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# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 16 – NO. 39

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 9, 2018

## Pan Am Acid Train Derailment: “Best Catered Hazmat Incident”

By JEFF SINGLETON

**WENDELL** – A tanker car containing hydrochloric acid, which derailed early last Saturday morning in Wendell, has been removed from the scene of the accident, according to Wendell fire chief Joseph Cuneo. However, he said, there were three derailed cars remaining at the tracks as of Wednesday morning.

Jennifer Meith, a spokesperson at the state fire marshal’s office, confirmed that state officials had visited the scene of the accident and determined that there had been no leaks from the tanker car.

The derailment occurred at ap-

proximately 2:30 a.m. on August 4, northwest of the Diemand Farm on Mormon Hollow Road. Cuneo speculated that the accident was caused by heavy rains that night.

Montague fire chief John Zellman, who responded to the accident, confirmed that the road bed under the tracks had “washed out” during the rains.

The state fire marshal’s office said the cause of the derailment was outside its purview.

The train line, owned by Pan Am Railways, runs through Erving parallel to Route 2. Just west of Erving Center, it crosses the Millers

see **DERAILS** page A5

## Ja’Duke Breaks Ground For Theater Expansion



Left to right: Ja’Duke’s Amber Garcia, Kimberly Williams, and Nick Waynelovich on the future site of a new theater building on their airport industrial park lot.

By ANNE HARDING

**TURNERS FALLS** – It’s a busy and exciting time at the Ja’Duke Performing Arts Center and Preschool, with camps scheduled all summer, backdrops and scenes coming and going, meetings happening with architects and builders, and summer productions in full swing, as well as last week’s variety show to benefit the Theater Building Fund.

It’s been more than a year of planning, acquiring land, permitting, designing, and financing, but it’s been a dream for more than 20 years and it’s finally happening: the building of the Ja’Duke Theater on Industrial Boulevard in Turners Falls.

Turners Falls native Nick Waynelovich and his daughter Kimberly Williams have designed the new building with the help of architect Joel Mattei. Plans have been sent to the steel company for this custom construction, and Dole Brothers Construction will be the site contractors. Both the architect and contractor were instrumental in the successful design and construction of the first Ja’Duke building.

Trees are coming down now, and by the end of August the foundation should be complete. The building will be closed in by winter, and plans are already underway for a grand opening musical and gala celebration in September 2019.

see **THEATER** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Southworth: Heading Down The Road to Strathmore II?

By JEFF SINGLETON

“We’re heading down a road I don’t want to head down,” Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman told the Montague selectboard Monday night. “We’ve been here before.”

Zellman was discussing the condition of the former paper mill on Canal Road, vacated last year by the Southworth Company. He informed the board that the company, which is bankrupt, has been unable to finance the maintenance required by his recent orders.

But Zellman was also, no doubt, referring to the history of the neighboring Strathmore complex. Those buildings passed through a series of owners who could not finance repairs, and were eventually taken over by the town, which is now studying its demolition after a lack of success finding a buyer.

“I don’t want to see the town acquire [the Southworth building] ten years from now,” Zellman told the selectboard.

Southworth, which had recently rebranded the mill Turners Falls Paper, abruptly closed down just under a year ago with virtually no notice to its employees. In September, the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, and in December informed the federal bankruptcy court that it was in negotiations with a Maine company to sell the mill. But that sale did not go through, and Southworth’s Chapter 11 status, which would have allowed the company to refinance its operations, ended in April.

According to an accounting by the Montague town treasurer, last April the company owed Montague nearly \$41,000 in back property taxes and nearly \$250,000 in sewer user fees. The company also owed the Turners Falls fire and water districts a combined \$32,000.

Zellman presented the selectboard with a chronology of his efforts to monitor the property’s condition. Last September he ordered Southworth official David Mika to repair and maintain the sprinkler and fire alarm systems and “remove any and all hazardous waste and materials.” He sent other notices on April 25 and June 29, noting that the building had

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

THE BIG PICTURE

## “Somebody Thought This Was a Viable Area To Place an Airport”



Bryan Camden manages the public-use Turners Falls Airport.

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – At this spring’s annual town meeting, the question was raised, as it has been many times during the last 90 years, whether the town should continue to own an airport.

Citing climate change concerns and arguing that public money was subsidizing a very small number of pilots, a contingent of members proposed eliminating the town’s contribution altogether.

Eventually Sam Lovejoy of Precinct 1, a former airport commissioner, pointed out that Montague could be held liable to repay extensive grant money to the state and federal governments should the Turners Falls Airport cease to operate. A compromise was reached in which the department was denied one line of its requested budget – money to pay an intern from the tech school – but otherwise funded,

with a stern warning that the airport should soon be funded entirely by its customers.

Rookie airport manager Bryan Camden seemed to take all the commotion in stride.

On a hot, hazy morning this week, I paid him a visit to hear his perspective on the past, present, and future prospects of Turners Falls Airport. (This transcript has been edited for brevity and continuity.)

**MR:** So, you just started this job last year?

**BC:** In June of last year.

**MR:** And what was your background – you’d worked at a couple other airports before?

**BC:** Before here, I was at Orange for almost seven years, and at Lawrence airport during some of that. I went to college before that in Florida, at Daytona Beach.

see **AIRPORT** page A6

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Solar Hearing Hinges on Status of Stream

By KATIE NOLAN

The hearing for the 6.45-megawatt ground-mounted photovoltaic array Amec Foster Wheeler (AMEC) has proposed to build on land near the French King Restaurant, begun on July 23, continued at Monday night’s meeting of the Erving selectboard.

After discussing issues with the plan – including whether cutting up to 60 acres of woodland would affect the groundwater recharge rate in the Erving water supply aquifer, and whether the stream south of the site is “perennial” or “intermittent” – the selectboard, acting as water commissioners, and the conservation commission again continued the hearing until August 21.

By that date, they will have received reviews of the

proposal from wetland scientist Emily Stockman and environmental engineers Tighe & Bond.

In a letter to the selectboard, chief water operator and con com member Peter Sanders recommended that the town have an engineer evaluate the effects of “clear cutting an area that large,” and asked if removal of the trees would change the way rain penetrates the soil, and whether there would be issues with erosion.

Con com member David Brule said the con com and Stockman had walked “all over” the 60-acre site. He said Stockman told the commission’s members that the site is a white pine and oak upland, and that there are no wetland areas within the proposed solar installation.

Brule said that Stockman identified the stream south of the property as a “perennial” stream. But, according

see **ERVING** page A4

## ADVANCED PARKS & REC



Nate Jackson captured this shot of Taylor Wiles doing a “craislides” on a quarter pipe at Unity Skatepark as Christmas in July fireworks exploded behind him.



# The Montague Reporter

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## Getting In Tents

Okay, so once again... What's with not everyone having housing? Let's look at the National Low Income Housing Coalition's 2018 profile of housing in Massachusetts. The NLIHC counts 2,558,889 households in the state, of which 970,146 rent.

Of the renters, 299,505 are considered "extremely low income" (ELI), meaning that their income is 30% or less of the area median. That's an arbitrary place to slice the pie, but sometimes it's helpful to focus on a given section of the population to understand the challenges folks face *en masse*:

- For every 100 ELI households, there only 46 they can truly afford to rent are available;
- This means there's a shortage of about 162,000 affordable homes in the state;
- As a result, most ELI renters live in homes they can't really afford – 60% of ELI renters spend *more than half* their already meager incomes on rent and utilities;
- This "severe cost burden" exposes them to a range of risk factors that over time make them less physically and mentally healthy and more vulnerable to eviction;
- 36% of the state's ELI households are senior citizens, and another 26% on top of that are disabled non-seniors;
- And an overwhelming majority of the rest – 28% of the ELI – are in the workforce. These three categories add up to 90% of the very poor, despite the continued popularity of stories about poverty stemming from a lack of motivation and an elective aversion to work.

We wrote two weeks ago in this column about the hot news over in Greenfield, which was that people were camping out on the town common and the police felt they didn't have any legal grounds to kick them out.

The camp has gone on for several weeks now, prompting an awful lot of people with homes to complain that the situation reflects poorly on Greenfield, or indicates some shortcoming: either of the city as a whole, or of some of its other residents, or of its politicians.

Earlier today, Wednesday, the city's board of health convened and voted to issue a cease and desist to the campers, on the grounds that they were violating state sanitary code by virtue of using tents without the board's permission.

"No temporary housing may be used except with the written per-

mission of the board of health," the state code reads.

"Temporary housing means any... structure used for human shelter... not attached to the ground, to another structure, or to any utility system... for more than 30 days."

The powers of boards of health are quite sweeping by design. Still, in a humane gesture, the board has granted the campers a 12-day grace period to clear out.

But this "solution" to the challenges posed by the camp makes us wonder how often, and how evenly, the city intends to enforce what effectively amounts to a blanket tent ban – the sanitary code, after all, applies everywhere, on public and private lawns alike.

(And would tents pitched before July 20 age out of the definition of temporary housing on August 20?)

Anyway. Let's assume the city's wise bureaucrats have managed to plug up the loophole that made the unpleasant reality of our half-million homeless fellow Americans a topic of public discussion here in Franklin County.

What have we discovered about the place we live in the process? That there are basically two public positions on the issue. One sees homelessness as the result of an epidemic of deficiency in personal character, which must under no circumstances be rewarded with shelter. And the other disagrees.

There's an easy way to test the idea. Line up the rate of homelessness per capita along one axis of a graph, line up the cost of housing along another, and see where all the states in the country fall.

In case that sounds like too much work, you can go online to "[thedataface.com/2018/01/public-health/american-homelessness](http://thedataface.com/2018/01/public-health/american-homelessness)" to see what it looks like.

It's pretty stark. "Homelessness is more acute where housing is expensive," the analysts at The Data-Face conclude.

So, let's play it out all the way: do the regional character deficiencies that lead to homelessness also cause property values to rise?


No? Then, do rising property values cause character deficiencies that lead to homelessness? That would be ironic, and if true, anyone who encourages investment in home-ownership or is glad when local property values rise might wonder whether they're accidentally corrupting hundreds of thousands of people.

If a society is based entirely on exchange, some number of people



*Jon Dobosz, Montague parks and recreation director, pauses at the whale tail sprinkler park Wednesday morning before heading out with 60 campers (and several counselors) for a day at Erving's Laurel Lake.*

Letters to



the Editors

## Leverett: Solve Groundwater Problem

Last week Leverett held a select-board meeting that included a group of residents addressing their individual problems concerning the town's landfill contamination of their water. One SB member characterized the group as "getting worked up," and said that if he were in the same situation he would sell his house.

To be clear, ten years of dealing with bottled water, wells failing, leaving some with very low quantities of water forcing them to use the laundromat weekly and impacting home businesses is something to get worked up over! Also, selling houses with these problems is not a realistic option for anyone involved.

Leverett has the reputation as a peaceful town of serenity; declaring itself a nuclear-free zone back in the '70s. It also resolved, at one point, that having access to clean drinking water is a human right.

Leverett is home to the Peace Pagoda, the Leverett Co-op, and

Leverett Crafts & Arts. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts invested millions of dollars to prevent development of Brushy Mountain, while the townspeople have invested many resources to preserve open space, conservation land, and develop hiking trails. One of its jewels is the preserved Rattlesnake Gutter. Leverett prides itself on its wonderful school system, its fiber-optic cable network and its community building activities. Leverett is a great place to live!

Yet, Leverett has also allowed a neighborhood to live with increasingly desperate situations caused by its legacy of landfill water contamination for decades.

In order to solve the water quality and quantity problems, funding is needed from the town to study a proposed project. But when Town Meeting voted on funding for the Amherst Water Line Project Study, it gained a majority but failed to gain

the needed 2/3 majority vote – and since then nothing has happened.

CLEAN believes that Leverett is a town that cares for its citizens, and that if the townspeople understood the desperate conditions which prevent some of its taxpayers from enjoying daily life and planning for their futures – a situation caused by the town-owned landfill – they would do the right thing and vote to take responsibility for the contamination created by the open dump that was used by the town for decades.

The affected people need plentiful clean, reliable water in their taps now so they can get on with their lives. And they need the town and townspeople to make this an urgent priority.

**Patricia Duffy**  
**CLEAN (Citizens for Landfill Environmental Action NOW!)**  
**Leverett**

on its fringe will suffer from unmet needs. There will always be surplus supply and surplus demand: vacant housing units and houseless humans; food rotting in warehouses and bellies going hungry. The only way to ensure everyone survives is to offer goods necessary for survival to *some* people as a gift with no hope of reciprocation.

This is a frustrating reality, and it makes sense that causes emotional reactions, because the way things are going, the future only guarantees more of this.

Our sleepy county is nestled between two of the hemisphere's most overheated housing markets; it makes sense to fear that extending a welcome to strangers and providing shelter will result in more of America's half-million homeless drifting in our direction. It makes sense to put up a wall, face outward with a snarl: we pull our own weight here, buddy!

While our local liberals are glad to have a chance to flaunt their superior empathy, they shouldn't be so dismissive of the fearful rhetoric we're hearing surrounding fifteen little tents on a green.

We're in for a long, hot century. Last year over 15,000 people moved from Puerto Rico to Massachusetts after two storms.

*I have what they don't because I'm a better person than them* is a seductive story, and an old one. And it has never, ever, ended well.

## CORRECTION

In a sidebar to our preview for Gill's 225th Anniversary celebration last week (July 26, 2018, "Gill Gears Up For Big Birthday Christmas Party," page A1), we mentioned a "Community Read" planned for the fall.

Emily Samuels, the Read's organizer, let us know that we had somehow gotten our wires crossed and announced an incorrect name for a book that tells "the tale of the dissolution of a town in 1932 when the great Quabbin was flooded."

That book, written by Jackie French Koller, is titled *Someday* – not, as we for whatever reason had it, *Some Day My Prince Will Come*. Sorry everybody!

WE WELCOME

YOUR LETTERS!

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editor@montaguereporter.org

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Compiled by DON CLEGG

This Friday, August 10, Great Falls Books Through Bars will screen “**The Prison in 12 Landscapes,**” a film about how prisons affect life across America outside of the penitentiary itself, at the Brick House, 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

The program, which is supported by a Montague Cultural Council grant, is free and open to the public and starts at 7 p.m.

All players are invited to another **bingo** event at Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, August 11. This week bingo starts at 9 a.m., which is earlier than usual.

Seating will definitely be on a first call, first reserve basis. Place your call now to (413) 863-4316.

