

# The Montague Reporter

also serving Irving, Gill, Everett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

## Comerford, Blais Win Local Dem Primaries

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The shape of the region’s delegation to Beacon Hill over the coming years was largely determined Tuesday by voters in the Democratic primary. Jo Comerford of Northampton, a policy analyst and activist, won in a successful write-in campaign to become the party’s nominee for the Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester state senate seat.



And Sunderland’s Natalie Blais, director of the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce and a former aide to US representative Jim McGovern, won the nomination for the First Franklin state house seat in a seven-way race by a wide margin.

Neither faces a Republican challenger in November.

### State Senate

Comerford’s victory comes as the culmination of an unusual political saga. The senate seat was held for 27 years by Stan Rosenberg, who stepped down as senate president last December and then resigned from office in May after his husband became the center of twin ethics

see **PRIMARIES** page A7

## DiDonato to Join Wendell Selectboard

By REPORTER STAFF

**WENDELL** – On Tuesday, 52% of registered Wendell voters turned out to the polls to cast ballots in two separate elections: the statewide primaries and a special election to fill a selectboard seat vacated in June by Jeffrey Pooser.

That seat will be held by Laurie DiDonato, who received 201 votes, or 55.5%. Highway commissioner Phil Delorey came in second with 116 votes (31.8%), and broadband committee member Wanita Sears received 45 votes (12.4%).

DiDonato, who also sits on the energy committee, may hold her seat until 2021. Pooser had run for a fourth term of office just a month before his resignation.

“It’s very exciting news,” DiDonato said Wednesday. “I’m honored the Wendell voters have given me this opportunity, and I look forward to working with the other selectboard members and town officials to address the issues Wendell is facing.”

Wendell’s selectboard currently serves as the town’s municipal light plant (MLP), the governing body of the planned townwide broadband system.

“Is 52% a good number?” town clerk Gretchen Smith reflected, of Tuesday’s turnout. “Yes.”

Smith also reported that the town’s Democratic voters favored Jo Comerford for state senator, Bob Massie for governor, Quentin Palfrey for lieutenant governor, and incumbent William Galvin for secretary of state.



Laurie DiDonato

### THE BIG PICTURE

## Coming In as a Leader: Yves Salomon-Fernández Hits the Ground Running



JACKSON PHOTO

Greenfield Community College’s new president, Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández.

By MIKE JACKSON

**GREENFIELD** – As we walk the freshly scrubbed halls at Greenfield Community College, Dr. Yves Salomon-Fernández greets passing students with a confident and sunny authority.

“People don’t take me for the president here,” she tells me, “which is a good thing. I’m a non-hierarchical leader at heart...”

It is unlikely that she will remain anonymous here for long. Hired to succeed retiring 18-year president Bob Pura – not to *replace* him, a Chair of the Board of Trustees emphasized in the press release I was issued in advance of our interview – Dr. Salomon-Fernández arrives in Franklin County on a wind of change, bringing global and national perspectives to bear on the challenges we face in our quiet corner of the state.

The press release informed me of Dr. Salomon-Fernández’s fluency in four languages. She tells me she wakes up at 3 a.m. every day, automatically. “Which can be a real problem,” she says. “You don’t need an alarm clock if you have Yves around.”

When she was young Dr. Salomon-Fernández’s family moved from Haiti to Boston. The prestigious Boston Latin School served as a springboard into a career in education: political science and economic history; a master’s at the London School of Economics; her doctorate at Boston College’s Lynch School of Education; and finally, steady progress from teaching into higher education administration. She served most recently as the president of a community college in rural New Jersey. Excited at the rare chance to hobnob with such a freshly arrived power broker, I had booked an interview for the *Reporter* on Tuesday morning, the first day of classes. I hadn’t anticipated having to park so far from the main building, and despite all the signage, had somehow gotten lost trying to find the president’s office.

But Dr. Salomon-Fernández takes my late arrival in stride, and before long we are talking democracy and violence, rural poverty and human capital, collaboration, leadership, and listening. (This transcript has been abridged, reordered, and edited for clarity.)

**MR:** So you’re already really in it! How long have you been settled in the area?

**YSF:** I’m on week three. I live in Greenfield; I’m about a 5- to 7-minute drive from here.... How about you, are you from here?

**MR:** No, I moved out ten years ago.... My family moved around a lot, but we lived in the Framingham area a couple times. You taught at Salem State?

**YSF:** Yeah, and I also worked at Mass Bay, which has a campus in Framingham. I was the executive officer for that campus.

**MR:** That’s an area that’s had a ton of growth and development in the last 10 years.

**YSF:** Yes, and the last three years, even the last two, have been ridiculous.... And it’s becoming less affordable.

**MR:** How long were you in New Jersey, and where were you?

**YSF:** Two years – it felt like longer. I experienced tremendous growth: myself personally, as did the college. We had some challenges when I came in, but I really hit the ground running, and we did a great job. I had a phenomenal team....

It was in southern New Jersey, Cumberland County: inland, west. It was rural, and also the poorest county in New Jersey, with the lowest higher education attainment rate, the lowest health outcomes – across all indicators, they were at the bottom or next to the bottom.

At the same time there were some incredibly brilliant people I got to know, some incredibly successful, entrepreneurial folks. So in some ways I saw the potential.

And the kindness: I think there’s a level of solidarity that people have, when you grow up in poverty and that’s your community. The level of generosity that I experienced there was just beyond anything I had experienced in my life. People were just helping each other....

And then to come here – of course, Franklin County is the poorest in Massachusetts – and to see it differently. I think Franklin County wears its pioneering badge much more, and its hippie identity, and that attracts hippies from all over.

see **PRESIDENT** page A5

### GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Buses, Meals Top Back-To-School Agenda

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – April Reipold chaired the Gill-Montague regional school committee’s August 28 meeting, in the absence of both chair Jane Oakes and vice-chair Heather Katsoulis.

As of the meeting, staff had returned from summer break, but students had not yet. “Things look great,” reported superintendent Michael Sullivan, praising the schools’ custodial and maintenance staff.

“Getting schools prepared for their daily usage was all done in a really terrific way – floors, walls, the grounds all look terrific.”

Sullivan lauded administrative assistants and the technology department for their work preparing for the new year. The district has also launched a revamped website at [gmrtd.org](http://gmrtd.org).

### Uphill Both Ways

The committee reviewed the district’s busing policy, and heard from

a parent who urged them to change it to allow children who live closer to the schools to ride the buses.

“I have two very young children who are just six years old, and because we live so close to the school, they’re being told they have to walk, and I don’t think it’s safe,” Michelle Billings told them. “We live on a busy street. They’d have to cross several roads, with no sidewalks, all the way to our house,” she continued. “I also don’t think it’s

see **GMRSD** page A7

## The Finality of Print: A Saturday “DeadLine”

By CHRISTOPHER SAWYER-LAUÇANNO

**TURNERS FALLS** – It all began when poet Candace Curran turned up at Samantha Wood’s Greenfield studio in the spring of 2016 bearing a stack of old Chilton car repair manuals. Curran, who “really loved auto parts” and Chilton’s exploded view diagrams, plunked down the manual on Wood’s table.

Wood, a poet, artist, and editor asked Curran, “What are we going to do with these?”

“Let’s make something,” Curran replied.

And make something they did. By October 2016, Curran and Wood had teamed up with artists and poets Lea Banks, Trish Crapo, Edite Cunha, Diana Pedrosa, and Nina Rossi to launch their first event, which combined poetry, sculpture, installation, wall art, music, and live performance.

Over the last year, Exploded



SHEILA DAMKOEHLER PHOTO

Left to right: Edite Cunha, Trish Crapo, Candace Curran, Samantha Wood, and Nina Rossi are collaborating on Exploded View’s newest performance piece.

View has created ten separate events in a variety of venues throughout the valley. Their work defies easy categorization. “Spectacles” may be the only way to describe what these innovative women do.

The group now has just five

members since the departure of Banks and Pedrosa due to other commitments. And these five are currently getting ready for their next performance. “DeadLine” will be performed/installed this Sunday,

see **DEADLINE** page A3



# The Montague Reporter

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## Stopping Inside

From August 21 to September 9, some unknown – but not inconsequential – number of people imprisoned in the US and Canada are joining in a coast-to-coast strike, withdrawing their labor from prison operations and enterprises and refusing to spend money at commissaries or on pay calls.

The strike, first called by anonymous inmates in the activist legal group Jailhouse Lawyer Speaks, is an attempt to call public attention to worsening material and legal conditions behind the walls of America's locked facilities.

