach Ware*. 7 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *She Said*. All-female band, playing original tunes drawing from traditions of blues, rock, jazz and country music infused, at times, with a bad ass, punk vibe. 7:30 p.m. \$

Full Moon Coffeehouse, Wendell: *Gaslight Tinkers*. "They will move your feet and intrigue your mind." 7:30 p.m. \$

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Deep C Divers*. "Original funky alternative pop rock & reggae from the heart." Opening by *The Wendell Warriors* drumming group, and *The 2 Elements*. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Zydeco Connection*. Cajun dance music. 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, APRIL 2

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Passover for All People*. Communal dinner. 5 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Fake Four 10th Anniversary Tour Ft. Ceschi, Onry Ozzborn, Moodie Black, Esh*. Alt rap, Hiphop and more. 8 p.m. \$

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Night with Quizmaster Mark*. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hot Damn Scandal*. "Tipsy American Gypsy Blues." 8 p.m. Free.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wildcat O'Halloran Band* plays the blues, including cuts from their new CD. 7 p.m. \$

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Penultimate round of Trivia*. Playing for the Greenfield Senior Foundation. 8:30 p.m. \$

FRIDAY, APRIL 6

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Opening reception for *The Art of Onge*, 5 to 7 p.m. Free.

Episcopal Church of St. James & St. Andrew, Greenfield: *GCC Chorus Spring Concert Series Think Spring!* 7:30 p.m. Donations.

Buckley Recital Hall, Amherst: *Windsync*, wind quintet performs "Voyager" concert which explores earth, space, and our place in the universe. Selections from Holst's *The Planets*, Offenbach's *A Trip to the Moon*, and others. Part of Music at Amherst Series. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Home Body and Arc Iris* perform indie rock. 9 p.m. \$

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**THURS 3/29 8:30 pm
Jake Manzi**

**FRI 3/30 9:30 pm
Bluegrass & Beyond**

**SAT 3/31 9:30 pm
Zydeco Connection**

**MON 4/2 8 pm
Quiz Night**

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ZIEMBA from page B1
Like White on Rice, hints of the hidden sorrows in her mother’s marriage.
“I see objects and say, How can I repurpose them? Because alone, these objects might not have meaning. So I look at them, and sometimes a piece takes a day to make and sometimes, like *Los Manos* – this took me a summer to make,” says the artist.
The *Los Manos* assemblage is all about hands. “Hands can be used for so many things, hands can be healing, and hands can hurt,” she

adds, also noting that making this piece was very therapeutic for her to engage in.
Key to making this kind of art is finding the right adhesive to hold it all together. Attaching plastics, wood, paper, china, metal together can be quite challenging. Formerly a fan of Gorilla Glue, Mez now has found what she feels is a perfect solution in a tube of adhesive called E6000. It dries clear and will hold anything to anything.
She is also interested in screws – the rustier the better. Mez feels that this dates back to her time growing

up on a dairy farm and finding rusty items there. She likes the ridges on the screws, and how they symbolize the joining of things. She also loves rhinestones, finding the contrast between sparkle and rust aesthetically exciting.
Mez worked for many years in early childhood education, and gained inspiration from observing the freedom with which young children exercised their creativity. She is now retired, and devoting more time to creating work using her collection of objects gathered over the years from friends, family, the side of the road and the local recycling center in Wendell (known affectionately as the WRATS: Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station).
She and three other local artists have formed a collective studio space and gallery in downtown Millers Falls to showcase their work, called New Story Studios. Open by appointment or by chance, it is located next to the Millers Falls Pub on East Main Street. Call or text Mez Ziemba at (413) 522-0283 to visit New Story Studios.



ROSSI PHOTO

“The Story of Her Life” is based on a series of vintage photographs Ziemba harvested from a Wisconsin flea market.



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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Here’s wishing a happy spring to our dedicated viewers and followers! This week, check out our new videos, including “An Organic Resolution,” performed and recorded at the annual meeting of the Franklin Community Co-op on March 4, 2018! Look for it on our website, MontagueTV.org, and on local Channel 17.
Is there something going you’d like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.



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