The **Friends of the Franklin County Regional Dog Shelter** are holding the 6th Annual Fundraiser for our Mutts in Need this Saturday, August 11 at 3 p.m. at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club.

The event will include food, a cash bar, a live auction, a raffle, door prizes, and a shelter alumni parade, as well as live music by

Dogwalker. To learn more about the shelter, call (413) 676-9182 or visit [ferdogkennel.org](http://ferdogkennel.org).

Saturday, August 11 is “**Bat Night**” at the Great Falls Discovery Center! Starting at 7:30 p.m., join bat inquirers for a presentation by Amanda Melinchuk, Bat Research Monitor with Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation.

Melinchuk will share her expertise and talk about the myths and misconceptions surrounding bats, why they are important, and what you can do to help them. Her presentation will be followed by a Q & A session. Afterwards, visitors can join Melinchuk outside with a bat detector, and look for bats right by the Center.

Montague Center First Congregational Church presents the **59th Montague Old Home Days** next Friday, August 17 through Sunday, August 19.

Activities include parades, raffles, food and craft booths, road races, music, and continuous entertainment for all ages. Friday evening features a dance performance, kids’ games, and food, while Saturday is

a full day of festivities, including a mug race in the morning, the Old Home Days Parade, a quilt display, line dancers, and more.

The festivities culminate with a church service Sunday morning featuring music by Becky Walton and John Fuller, which all are welcome to attend. (For full schedule, see the ad on page A7.)

On Saturday, August 18, Greenfield Savings Bank is hosting a **School Bus Safety** event with F.M. Kuzmeskus starting at 10 a.m. Perfect for new or returning students, the event will bring safety experts and an actual bus from Kuzmeskus to the bank branch in Turners Falls.

Attendees will have the chance to board the bus, learn how to make their way to a seat, and learn proper safety habits and bus etiquette.

Join the Community Health Center of Franklin County from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m on Saturday, August 18 as they celebrate National Health Center Week with a free, **superhero-themed family fun day at the Energy Park** in Greenfield. There will be music, popcorn, games, and prizes.

Kids can also enter an art contest for a chance to win a reversible coloring smock and art supplies. Contest submissions must be received by 5 p.m. August 17 to be eligible. Visit their page at [www.facebook.com/CHCFCMA](http://www.facebook.com/CHCFCMA) for more information.

Exploded View, a group of women artists and writers working together to create original performance and exhibitions, is curating a community art show to premiere at the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls during September. Artists living in western Massachusetts are invited to submit **artwork on, about, or related to paper**, its personal or local significance – use your imagination!

Email up to three jpegs with a brief description of each piece, including title, dimensions, and materials, along with your name, address, and phone number to [explodedviewma@gmail.com](mailto:explodedviewma@gmail.com) by Wednesday, August 22 to be juried into the show. There are no submission fees, only a suggested

participant donation of \$5 to help cover the cost of the reception.

**Families dealing with mental illnesses** and brain disorders of a loved one, young or old, can greatly benefit from peer education and support.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Western Massachusetts is pleased to offer Family to Family, a national educational program that includes 12 weekly classes designed to help caregivers understand and support their loved ones while maintaining their own well-being.

Classes start Thursday, September 6, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in Greenfield. Preregistration is required by calling Susan Sharbaugh at (413) 422-2144.

For more information, please call. You are not alone.

Common Good Greenfield is currently accepting **proposals to fund projects that promote sustainability**, small business development, social justice, food systems, or the arts in Franklin County. After awarding \$10,000 to eight local projects last year, the group has \$20,000 available for its 2018 funding cycle.

Apply online by October 1 at [CommonGood.earth/GreenfieldMa/funding](http://CommonGood.earth/GreenfieldMa/funding). There is no application fee, and everyone is eligible to apply. Proposals will be scored by Common Good Greenfield members, and recipients will be announced in November. Funding will be disbursed in Common Good credits, which can be exchanged for US dollars or spent at Common Good stores.

For more information, call (413) 628-1723 or email [greenfieldma@commongood.earth](mailto:greenfieldma@commongood.earth). A public presentation is planned for Wednesday, September 5 at 6 p.m. at the Coop Annex, 170 Main Street in Greenfield.

Interested in delivering the newspaper? The *Montague Reporter* has an opening to **deliver about 45 papers in the town of Gill**. If you or someone you know may be interested, call 863-8666 or email [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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

## August 16: Senate Candidates’ Night

**LEVERETT** – The Leverett Alliance and the Leverett Democratic Town Committee will host a forum on Thursday, August 16 at 7 p.m. for the five candidates vying for the Hampshire/Franklin/Worcester senate seat in November.

The event will be held at the Mount Toby Friends Meeting House, 194 Long Plain Road (Route 63), Leverett. All interested voters in the 25 towns the seat serves are welcome to attend.

This will be your chance to ask questions of the candidates in small groups. Come join us and bring your friends and neighbors.

The five candidates running to fill the seat vacated by state senator Stan Rosenberg are Jo Comerford, Steve Connor, Chelsea Kline, David Murphy, and Ryan O’Donnell. Four of the candidates are running write-in campaigns in the September 4 primary, as only Kline will be on the ballot.

## August 25: House Candidates’ Forum

**GREENFIELD** – Racial Justice Rising invites the public to a forum from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 25 for the seven candidates for the First Franklin district house seat from which Steve Kulik is retiring. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

Audience members will be able to submit questions to the candidates, who will be asked about issues ranging from social and economic inequality to education, immigra-

tion, housing, criminal justice, and discrimination. This could be the first such event with political candidates for office from western Massachusetts, and perhaps the state as a whole, to focus specifically on issues of racism and racial justice.

Kate Albright-Hanna, Natalie Blais, Christine Doktor, Jonathan Edwards, Casey Pease, Nathaniel Waring, and Francia Wisniewski have committed to participating.

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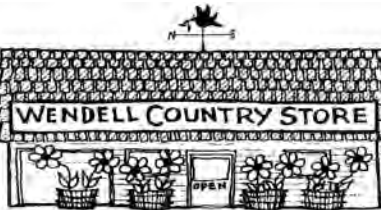


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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Trees, Phone Poles,  
Ponds, and Panels

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At its July 25 meeting the Wendell selectboard met with five individuals and one committee at 15-minute intervals. By squeezing in their other meeting tasks as they could fit in, board members Dan Keller and chair Christine Heard were able to end their meeting by 8:45. Daylight was already gone, and the nearly full moon was obscured by a thick cloud cover.

The selectboard is operating this summer with only two members. Board member Jeffrey Pooser resigned citing family responsibilities. A special election for his replacement will be held September 4, coinciding with the state primaries. Until then, any vote that the board takes will either be unanimous or a tie. A forum with the three candidates is planned for August 28.

Before the first visitor's scheduled time, Keller and Heard signed a "limited cable franchise" agreement with Comcast to connect the company's cable that will serve Montague to three houses in west Wendell that are closer to that town. One of those houses may be the state forest building at Ruggles Pond. Keller commented that those might be the first houses in Wendell with a broadband connection.

Solar Nexus

The first visitor was Dianne Clowes from National Grid, who came for a pole hearing. National Grid is proposing a new pole and brace to connect three-phase electricity with the solar array at 107 Wendell Depot Road. This pole, if permitted between #28 and #29, would allow trimming of fewer trees for the connection.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said abutters had been notified, but no citizen came to the hearing with or without objections. Since the new pole, #28-½, is to go in the straight line between poles #28 and #29, the board approved it.

Agriculture commission member Laurel Facey brought before the board concerns about the relatively large number of solar arrays that are proposed or rumored within the town. The only three-phase electric line goes uphill along Wendell Depot Road, along Lockes Village Road and up Locke Hill Road, which is also where most of Wendell's good agricultural land is.

Facey asked for an all-board meeting soon to get facts and not rumors, and to discuss how the town might deal with the impact of that much development. Most of Wendell that is not houses is forest, and any large array would require clear cutting, and stumping.

Aldrich said that part of the town becoming a "Green Community" was allowing solar installations by right. Later in the meeting, energy committee chair Nan Riebschlaeger corrected her: The town has two "overlay districts," the rear of the transfer station and the D&B demolition debris landfill, where arrays are allowed by right; other locations require a hearing.

No one, apparently, wants to have to look at a large solar installation from their home, and while the plan-

ning board may impose a restriction, like a visual screen, and the con com can require a buffer to protect a wetland, there is no mechanism to stop any solar array on private land.

Keller said that Wendell has spent Green Communities grant money and should adhere to its agreements.

Riebschlaeger, acting as planning board chair, also requested permission to consult town counsel about an array that is under consideration on private land, and what the town may do to avoid locating an array on an inappropriate site.

August is a hard time to schedule an all-board meeting, so Keller and Heard agreed to schedule one for an "off" week in September.

Dead Growth

Wendell's new tree warden Corine Baker came in with concerns she found when she and road boss Rich Wilder looked at trees marked as sick or dead or dying, which are considered dangerous because they are near roads.

Baker was told that all roads in Wendell are covered by the state Scenic Roads Act, and that a town bylaw says a hearing is required before any tree is removed. Her feeling was that a more reasonable bylaw would allow removing any tree that threatens a road or an electric line without that much delay.

She and Wilder marked those dead and sick trees that threaten roads. She got three wildly differing estimates for removing them, and the most reasonable was from Wendell resident and tree worker Matt Edwards.

Baker asked if a police detail would be required for traffic control during cutting, or if she could serve with one other person. Aldrich told her to ask treasurer Carolyn Manley about what the hourly component of her budget may be used for.

Pond Enthusiasm

Members of the Fiske Pond advisory committee came in as a group to discuss ongoing problems at the pond, the swimming area, and parking. Signs on West Street say "no parking," but when the ten-car lot is full, people park their cars there.

Committee members said they planned to go to the next highway commission meeting to ask for more "no parking" signs below the parking lot entrance, and requested they be enforced, starting with a warning with police chief Ed Chase's signature.

As of this meeting, Chase had no parking tickets.

Enthusiastic, unleashed dogs have also been a problem, especially at the beach. Calling for help, either from the police or the dog officer, does not work, because there is no cell signal at the pond. Ruth Mazurka admitted that the signs at the parking area are open to some interpretation, and a liberal understanding might give an owner the impression that dogs may run free.

Admitting that well-behaved dogs off leash may not be a problem away from the beach, members suggested a sign on the far side of the dam and on the trail stating that, as well as signs at the beach making it clear that dogs

ERVING from page A1

to Stephen Herzig of AMEC, the stream was dry in April.

Herzig provided copies of state regulations stating that a stream that is dry for four days over a 12-month period should be considered an "intermittent" stream, as well as photographs documenting that the streambed was dry over at least four days.

A perennial stream requires a 200-foot buffer zone, while an intermittent stream requires only a 100-foot buffer zone. AMEC's plans for the solar array were developed using a 100-foot buffer zone. "We believe our plan is accurate," Herzig said.

Water commissioner Scott Bastarache said he understood that AMEC's modeling had shown that water recharge would not be significantly affected by the solar installation, but "I need a third-party

independent study showing that it doesn't inhibit the recharge zone."

Brule said the con com would consult with Stockman about the classification of the stream.

Heroic Actions

Police chief Christopher Blair copied the selectboard on a letter to Vincent Croteau of Greenfield, commending his "heroic actions on July 24, 2018 on Route 2 in Erving."

On that day, Croteau helped remove a pregnant woman from a burning vehicle, "a selfless act," according to Blair. Blair said the woman's family was "extremely grateful."

"While she has a long road of recovery ahead of her," he continued, "she and the baby are alive and currently at the trauma center in Worcester, Massachusetts."



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL TOWN CLERK

Voter Registration Deadline

The last day to register to vote and/or change party enrollment for the September 4 State Primary and Special Town Election is Wednesday, August 15.

Special voter registration sessions will be held on that day in the Town Clerk Office from 2 to 4

p.m. and from 7 to 9 p.m. Register in person at the Town Clerk Office, by mail, or at the RMV.

Anyone who has changed their address must register at their new address in Wendell. If you have recently moved to Wendell, you must also register to vote.

Ballot Selection

At this year's Primary Election, there will be three different ballots for each official Massachusetts party; each with a unique color.

If you are registered to vote as a Democrat, Republican, or Libertarian, then you must vote the Party's ballot. If you are registered as Unenrolled, or some other political designation, you may select any one of the three ballots. Once that ballot

is selected, you may not exchange it for a different party's ballot.

Always review the posted "sample" ballots before entering the voting area. The ballots for the Special Town Election are all the same and will consist of three names: Wanita Sears, Laurie DiDonato, and Phil Delorey, the three nominees for the recently vacated Selectboard position.

Absentee Voter Applications

Absentee Voter Applications for the September 4 elections are available now at the Town Clerk's Office. To vote absentee, you must be out of town on Election Day, have a religious belief that prohibits you from being at the polls, or have a physical disability that prevents you from getting to the polls.

Remember that both the Special Town Election and the State Primary are scheduled for Sep-

tember 4. You can complete an absentee ballot application that covers both these elections and then vote by mail or in person at the Town Clerk's Office during regular office hours.

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is 5 p.m. on Friday, August 31. Call or email the Town Clerk with any questions: (978) 544-3395 x2; [wendelltownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wendelltownclerk@gmail.com).

need to be leashed there.

Conservation commission chair Robin Heubel said the state leash law actually only applies at highway rest stops.

Other Business

Board members agreed to carry forward accounts for website training, for tree work at MacAvoy's Pond, for town hall kitchen equipment, for office building repairs, and for cemetery grave openings.

Zack Holt from Hampshire Power discussed extending Wendell's electricity agreement with his company. He said Wendell had saved some money with the prior agreement, which ends September 1.

The new contract offers 100% wind-sourced electricity at \$0.11045 per kilowatt-hour. It would not be affected by the town's net metering credits, which will increase after the office building's south-facing roof has solar panels installed, but Holt asked that the town inform Hamp-

shire Power when that happens.

The board voted unanimously to sign a 36-month extension of the contract.


FRCOG is offering technical assistance with youth substance abuse prevention, and is scheduled to send a representative to the next selectboard meeting.

Aldrich reported that the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA) is offering \$1 million in cyber liability insurance after July 1 at no additional cost to the town. Their offer for prior unknown acts has a cost, but board members thought that there was no need for that.

Separately from the planned all-board meeting on solar, Heard mentioned a need for a joint meeting between the kitchen committee, finance committee, Full Moon Coffeehouse committee, and Good Neighbors all of whom have a concern about the kitchen, and its recent failure to pass inspection.