It's hard to assess just how widespread strike participation has been, not least because prison officials will often react to any sign of troublemaking or organizing among their wards with various forms of isolation, "lockdown," enforced communications blackout, and collective punishment.

Supporters on the outside have been keeping track of confirmed acts of non-cooperation, calling and writing to politicians and prison system officials, and broadcasting the demands for reform published by Jailhouse Lawyer Speaks.

In at least some facilities – in California, Washington state, Ohio, Michigan, Delaware, Indiana, Texas, and Colorado – the call has inspired hunger strikes.

At a large, private immigrant detention center in Tacoma, where hunger strikes against poor conditions and arbitrary punishments are already common, the coast-to-coast strike has been the occasion for nearly 200 detainees to refuse food together.

Given the current political climate, some are eager to imagine widespread hidden resistance where it does not exist, while others will insist that anyone who finds themselves on the wrong side of the bars for any reason must therefore be beyond any protection, or rights, or deservingness, or access to means of self-improvement.

Whatever the extent of the strike, it is clear that a large number

of incarcerated Americans feel it's worth some discomfort to get more people to hear out this list of demands, so we think it's worth printing in full, for your consideration:

1. Immediate **improvements to the conditions of prisons** and prison policies that recognize the humanity of imprisoned men and women.
2. An immediate **end to prison slavery**. All persons imprisoned in any place of detention under United States jurisdiction must be paid the prevailing wage in their state or territory for their labor.
3. The Prison Litigation Reform Act must be rescinded, allowing imprisoned humans a proper channel to **address grievances** and violations of their rights.
4. The Truth in Sentencing Act and the Sentencing Reform Act must be rescinded so that imprisoned humans have a **possibility of rehabilitation** and parole. No human shall be sentenced to Death by Incarceration or serve any sentence without the possibility of parole.
5. An immediate end to the racial overcharging, over-sentencing, and parole denials of Black and brown humans. Black humans shall no longer be **denied parole because the victim of the crime was white**, which is a particular problem in southern states.
6. An immediate end to racist **gang enhancement laws** targeting Black and brown humans.
7. No imprisoned human shall be **denied access to rehabilitation** programs at their place of detention because of their label as a violent offender.
8. State prisons must be funded specifically to offer **more rehabilitation services**.
9. **Pell grants** must be reinstated in all US states and territories.
10. **The voting rights** of all confined citizens serving prison sentences, pretrial detainees, and so-called "ex-felons" must be counted. Representation is demanded. All voices count.

## CORRECTION

In our August 9 article "Ja'Duke Breaks Ground for Theater Expansion" (page A1), we erroneously identified Ja'Duke Preschool director Amber Garcia as a daughter of Ja'Duke founder Nick Waynelovich. Garcia is unrelated to Waynelovich or his daughter, Ja'Duke Center for the Performing Arts owner and director Kimberly Williams.

Garcia is a close friend of the family, having first been a student of Waynelovich's at Mohawk Trail Regional High School. She studied at GCC to be a preschool director, and was ready to help open the preschool at the Center when it was built in 2004.

We apologize for the error, and for any confusion we may have caused.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Donald LaPierre was ready to reel in the votes at Montague's Precinct 5 polling station on Tuesday morning, a task he has had a hand in for 20 years.

# Letter to



# the Editors

## Help Rethink TFHS!

As schools across the region begin a new year, there is much to celebrate about the outstanding teaching and learning going on in the Franklin County public schools. There are many examples of dedicated, inspiring, and innovative educators and administrators making a difference for our children and youth.

As one example of important innovation, I want to shine a spotlight on the planning work being done at Turners Falls High School in a project called Powertown in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (PT21).

This project aims to provide all TFHS students with a 21<sup>st</sup> century education that is rooted in the local community and will prepare them for a bright future in spite of unpredictable economic and social conditions in the region and the world.

In this planning year, PT21 partners have been working with students, families, school staff, and community members to identify the needs and aspirations of the students. Coupled with identifying the life-long skills and competencies that students will need to thrive, PT21 is developing a "vision of our graduates" that will serve as one

basis for developing a model for a redesigned high school experience.

This coming year, PT21 team members will continue to look at research, visit exemplary schools, learn about educational models such as competency-based education, and involve school and community participation in developing this model. The PT21 planning work is partially supported by the Barr Foundation and builds on longstanding partnerships between Turners Falls High School and Greenfield Community College, the Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board, the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership, the Collaborative for Educational Services and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges.

I encourage readers to visit the PT21 Facebook page (Powertown in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century) and website ([powertown.org](http://powertown.org)), to learn more about this exciting project and find ways to give input or get involved.

**William Diehl,**  
Executive Director  
Collaborative for Educational Services (Northampton)

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Compiled by **DON CLEGG**

**Bingo returns** to Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls this Saturday, September 8 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Seating will definitely be on a first call, first reserve basis. Place your call to (413) 863-4316. Due to limited space, no one will be admitted without a reservation. Gag prizes, and some light refreshments, will be provided by the bank.

The Brick House Community Resource Center is hosting a **BBQ and kickball game** at Unity Park

this Saturday, September 8, from 1 to 3 p.m. Join in, and bring your friends or the whole family! There will be a fun-loving game of kickball for people of all ages.

The Brick House is celebrating some great news: two new AmeriCorps members are starting in the Teen Center this fall; the organization received a Community Development Block Grant through the town of Montague to support youth leadership and reduce bullying; they are partnering with United Way of Franklin County for the first time this year; and they will be amping up their arts program-

ming for youth after receiving a YouthReach grant from the Mass Cultural Council.

There will be burgers, hot dogs, and vegetarian options on the grill. Bring a snack to share, or just come and enjoy. The Brick House will be accepting donations on a sliding scale, which will help support their programming with local youth and families.

The Great Falls Coffeehouse presents **Lunar Carnival**, which performs a magical blend of soulful harmonies, on Friday, September 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. Doors to the Great Hall open at 6:30 p.m.

Each month the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center host an evening coffeehouse with local talent. Refreshments will be available. Donations are suggested, to support educational programming at the Center. The museum and museum store open during intermission.

*The Montague Reporter* is still seeking a **delivery person, or people, for a route in Gill** consisting of fewer than 50 papers.

If you or someone you know may be interested, and available for a couple hours Thursday afternoons or evenings, please call the paper at 863-8666 or email [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org). Compensation is included.

**We're also seeking volunteers** to help with a wide range of general production and operations. The *Reporter* is an independent, non-profit paper, operated in the public interest and kept running in large part by people like you!

Interested in joining the team? Visit [montaguereporter.org/volunteer](http://montaguereporter.org/volunteer), where you can fill out a quick form letting us know about your availability, skills, and interests.

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Let's Build Up School Reporting

By **JEN AUDLEY**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

First, I want to just say how grateful I am that this newspaper exists. I know so much more about our community because of *The Montague Reporter*, and having pitched in from time to time in various ways, I can attest to what a grueling enterprise it can be to publish it week after week on a shoestring budget with a mostly volunteer staff.

While I don't always agree with the choices the editors and reporters make about what to cover, or what ends up being deemed news, I believe they're doing us an invaluable service, and making the most of the resources available.

One of the things that makes a homegrown endeavor like *The Montague Reporter* unique is the fact that readers play a hands-on role in determining what appears in its pages. By "hands-on" I mean doing

more than complaining or making suggestions about what they should be covering. What I'm talking about is that readers who actually contribute the content that appears in print: articles, columns, op-eds, cartoons, photographs, advertisements... and, of course, letters to the editor.

Local news reporting is the area where *The Reporter* needs help most. For quite a while now, the line-up of people who play the reporter role for the newspaper has been static and short. For example, for all of its history, this newspaper has provided us with news of the Gill-Montague Regional School District, and for several years now that commitment has been sustained because Mike Jackson, the managing editor, attends and reports on meetings of the Gill-Montague Regional School Committee.

Mike's coverage of these meetings has provided *Reporter* readers with a long, unbroken streak of conscientious reporting on the

relatively narrow (but important) array of issues that come before the School Committee. It also means that he spends hours being a reporter on Tuesday nights, when a managing editor might be attending to a myriad of other tasks. I am grateful for that.

Thanks also to the dedication of citizen journalist Matt Robinson, we get lots of news about high school sports, and I know *The Reporter* does it best to find people to cover special events at the schools.

However, I also know that there are *a lot* of interesting and newsworthy things happening that no one ever hears about – and I do wish this newspaper had the capacity to report on more of them.