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DERAILS from page A1

River to run through Wendell into Montague. The line crosses the Connecticut River west of a newly-constructed, limited access bridge on Montague’s Greenfield Road. The Greenfield Road bridge was closed for nearly two decades after the railroad company, then called the Guilford Rail System, reportedly destabilized the structure during work on its track bed. After years of public demands that the railroad be held accountable for rebuilding the bridge, its reconstruction was financed by the state. In February 2016, Pan Am suf-

fered another derailment, this one involving a propane tanker, just west of the bridge. “Derailments happen a lot more than you might think,” Zellman told this newspaper. As of this writing, Pan Am had not responded to calls from the *Reporter* about the latest derailment. Cuneo said that “for the most part,” he was pleased with the company’s response. Asa de Roode, captain of the Wendell Fire Department, thanked Diemand Farm in a public email: “At 3:00 am multiple fire depts assembled in the farm parking lot

to assess the derailment and plan a strategy. Annie [Diemand] was woken up early and started making coffee. A couple hours later, hearty breakfast sandwiches were served to a rapidly expanding (and grateful) crew. “Lunchtime rolled around and more amazing food was served to the crew at 2 locations. What an amazing show of Wendell hospitality to our fire dept. and out of town partner agencies. “This may very well be the best catered hazmat incident in history!”



THEATER from page A1

A Family of Businesses

Waynelovich grew up in Turners Falls, and moved to the eastern part of the state for his early years of teaching in Plymouth and Douglas. He spent the next 29 years at the Mohawk Regional School District, retiring as music director in 2009. In addition to teaching, Wayne-lovich toured all over New England with the Shea Swing Orchestra and the King Philip Dixieland Band for several years in the early ‘90s. Recognizing a need for performing arts education in Franklin County, he and his daughter Kimberly formed Ja’Duke Productions, with their first show in 1997 at the Shea Theater. The Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts was built in 2004. The Center has been multi-faceted since the beginning, with three separate businesses operating in the same building. Daughter Amber Garcia is the director of the Ja’Duke Preschool, which features an arts-oriented program that serves about 60 students per day, ranging in age from infants to kindergarten, during the school year. The school aims to provide a warm and loving environment with plenty of exposure to the arts, outdoor play, music, and dance. From time to time, the students get to watch a rehearsal for an upcoming performance from the second prong of the business.

Managed Chaos

There is a certain amount of chaos at the end of most days as the preschool rooms morph into instructional spaces for dance, music, and theater. This is when Kimberly Williams takes over the day-to-day organization and coordination. Williams was a competitive dancer growing up, and started the company with her father while attending college. Several productions each year are performed at rented auditoriums throughout the area, so everyone is looking forward to the new theater. Attendees at last week’s fundraiser were treated to a musical skit highlighting some of the daily trials and tribulations Ja’Duke encounters in planning productions using auditoriums it rents from high schools in Franklin County.

The production team has to know the systems and limitations of each venue while planning the annual calendar; some venues might have a good fly system, another might have limited floor space, and yet another might have issues with lighting or sound. In addition, there are the issues of limited rehearsal time on the actual stage, the cost of the rental, availability of the various auditoriums, and transportation of sets and equipment. Theater rentals aren’t cheap, so most rehearsals take place in the shared classroom space. Williams and Waynelovich are understandably excited about building their own theater designed to their specifications. Plans include a 500-seat theater with a 100- by 40-foot stage; state-of-the-art lighting and sound; a full fly system; an attached lobby; and new classrooms. The classrooms will allow for four new preschool rooms, provide instruction space for acting, dancing, and singing, and serve as green rooms during performances. There is also considerable enthusiasm about the prospect of the 175 spaces in the new parking lot.

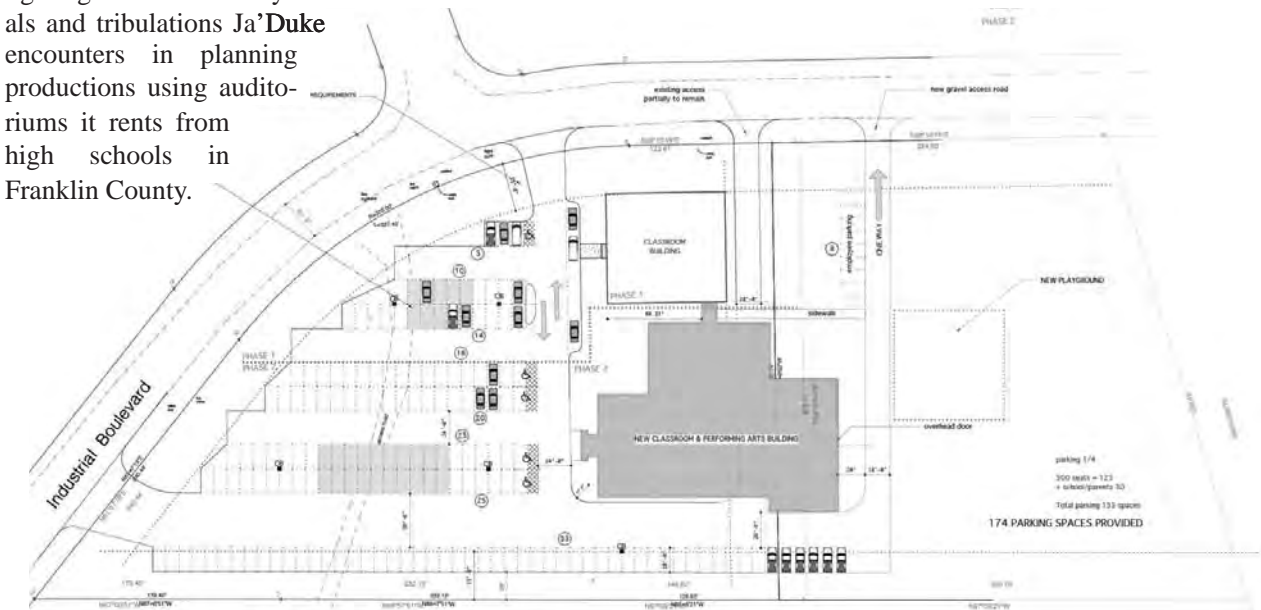
Creating a Scene

The third prong of the Ja’Duke business has been focused on theater supply rental. For many years, Ja’Duke Scene Shop has rented out scenery, props, costumes, and backdrops to other theater companies all over the country. On their website, one may peruse many options, from complete setups to individual props. It required quite a labor force to pack up, deliver, and set up these rental packages. In the past year, the business has phased out set rentals in order to focus on the production, rental, and sale of backdrops. Printed on strips of heavy fabric which are then sewn together, these backdrops are typically 40 feet wide and 15 or 16 feet tall, but even larger ones can be manufactured as well. There is a huge rental library to choose from, with a complete list of backdrop scenes available for more than 50 productions ranging

from classic Broadway numbers to Disney specialties. Ja’Duke Backdrops also does custom printing for their customers. You provide the image, tell them what size you want, and they take care of the rest. Visitors to the Great Falls Discovery Center in February saw a few panels printed by Ja’Duke if they visited the Dinosaur Footprint exhibit by the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and Memorial Hall Museum.

A Supportive Community

Between the three businesses, Ja’Duke has 10 full-time employees and 10 part-time employees. Two others were laid off when the scene shop closed, but the company plans to expand the preschool and anticipates hiring more staff when construction is complete. I asked Waynelovich what makes Ja’Duke different – outside of it being comprised of a family of workaholics who think nothing of putting in a 15-hour day. He pointed out that for one thing, this arts organization is truly family-run, and their customer base is composed of families who are interested in family-style entertainment. They are also a business and pay taxes, unlike most arts organizations which are typically 501(c)3 non-profits. Ja’Duke accepts donations for capital drives and show underwriting, but donations are not tax deductible. They are very grateful for the local community’s ongoing support of their family of businesses. Audience members at last Saturday’s fundraiser were treated to video clips of many Ja’Duke shows over the years, including several original works: “Crosswinds,” by Nick Waynelovich and Janet Siciak; “Cave of Fish,” by Wayne-lovich and his son John Wayne-lovich; and “Fairy House & Fairy Tea Party,” written by Judith Dean Kulp with musical scores by John Wayne-lovich. The musical extravaganza, aptly named “Dare to Dream,” was a huge success, raising over \$7,000 for the theater project.



The preliminary site plan prepared by J. Mattei & Associates for Ja’Duke’s new performing arts building.

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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

# Pols, DEP Support Amherst Water Pipeline

By ROB SKELTON

Fire chief John Ingram sought the Leverett selectboard’s approval for his latest hire – Thorsten “Toto” Bidwell, a “good kid” who attends GCC – at Tuesday’s meeting, and thanked them for attending the recent Blessing of the Trucks. Ingram briefed the board on radio upgrades, and noted that some of his crew would appreciate a workout area, which would increase firefighter presence at the station. One board member went further and suggested a brewpub. “We’re not going down that road,” Ingram replied. Since no money was involved (yet), the board was receptive, directing Ingram to facilities manager John Kuczek for further review. The proposed water line extension from Amherst to south Leverett to serve residents whose wells have been contaminated by leachate from the former landfill is another step closer. A grant to cover design costs was supported by letters from Kulik, Sen. Hinds, and the state Department of Environmental Protection. Town administrator Margie McGinnis is still waiting for a letter of support from Amherst road boss Guilford Mooring, who implied but did not guarantee some financial support for the project. “We’re up against the wall,” said selectboard chair Peter d’Errico, referring to Leverett’s ten-year effort to mitigate a problematic water supply. Conflict over the town’s reach into the pocketbook of rich landowner Mike Kittredge continues as another land court case winds its way through the state’s Appellate Tax Board. Kittredge, founder of Yankee Candle and owner of extensive land at the intersection of Amherst and Juggler Meadow roads, is again seeking relief from taxation, having succeeded last year in forcing Leverett to do a give-back on over-assessed property. “It’s really aggravating to go through this again,” said selectwoman Julie Shively, as the board okayed the rehire of attorney Egan, who oversaw the previous case.

The assessments of previous years, assigned by locals with knowledge of Leverett, have now been replaced and outsourced to Regional Resource Group, headed by Jeff Reynolds, who recommended Egan’s rehire. Transfer station coordinator Annette Herda requested board permission to hire three new workers, one of whom, Dan Levine, is related to her. The two others, Emmet Flint and Maxwell Abramowitz, will work part-time hours. The board, minus Tom Hankinson (who was absent), approved. Denzel Hankinson, older brother of Tom, was at the meeting because he “had nothing better to do.” Discussion of the problematic elementary school sprinkler system was delayed due to Hankinson’s absence. D’Errico said he sought to be “really strict about how we define the scope of the work,” as plans have gone missing, sprinklers have been installed in uninsulated and hence freezable spaces, and no one really knows what’s going on with the system. Hankinson has taken on the challenge of elucidating the confusion, working with principal Lacey and facilities coordinator Kuczek. Leverett’s insurance provider occasionally throws some crumbs back to the town, which the departments can fight over, this time totaling \$2,246. In response to inquiries from the town administrator, herewith the wish-list: *Historic Commission:* a readable scanner *School:* gutters over front door *Fire:* bulletproof vests *Kuczek:* infra-red scanner *Edi Field:* dehumidifier for the historical museum *Library:* ergonomic equipment *Police:* security cameras D’Errico derided the scanners, and Shively voted for the gutters. Jo Comerford of the American Friends Service Committee, running a write-in campaign for the state senate seat vacated by Stanley Rosenberg against Democratic nominee Chelsea Kline, will be meetin’ and greetin’ this Saturday morning at the Village Coop in Moores Corner.

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AIRPORT from page A1

**MR:** *Is that where you got into flying?*

**BC:** No, I actually never got into flying as much as I did the management side of it. I don't actually have a pilot's license – I ended up with a business degree in Aviation Maintenance Management, the running of the daily operations of the airport.

**MR:** *Where'd you grow up?*  
**BC:** Right in New Salem. I still live there, too.

**MR:** *You're the department's sole employee?*

**BC:** I do everything from paying out the bills, to payroll for myself, cleaning the building, mowing, snow plowing in the winter. It's pretty much everything the DPW, Parks, and Town Hall does, on a smaller scale, with one person.

**MR:** *You tried to get an intern this year –*

**BC:** We actually went through with it. We had reduced our general operating budget by \$1,100, and I wanted to add \$2,500 to bring on a student for five hours a week for the entire school year, which is a bargain. But that was a sticking point, so we had to reduce our budget by \$2,500.

I took a pay cut of \$1,000 – which doesn't seem like much, but when you're only making \$19,000... And then we cut a couple other items down to the bare minimum. So we will be bringing on a co-op student.

**MR:** *Damn.*  
**BC:** I know that was the big talking point at the town meeting –

**MR:** *You don't wanna mow that lawn, huh? [Laughs at own joke.]*

**BC:** Well, not that I don't wanna mow it, but it's more or less, "where's my time better spent: do I go out and snow-blow for four hours, or is my time better spent on the phone, marketing?"

**MR:** *When you're making those calls, what are the unique selling points of this airport?*

**BC:** One is that we're not extremely busy! In Orange and Keene, you have jet traffic; in Orange, you have skydiving Thursday through Sunday. You have a lot of flight training out there.

Whereas, here, you don't have that. And there's two ways to look at that. The glass-half-empty is "Jesus, we're dead!" But to somebody who's fairly new, who maybe just bought an aircraft, having an airport that's not super busy is really beneficial. For someone just learning how to use a radio, who just went solo ten hours ago, it's great.

We also have one of the best views – from Leyden to Colrain. We have beautiful sunsets.

Geographic location is a real big selling point for us. We're fairly close to [Route] 91 – even if you're living in Northampton, you can be here in a half hour. There's no airports in southern Vermont, so we're kind of serving a good little portion there. And going west, you don't have anything 'til North Adams – we're kind of the beginning of the Mohawk Trail service area.

And the community does have something to offer. The property values aren't too expensive, so if you're looking to relocate, that could be a selling point as well.

**MR:** *Do you have a lot of direct interaction with pilots?*

**BC:** When a pilot lands here,

we're the face of the community for them; we're the first person they met. We see a lot of traffic going to Deerfield Academy, Stoneleigh-Burnham, NMH – we're in charge of getting them a taxicab....

Without saying too much about some of the tenants we have here, there are some tenants that are financially well off because of their success in businesses, but the majority of my tenants are still 9-to-5 people.

**MR:** *You were in the hot seat at town meeting! It was an interesting discussion, but it felt kind of ceremonial to me – people really raising the issue of "why do we have an airport?"*

**BC:** That's not an uncommon question. It was the same when I was up at Lawrence, same at Orange.

An airport serves a very small amount of the population, whereas a fire department or a library serves the whole population. Not to say that we couldn't, if everyone in town wanted to take up paragliding...

It's a tough question: Why do we have it? Well, at some point in the last hundred years, someone thought this was a viable area to place an airport. And if it didn't serve an economic impact to the area, it would have dissolved – especially in the '50s and '60s, when the state dumped millions of dollars into rebuilding the statewide system.

We have 36 pilots here, and three of them live in Montague. So that's a very unique, small group of people.

But it's probably less than [two dollars] out of everybody's tax, per resident. We're one of the smallest operational budgets in town – this year we're at \$48,539, even.

**MR:** *That's not much more than half our budget at the newspaper!*

**BC:** That's including wages, salary, keeping the lights on, diesel, gas, everything. And the majority of the cost is covered by the land leases, rentals, storage fees, tie-downs, fuel flow, access agreements....

**MR:** *And what's the public line?*

**BC:** It was a little over \$13,000. We just have to bridge that gap now.... the goal is, within the next year, to eliminate that. And I think we're going to see right around \$6,300 in additional revenue this year, which will cut it right in half.

**MR:** *What's driving that additional revenue?*

**BC:** We have a couple of current ground leases that have gone up; a couple of our tenants have made another 10-year commitment to stay here. We've implemented landing fees for some of the corporate private jet traffic – it doesn't seem like much, but it's gonna generate a couple grand. And then we have some folks who are going to be tying down aircraft here – that's \$50 a month, times 12 months.

**MR:** *The big turning point at the meeting was when Sam Lovejoy stood up and pointed out that all of these grants that the FAA has given over the years, they're – is it 10 years, 15 years?*

**BC:** They're 20-year stipulations, most of them. Some of them are unique, with 10-year requirements, but they're called "grant assurances."

**MR:** *They're hooks!*

**BC:** They're stipulations that, if the state or feds are going to spend the money, the town's going to keep the airport viable.... In an average year, we can have four or five grants

that come through that require the signature of the selectboard, for grant assurances. And I don't think a lot of people realize that.

**MR:** *So even if I, as a taxpayer, were to say "this is an environmentally dangerous activity, this shouldn't be publicly funded," et cetera, there's a pretty large buried liability that the town would have?*

**BC:** Yeah. I mean, it would be relatively expensive to shut it down.

And to convert the property to something else would be difficult at best. Not so much because of the funds, but because we have a lot of rare species activity out here that we support – a lot of species migrate to grassland, which is what we have: a large, open, grasslands area. And also, with the tribal concerns, too.

So even if somehow the town were to come up with funds to disestablish the airport, it's going to be very difficult to work with the tribes, and Mass Natural Heritage, and Mass Historical, to do something else here.

The way that the facility is set up now is the best use of the property. I know people could say "the industrial park's bursting at the seams," but there's four or five lots that still aren't built on down the cul-de-sac.

There's always going to be the crowd that thinks the airport doesn't serve a purpose for the community, because they don't directly benefit from it. If I was a taxpayer in a community that had one, I would question it too – what is the return on it?

**MR:** *I was reading one of our predecessors, the Turners Falls Observer, which lasted for four issues in the early 1960s. The issue I was looking at, the whole four pages was entirely about a feud going on around the airport.*

**BC:** In the 1960s, I think it was '62, basically the town came in and wiped out the airport commission: came in, removed 'em all, put in new members. The goal was to release that property from aeronautics use, and turn it into an industrial park.

Basically, what now is the industrial park used to be about 90% airport property. You can bring it up, and there's some sore feelings about it, but the use of the property as industrial park is more beneficial to the town, because it's one of the largest groups of employers in town. At the time, it looked like the Chamber of Commerce was really pushing it, too: the airport industrial park –

**MR:** *To repurpose what they viewed as town lands...*

**BC:** It was like 145, 147 acres. And the push behind it was the industrial park: to try and get it set up so they could bring business into the area.

At the time it was a rough spot, but the outcome was the economic development that you see now – NEX, Mayhew Steel, and everything.

**MR:** *Lovejoy made it sound like the FAA might have a case to come after the town?*

**BC:** It's hard to say. Was everything done correctly with it? I don't know, because I wasn't there.

[Pulls out scrapbook of early 1960s newspaper clippings.] I read through this a couple times, looking for stuff. There are some stipulations that revenue derived from airport properties will stay with the airport, but that was the era when the FAA was just getting established....

Regulations were just starting to come out. It was kind of a scary time for aviation: there was a change be-

tween the conventional prop-driven to the jet age, and the FAA was really behind on that. The little Turners Falls Airport in western Massachusetts was not on their radar for anything major.

Was there really a letter from the FAA releasing the property from aeronautics use? There very well could have been – just because we don't have a copy doesn't mean it doesn't exist. There's too much grey area going on to really look too far into it... There were a lot of documented-undocumented discussions.

Realistically? The FAA could probably look at the town, and if they had enough documentation, go after the tax revenue that has been derived from the industrial park. But I don't know necessarily if that's the best way to go after it. I think that we have a good working relationship, and we don't wanna cause any issues for something that happened almost 60 years ago.

**MR:** *In that newspaper, someone was citing this regional study of potential economic development: "We've got an airport, and it's situated close to this interstate they're planning." That was what was going to put Turners on the map.*

**BC:** This is the "Aeronautics Directory" for the time period we're talking about. [Pulls another item out of a drawer.] 1965. It'll give a little bit of background on the size of the facility...

There were actually three runways here. This is the existing runway now. But there was also this crosswind and this crosswind, grass strips at that time. It was common back in the '50s, '60s, even in the '70s to utilize mostly grass for the landings and takeoffs.

Obviously, that's part of the industrial park now. And over here is, too.

**MR:** *This is a cool document.*

**BC:** Those are hard to come by, because they only published 39 of them, and gave one to each of the airports.

**MR:** *It says "Miscellaneous: Sport parachute jumping."*

**BC:** There was still skydiving here at the time – Wiggins Airways, Franklin Airways. Things have changed a lot since then.

**MR:** *Somebody could probably put together a pretty good, high-end, tourist package here now.*

**BC:** Yeah! I mean, having Zoar Outdoor – even having Berkshire East within a 30-minute driving time...

I think what's going to help us is the FRTA has rearranged the bus routes, so you can flag them down out front now, and catch a bus into downtown or into Greenfield. Three years ago, you couldn't stop 'em if you walked out in front of 'em.

**MR:** *Or, "fly into Turners Falls Airport—we'll pick you up, stop right there at the dispensary to get some edibles, and then do a leaf tour!"*

**BC:** I don't know about the dispensary – that very well might bring in traffic. But I'd like to think you don't wanna mix the two. But there's potential there.

**MR:** *Do you have any role in emergency preparedness stuff?*

**BC:** We have a minor role right now. We'd like to expand it.

Whether people realize it or not, Montague's an island: you can't get on or off without going over a bridge. We have the capacity, if there was a

major disaster, be it a flood or a derailment, something like that – we can bring supplies in and out; bring people in and out.

We also delved a little bit with Eversource in the past with making this a staging area, if there was another ice storm like in 2008, because we have a large area paved.... I think they figured 250 line trucks here, and a command out front, a refueling operation.

Not that we'll ever get to that point, but it has been reviewed. And FRCOG's also doing a lot of work trying to get a plan together....

**MR:** *Does the National Guard come through?*

**BC:** National Guard comes through, primarily at nighttime, yes. Mass State Police do some training here as well. We don't bill them, being government agencies so they're exempt – they'd be hard to track down, anyway, for landing fees.

They do utilize the facility, but they also do contribute a fair amount, too, in federal funds and through the state.

**MR:** *There are people around – not a lot of people – who remember in the early '40s when this was a major Navy aviation training ground.*

**BC:** Most airports are like that, especially with Westover not being too far away – I don't think any of my tenants were here during that period. But most of these airports served as military training during WWII.

**MR:** *And it was a WPA camp...*

**BC:** I actually have the payroll! [Produces a five-page, handwritten document.] So this is the 1937 WPA payroll docket, for the rebuilding of the airport, right here. For some reason somebody kept November only.

**MR:** *At some point – wait, this is awesome.*

**BC:** Somebody dropped that off up here one day. I found it in an envelope in the door.

**MR:** *You gotta imagine so many people around here must have...*

**BC:** Little bits of history. You know people's basements around here have a box of photos there holding the door open, with moths in 'em.

**MR:** *All these names! Alfred Cadran, Paul Fournier. Moltenbrey. Jesus...*

**BC:** If you look at what they were paying, the foremen were getting a like quarter an hour more than everybody else.

**MR:** *Maybe it should end up in the collection of the Historical Society?*

**BC:** Well, if you know anyone who might be more interested in preserving it than me. I'm afraid to frame it and hang it on the wall... Town Hall didn't really have an interest, they're probably overwhelmed with documents.

**MR:** *This is absolutely amazing: "November 1 through 7, 1937. Improve existing airport, and construct a new airport near Turners Falls village in Montague." That's amazing. A WPA work camp.*

**BC:** That's what saved the county, pretty much.

**MR:** *You think, if the economy took that big a hit, the government would be able to organize work on this level?*

**BC:** No. Not nowadays,



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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

not been properly heated, the sprinkler system was not functioning and a water main was broken.

On July 30 Zellman and Mika toured the building with John Wood, a compliance officer from the state fire marshal’s office. After this meeting, Zellman informed Mika that:

“The Southworth building at this time has no operational sprinkler system, no alarm system, electricity has been shut off, natural gas has been shut off and there is a water main that ruptured.... The building is not secured as stated in my orders. There is still hazardous waste and hazardous materials within the building.”

The letter ended with the statement that if the company does not comply with the chief’s orders by 4 p.m. on August 2, the state fire marshal “will issue a cease and desist order along with Non-Criminal Fire Code Citations under MGL Chapter 148A and/or Court action.”

On Monday, with that deadline passed, Zellman urged the selectboard to bring in the town’s legal counsel for “strong and swift action.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said he believed “it is the Turners Falls Fire District which should take the lead.” The board agreed to try to schedule a joint meeting with the Fire District’s prudential committee for the week of August 20.

After the meeting, Kuklewicz was asked if the town leadership was trying to learn from the experience of the Strathmore closing. “That’s all we have been talking about,” he responded, noting that the board was now trying to be more “proactive” to avoid the fate of Strathmore.

**Sidewalks and Bridges**

Laurie Scarbrough of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments came before the board to present the final draft of the “Complete Streets Prioritization Plan” developed in collaboration with the town planner.

The plan was presented to the board at its last meeting, but approval was delayed pending more public input and the need to set priorities.

The first three projects on the list are improvements to the sidewalk in Montague Center from Main Street and Center Street to the bridge over the Sawmill River leading to the Bookmill. The list also prioritizes bicycle and pedestrian improvements on Fifth and Seventh streets in Turners Falls; replacing “one of the two pedestrian bridges over the canal” (at either Fifth or Power street); and constructing a new bus shelter in Millers Falls.

In all, the list contains 44 projects, ranked by priority. The selectboard approved the plan, which will then be sent to the state for review by early September. The first round of proposals are due on October 1.

**Planting Ambitions**

Wendy Sweetser Ferris of the Franklin Land Trust came before the board with a request that Montague participate in a “Landscape Restoration Grant” to plant up to 2,400 trees in three towns in the region. Ferris said the grant could pay for up to 800 trees in Montague, but that the initial target for plantings would be more modest, possibly 250.

Still, that is an ambitious projection, as she said she noted to tree warden Mark Stevens. “We need them,” he reportedly responded.

According to Ferris, the grant would pay for trees, a “planting plan,” and a tree nursery. Planting would be the task of the town department of public works, and volunteers coordinated by the tree committee.

Tree committee member David Detmold, attending the meeting to support the proposal, discussed the potential for a local nursery created in collaboration with the Franklin County Technical School.

The board voted to authorize its chair to sign a letter of support

for the grant proposal.

**Other Business**

Chris Sawyer-Laucanno updated the board on the restoration project at the town-owned Colle building, now in “Phase II”. Windows on the north side of the building are being restored and upgraded so work on the adjacent Shea Theater roof can be completed. Then, window upgrades on the other Colle facades will be completed. The board approved \$6,500 for “project specifications and oversight.”

The board approved a “change of manager” request from the Elks Club, which serves liquor. The new manager will be Larissa Anne Knox.

Serving as the town’s personnel board, the selectboard members made a number of appointments, including Elizabeth Irving to replace Bruce Young on the planning board; Jamie Matosky as lead mechanic at the highway department; and two unnamed “interim reserve officers” on the police force.

The board also accepted the retirement of one of the police department’s canines, Sunny, and executed two grants for the department.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson requested permission to hold a “Toll Booth Fundraiser” on October 13 to raise funds for the Great Falls Festival (formerly “Pumpkinfest”). The rest of the board approved his request.

The board approved agreements with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for recycling, sludge removal, and hazardous waste collection services.

The board executed a warrant for the September 4 State Primary Election, and announced that the Turners Falls power canal would be closed for repairs from September 17 to September 22.

The next Montague selectboard meeting will be held Monday, August 20.



**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

# Gill Learns How To Aggregate

By **GEORGE BRACE**

At their August 8 meeting, the main order of business for the Gill selectboard was signing an agreement designating Colonial Power Group (CPG) as consultants in moving forward with aggregating electricity purchasing for the town’s electrical customers.

CPG president Mark Cappadona and vice president Denise Allard were on hand from CPG. Their presentation, and the discussion that followed, lasted for almost an hour. Cappadona provided an overview of how aggregated purchasing works, how the process of implementing it unfolds, and what Colonial Power does as a consultant.

Cappadona explained that aggregation involves only the supply portion of an electricity bill. If Gill becomes an aggregator, all of Eversource’s “basic service” customers who do not “opt out” of the program will be swapped to another electricity supplier, chosen by the selectboard from a menu of companies bidding to provide the service. The board can also choose an additional supplier, which customers would need to “opt in” to. Customers receiving service other than basic Eversource would not be affected, but would be free to “opt in” to the plan if they chose to. Cappadona noted that any opting in or opting out of services was free of charge.

Cappadona wasted no time in acknowledging that the need for customers to opt out or be automatically switched is a “hot button” issue. He said the rationale for the “opt out” process was to give electrical suppliers an idea of what the market was likely to be, which they could use to base their bids on.