Here are two things we could do to remedy this situation:

1. Someone – or a team – could take on covering the GMRSD School Committee meetings, freeing up Mike for other tasks.

I can't do this reporting myself,

but I could help anyone who's interested get up to speed and get access to background information. I'm sure you could count on editorial support from Mike as well.

2. We could build a team of local education reporters that actively looks for potential news stories in our schools and works together to cover them.

My work at the Partnership limits my ability to do the actual reporting, but there are lots of other ways I could support this sort of initiative!

If you are like me, you love this newspaper, and you want its readers to know more about the day-to-day workings and accomplishments of our local public schools. Let's work together to make it happen!

*Jen Audley is the manager of the Gill-Montague Community School Partnership and a Montague Town Meeting member for Precinct 4. Reach her at [jen@gmpartnership.org](mailto:jen@gmpartnership.org) or (413) 863-3604.*

**DEADLINE** from page A1

September 9 at 2 p.m. at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls, in conjunction with the month-long PaperJam event (see sidebar below).

The Whole Jam

TURNERS FALLS – The Great Falls Discovery Center is hosting a series of exhibitions, movies, installations, talks, hands-on workshops, performances and events this month, all inspired by paper and the paper-making industry.

PaperJam is a partnership between the Discovery Center, RiverCulture, and Exploded View, the word and image performance group.

The month-long celebration and investigation into all things paper features an art and sculpture exhibition now on view in the Great Hall. Curated by Exploded View, the show features more than a dozen artists who have interpreted the impact of paper on themselves and on society. Along with the art installation, Discovery Center interpreters Janel Nockleby and Sheila Damkoehler have created a display of historical artifacts on the history of papermaking in Turners Falls.

The exhibition is open to the public from September 2 to 29. The opening reception for the PaperJam art exhibit is this Sunday, September 9 at 2 p.m.

Consult the *MR's* "Arts and Entertainment" calendar on page B5 for a week-by-week schedule of events, or visit [greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/events-calendar/](http://greatfallsdiscoverycenter.org/events-calendar/).

Each of Exploded View's events has a theme. While the specific subjects are always different, the group's mission is that of giving voice to the darker aspects of societal reality, such as domestic abuse, loss, violence, and disempowerment. By addressing those issues from a variety of angles, they also offer hope and love, and the benefit collaboration can bring to strengthen the individual.

For "DeadLine," the group came up with the idea of writing poetic obituaries for a fictional departed person. Each member wrote her own take on this same person. The ghost isn't left out either; she too got to write her own summary of her life.

According to Wood, the idea originated when she devised an ad spoof for the single-issue *Exploded View* newspaper, which creatively featured art, poetry and collage work. Wood's advertisement was for a smartphone app called Cryption: "Do you miss your loved ones? Let us dial you in!"

From this starting point, the work evolved. The group's process is a combination of brainstorming, in which each member throws out ideas, followed by the creation of a script, which then in turn is worked and reworked. Other elements enter, such as sculptural forms, music, props, and motifs, such as a lobster, from past performances.

While the obit component is still a major part of "DeadLine," so is paper itself, and the future of print. In continuing with the exhibition at the Discovery Center that Exploded View curated, another focus of the show is on whether newspapers can even survive in the Trump era. As Wood notes, the Trump tariffs on Canadian paper are really threatening the already struggling newspa-

per industry. Indeed, the price of newsprint has increased by more than 40 percent since March.

So how do these artists get from obits for an individual to, perhaps, obits for the newspaper industry?

Rossi notes, "We start with drama and skitting to discover what the feasible links are between words and images."

"We take off from that," says Cunha.

"And push limits," Curran adds.

Exploded View has definitely pushed a number of limits over the last year. They've explored life and death issues, and in the process given voice to those who are often voiceless. On more than one occasion they have been approached by an audience member who told them that because of the group's courage in talking about such important matters as domestic violence, they have felt their own voice welling up inside.

Cunha notes that working together sharing stories and ideas has also been a boon to her as an artist. Curran says that until Exploded View happened, she could never sing out loud. That's all changed: she'll be singing in DeadLine, to the accompaniment of Rossi strumming on a cigar-box guitar with beer bottles.

Wood says that working with her friends has "given her more guts" to try out work she might have earlier not been able to share publicly. For Rossi, it has allowed her to explore new territory in both group and solo work.

While the old Chilton manuals show how parts fit into a whole, Exploded View demonstrates that the whole can be greater than the sum of its parts.

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## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Rezoning Schemes

By JEFF SINGLETON

The highlight of the August 27 meeting of the Montague selectboard was a PowerPoint presentation of major revisions of the town's zoning laws and procedures presented by town planner Walter Ramsey.

Ramsey noted that he and the planning board had been working on the proposed revisions, with the assistance of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, for nearly two years. He added that the board had focused on places where state law had changed, "best practices" had changed, or "places where the laws are not consistent with current community goals."

Although the discussion lasted for nearly forty-five minutes, Ramsey said that "I don't think I'm going to get through it all tonight. I just wanted the board and the public to have a flavor of what the planning board is thinking, and invite them to come to planning board meetings, and become engaged in that process."

The "updated map" shown by Ramsey would eliminate three zoning districts: "public-semi-pub," "recreational-educational," and "unrestricted." It would also rezone the Montague Plains from its current status as an "Industrial" zone to "Agriculture-Forestry" one. Since much of this area is state-owned, town administrator Steve Ellis said the town was investigating whether that change would impact state payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) reimbursements.

The proposed map would also rezone residential areas on the town sewer line but in Agriculture-Forestry to Residential status.

Ramsey presented a number of changes of permitted uses within districts. One that generated debate involved requiring multi-family units be only allowed in "Historic-Industrial Zones" as part of "mixed use" projects. Ellis said he worried that this would limit development options in certain key districts. Ramsey said he had "heard that comment before," and would "take it back to the planning board."

The plan also proposes to allow what is called "Open Space Residential Design," which would encourage developers to cluster housing in subdivisions on smaller lots than is currently allowed, in return for 40% of the project being "protected open space."

The new zoning rules would also encourage "Planned Unit Development," described as "mixed of uses, variety of building types and open spaces," in certain industrial and business districts. Ramsey cited examples of this form of development in Northampton and Hadley.

The new regulations make changes to solar zoning laws, including requiring 50% natural vegetation lot coverage and a 100-foot "buffer strip" from any street line or residential area. The proposal eases some restrictions on "accessory dwelling units" to allow for "aging in place" and for persons with disabilities.

Campgrounds would no longer be "expressly forbidden" under the new bylaws, but "guests" living in campers on residential property would be limited to a maximum of thirty days.

Energy committee member Ariel Elan, noting the regional problem of homelessness, expressed dismay at this provision.

Ramsey did not request a vote from the selectboard, but said "we'll be back in a month with a zone change petition" for the board to vote on.

If they approve that petition, there will then be a formal hearing before the planning board. Ramsey said he plans to bring the changes to a special town meeting in February for final approval.

## Massacre Study Continues

During his stay at the front table, Ramsey announced the award of a new grant to continue the study the 1676 Battle of Turners Falls — or rather, he introduced David Brule, chair of the advisory board overseeing the grant, to make the announcement.

Brule said the \$81,000 grant would allow the research team from the Mashantucket-Pequot Museum to expand its investigation of the seven-mile-long battlefield. This is essentially the path of the retreating colonial soldiers through what is now Greenfield and Deerfield.

Brule thanked selectboard members Michael Nelson and Chris Boutwell for supporting the grant four years ago when it was first proposed. "The whole project was hanging by a thread," he said. "Mike made the motion, and Chris seconded it and it carried the day. It was *this close* to not happening."

The board voted to accept the grant.

## Complaint Tweaked

Finance committee member Mike Naughton came before the board with a revised version of the "Open Letter to Legislators" on the state education funding formula, Chapter 70.

A group of "civic leaders," of which Naughton is a part, have complained that a "cap" on the local "minimum contribution" at 82.5% benefits rich communities in the state by reducing their required contributions. The loss of hypothetical revenue means that the required local contributions of less affluent towns need to be raised.

According to the revised civic letter, eliminating the cap could potentially require a wealthy community like Weston to pay \$83 million dollars to fund its foundation budget, calculated at just over \$20 million.

The original draft of the letter, previously endorsed by the selectboard, had claimed that if all local contributions above foundation budgets of wealthy communities were collected and redistributed, less wealthy towns would be "relieved of [a] burden" totaling \$1.7 million.

At the August 24 meeting Naughton said a spreadsheet requested by the civic leaders — and given to the selectboard — showed that this estimate was an "error," and that the real number was closer to \$800 million. The \$1.7 million number (now \$1.778 million) remained in the revised letter, but is described as the difference between the estimated contributions of wealthy communities with no cap, and the amount they actually pay under the cap. It does not claim that all this money would be redistributed to communities under the cap.

The revised letter also states that "under the current law... there is no mechanism for collecting and distributing the portion of a town's local contribution that exceeds its

## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Date Set for STM

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The August 22 meeting should be the last time that the Wendell selectboard meets with only two members. Its next scheduled meeting was September 5, the day following a special election for the seat vacated in early summer by Jeffrey Pooser.

A forum with the three official candidates, road commissioner and building inspector Phil Delorey; clerk of many boards, and broadband committee member Wanita Sears; and energy committee member Laurie DiDonato, was held on August 28 in the town hall.

Fire captain Asa De Roode was in the selectboard office as the meeting opened. He asked for selectboard signatures for a SAFE (Student Awareness Fire Education) grant, and got them.

With the SAFE money, Wendell and New Salem firefighters go to Swift River School and to senior centers to teach habits that can avoid home fires, and approaches to save lives if a fire starts in a home. Seniors can also get free replacements of old smoke detectors.

De Roode said that since the start of the SAFE program, there has been a 70% drop in fire fatalities.

Zoning board of appeals member Don Bartlett came to the meet-

foundation budget."

Naughton noted that the civic leaders did not propose a solution to the problem they claim to identify. "There are a number of possible solutions to this problem but we did not propose any because they are all politically difficult," he said. "The appetite in the legislature to fix any problem in the funding formula is questionable."

Steve Ellis suggested that the purpose of the civic leaders' statement is to "begin a conversation about this element of Chapter 70." The letter argues that the inequity built into the current formula is "obvious" and states that "as citizens, we can and do debate the uses to which our public funds are put, and we certainly don't always agree. But once the decisions have been made, all of us owe it to our fellow citizens to step up and pay our fair share."

The selectboard unanimously endorsed the revised letter.

## Other Business

The selectboard voted to accept new fee schedules for the planning board and zoning board of appeals proposed by Ramsey.

Ramsey reported on work funded by a state Green Communities grant to upgrade heating units on the roof of Sheffield Elementary School. The work was completed at the end of the previous week, before school resumed session.

The board voted to sign a certificate of completion and request a rebate from the Eversource Electric Company.

Josh Goldman of the Shea Theater Arts Center board of directors reviewed the history of the town-owned Shea Theater, and the nonprofit operating group's current plans. He emphasized the new board's desire to "transform the venue into a regional arts destination" while maintaining community programming. The board initiated a

ing with Kari Dziedzic, as a prospective new member of the ZBA. Board members quickly signed her appointment slip and sent her to the clerk's office to be sworn in.

The Franklin Regional Council of Governments planned to hold a meeting about regionalizing IT services on August 29. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she forwarded the notice to Wendell's technology committee. She said Nan Riebschlaeger was willing to go, and selectboard member Dan Keller said he is interested.

Robert Heller of the tech committee thought the offer would be of "a one size fits all, but none very well" nature. Selectboard members have said they have been satisfied by the work done so far by the IT person hired by the town, Peter Golrick, an independent worker in Millers Falls.

Board members confirmed Thursday, September 20 as the date for a special town meeting. The warrant will include authorizing a Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) schematic design study for potential window and door replacement at Swift River School, setting parameters for a deferred property tax program for qualifying seniors, and bills of prior years.

The meeting was short, and so is this article.

"light up the Shea" campaign, which funded major renovations within 75 days after it took over.

Goldman requested that the board make available funds remaining from an under-budget water damage repair in order to fund a "performer bathroom." He noted many well-known "national acts" have union contracts that require dedicated bathroom space. He suggested the work could be done in collaboration with the Franklin County Technical School.

The board voted to endorse an appropriation of \$9,500, which would come from free cash, and will go before a special town meeting in the fall.

Ellis requested that the capital improvements committee use a previous appropriation to hire a consultant to study the "best path forward" for fixing the Shea's roof. After another discussion of the history of the roof, the board approved the request.

The board approved contracts for sidewalk work on Avenue C and Worcester Avenue.

It executed a contract with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments for procurement services for the Colle Building Improvement project.

A contract for consulting services involving a proposed solar array at the water pollution control facility was approved.

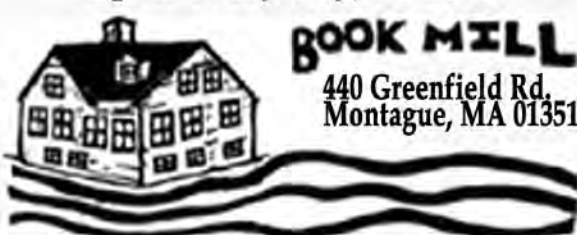
Ellis requested that the board approve and fund a project by the FirstLight Power Company to seal an intake canal that threatens the town-owned Strathmore complex. The board approved that request as well, with the money coming from the "Unsafe and Unhealthy Buildings" fund.

The board approved a boot fund drive for muscular dystrophy by the Turners Falls Water Department on September 1.

The next selectboard meeting will be on September 10.

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**MR:** *It's complicated!*  
**YSF:** Yeah, it is – and there's also a lot of poverty, and of course there's the opioid crisis. It's complex, it's different, and it's also full of potential.

**MR:** *Were a lot of your students in New Jersey multi-generationally local?*

**YSF:** Yes, they never left the place. There was a deep sense of people who never went anywhere.

In fact, the college was very successful at having four-year partnerships where you could finish your undergraduate degree and even get a master's degrees onsite, because people didn't want to leave. Those who had the means to leave would leave, but those who didn't, which was the majority, didn't....

I don't know if you've read JD Vance's *Hillbilly Elegy*?

**MR:** *I haven't read it, though I've read essays he wrote around it. I know of some folks in Kentucky who hate it.*

**YSF:** That's always how it is, isn't it? He talks about people that do these documentaries – for some reason they find Kentucky very fascinating, and the locals hate those things.

I really wanted to experience what rural poverty looks like outside of the Northeast. So we started following the Appalachian towns in Pennsylvania, and continued all the way down through Maryland, West Virginia, and Kentucky.

To see that level of poverty, to see open drainage and sewage systems – things that I've seen in Haiti and other developing countries – here in the US, the richest country in the world, you think, "There's something fundamentally wrong here."

And it was also an eye-opener for me because, coming from the Northeast, we spend so much time talking about sustainable energy, which is very important, and how coal mining and all those things are horrible. But when you go places where that is the only industry, the only livelihood people have, it makes you realize that we can't just have this absolutist approach – what we need, really, is a strategy to diversify the economy.

Because this is what people have always known; this is the only thing they know. If there is a lot of unsustainable coal mining happening, and of course we know it has deleterious health effects, it's our fault. Because as the government, we have not made an effort to diversify these regional economies....

**MR:** *The elephant in the room is that when patterns of settlement happened to follow industry – in this case, an extractive industry – and then it's over, we don't ever want to have to say, "Okay, well, pack it up – we're gonna tear this down, let the woods grow back."*

**YSF:** It's interesting, right?

And we had our kids look up, as we were driving through these areas, the median income. Overall and for women. And people are making \$200 a week, and that's pre-tax....

When you think about the history of the Democratic Party, these are not people that the Democratic Party should be losing.... It's one of the things that has made me more of a middle ground person, because what I see is a lot of extremism.

Calling people "deplorables"? These are hard-working people, and the hardships that they overcome, that they deal with every day, some

of us will never be able to understand and realize, and could not fathom nor survive under those conditions. It hurts me deeply when I hear comments like that being made.

I don't care what your party is: poor, hard-working people are poor, hard-working people. I think right now there's a level of intolerance for conservative ideas that I certainly do not support, especially in the academy. We need to be much more open, and that is the purpose of democracy.

For me, having lived in a country, in Haiti, where there was no political freedom, there was no freedom of the press, you lived in fear and you lived under a dictatorship, democracy is very important. Simple things like the right to vote is important. To have it be safe enough to go vote is very important. To not live under curfews.

I have experienced those things. To not be afraid that a bullet is going to hit you. To not be running around, scurrying, trying to find a safe place to hide, because the opposing parties are just taking out their differences on the streets with guns. And to be a child, hiding in somebody's yard and wondering *where's my brother?*, and *what's going to happen?*, and *where's the adult who was with us?*, because you're all so dispersed and you're hiding and you're hoping things will calm down.

And then you came out, and try to call out *where are you?* in the dark of the night.