Cappadona said that the hard part of the process had already been completed in Gill: passing the idea by town meeting. What remains are a series of smaller steps: the posting of an aggregation plan provided by CPG for a 15-business-day comment period; a selectboard vote on the plan; consultation with the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER); and a simple hearing by the Department of Public Utilities (DPU).

After that hearing, Cappadona estimated it would take three to five more months, before the town receives approval from the state, though the wait is sometimes longer. After that approval is received, he said, “the fun starts.” CPG will present a “menu” of electricity supply options and contract lengths for the board to choose from. The list will include standard electrical suppliers, local green energy suppliers, national green energy suppliers, and others.

The way the program usually works, he explained, a town will choose a lower-cost standard electrical supply product as the

automatically selected “opt out” option, and a green product as the “opt in” option. But, he added, some towns do it the other way around, to encourage green energy usage.

Cappadona ended his presentation by saying that he hoped CPG’s role would be to handle aggregation in Gill “from soup to nuts.” He noted that there are certain tasks Colonial cannot undertake, such as posting the plan for public comment and taking votes, but that town staff should not have to take phone calls or deal with any issues or questions customers may have. CPG has a US-based toll free number for customers to call, and the people answering the phone would be familiar with Gill’s particular situation and able to handle any concerns.

Board member John Ward led the questioning. He asked what would happen if Gill received a bid, and all but one resident chose to opt out of the product. Cappadona responded that once the bid is made, it doesn’t matter how many people participate: the price is locked in. “That’s the risk to the supplier,” he said.

Ward asked how Colonial’s aggregated rates compared to Eversource’s basic rates historically. Cappadona said that in the summertime savings are slim, but in winter, aggregated rates have run between 5% and 8% lower over the length of the contract.

The board signed the consultation

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8 a.m.	White Elephant Tag Sale
8:30 a.m.	Mug Race Start
9 a.m.	Quilt Display, 2nd Chance
	Boutique, Games Open
10:45 a.m.	Soloist Dusti Dufresne
12:30 p.m.	Fiddler Dave Kaynor
1:30 p.m.	Old Home Days Parade
2 p.m.	North Country Line Dancers
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.	Music by Ben Letcher's "From the Woods"
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# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was August 7, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

## Gill Institutes Spending Freeze

Facing a budget deficit of \$279,000 – with only about \$80,000 left in town reserves – the town of Gill has instituted a spending freeze for all items, other than payroll, above \$50, without approval of the selectboard. The board also called on all departments to limit the amount of non-essential driving employees do, “in the spirit of limiting the impact if an override fails,” as board member Annie Bannash put it. The board called on the highway department to limit their activities to “only essential projects,” and to hold off on “purchasing materials in advance of winter.” The budget crunch for Gill worsened severely in July, when the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education issued a \$16.82 million “one-twelfth” budget for the Gill-Montague Regional School District.

## Nurses Picket At Baystate Franklin

For the second time in the last five years, signs supporting the nurses at Baystate Franklin Medical Center (BFMC) have sprouted around the county, as the nurses once again engage in protracted contact negotiations with management at the county's premier medical facility. On Wednesday afternoon, August 6, those signs were being shouldered by a line of nurses and their supporters that stretched up and down the block on High Street in front of the newly

renovated hospital. Cars drove by honking their support, as rain gave way to sun. “We had our first negotiating sessions in the current round of talks on Halloween, last year,” said an exasperated Ann Lewin, head of the bargaining unit at BFMC for the Massachusetts Nurses Association. “It has become a frightening experience since then.” Both sides agree the main sticking points are a proposal by hospital management to have the right to unilaterally cancel a nurse's shift, and a proposal by management to discipline or terminate a nurse for five or more occurrences of taking sick days within a contract year. The nurses call these demands “takebacks.”

## G-M Schools Have \$850,000 in Reserves

The Gill-Montague Regional School District has approximately \$850,000 in their reserve fund, superintendent Ken Roche told the school committee at their July 29 meeting. Roche said the \$200,000 left over from the '07 fiscal year, and the estimated \$650,000 left in last year's excess and deficiency fund, raise the question, “Would it be possible to reduce assessments for our towns?” The towns of Gill and Montague are facing a combined budget gap – between what their town meetings voted to fund the operation of the district schools in '09, and what the state has mandated that they pay for the schools under a “1/12th budget” – of \$859,521. The towns wrote to state officials in July protesting the 1/12th, which they say may drive them into bankruptcy as early as next year if more state aid for the schools is not forthcoming.

# MONTAGUE REPORTER



Anja Schütz of Turners Falls, reading the paper at Arteles Creative Center in Haukijarvi, Finland last month.



Montague Reporter Spanish page editor Victoria Maillo at Plaza Mayor in Salamanca, Spain.



Greenfield's Alice Thomas, at Tanglewood last week.

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## The Usefulness of Disruption

By NINA ROSSI

**TURNERS FALLS** – Leaving Turners Falls behind in the rear view mirror of their compact car, Hannah Hurricane Sanchez, her husband Roman, and their two young daughters headed for Texas to spend the summer of 2017 catching up with the friends and family they had left behind when they moved north in 2015. “We had put an offer on a house in Hadley that was in foreclosure,” explains Hannah, and they figured that by the time Roman needed to return to his graduate program at UMass in the fall, the house would be theirs and they could move in. With their belongings mostly in storage, they headed back to the Austin area.

“We got to our 83-year-old Nana’s house, and on the third day, she says ‘I don’t think I can handle this...’ So we went to my uncle’s house, my cousin’s house, my in-law’s house...

When we returned to Massachusetts, the house was still not ready and we were staying with friends and at Airbnb’s,” says Hannah.

The young family ended up moving some 22 times over the course of those few months.

This type of situation doesn’t seem like it would be conducive to creating a series of oil paintings, but for artists like Hannah, the uncomfortable rubs of life may be precisely what gives rise to essential work. The pressures of parenting amidst domestic uplift and major shifts can open cracks along creative fault lines, allowing work to emerge from some inner core. “22 Homes,” a series of small oils painted during the Texas journey, are on view at the Rendezvous through mid-October.

“I had to do something,” says Hannah. “I did this work while it was going on, and then more after it was settled. I didn’t start it with the idea of doing 22 homes – I just



Hannah Hurricane Sanchez in front of her series “22 Homes,” on display at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls.

painted with the sense of uprootedness, and I thought ‘Well, why don’t I paint one for every move?’ Actually there is more here: there are 24. I guess I had some extra things to say!”

Looking at the 24 pieces, arranged grid-like in two rows of twelve, one is struck by the sense of things being unclear, with geometries emerging and disappearing, representing both rigid spaces and flexible boundaries. “Portals or openings came up a lot,” says the artist, who felt the family would sometimes “enter a hole and be somewhere else – like all of a sudden here was a time portal and we were in a different landscape, like in a different environment.”

The colors are happy ones, with yellows and blues and pinks, and images of a bunny emerge and morph in stretchy, non-bunny ways in some pieces. The bunny felt like “a good omen, a pure element, almost a reminder that we were headed for stability,” says Hannah. “But at the same time,” she adds, “things were not clear, because the bunny would change into something else.”

How did the kids, one-and-a-half

see **DISRUPTION** page B5



A closeup of four of the 24 small oil paintings in the series.

## THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: ROBIN STEVENS

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**TURNERS FALLS** – Hi! I hope you are having an awesome summer!

Today I am going to be interviewing one of my favorite authors ever, Ms. Robin Stevens, and reviewing her *Wells and Wong* series. This series is so impossibly good, and funny! It’s about two girls, Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells, who are best friends but very different from each other. They have a secret detective society, where they solve murders.

You’d think that after reading about two murders you’d start to lose hope that the next ones would be as exciting, but Robin Stevens does an amazing job with every book, making an incredible story with new characters, plots, twists and turns, and murders! Now, without further ado, Ms. Robin Stevens...

**Izzy V-C:** Where do you get your inspiration for your books?

**Robin Stevens:** I get it from everywhere – from books I read, from TV shows I watch, and from people I meet.

But my biggest inspirations are the author Agatha Christie (my favourite crime writer) and places I know very well. I went to boarding school in England, just like Hazel and Daisy, and so I wanted to write about my school in a book!

**IVC:** Who is your favorite character in your Wells and Wong series?

**RS:** I think Hazel is my very favourite, because she’s such a kind, thoughtful person, and also because she’s been in my head for so long. But I also love writing about Daisy – she’s so funny, and she always knows the perfect thing to say!

**IVC:** Have you ever experienced something like Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong have?

**RS:** I’m lucky – I’ve never really had to detect a



Our fearless correspondent, with two volumes of Ms. Stevens’ Wells and Wong series.

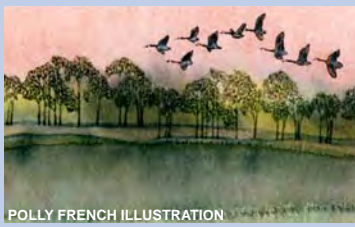
murder! They’re a lot more fun in books than they are in real life. But I did have friends just like Daisy and Hazel at school, and there are things about both of their lives that are a bit like mine.

**IVC:** What was your favorite book growing up?

**RS:** I loved a book called *Charmed Life* by Diana Wynne Jones – and I was 10 when *Harry Potter* first came out! I was one of the first kids to ever get the chance to read it, and I feel very lucky about that.

**IVC:** Are there going to be any more books in the Wells and Wong series? (I think I read a different version, I read the ones with Daisy and Hazel’s faces on the cover – I know there are different versions out there, so

see **CORNER** page B5



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

## ZEN DAYS IN THE SUMMER GARDEN

By DAVID BRULE

*It was a day in July, a day in August,  
All rain, sky, and sun,  
The kind that gives you no choice  
But to kick off your shoes  
And sit outside in a rough wooden chair...*

**ERVINGSIDE** – 15 July. My summer job is to keep a quiet eye on things, and to let you know what’s going on out here.

The wren is busy being destructive over at the English sparrow residence. She’s tossing out all the bedding, stealing prize cushy feathers and dragging out long bits of string. It’s all going right out the little door hole of the birdhouse. No matter, since the invasive sparrows have already raised a brood and left the house. A new generation of ruffians who will now stuff themselves at the winter bird feeder.

Jenny Wren may take over the birdbox, or maybe just toss the feathers out. If there had been sparrow eggs in there she would have punched a hole in them. On the other hand, the sparrows would have done the same to the sweet bluebird or tree swallow.

Jenny scurries about, a stout busybody, like a neighborhood gossip, chattering and sometimes singing as she rearranges the premises to her liking.

22 July. A soft mist is falling like I remember that day, a gray Sunday morning in Ireland ten years ago. I was sitting on the shores of Lake Inchiquin in the tiny ancestral village of Corofin, the seat of my *O’hi’fearnáin* family. Maybe one day I’ll get back there.

That’s what a misty morning does to you. It puts you into a far-away mood while the earth begins to drink after a long dry spell.

The Vermont-bound freight train rumbles and clanks across the trestle just upriver, almost drowning out the endless clamor of the sparrows that maybe nobody else notices, just me?

24 July. Early morning hours are a period of grace before the next sun shower, before the heavy humid cloak of this July heat settles over us.

Quiet time now while hummingbirds and their copycat hummingbird moths, insects that are a close-to-perfect imitation of the real bird, spend a dry respite among the bed of bee balm.

A wood thrush does his nightingale-like tremolo and vibrato just there on the edge of the woods.

He offers us gifts of daily concerts, early in the morning mist, and when evening falls. He loves our woods these days, now that they are growing darker and more dense under the rain. He has his green domain where he can sing undetected from any branch he chooses.

25 July. Yesterday brilliant sunlight, even burning heat, reached the south-facing porch deck while a drenching rain fell, silver in the bright sun. Remember when as children we called this a sunshower? Yesterday we were tempted to shed our clothes and run out

into the warm rain and bright sun, and race through the grass like carefree pups.

Only, we didn’t. That’s what adulthood can do to you, and take from you. Do I have to wait for my second childhood to permit myself such mindless and carefree silliness in a sunshower? Such are existential questions posed silently on a hot, sunny, and wet July afternoon.

*I could feel the day offering itself to me.  
And I wanted nothing more  
Than to be in the moment – but which moment?*

28 July. The first morning after more than a week of drenching rain. Last evening the storm approached from the southwest. We first heard it groaning, rumbling and grumbling, some Zeus or Thor launching lightning bolts in the vastness beyond.

The great-grandfather oaks, one hundred feet tall, were swaying and noisy in the increasing wind. They have been lining the terrace edge of our woodland for more than one hundred and fifty years, towering over the lower pasture. Chimney swifts chattered and raced through the bottle-green air, not caring about the threatening skies that they live in. Winds lifted and carried the first sprays of rain through to where we sat.

Finally giving in to the menacing summer storm, at the last minute we rush to put away chairs and cushions, bolting indoors to close summer windows that crank open outwards like birds’ wings to catch the little stir of air to be found. But now we crank them closed, the panes keep the heavy drops from dampening bed, desk, and the books on the nightstand. The drenching driven rain from the southwest washes clean the dusty windows again. Indoors the kitchen lamp flickers, but doesn’t go out, in the afternoon gloom following a lightning bolt and clap of thunder.

We pour another glass of Muscadet white wine, and wait it out in the shelter of the front piazza. We repeat the old family ritual of sitting outdoors on the Victorian piazza of the 1880s while the summer storm rages and whips through the trees, turning the undersides up in the wind. The street runs high in flooding waters rushing to the lower woodlands. Only thing missing is our grandmother Hannah sprinkling her holy water around the rooms of the house and muttering an Irish prayer to keep the house and inhabitants inside safe and sound.

see **WEST ALONG** page B5



Ruby-throated hummingbirds.



MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

CLMCHL SMA'R AMRNL

GOLROLY NR'F GNARLY

MY FIDDLY GOLLA ROLB'YL

OKCCB. - KARMA VOLUME

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO:  
INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

Senior Center Activities

AUGUST 13 TO 24

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.

M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

T, W, Th: 12 p.m. Lunch

Monday 8/13

8 a.m. Foot clinic (by appt.)

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 8/14

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

1 p.m. Ice Cream Social

with Steve and Tom

Wednesday 8/15

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:45 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/16

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Monday 8/20

8 a.m. Foot clinic (by appt.)

12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo

Tuesday 8/21

10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 8/22

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 8/23

9 a.m. NO Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

WENDELL

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

ERVING

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

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

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

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

Art Classes run July 10 to August 28, 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday 8/13

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 8/14

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

1 to 3 p.m. Art Class

Wednesday 8/15

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 8/16

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Pick Up

12:30 p.m. Movie & Popcorn

Friday 8/17

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling

11:15 a.m. New: Music, Magic, Movement

Monday 8/20

9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

10:30 a.m. Tai Chi

Tuesday 8/21

8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics

10 a.m. Stretching & Balance

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

& Friends Business Meeting

1 to 3 p.m. Art Class

Wednesday 8/22

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 8/23

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Friday 8/24

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

10 a.m. Food City Shopping

11:15 a.m. New: Music, Magic, Movement

12:30 p.m. Healthy Lunch

LEVERETT

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

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

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

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

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JUNE 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

The Leverett Library invites residents to come check out their new telescope, as well as *Music on the Patio*, local music performed outside all summer. Check with the library for specific dates.

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. *Healthy Bones and Balance Class* w/Marianne Vinal. Geared to older Wendell residents. Tea afterward. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.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. Facilitated by Kathy O'Shea. 6 to 8 p.m.

1ST WEDNESDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Reader's Choice Book Group*. Book discussion, 10 a.m.

EVERY THURSDAY

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

Dickinson Library: *Knit With Us*. All skill levels welcome. Facilitated by Kathy O'Shea, 6 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Music on the Patio* series returns with great local music. 7 to 8 p.m.

1ST THURSDAYS

Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Gathering*. Informal discussion of local family research led by Sarah Campbell. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

3RD THURSDAYS

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

EVERY FRIDAY

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Resumes in September.

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

Leverett Library: *Yoga for Stress*

Reduction w/ Nancy Paglia. Sponsored by the Leverett Rec Department. 5 to 6:15 p.m.

EVERY SATURDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Adult Strength Training* "on vacation until September." *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 1:30 p.m.

2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS

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

EVERY SUNDAY

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

EXHIBITS

To apply for a show at these venues, find applications on their websites.

Leverett Library: *Watercolor Class with Nancy Emond*. Through August.

Dickinson Library: *Plein Air Painting by Melanie S. Phillips*. Through August.

EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 1

Dickinson Library: *Paint Kindness Rocks*, 1 to 2 p.m.

Erving Library: *Once-A-Month Science* with Jean Daley, 1:45 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio with the *Juggler Meadow String Band*, 7 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 3

Carnegie Library: *Peskeomskut Park Puppet Show* by No Strings Marionettes, 10:30 a.m.

Dickinson Library: *Heart Centered Kirtan Concert*, 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 4

Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*, 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 6

Erving Library: Adult Book Discussion of *Sobriety: A Graphic Novel* by Daniel Maurer, 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 7

Carnegie Library: *Paving a Path for Peace: Paper Crane Project Finale*. These origami cranes will be attached to a quilt and displayed at the Carnegie Library. This program is supported by a grant from the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice. Millers Falls and Montague Center branches will have celebrations also. 3 p.m. at each venue.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 8

Carnegie Library: *Story Time* hosts the DPW, with a lot of big equipment to explore, 10 a.m.

Erving Library: *Zombie Apocalypse Survival Skills*. For pre-teens and teens. 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio with *Machine Shop*, 7 to 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10

Carnegie Library: *Lego Club*. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Just Dance Video Game*. For all ages; hot dog dinner provided. Part of Summer Reading Program – *Libraries Rock!* 6 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11

Dickinson Library: *Outdoor Concert!* Contra-dance music by *Calamity Physics*, all ages, bring a picnic. Held at the Town Hall. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Programming Workshop* with Robert Heller, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: Movie night, *Season of the Witch*. 7:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 14

Dickinson Library: *I'd Rather Be Reading Group* discusses *Holidays on Ice* by David Sedaris, 7 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Carnegie Library: Afternoon Matinee for Families, *A Wrinkle in Time*. Refreshments. 3 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Library Book Group* will discuss *The Brothers Karamazov* by Fyodor Dostoevsky, 6:30 p.m.

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

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

Erving Library: *Science Magic* presented by the Museum of Science, Boston. 5 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Wendell Free Library: *Programming Workshop* with Robert Heller, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.

MONDAY, AUGUST 20

Erving Library: End of the Summer Reading Program Prize Party, 5:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 23

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio with *Box Shop Blues*, 7 to 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 25

Leverett Library: End of the Summer Reading Program Celebration, with the *Springfield Symphony Orchestra Musical Petting Zoo!* 1 to 3 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Play-a-long* with Julie Stepanek, 7 to 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 30

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio with *Same Old Blues*, 7 to 8 p.m.

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# Pets of the Week

Hello there! My name is Butterfly, and my best friends are my mom and sister. I need to go home with them, or to other rats, since we are very social creatures and form strong bonds.

We love to run and climb around our cage, groom and snuggle and generally make mischief! Please check out the description below to learn more about rats!

Not convinced? Let me tell you a little bit more about rats like my-

self. When we are happy, we let out a cheerful sound that is similar to laughter! We love being handled and will happily ride around on your shoulders. We are social, active, and love to play with toys. We use our tails to keep us balanced!

We tend to live about 2 years and we'll be your best friend until the end.

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



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## “BUTTERFLY AND FAMILY”

### TV REVIEW

### Marvel’s Cloak & Dagger (Freeform)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Cloak and Dagger are comic book characters, out of Marvel Comics. One makes use of light by making daggers out of it. The other uses shadows to make a cloak around him and teleport himself somewhere. Which is why he’s called Cloak, I think.

Freeform decided to make a TV series involving these two characters. The two-hour episode premiered on June 7, and started out with a flashback to the one thing these two characters appear to have in common, which is the loss of a loved one. This event happened at the same time for them, and was also connected to how the two got their powers. One more thing is something happened when they touched hands in that scene.

For the first hour, people watching the show are treated to what their lives as teenagers are like now: Cloak is a basketball player, and Dagger is like a bad girl of some kind. Viewers are also treated to a flashback which explains somewhat why Dagger might be in the situation she is in.

In some ways, they are doing better than each other, and in some ways they are not. You will understand that when you have seen the episode. (With this show, I like saying things like “you think that” or “you’ll understand when you see that.”)

I saw a preview where the two meet again as teenagers due to the fact that both were planning to be at a certain party, each for a different reason. When they run into each

other, their encounter seems to have the same effect as the first time they met, and it confirms that they have powers right then and there.

There is a mention of what Dagger remembers about the day she met Cloak for the first time: she remembers a hand, which belonged to Cloak, reaching out. That, to me, seems to imply that his power came in handy when it came to saving her life.

After they are powered up again, we get a glimpse of something more that they can do, which is looking inside people to see what some might call their “lightest” moment – only for Cloak, it is their darkest moment. This makes sense considering their abilities. Another interesting tidbit is that each has a memento of the other from that horrible night where they both lost somebody.

By the end of this episode, both are together again for a moment. It’s like they’re being drawn together. According to the preview of the next episode, both will apparently be in New Orleans, which is a good location, considering what these individuals can do. I would just call it a very mystical place which works nicely with this show.

So far, what I have seen of this show makes me think of the phrase “a lot to work with,” which is a really good thing: it will leave people coming back for more, very interested in seeing what will happen next. With this show, a full season or two look likely to happen.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Dog Days of Summer; Phone Acting Up; Several Residents Stuck in Behavioral Loops

#### Monday, 7/23

10:22 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from Food City. Known history of misdials, caused by an issue with outgoing line. Officer spoke with employee who advised line had been disconnected; unknown why misdials are still coming through. Store will follow up.

3:23 p.m. 26-year-old Greenfield woman arrested on a warrant, Avenue A and Third Street. Requested female officer to perform a search on the prisoner. Shelburne Control has no female officer in the immediate area. Greenfield PD does not have a female officer to spare. Shutesbury officer *en route*.

5:06 p.m. Anonymous caller concerned over a suspicious sedan parked behind L Street house. Tire is blown and she can see front-end damage. Greenfield PD advises this motor vehicle is not the one they are looking for in a hit and run investigation.

5:42 p.m. Burglar alarm at fish ladder. Key holder provided proper password. 7:57 p.m. Open 911 line from Food City. Officer spoke with manager; store has reported problem to phone company.

9 p.m., 9:14 a.m. Open 911 line from Food City.

#### Tuesday, 7/24

6:31 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from Food City. No police service necessary. 7:38 a.m., 8:48 a.m. Silent 911 call from Food City. Manager advised he spoke with the phone company this morning and they are sending a technician.

9:58 a.m. Ripley Road caller requested to speak with animal control regarding removing bats from her home. ACO advised.

10:36 a.m. Silent 911 call from Food City.

12:32 p.m. Report of a farm truck leaking diesel, northbound on Route 47. Vehicle stopped in Erving. Montague Center and Turners Falls FD advised to check roadways for spilled fuel. TFFD treated some areas on downtown Millers Falls.

3:03 p.m. Report of three young males in area of Third and L streets stating they worked for Eversource.

Eversource told caller they had nobody working at this location. Officer spoke with the men, who were working for an alternative power company, and instructed them to fill out an application to solicit.

8:14 p.m. Caller says ex-boyfriend is cooking food on the front porch of her Chestnut Street apartment because he has no place else to go, and would like him removed. Officer advises situation has been worked out; male will spend tonight on the porch and find other arrangements tomorrow.

9:27 p.m. Parties at Peskeomskut Park band shell moved along and advised of public drinking law.

9:21 p.m. 911 caller on Third Street states a female attacked her roommate and broke her glasses. Officer has deescalated the situation. Caller called back to complain that things are not being handled the way she feels that they should be, and stated she was going to make the police department look bad.

#### Wednesday, 7/25

8:04 a.m. PT cruiser struck a Volvo at Cumberland Farms. No injuries.

10:20 a.m. Caller reports she backed into a vehicle while parallel parking on Fifth Street.

12:59 p.m. Report of loose dog on Center Street. Caller advises dog may be named Stormy. ACO *en route*.

1:25 p.m. While pumping gas at Cumberland Farms, detective observed a Mercedes SUV dragging its exhaust. Located vehicle, advised not to operate until exhaust has been fixed.

4:07 p.m. Caller reports very strong odor of propane gas, Turners Falls and Old Northfield roads. No odors found.

7:44 p.m. Report that large truck hauling logs almost struck driver on Sunderland Road. Unable to locate.

9:09 p.m. Brattleboro PD requesting assistance checking on well-being of juvenile. Athol MSP advises juvenile located safe at grandparents’ residence. 9:12 p.m. FD received call about a tree that may have fallen on a car on Second Street. Responders report no vehicle is involved.

9:24 p.m. Fourth Street caller states his brown and black Yorkie is missing.

#### Thursday, 7/26

12:47 a.m. Officer making contact with male party in area of Pizza House hiding his face with an umbrella. 9:31 a.m. Millers Falls Road caller believes someone intentionally struck her mailbox overnight. Advised as to legality of putting up camera.

11:59 a.m. Caller concerned over raccoon lying on Fourth Street neighbor’s second floor porch. ACO out sick today. Advised caller to stay away from animal.

1 p.m. DPW requests parties camping at band shell be moved along. They are trying to clean after receiving complaints from performers that people have been urinating inside band shell. Parties moved along. 2:57 p.m. 52-year-old homeless Turners Falls man arrested at band shell for consuming alcohol on a public way and disorderly conduct.

3:01 p.m. Report of tree blocking bike path. Tree warden will respond.

5:38 p.m. Seventh Street

caller requesting removal of unwanted female; advised she has overdosed in that building multiple times but is not overdosing now. Female was an invited guest of the caller’s father. Advised of options.

5:56 p.m. Syringe disposed of on Seventh Street.

9:37 p.m. Suspicious vehicle at Railroad Salvage moved along without incident.

11:37 p.m. 911 caller at FL Roberts reports a customer reporting being assaulted on K Street. Victim reports male neighbor came into his apartment and punched him multiple times after being told to leave. Transported to hospital by Medicare. Summons issued.

#### Friday, 7/27

12:29 p.m. Caller reports she was in a minor fender bender at First and L streets.

3:09 p.m. Sergeant out with motor vehicle on Turnpike Road with trailer open, losing cargo. Cargo retrieved; vehicle secure and *en route* to Judd Wire.

5:04 p.m. Fairway Avenue caller found small brown dog in her backyard; will look for owner on Facebook until 7 p.m. and requests it then be entered into the county dog shelter.

5:19 p.m. Previous caller advises owner found.

5:59 p.m. Caller reports dog locked in car at Food City parking lot with no food or water. Unable to locate.

9:19 p.m. Warner Street caller concerned over her mother and father entering her home while she was away and going through her belongings. Officers advised and *en route*.

11:46 p.m. Goddard Avenue caller reports loud music coming from the boat club in Gill. *[Rest of entry redacted by dispatch.]*

#### Saturday, 7/28

1:56 a.m. Officer attempting to locate man who jumped into bushes when he turned onto L Street. All units on lookout.

8:54 a.m. Caller reports wires, tree down off Lake Pleasant and Old Northfield roads. DPW, Eversource contacted; barricades put up on Bernardo Drive and Old Northfield Road.

9:32 a.m. 52-year-old homeless Turners Falls man arrested at Peskeomskut Park, charged with disorderly conduct.

12:29 p.m. Female party has fallen down a 20-foot ravine on Old Sunderland Road and has leg and ankle injuries. Montague Center FD responding; TF Fire tech rescue requested. PD closing off road.

3:54 p.m. Male party not in violation of any laws or ordinances moved along from Peskeomskut Park.

4:30 p.m. Petersham caller requesting help regarding contractor he believes lives in Montague who has taken \$900 and not completed

a job in agreed-upon time. Referred to Petersham PD. 4:49 p.m. Northfield dive team requesting overnight check on supplies they are leaving at Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club.

8:50 p.m. Male party selling goods at Unity Park without vendor permit stated he would put away goods and enjoy the fireworks.

9:38 p.m. Third Street caller reports fireworks in direction of First Street are keeping her from sleeping. Informed of celebratory firework show. Caller satisfied to know it is an official show and not neighbors being rude.

9:41 p.m. Fourth Street caller reports loud noise in direction of Unity Park. Reminded of celebratory fireworks.

10:20 p.m. High Street caller concerned over fireworks around her home. Reminded of celebratory fireworks. Caller thought noise might be coming from the Patch but now thinks it could be the echo from the river.

#### Sunday, 7/29

1:08 a.m. 911 caller reports fight on Central Street.

10:47 a.m. Report of dog lying down in cemetery across from Rau’s. Caller concerned dog might be hungry or thirsty.