Those things are experiences that have defined me – and at the same time make me really appreciate democracy, and all points of view.

So one of the things that I want to make sure that I foster here is not just liberal thinking, but critical thinking. That we respect, appreciate, and become better: better scholars, better people, better citizens. Better educators, as a result of appreciating difference, and intentionally creating space for it.

**MR:** *You were 12 when your family moved to Boston? Where did you move to?*

**YSF:** I was 12, yeah. Dorchester.

**MR:** Which has a higher population than Franklin County.

**YSF:** [laughs] Significantly higher!

**MR:** *That's what really makes me feel like I'm from eastern Mass – "Come on, that's where all the people live!" But I'd be really curious, if we get a halfway accurate census next round, to really sit down – I don't know if you've had time to really look at –*

**YSF:** The demographics! Yeah. It's interesting here.

The Community Action agency put out a very thorough report that I really enjoyed reading that talked about the demographics here: health outcomes, educational outcomes, all kinds of things.

One thing that is really stark for me, that I see – and of course, Franklin County is 93% white, right? so that's what you see – but what I see is class difference. When I look at the population here, the traditional students versus when you go to the Workforce Center, there is a class difference. Not that there isn't mingling, but you definitely see it.

When we talk about diversity in the city, it might be more racial diversity and ethnic diversity. And, of course, we want to make all people feel welcome across those dimensions as well, but I think the socio-

economic diversity is something that we have to be very conscious of.

And to find common ground, right? For me, I feel deep affinity for and can relate to other people, other working-class people. Things weren't easy in Haiti, and they sure got a lot harder here in the US for us.

**MR:** *So what also stood out for me when I looked at the county data is this dip in the age distribution – I looked at it and said, "That's my cohort!" People move to get jobs elsewhere, or go on to higher ed elsewhere and don't move back.*

*But, as an outsider who's been here for 10 years, one of the most major changes I've witnessed is a lot more people my age living here. People who went away to college are moving back, raising families and things like that.*

**YSF:** Well, this is a great place to raise a family!

I have great hopes for the recreation economy here. I also have great hopes for the creative economy here, and the agricultural economy.

This weekend I spent some time with some young farmers. It's nice to see young farmers in their twenties! Farming is wonderful, and we have to be very intentional about how we continue that in Franklin County....

When my husband and I moved from Boston to Maynard, it was because it was a place that was affordable for us. As I see the housing market tightening in eastern Mass and becoming much more unaffordable, I think places like Franklin County offer a great alternative for young families, for people who are conscious about the environment, conscious about their citizenship, their ability to affect change, and to create the world that they want to see.

And we know that for millennials and "iGens," those are things they find very attractive. So how do we let them know Franklin County is that place?

**MR:** *There's always two ways to improve a place. GCC is this nexus of economic development, from the end of building human capacity. But we've probably both seen a lot of instances where a location becomes more upscale, but the people who were in it aren't there, 15 years later.*

*So if the population increases, if it's as bedroom communities where people are commuting elsewhere, or if it's becoming somewhere people who made money elsewhere can come and spend it, that changes the –*

**YSF:** The dynamics, yeah. The identity also.

I see us, at this pivotal point, really reinventing the higher ed model for citizenship, for modern times, and the academic enterprise also. Trying to say, "how do we become sustainable? How do we have much more partnership and collaboration? How do we see other community colleges as partners, rather than competitors? And how do we achieve certain efficiencies across the region?"

And we have an incredible group of like-minded community college presidents, and we also have the Five Colleges around the corner that are also interested in partnering. We just have to explore exactly what it looks like.

The role that the community college plays is a very important one, precisely for what you say: for the development of human capital here in the region, and also for workforce and economic development.

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number of people? When you look at the rates of higher education attainment here, we see that there are many people that we need to serve who we're not yet serving.

**MR:** *What are the main drivers of enrollment at GCC now, and what are the areas that you want to focus on increasing?*

**YSF:** I think people see us as a great liberal arts college, which is very important. It's core to the identity of the college, so we don't want to change that.

When you look at it from the perspective of equity, there are some liberal arts programs that we have that are smaller in numbers, but we don't want to lose them.

I had a great discussion last week with the Humanities faculty around those things. We can make purely monetary decisions, saying "This really isn't contributing a whole lot to the bottom line" or "We're losing money with this program," but at the end of the day, what does that lead to? Does it lead to us saying "Well, because we are a college located in an area where people are economically challenged, then you can't have those things?"

Or do we say, "How do we diversify our portfolio? How do we fix the enterprise model so that we can continue to have these programs that are very important – for developing multiple intelligences, for having more well-rounded citizens, better prepared leaders?"

Those are the things that I think about. Our liberal arts programs we definitely want to grow and sustain. Maybe in some areas the goal isn't the growth, but it's the sustaining, and enriching that experience for all students.

We also need to be moving into much more interdisciplinary majors. That is where the world is going, that is where the world is, that is what employers are expecting. How do we prepare students for a more complex world, where you don't exist in silos? For me, that begins with breaking down the internal silos. We've got to model that which we want to see in our students.

And then, as we are a county that is economically challenged, we want to look at workforce development. Because we can focus on the liberal arts and leave a lot of people out: people who want jobs, who need jobs tomorrow; people who have complex lives, who have other challenges that they're overcoming, who haven't been in school. People who lost their jobs because the jobs have changed.

How do we also help them, where they are, so we don't become an elitist college of those who have the luxury of purely pursuing a liberal arts curriculum?

**MR:** *So retaining humanities, hopefully, but integrating them into different programs –*

**YSF:** Really engaging with faculty – some of whom have never

had interactions with workforce development – to say "we need you in workforce development." And not to look at that as beneath you because it's not serving the ivory tower.

Which people don't do here... But to say, "That's where we need you." And so, when we design curricula, how do we integrate that so that employers can say, "Yes, I can see a difference?"....

We started this last week during our convocation. And these are not easy conversations to have, but I think they are conversations the college is willing to engage in.

One of the things that I asked people was what they are most afraid of. And somebody said "change," which I suspect was in a lot of people's minds. But we understand that if we do not change – if we do not *evolve*, not just changing – we can become obsolete and extinct....

**MR:** *Have you been involved in this kind of institutional shift in other places you've worked?*

**YSF:** Yes, a little bit. But here we're diving all in, submerging ourselves. And there is a history of innovation and risk-taking here that makes it easier to do that; people do that all the time.

Coming in as a leader, I have to assess where the institution is and what they are ready for, in terms of change. In terms of evolution. And I think GCC, and the history of the Pioneer Valley, and Greenfield, is particularly ripe for that: for saying, "Yeah, we're going to reinvent the model, it's a little scary, we have a sense of what we're trying to achieve, but the journey we've not been through."

So my response to this person, who said that she feared change: I said to her, "I want you to be my barometer for how well we deal with change, emotionally and psychologically, as an institution, and how we retain the institutional knowledge."

Because in the midst of all this happening, we have a huge generational change happening. Baby boomers are leaving, so we're losing institutional history. How do we retain some of that? And for our baby boomers who are not yet retiring, how do we equip them with the skills and the knowledge and the lingo, the ways of interacting with the younger students, to be able to succeed?....

When people ask me questions expecting an answer, I generally ask them a lot of questions, so we come to the answer together. First I'd get you to talk about it so that your wheels are turning, and as you're talking, I see what I can offer. Or maybe I already have a preconceived notion of what my answer is, but engaging in that dialogue, and that critical thinking.

Engagement is very important, both with our students and with each other. So that we get to co-create something that is fundamentally stronger than what either you or I could have come up with by ourselves.