11:02 a.m. Owner reports lost dog matching description of previous call.

3:14 p.m. Greenfield PD received call about dog locked in a car at the Book Mill. Officer located car, found it parked in shade with all windows 1/4 of the way down, advised animal not in distress.

3:52 p.m. Oakman Street caller complaining of dog barking for two hours. ACO not on duty.

6:25 p.m. Warner Street caller requests advice about ongoing harassment from her mother and sister.

6:40 p.m. Caller requesting help getting his phone back after it was stolen while he was swimming in the river in Millers Falls. Phone tracked to Newton Street location. Officer asked caller to “ping” phone. Officer successful in retrieving phone.

8:51 p.m. 911 caller requests female party be removed from his Griswold Street home.

9:05 p.m. Second Street caller advises that while she went to the store someone came into her home and stole her X-Box. Her 11-year-old son was home at the time. Report taken.

9:18 p.m. Millers Falls caller reports male threatening him, thinks he may have been spit on. Advised of options.

#### Monday, 7/30

10:20 a.m. Old Sunderland Road caller found a husky running loose. ACO transported to kennel.

10:32 p.m. Complaint of

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3

loud music on G Street. Officers *en route*.  
**Tuesday, 7/31**  
12:02 a.m. 911 caller states friends of his are getting into a fight at Unity Park; is concerned there may be weapons. One male fled before officers arrived.  
6:22 a.m. Male party moved along from Peskeomskut Park.  
6:30 a.m. Officer flagged down on Montague City Road by a passerby who stated there was a telephone pole on fire, but not anymore. Transformer still smoking. FD responding. Eversource already on scene.  
10:17 a.m. Bridge Street caller requesting assistance regarding a man yelling in the street accusing him of being a sex offender. Officer advised caller other man boarded a bus; advised of options.  
1:34 p.m. Complaint from FirstLight Power regarding people camping on their property.  
2:21 p.m. Report of dog panting and howling in red Toyota parked at Greenfield Savings Bank. Officer advised window partially down, but car was hot. Owner located and advised not to leave dog in vehicle when it is this hot.  
6:12 p.m. Warner Street resident with open call states she saw some of her missing items being loaded into a truck. Officer investigating.  
6:23 p.m. 52-year-old homeless Turners Falls man arrested at Peskeomskut Park for consuming alcohol on a public way.  
9:25 p.m. Alarm at Food City. Customer locked inside store. Store manager unlocked doors, customer freed.  
**Wednesday, 8/1**  
12:52 a.m. Caller concerned over loud noises at wood shop, worried it might be a fight. MPD searching area; negative findings.  
5:56 a.m. Chestnut Street caller wishing to speak to an officer regarding her husband using her vehicle without permission.  
6:05 a.m. Same caller advising her husband has agreed to return the vehicle; no assistance needed.  
8:16 a.m. 2-3 vehicle accident on Federal Street. MSP responding; operator transported by Medcare; citation issued for failure to take care in stopping and impeded operation.  
**Thursday, 8/2**  
8:31 a.m. Caller states a little black puppy is running around at Unity Park. ACO notified.  
2:22 p.m. 911 caller reports a green Ford pickup is speeding and passing cars dangerously. Officer spoke with operator, who had

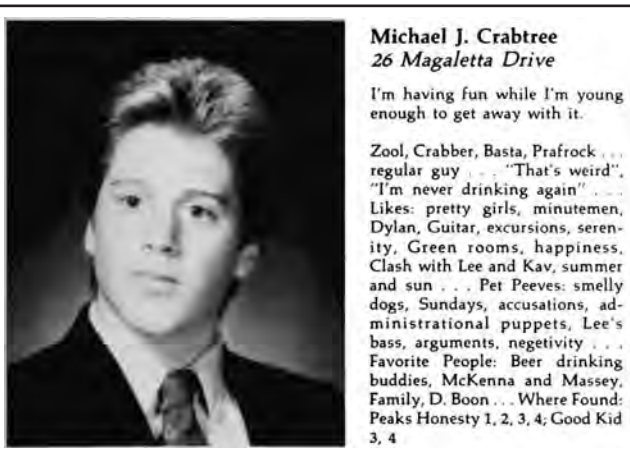
made it home. No signs of impairment.  
2:31 p.m. Warner Street caller from previous calls states \$75 taken from her home.  
3:11 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from Rite Aid. Everything fine.  
3:41 p.m. Caller reports something sticking up from rails at Lake Pleasant crossing. Pan Am contacted; officer found rubber material but no other hazards.  
8:36 p.m. NH state police received 911 call speaking about a dead body; traced number to company registered at Coolidge Avenue address. Current resident states company owned by previous occupants.  
10:37 p.m. Caller reports she hit another vehicle in a parking lot on Oakman Street. She attempted contact with the owner by knocking on the door, but they did not answer. Instructed to leave information on vehicle.  
**Friday, 8/3**  
11:05 a.m. Montague City Road caller states her vehicle was struck overnight while parked in her driveway, moved 4 feet and pushed through retaining wall. Determined to be related to above call.  
5:21 p.m. Caller advises manhole covers in front of United Arc lifted out of road due to heavy rain.  
5:26 p.m. Second caller further up Seventh Street advises same. Officer advises covers are not posing a safety concern.  
5:32 p.m. Caller advises of a small green sedan off North Leverett Road. Father of driver then called to advise he has slid off the road. Officer on scene with Leverett PD. Vehicle retrieved by family.  
5:39 p.m. Area of Avenue A and Fifth Street flooded. DPW will clear storm drains.  
5:41 p.m. 911 caller states water at Federal and East Main streets is deep and covering vehicles' grills. DPW advised; area soon cleared of standing water.  
6:55 p.m. Old Sunderland Road caller reporting her dog Daisy is missing; Daisy has a fear of thunderstorms and may have escaped.  
**Saturday, 8/4**  
2:29 a.m. Motor vehicle stop on Green Pond Road resulted in arrest (*details redacted*).  
3:39 a.m. Erving has a train derailment and is setting up a command post at Mormon Hollow Road. Sufficient personnel on scene. TFFD requests DPW help with road closure.  
9:25 a.m. Report that cap to water pipe has come up from the rain at Unity and First streets.  
10:47 a.m. Report of two subjects hanging

out at Spring Street overpass. Caller states previously one of the subjects stayed there for several hours. Gone on arrival.  
11:58 a.m. Report of gunshots in Wildlife Management Area. Number for environmental police provided.  
12:29 p.m. Montague resident reporting theft of firearm from his vehicle overnight in Wallingford, CT. Advised it would be put on record locally. Wallingford PD confirmed caller had filed stolen gun report.  
12:42 p.m. Report of previously mentioned 52-year-old homeless man drinking in Peskeomskut Park. He was not observed drinking, but was moved along.  
Arrested 55-year-old homeless Turners Falls man on a straight warrant.  
8:15 p.m. Warner Street caller advises she is fighting with her mother, and mother and her boyfriend are fighting on front porch. Second caller reports same disturbance. Officer reports caller will be relocating to hinder any further disturbance.  
8:49 p.m. Anonymous caller concerned over yelling still at Warner Street residence. Quiet on arrival, but male party still on scene.  
**Sunday, 8/5**  
11:13 a.m. Wendell Road caller reports someone lit something on fire and placed it in one of his vehicles the previous night.  
11:31 a.m. Report of rocks in road on Route 2. Gill and Greenfield PD already *en route*.  
1:08 p.m. Car vs. deer accident on Main Street. No damage to vehicle.  
1:37 p.m. Caller advised she drove over White Bridge and hit bump that damaged her muffler. Advised of options.  
2:03 p.m. Accident on East Chestnut Road. TFFD, Wendell FD, and MPD responding. No major injuries; accident determined to be just over line in Wendell. Operator issued citation for failure to use care in starting.  
3:59 p.m. Caller requests environmental police be notified a boat has left the water near Captain Kidd's Island and went into woods at a high rate of speed. EPO advised. Gill and Greenfield PD on scene. TFFD advised.  
5:43 p.m. Caller reports loud noise coming from workshop at Spring and Central streets; requesting police check level with decibel meter. Man trimming lawn advised of complaint.  
6:08 p.m. Caller advises children swimming near Rock Dam, believes water is moving at unsafe speed.



# Old Friends Remember Mike Crabtree

*Our June 14 edition tribute to Mike Crabtree, a big presence in downtown Turners Falls who had passed away suddenly that week, made it out east to Westwood, MA, where Mike grew up.*  
*Some of his old friends, all from the 1986 graduating class at Westwood High, reached out and offered to share memories of a younger Mike with his friends and neighbors out here. We hope they don't mind that we've taken some liberties in stitching them together, or that we used an online yearbook to help bring our readers to that time and place...*  
*Thanks especially to Chris Roche and AJ MacKinnon for making sure this happened. We think Mike would have gotten a kick out of knowing he was bringing people together, despite the circumstances. – Eds.*



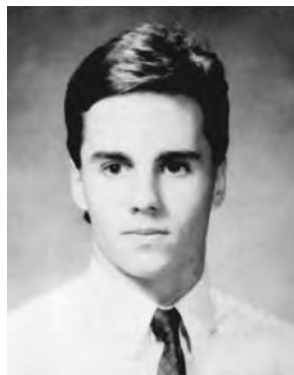
Mike Crabtree's 1986 yearbook photo and quotes.

I grew up in Westwood and graduated high school with Mike Crabtree. There has been a lot of story swapping in recent times by Mike's childhood friends.  
In a world filled with boring people, Mike was a fascinating dude.... While his passing has hit many people hard, it is impossible to capture the essence of the man without reflecting upon his wicked sense of humor.  
I found an old team photo of a Pop Warner football team that I played on with Mike, probably around 1982. He loved playing football and was a tenacious competitor. Made up for lack of speed and pure athleticism with heart and grit.  
Mike would love to play 1 on 1 tackle football, which is as strange as it sounds. 1 on 1 hoops works, but not so much tackle football. We would play in his yard, and it would just be two dudes banging into each other – although, if the defensive opponent cheated up expecting a



run, you could pass to yourself.  
Again, only from the mind of Mike Crabtree.  
Loved hearing the story of Mike playing "Rock the Casbah" over and over. The jukebox must not have had any offerings from *London Calling* or *Sandinista!*, as early '80s Westwood was generally disappointed with *Combat Rock*. Mike had the benefit of older siblings, and always had a good ear for music across so many genres. He was a huge Clash fan....  
Look, I'm probably the 687th closest person to Mike when he was with us so I am not suggesting I have the authority to suggest what Mike's life meant to those who were lucky enough to have a moment with him. That said, his passing has hit me hard, even though I don't think I have seen or spoken to him in at least 25 years.  
I enjoyed Matt Howe's kind words in the tribute y'all did, asking us all what can we learn from

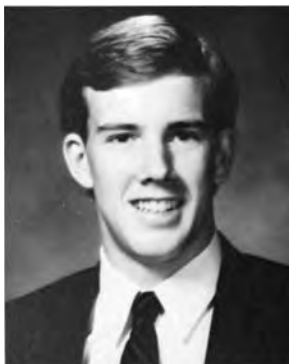
My favorite Mike memory was taking mescaline and sitting in a neighbor's front lawn around 2 a.m., staring at the house and discussing how great it would be to eat it, since it was around Christmas and the house was all decorated and resembled a gingerbread house.  
Mike went into a liquor store at the Dedham Plaza when he was probably 18 and tried to use the ID of a 45-year old Black woman whose license he found. Mike kept insisting to the cashier that it was really him, and with a straight face asked the cashier to quiz him on the details on the ID, as he did take the time to memorize the name, DOB, and address!  
– "DC"  
(Name withheld just in case his company has a problem with his doing a little mescaline over 30 years ago.)



said, "Alright, this time no gloves. You and I will still be friends, but we aren't going to wear gloves."  
It makes me laugh every time I think of it.

– Pat Cloney

I cranked up The Clash during my morning workout, and thought about the good times with Mike in Westwood and at UMass – endless discussions about Roger Clemens/Bob Stanley/Jim Rice, commiserating on the Sox blowing the '86 World Series, adventures out to the parties at Smith College, and hanging out in his Kennedy Tower dorm room with other Westwoodites while Mike strummed his guitar and sang some of his many hilariously sarcastic songs about love and life.  
I'm so sorry to hear of Mike's passing. My condolences to the Crabtree family.



– AJ MacKinnon

## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# This Week at Montague Community TV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

The latest from Montague Community TV is "System Change, Not Climate Change," a presentation brought to you by the Women and Life on Earth Internet Project and the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice.  
In this video, join Anna Gyorgy for a 20-minute presentation at the World Climate Conference in Bonn, Germany in November 2017. She tells the story of world movements on climate justice to promote system change,

to reduce human impact on the environment, and to put an end to catastrophic climate change. This video includes interviews and footage from the conference itself.  
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**DISRUPTION** from page B1

and three-and-a-half, react to a summer living out of the car and bouncing from place to place? “They were pretty great; they saw it as a great adventure,” replies Hannah.

It was hard on her, though, and she remembered there were some episodes “where I was crying on kitchen floors.” As a child, Hannah never lived in the same place for one entire school year until she was in the fifth grade, so this was like reopening a childhood wound. “I was reliving some of this uprooted feeling I had as a child. Creating it for your own child is an extra layer of guilt.”

The family did not get the house in Hadley, as it turned out, but instead settled into a home in Turners Falls. With stability secured, Hannah has turned to new projects, some of which are on view at the Voo and some that have still to debut.

For instance, small paintings of dogs in wigs are precursors to a more extensive series of portraits of same. Dogs in wigs is “a thing,” apparently, and the artist is painting from examples of images she found online. “There are thousands of them: you have a dog; you have a wig; you put the two together and... take a photo!” she laughs. She wanted to get back to more figurative work, without painting the white female body, and this seemed like a fun solution.

Two large mixed media works on paper at the end of the room feature motifs of chairs and grave-stones. Hannah relates these to the 2016 election, where she felt “at that time, it was a death; the grave-stone, the chair: where is that seat



for women? Not at the presidential level right now. Just felt it as a lot of weight holding down women.”

There is sense of in-between-time in these drawings; layered with paint and ink, they feel like a purgatory of some kind. A polluted river runs through one piece, looking both delicate and foul.

Two still lifes on an adjoining wall are layered editions of drawing the same thing and gessoing over it multiple times. The last layer takes one simple detail – the curved lip of a bowl, for instance – to paint simply and boldly on top.

The project not represented in this show are some ceramic cups that Hannah has turned on her pottery wheel at home and glazed with original narrative images. She does her firing at the Community Clay Studio that recently opened in the old Lamson and Goodnow fac-

tory building in Shelburne Falls. Hannah is enthusiastic about this transition to ceramics: “It feels like throwing a little hurricane. I really like it. I haven’t *done anything* sculptural before, and I like finding a functional piece for my art, and it works for the narrative.”

When she isn’t being a mother, wife and artist, Hannah works at the LOOT store in Turners Falls, and she will be teaching two continuing education workshops at Greenfield Community College this fall: one in September called The Art of Assemblage, and a series on Linocut Printmaking in November.

What about her very cool name – was she conceived or born during a hurricane?

Nope. “I was named after Bob Hurricane Hannah, a motocross racer from the ‘70s.”



**WEST ALONG** from page B1

But now the morning after, outdoors again, the wooden chair back in its place, dog and I are amused by the air ballet of the lively redstart, a new fledgling of the summer generation of 2018. She pirouettes and lilts through the leaves, snatching insects from the air as fast as they come.

Hummingbirds are back to furiously chasing one another away from the nodding heads of red bee-balm. They are fiercely jealous of their imaginary little kingdoms of air and flowers, all as ephemeral as this fleeting moment.

3 August. I must have decided sometime before I woke up that this morning I wasn’t going to do anything I didn’t want to do.

Which means that I won’t do anything at all.

Won’t mow the lawn, now that the rain has finally stopped, and the grass is shimmering with a million droplets of glistening beads. Won’t stack wood, won’t cut twigs into kindling, won’t paint the porch for its annual August spruce-up, won’t wash windows, won’t cut down the wall of invasive knotweed along the river bend, won’t write a history of international politics since 1945. Stuff like that. Not today. I’ll

let the grass grow another day, and I’ve got two year’s worth of firewood ready anyway.

I’ll just sit here and be still, noting the way the sunshine slants just right through the trees, watching the joe pye weed grow, with the multiple monarchs visiting the mauve flower clusters and the flowering milkweed. High up in the sky, lazy clouds encourage me to do nothing, just look at their interesting shapes. They slowly drift across the blue while the swifts course overhead in their joy of flying.

Some day, I might not feel the same, it might never be the same, just like this. It may someday be otherwise, but just now I’m determined to sit quietly and watch.

Just now there’s a whirring of wings above my notebook, it’s the three hummingbirds, jealous sisters, arguing and fretting over the prize patch in the flower garden. They’ve been at it for days, zooming by, stopping on a dime to hang in the air over my page to see what I’m writing about them. The fanning of their wings makes a *thrum* near my head, they ride a roller coaster through the humid air of the morning.

“That joe pye weed is mine! That beebalm is mine! That honeysuckle I particularly like!”

And so on.

They argue constantly, and each seems to proclaim ownership, with hardly any time to toll nectar as they drive each other away, climbing straight up in a twisting column with dueling bills, or whipping back and forth pendulum fashion, just fit to be tied.

Suddenly there’s a brief calm in the yard, nothing but the pacific bumblebee quietly working the crowd of flowers. A lone hummingbird perches on her favorite branch in the lilac. The chorus of summer crickets has grown louder these days, soon the electric buzz of the cicada will penetrate the woods and yard. Tonight it’ll be the katyids’ ratcheting call.

*And so the priceless moments of the day  
Are noted one by one –  
Or more likely a thousand at a time.  
If a cup of coffee and a volume  
Of poetry are available besides,  
Then the picture can hardly be improved.*

(Adapted from  
“In the Moment”  
by Billy Collins.)



## Millers River Photography Contest!



**ATHOL** – The Millers River Watershed Council (MRWC) is pleased to announce the first-ever Millers River & Watershed Photo Contest and Exhibition, co-sponsored with the Athol Public Library, where the exhibition will run during the month of October, 2018 before moving to other watershed venues.

MRWC aims for the Photo Contest and Exhibition to inspire watershed residents and visitors alike to explore, appreciate, and help protect the 50-mile-long Millers River and its surrounding watershed of 400 square miles – including numerous tributaries, streams, lakes, and ponds.

Contest guidelines are avail-

able on the MRWC website at [millerswatershed.org](http://millerswatershed.org). Images must be received ready-to-hang by the Athol Library after August 17 and no later than 5 p.m. on Monday, September 24, 2018. All submissions meeting the guidelines will be judged by noted nature photographers Paul Rezendes of Athol, Bill Fournier of Gardner, and Dale Monette of New Salem.

A map showing the watershed’s boundaries, including all or parts of 17 Massachusetts and six New Hampshire towns (and one city – Gardner), is available on the MRWC website. For more information, email [council@millersriver.net](mailto:council@millersriver.net) or leave a phone message at (978) 248-9491.

## CORNER from page B1

*will there be any more ones like that?)*

**RS:** There definitely will! Their fifth adventure, *Mistletoe and Murder*, is coming out in North America in the fall, and their seventh is coming out in the UK and Ireland at the same time!

I have two different publishers for different parts of the world, which can get a bit confusing – but the stories are the same everywhere!

**IVC:** *Who do you have more in common with: Daisy Wells or Hazel Wong?*

**RS:** I’m definitely more of a Hazel – at least, I was when I was her age! I think I might be a bit more Daisyish now that I’m an adult, though.

**IVC:** *Who or what inspired you to become an author?*

**RS:** I just love telling stories. I’ve been doing it since I could talk, and writing them down since I could write. It’s how I make sense of the world, and so I always knew that I wanted to be an author.

Now that I am one, I think it’s the best job in the world!

Thank you so much, Ms. Stevens! I was so ecstatic when you wrote back, because I read your latest book and it was so awesome, and it is so cool that I know the author now.

Thank you so much, again! Have a fantastic summer!



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# The Children's Page

Words by BEVERLY KETCH  
Images by HANNAH BROOKMAN



The Fairies appear on a fine August day,  
When summer blooms wave in the breeze all which way.  
You must listen closely to hear what they say!



Come all and come one who love magic and fun!  
It's a fine time for stories and dragons and sun!  
Let's all go outdoors and bring picnics too –  
Bring friends who are bored and have nothing to do!



On August 18 the adventure begins.  
Spinner Park gnomes are all needles and pins!  
They can't wait to see you, your mom and your dad,  
And soon you'll be telling of the fun that you had.

## Saturday, August 18 Downtown Turners Falls

- 11 a.m. Meet at Spinner Park to make Fairy Gardens!
- 12 noon Shadow Puppet Story Hour at the Carnegie Library, with a mermaid band!
- 1:30 p.m. Picnic in Peskeomskut Park with a butterfly release and prizes for all who picnic!
- 3 p.m. Fairy crafts at the Discovery Center!

All events are free.



It's Fairy House Day on Avenue A,  
With a butterfly release and a dragon parade!  
So come one and come all, and let's *play, play, play, play!*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## ONGOING EVENTS: EVERY SUNDAY

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

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

## EVERY FIRST SUNDAY

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

## EVERY THIRD SUNDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Traditional Irish Music* in the Wheelhouse. 7 p.m.

## 2ND AND 4TH MONDAYS

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

## 2ND AND LAST TUESDAYS

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy in the Wheelhouse* with Jon Ross, 8 p.m.

## EVERY WEDNESDAY

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

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

## 1ST AND 3RD WEDNESDAYS

The Perch (fourth floor), Hawks

& Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band* and *Late Night Open Mic Jam*. 8 p.m.

## EVERY 2ND WEDNESDAY

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Hip hop dance night with *Craze-faze*. 7 p.m.

## 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:

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Six new summer exhibits: *Best of Springs*, *Sprockets and Pulleys* [continues]; *Roz Chast*; *David Rios Ferreira*; *Debra Ramsey*; *Shona Macdonald*. Through Sept. 24.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Don't Get Hung Up on the Details*. A group exhibit by the Magic of Watercolor for Adults Class. Through August.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: "Visions of Love" by *Cameron Schmitz*. Abstract paintings. Through September 21. Reception and artist talk, August 24, 5:30 p.m.

Greenfield Community Television Studios: *PRECARIOUS*, paintings by Alice Thomas. Poems, art, and artist statement about her research and methods concerning the precariousness of nuclear weapons. Through August.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Steve*

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

Call for artists for *PaperJam: A Month-Long Riff on Paper*. Exploded View invites artists to submit artwork on, about, or related to paper, its personal or local significance, or your creative interpretation thereof – use your imagination! Exhibit to be held in September at the Great Falls Discovery Center. Send info, three jpegs to [explodedviewma@gmail.com](mailto:explodedviewma@gmail.com) by August 22.

Call for Photography: The Millers River Watershed Council is pleased to announce the first-ever Millers River & Watershed Photo Contest and Exhibition, co-sponsored with the Athol Public Library, where the exhibition will run during the month of October, 2018 before moving to other watershed venues. Please visit [millerswatershed.org](http://millerswatershed.org) for details. Submission deadline by September 24.

Wendell Warriors Drumming, Bear Mountain Boys, Free Range Dance Party. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Duke Robillard and Roomful of Blues*. 8 p.m. \$

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wholesale Klezmer Band*. Traditional Jewish dance music. 6:30 p.m. \$

## MONDAY, AUGUST 13

Wendell Town Hall: *Fifty Years Later: From Communes to Community*. Join Wendell agricultural commission and energy committee in remembering the commu-

Memorial Hall Theater

POTHOLE PICTURES

Saturday August 11 at 7:30 p.m. <b>HEATH FAIR</b> World premiere of documentary about Town of Heath and its 100th Agricultural Fair	Friday & Saturday August 17 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. <b>EVOLUTION OF ORGANIC</b> History future of the organic food movement. Sponsored by NOFA. Meet director Friday!
Live music at 7 p.m.: Dick Moulding, Scott Joplin piano rags	Live music at 7 p.m.: Friday, Swing Set, vocal jazz ensemble; Saturday, Dan Lederer, jazz

51 Bridge St., Shelburne Falls 625-2896

Stroud: *Illustration Retrospective*; *Sarah Stroud: A Layered Life*. Through August.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Rossi and Friends*. Paintings, mosaics, jewelry, and *objets d'art* by local artists; metal sculpture by Jon Bander; decorated walking sticks by Ron Edwards.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: 22 *Homes* by Hannah Hurricane Sanchez. (See article, page A1.) Through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Water*: paintings by Ashfield artist Gayle Kabaker; *The Eclectic Eye of Jim Gambaro*, digital photography. Both through August 26.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Past, Present and Future*. Member show celebrating 20 year anniversary of the Coop. Through August.

Sawmill River Arts Gallery, Montague Center: *Life's Too Short to Follow Rules*. Painter Sharon Loehr-Lapan and photographer Roy Mansur. Through August.

nal movement. Potluck 6 p.m., program 7 p.m. featuring two short films, readings, open mic.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 16

Unity Park Community Garden, Turners Falls: *Pickling Workshop* with the Great Falls Apple Corps. Learn how to use lactofermentation. Bring veggies and one or more clean jars. Info: [greatfalls-applecorps@gmail.com](mailto:greatfalls-applecorps@gmail.com). Drop in anytime between 3 to 5 p.m.

Leverett Library: Music on the Patio presents *Rachel Raffeld*. Bring your own lawn chair. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Erin Harpe and the Delta Swingers*. Blues and electric delta boogie. 8 p.m. \$

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *HIDE, Kontravoid*. 9 p.m. \$

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: *Allash Ensemble*. Throat singing is one of the world's most remarkable indigenous musical traditions. Individual singers produce two or more notes simultaneously, often a low drone and a high-pitched melody, for otherworldly vocal effects. 8 p.m. \$

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Balkun Brothers*, blues funk band. *Joy on Fire*, *Polluter* at (same location) with punk jazz fusion. 9 p.m. \$

The Rendezvous

bar with food

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Falltown String Band

SAT 8/11 8:30 pm  
Ray Mason

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# Gill's 225<sup>th</sup> Celebration Pig Roast

By JOE R. PARZYCH

**GILL** – Even though the sky looked threatening with dark clouds, it didn't stop the pig roast celebration for Gill's 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 28.

A wonderful main course of BBQ pork dinner was prepared by Sir Chef Randy Crochier, and tasty sides of coleslaw and pasta were prepared by the 225<sup>th</sup> Anniversary volunteer committee. The dinner was followed by a choice of dessert, with ice cream or pie by the Wagon Wheel restaurant and strawberry shortcake by the town committee available for purchase. Water from the Summit Mill Store was sold.

There were more than 150 tickets purchased for the event, and after dinner there was a raffle consisting of five 225<sup>th</sup> Gill an-

niversary reusable tote bags, followed by demonstrations of "The Comfort Dogs" Clarence and Donut officiated by officers Lt. Willam Gordon and Laura Gordon of the Greenfield police department. There was also a demonstration of K9s officiated by the Orange Police Department and Franklin County Sheriff's department.

Last but not least, a presentation of birds of prey by Tom Ricardi.

Games were provided by the Four Winds School. The book on the history of Riverside in Gill was available for purchase from Lynn Tombs of the Gill Historical Society.

Music was provided by the group Ask Wanda, consisting of band members Rick Falkoff (guitar), Guy Devito (bass), Rick Mauran (drums), and Gill's very own se-

lectboard member Greg Snedeker (vocals, keyboard and cello). A guest of the band, Ron Smith, director of the band and jazz programs at the Northfield Mt. Hermon school, played saxophone.

Before playing, an acknowledgement was made from Greg Snedeker congratulating Ed Ambo on his retirement after 37 years of service from the Gill highway department. He will be missed.

The band did great cover songs with classics from Stevie Wonder, Talking Heads, Peter Gabriel, and The Police. The song "I'll Be Watching You" from The Police was dedicated to police chief Chris Redmond.

The Pig Roast was held the same day as the Franklin County Boat Club's Christmas in July event, which had the Parade of Boats and the fantastic fireworks which followed.

It was a nice relaxing evening for all. Many thanks for making it possible with all the work, everybody.

In closing, for residents and former residents of Gill: Please feel free to share a favorite memory or story and/or photograph of life growing up in Gill with readers of *The Montague Reporter*: editor@montaguereporter.org.

*Left: Revelers line up for roast pig and more.*

*Top right: Clarence and Donut help Lt. Willam Gordon and Laura Gordon of the Greenfield police department comfort Gill administrative assistant Ray Purington.*

*Middle right: After dark, Barton Cove was set aglow with decorated boats.*

*Bottom right: Wildlife rehabilitator Tom Ricardi shows an owl.*



JOEY R. PARZYCH PHOTOS

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