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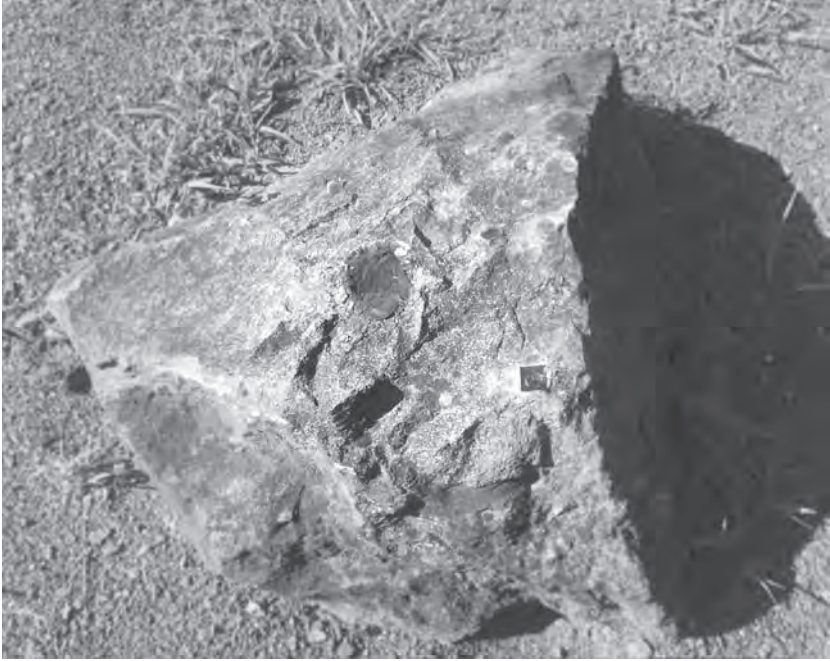
## Fossilized Armored Mud Balls: Local Geological Celebrities

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

**TURNERS FALLS** – Fossil armored mud balls are hard chunks of mud that have been rolled in water. As they roll, sand and small pebbles stick to them, which forms an outer layer of armor. Normally, this composite object would land somewhere and then be broken up as it dried out, but if it chances to be buried very quickly in wet sand, it has the opportunity to lithify (turn into a rock), and be preserved. This is what happened to the many fossilized armored mud balls found by Professor Richard Little embedded in sandstone at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

Fossilized armored mud balls are rare, occurring in only about ten known locations in the world, but the ones Little found here in Turners are extra-special because they are the only ones known to have been formed by fresh water streams, rather than near ocean beaches. An alluvial fan, a water drainage pattern that starts out narrow among the hills and opens into a fan shape as it heads toward the river, spreads out the water and whatever it's carrying as it goes downhill.

Professor Little's 1982 article in *Journal of Geology* explains that the armored mud balls were formed and preserved along the edge of such a fan in the Jurassic part of the Me-



Rock specimen containing an Armored Mud Ball.

sozoic era, which is when dinosaurs roamed what is now Turners Falls. Professor Little's website states that more armored mud balls were found in an East Deerfield quarry in 1997, which is also part of the alluvial fan drainage pattern. His original 55 samples ranged in size from 2.5 cm to 30 cm, and were not perfectly spherical, from which he concluded that they had rolled only a few hundred meters before being buried. Professor Little, an Emeritus professor of geology at Greenfield

Community College (GCC), maintains a web page on his finds at [www.earthview.rocks](http://www.earthview.rocks) and offers very popular geological tours throughout the valley and beyond. You can go see armored mud balls that he has donated at GCC on their newly opened Geology Path at the south end of the Main building outside the Sloan Theater (see his article on this page), and he recently donated a slice of one such specimen to the Carnegie Library, where it may be seen in the artifacts loft.

## Greenfield Community College's New Geology Path

By RICHARD D. LITTLE

**GREENFIELD** – The Geology Path is a centerpiece of the Robert L. Pura Outdoor Learning Lab which also includes a botanical garden, a permaculture garden, wetland, wildflower meadow, and the Rice Family/Congressman John W. Oliver Greenhouse. Named for beloved outgoing Greenfield Community College (GCC) president Bob Pura, the Outdoor Learning Lab was funded by private donations along with state and federal grants, and was just dedicated on June 1 of this year. Anyone can visit the outdoor learning lab, which is free.

The rock specimens that make up GCC's new geology path were part of a large Rock Park grouping formerly at the rear of the GCC main building. One section was under shady maple trees, which coated them with copious amounts of sap, hiding their geologic importance. The Geo Path rocks were moved in the summer of 2016 when many of the best Rock Park specimens were arranged here to enjoy better visibility and landscape design. Other large geology specimens remain in the former park area, where you can see them by following the path and road to the back of the Main Building.

**A Bit of Rock Park History**  
The collection of large specimens was begun in the early 1980s as a way to preserve the rare armored mud ball samples that I discovered in the foundation of a former bridge that crossed the Connecticut River at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The town highway department dismantled the foundation, allowing the samples to be moved to GCC for preservation. Rocks from other sites were added to create an outdoor display of large specimens from the region. In 1985 the Rock Park was officially opened and dedicated to the late GCC Professor Dr. Warren I. Johansson, who was instrumental in developing and leading the science program at GCC.

Over the years new specimens were acquired, sometimes carried back by students from field trips or donated by local quarries. At active quarries, large specimens were often loaded on a dump truck and brought to GCC. Many specimens were acquired using several strong people and a hand-truck. These hundred-plus pound samples were dug out, loaded on my utility trailer, and positioned in the Park. From 1996 to 1998 the Park was enlarged by adding a central and southern section, and in 2016 about 20 samples were removed and installed in the new Geology Path. I believe the Connecticut River



The Geology Path at Greenfield Community College.

## A Cautionary Note on Rock Collecting

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

If you go looking for geological specimens in the wild, a *geology.com* article by Timothy J. Witt and other sources suggest that you keep in mind that there are no "unowned" rocks in the US – they belong to someone, and it's your responsibility to find out who before you take them. **Private land:** What is on someone's land belongs to them. You need to get landowner permission to collect (or dig) on private land even if it's not posted. **State land:** Massachusetts state parks do not allow any collecting at all. **Federal land:** Federal lands allow *some* collection of *some* types of rocks and fossils on *some* of their lands, and the circumstances vary so much that they suggest you check with the closest field office for specific information. For example, there is no collecting allowed at National Monuments, and some other areas are completely closed

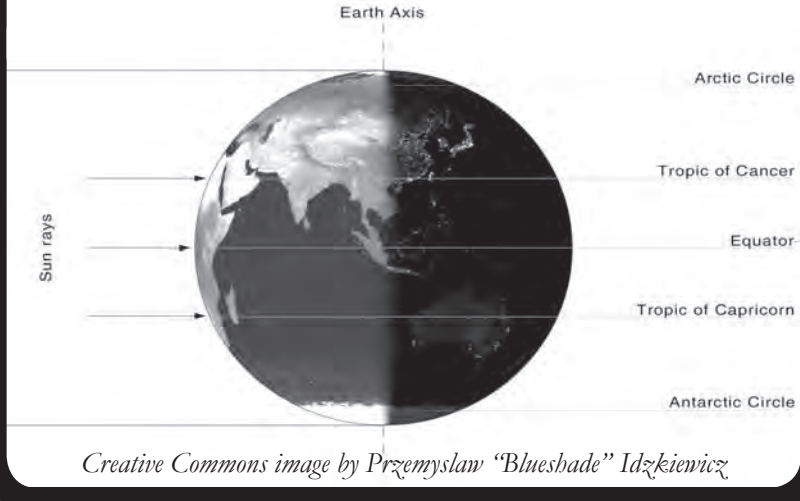
to collecting, while other federal lands allow collecting for personal use of specific minerals. Note that just because you have permission to enter a public land does not mean you have permission to take things away from it. Limits may exist not only on where you can collect, but also on what you can collect, your method of collection (e.g. no destructive methods such as pickax or shovel), timing of collection (e.g. during the day only), quantity you can take, or your goal in collecting (your personal use vs. any commercial purpose). In short, it's important to find out who owns the land and then get written permission from them before looking for rocks in a destructive way or collecting them, even from the surface. Note that these rules apply to just natural, unworked, unstructured stones. Native American artifacts have their own, even more complicated rules. Please be respectful of others' property and preserve our common heritage.

## Moon Calendar for September 2018

Sunday, September 2 <b>Last Quarter</b>		Sunday, September 9 <b>New Moon</b>
Sunday, September 16 <b>First Quarter</b>		Monday, September 24 <b>Full Moon</b>

Crescent Moon photo by Csaba Nagy on Pixabay.  
Creative Commons license.

Saturday, September 22 at 21:54 is the Autumnal Equinox. Equal amounts of day and night, with the sun shining directly down on the equator on its way from the northern to southern hemisphere.



Creative Commons image by Przemyslaw "Blueshade" Idzkiwicz

Valley area is the best place in the world to study geology: These specimens illustrate the amazing diversity and uniqueness of our geologic history, and they also preserve samples from local quarries and outcrops that may not be available in later years. Richard D. Little is a GCC Geology Professor Emeritus.


For more local geology information, see R.D. Little, *Dinosaurs, Dunes, and Drifting Continents: The Geology of the Connecticut River Valley*. 3rd edition (2003, Earth View LLC). Also, visit online: [www.Earth-View.rocks](http://www.Earth-View.rocks). Next month's Science Page will feature a rock-by-rock tour of the Geology Path!

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**GMRSD** from page A1

fair for me to have to jeopardize my job for me to leave to go get them every day... I know I'm not the only parent who feels this way."

Business manager Joanne Blier explained that the policy – students who live within a 1.5 mile walk of their school are not bused – is based on eligibility for reimbursement to the district from the state. About half of all elementary students, and half of all high school and middle school students, ride the bus, she said.

Recent streamlining efforts have led to a consolidation of main bus routes from 5 to 7, she added, saving about \$120,000 per year, but that did not put the district in a better position to bus more students, as it would be costly to do so.

"Between the Patch and downtown, there's about 100 students, and while we would love to transport them – especially in the winter –

we would have to add two buses," with a 0% instead of an 80% reimbursement rate, she explained.

Montague member Haley Anderson asked whether expanding the district's exception for kindergartners to include more grades, instead of altering the minimum radius, would present a more affordable improvement, but Blier and Sullivan were pessimistic.

Cassie Damkoehler, herself a district parent, offered Billings her sympathy, but suggested she turn to other parents for help picking her children up.

The committee formally recommended the district ask the Montague police department to assess walking routes in question for dangerous conditions, a provision that could lead to exceptions under the district's current transportation policy, and also forwarded that policy to its policy subcommittee for review.

**Such a Thing as Free Lunch**

Blier said the district was approved under the state's Community Eligibility Provision for 64.3% reimbursement of all secondary students' breakfasts and lunches. The school committee had previously approved free meals, across the board, at the high school and middle school on principle.

"We're going to have a cart in the front of the school," Blier said, for students to grab their free breakfast upon arrival.. She added that she expected fewer students would skip meals, and lunch lines would move faster with the payment step skipped.

"We did use free and reduced lunch applications to figure out who was waived for athletic fees," Blier said, "so now we're going to have an application process for that."

Blier also reported that the district was having trouble staffing the Gill Elementary cafeteria. "Temporarily, we're going to be preparing the food at the high school," she said, and transporting them across the river.

**Other Business**

Sullivan reported that he would be talking with leaders of the teachers' union to "look seriously" at the idea of creating a "blizzard bags" program this year for assigning special snow-day homework in advance.

The three elementary school principals presented proposed handbook changes to the committee, who did not have any questions or objections. Most of the changes were technical in nature. The report card schedule will be adjusted at all three schools to allow teachers to meet with parents before the year's first report cards are issued.

The committee also voted to make minor updates to the district harassment and anti-bullying policies, by 5-0 and 6-0 votes.

Hillcrest principal Sarah Burstein reported on the "very sudden" death over the summer of paraprofessional Linda Cusack, and mentioned that she had not yet been replaced.

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He was thanked for his willingness to serve.

No one has closed the Class of 2016 student activity account or deposited it into an alumni account, and so, at the recommendation of high school principal Annie Leonard, the committee voted to split the \$1,917.78 evenly between the Classes of 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, and the student council.

The committee plans to discuss a logo to go with the new "Turners Falls Thunder" nickname on September 11, and select a replacement for former Gill member Shawn Hubert, who resigned over the summer, on September 25. Both meetings will be held at Turners Falls High School.

LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was September 4, 2008: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Police Station  
Contract Signed

The contract for construction of the new police station at 178 Turnpike Road was signed last week and delivered on Friday to R.A.C. Builders of Agawam, the lowest compliant bidders. The contract is for \$3,968,730, which is \$95,918 less than last August's police station building committee estimate.

Thom Raschilla from R.A.C. Builders attended the last building committee meeting to go over the proposed site layout. To ensure smooth coordination and a full continuation of Turners Falls fire department operations during the adjoining construction, Raschilla pored over plans with the committee to make sure all concerns of the fire, police, and water departments were addressed. He laid out work projects for the next four months, stressing the importance of getting the weather sensitive work accomplished before winter.

Wendell Climbers  
Rescued from Glacier

When he isn't climbing trees in the course of his work as an arborist, Matt Edwards can often be found climbing mountains instead. His partner, Robin Gibson, a horticulturist who runs Crescent Moon Gardens, a landscaping business, is an equally enthusiastic outdoorswoman.

This summer they planned to hike in the Cascades in Washington state. But weather and circumstance left the Wendell couple clinging to an 18-inch ledge in white-out conditions on the side of

G-M Schools  
Reduce Budget

The Gill-Montague school committee met on the eve of a Boston budget meeting between state and local officials last week, and took steps toward easing the fiscal crisis besetting the district and its member towns.

The committee voted to reduce the school district's operating budget by nearly \$200,000 to the level already set at the beginning of July by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in a so-called "1/12th budget": \$16,820,004.

Interim superintendent Ken Rocke said the GMRSD was able to reduce the school budget to the level set because a preliminary examination of school choice numbers showed the schools were likely to face only "a modest net loss," rather than the "drastic shortfall" school officials had been preparing for.

The Gill-Montague schools have been forfeiting in excess of one million dollars in state funds to school choice and charter school tuition losses in recent years.

**PRIMARIES** from page A1

and sexual harassment scandals.

Only one candidate, women's rights and anti-poverty activist Chelsea Kline, had filed papers to challenge Rosenberg before his resignation. Calls from within the party to reopen the nomination process were unsuccessful, and Kline's name was the only one on Tuesday's ballot.

Besides Comerford, two other write-in candidates campaigned for the seat: Northampton city councilor Ryan O'Donnell and veterans' services director Steven Connor. All four publicly declared candidates live in Northampton.

On Tuesday, 14,196 voters across the 24-town district wrote in Comerford's name (53.6%); Kline garnered 10,823 (40.8%). O'Donnell and Connor trailed behind with 939 and 552 write-ins respectively.

"I congratulate my three fellow candidates for races well-run," Comerford wrote in an official statement Wednesday. "I will do my very best to listen to and represent the concerns of every person in this district."

"We always knew this would be a tough race, with both money and the political establishment against us," Kline wrote in a concession statement. "Taking on a 27-year incumbent who was still popular with the district despite major moral failings may not have ben politically expedi-

ent, but it was the right thing to do and I regret none of it.

"As the race changed, it became clear that our challenge to power would not be forgotten."

Kline won majorities in Bernardston, Deerfield, Erving, Hadley, Hatfield, Leyden, Montague, Orange, Royalston, South Hadley, and Whately, while Comerford prevailed in Amherst, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leverett, New Salem, Northampton, Northfield, Pelham, Shutesbury, Sunderland, Warwick, and Wendell.

Though it is called the Hampshire, Franklin, and Worcester district, only one town, Royalston, is in Worcester County.

**State House**

The First Franklin state house seat has been held by Steve Kulik for 25 years, and a small crowd of progressive Democratic candidates stepped forward after he announced his retirement this spring.

The field narrowed from eight to seven in July when Shelburne selectboard chair Andrew Baker announced he was withdrawing and endorsed Natalie Blais. Baker received 200 votes on Tuesday, 53 from his own town, where he finished third.

In late August, Kulik himself also endorsed Blais, drawing complaint and public criticism from five of the other campaigns.

Blais won 3,703 votes on Tuesday, 40.4% of ballots cast in the race. The next runner-up, Francia Wisniewski of Montague, won 1,479 (16.2%); she was followed by Worthington's Casey Pease (14.7%) and Christine Doktor of Cummington (12.4%).

The remaining votes were split among Kate Albright-Hanna of Huntington, Whately selectboard member Jonathan Edwards, and Nathaniel Waring of Sunderland.

Blais, Wisniewski, Pease, and Doktor were all first-place finishers in their hometowns, and the overall distribution of votes hints at a district split between its southern Franklin County and western Hampshire County sections.

On Wednesday, Blais issued a statement thanking her voters, volunteers, and opponents, calling for unity, and pressing policy proposals including single-payer healthcare and reform of the Chapter 70 school aid formula, "This race is not about me," she wrote. "It is about what we can accomplish when we come together as residents of the First Franklin District."

John Arena ran unopposed in the Second Franklin district, which includes the towns of Gill, Erving, and Wendell, as did Paul Mark in the Second Berkshire, which includes Northfield, Bernardston, and Greenfield.

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# TFHS Fall Sports Preview

By MATT ROBINSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Well, it’s September again, and it’s time for me to focus on Turners Falls High School sports.

I spent most of the summer swimming and cycling, but I also got the chance to go to several Turners Falls Invaders softball games and Travel Kuz/Pioneer Stone baseball games. Those games were wonderful and both teams made it to the playoffs. But now that school has started, the fall season is upon us.

TFHS will field four teams this fall: field hockey, football, golf, and volleyball. Last year the teams were relatively successful, but with the loss of so many seniors, this season is a crapshoot.

The four teams are in different stages of development. The field hockey team is young, but many of the stickers have valuable playing experience. The football team lost one player but gained six Pioneer kids. The volleyball team is starting from scratch, and the golf team lost its ace.

This season, like last season, is chock-full of games and matches. The heaviest day is Friday, September 21, when Turners will host six games in six hours, beginning with a middle school soccer match and culminating with a football game against Greenfield.

As always, the fall season will end on Thanksgiving, when Turners crosses the river to play in Thee Game.

**Golf**

The golf team comes out of the gates like a shot, playing their first 10 matches in 22 days. After that speedy start, they play three in a row in the first week of October, and two in a row the next week, before finishing up on October 16.

The majority of these matches will be played at

Thomas Memorial. With the loss of Kyle Kucien-ski, coach David Kennedy will have to rely on his younger players to step up.

**Field Hockey**

Last season, the field hockey team failed to make the playoffs because of a tie. This year, even with the loss of Hannah Bogusz, Samantha Kolodziej, and Snejana Lashtur, coach Becky Dame remains optimistic. “We are young,” she recently explained, but “a lot of these girls got varsity time as middle schoolers, so they know what to expect.”

As far as her veterans, she said that she expects Haleigh Greene to be solid in goal, and Cassidhe Wozniak to surpass 100 points. And with the addition of Olivia Whittier and Mercedes Bailey, she expects to do even better this year.

**Volleyball**

The 2017 girls’ volleyball team was good. Very good. They swept their class with a record of 9-0, finished the season 16-3, and went deep into the playoffs. But five superstars graduated last year: Sienna Dillensneider, Adrianna DiMaio, Chloe Ellis, Abby Loynd, and Emma Miner.

With the loss of so many key players, coach Kelly Liimatainen said she had to move her players to unfamiliar positions, but said the team is working hard day in and day out.

**Football**

Coach Chris Lapointe finished 2017 with a winning record, in spite of losing most of his 2016 team. Turners got better and better as the season progressed, and only a heartbreaking flea flicker on Turkey Day put a damper on the season.

This season’s schedule is a carbon copy of last year. With the exception of the last two games,



Turners libero Kenzie Martel handles a serve as Blue sweeps the Easthampton Eagles 3-0 at the varsity volleyball home season opener on Tuesday.

DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Turners will play the same teams in the same order as last year.

The 2018 team will be supplemented with six Pioneer players, and although All Western Mass all-star John Driscoll graduated, coach Lapointe feels “with hard work and good health, this will be a good team.”

Next week: The season begins!

## Saturday: Conservation Barbecue

**ORANGE** – Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust invites you to help them celebrate the 10-year anniversary of the conservation of Gale’s Hilltop Farm, 485 Tully Road in North Orange this Saturday.

Mount Grace worked with conservation buyers Bob Busby and Maureen Conte to permanently protect this beloved local farm.

The project saved a local landmark from the fate of being a residential subdivision named after the farm it smothered, thanks to a Chapter 61 Right of First Refusal.

Now known as Tully Meadow Far, this 75-acre property in the shadow of Tully Mountain will host a gathering for the community and friends of the farm on Saturday, September 8 from 1 to 6:30 p.m.

Stop by for a barbeque, tour the land, and learn the history of the farm established in 1775, the story of its recent conservation, and plans for the future.

“We want to use this as an opportunity to thank the neighbors, Mount Grace, DCR, and everybody who put their energy and support into helping to protect this historic farm and woodlands!”

There will be speakers and a walk on the land, so visitors can see the vernal pools, the old cellar holes, and the site of the proposed Tully Trail reroute.

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## A Valentine in September



KNAUER PHOTO

Susan Valentine with one of her marble paintings on view this month at Leverett Crafts &amp; Arts.

By DK KNAUER

**LEVERETT** – During the month of September Susan Valentine will have her paintings on display at the Barnes and Hall Galleries at Leverett Crafts & Arts. It will showcase a wide representation of her work, with up to eighty paintings.

Susan Valentine has had a studio at Leverett Crafts & Arts since 2014. She moved to the Pioneer Valley from Boston in the early 1990s. She was attracted to the culture here and the environment it fostered: the appeal of being in the countryside, but also being in an area steeped in the arts. As she put it, “You’re in the country, but not in the sticks.”

She finds great benefit in having a studio where she is free to develop her craft in creative solitude. At Leverett Crafts & Arts she has the option for isolation or interacting with other artists. The situation there affords her the best of both worlds.

Another element she appreciates about working in Leverett is the lack of outside pressure. She knows that

artists can often fall prey to outside influences to produce work deemed “sell-able” or more desirable. In her studio in Leverett she is more removed from these factors, and has the freedom to experiment and explore any path she chooses.

Susan’s style of painting is a kind of exaggerated realism. She likes to paint flowers and objects oversized but in great detail, wherein a drop of water on a flower stands out clear and iridescent against the background of a yellow or red petal. Or, as in several of the paintings in the current show, varied colored marbles are much larger than life and stand awash in water and bubbles. What may be construed as a contradiction in Susan’s work is that, while she is fascinated by detail, she likes to paint large pieces. Working large allows for freer brushstrokes; she finds smaller works can be confining. If it were more practical, given storage and display space, she would like to work in a much larger context, on canvases six feet by nine feet. For now, she’ll limit

herself to only one of those a year; most of her work will be in three by four-foot dimensions.

The series currently being shown at the Leverett galleries consists of work done over the past two years. There are some of the larger flower pictures that she is well known for; she won second place in 2013 in Student Competition for Still Life/Floral Paintings for her piece “Day-lily 2” in *The Artist’s Magazine*.

And there are her newer paintings of glass and marbles, which started when she was given an antique marble collection. In washing the collection, she became intrigued with the bubbles and water playing off the marbles. This gave way to a colorful series of paintings, full of depth and detail: the play of light and reflection off the marbles, and the clarity of water and bubbles in various glass containers.

Susan came to painting later in life and by association with her interest in graphic design, which she took up to help spread the word

see **VALENTINE** page B6

## Chasing our Tales: A Peripatetic Man of God: Part One

By LYN CLARK

**TURNERS FALLS** — Joan Denton Morel is a Friend of the Montague Reporter, and every Thursday when the newspaper has been delivered from Northampton, she folds and wraps those that will go out in the evening mail. She also volunteers in other ways: manning tables where mugs are sold, cooking for bake sales, helping plan fundraising events; a super volunteer, in other words.

Like so many who immigrated before and after them, Joan’s forebears came to this country for a variety of reasons: to acquire a bit of land they could call their own on which to farm and raise a family, or perhaps for other economic opportunities, or to escape war. But

the motivation we probably associate most with the 17<sup>th</sup>-century immigrants was a desire to worship as they chose.

Richard Denton, Joan’s seven-times great-grandfather, falls into that last category. Born in Yorkshire, England in 1603, he was a Cambridge-educated minister, serving as curate for several years at both Turton Chapel, north of Bolton, and Coley Chapel near Halifax, probably until about 1635 when he made the decision to emigrate and take his family and congregation with him.

Rev. Denton was a Presbyterian who, like the Congregationalists and other Puritans, held strict Calvinist beliefs. Henry the VIII had established the Church of England a century before when he broke with the Pope, and the kings were now

head of both church and state. When the Puritans saw that the bishops lived like princes, that the liturgy was still too Catholic, and that the ecclesiastical courts were corrupt, their opposition to religious authority meant they also defied the civil authority of the state.

As a Calvinist, Denton would have believed that God was all-powerful and completely sovereign and that human beings were depraved sinners. God had chosen a few people, “the elect,” for salvation; the rest of humanity was condemned to eternal damnation. And no one knew if he or she was saved or damned, so Puritans lived in a constant state of spiritual anxiety, watching for signs of God’s favor or anger.

The Pilgrims who came on the Mayflower to America in 1620 were separatists, completely rejecting the Church of England; Denton and the Puritans who followed during the next several decades still adhered to the Church of England, but came to America to practice a far simpler, more devout form of Protestantism.

It was not a “land of milk and honey” that the Rev. Richard Denton

see **TALES** page B4



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

### WEST ALONG THE RIVER

## HIGH SUMMER ON THE WANE

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – At least, that’s what the nighthawks were telling me, on the wing, two evenings ago, about the waning of this high season. Every year around September 1, they wing down from northern New England, sweeping the upper skies of high-flying insects and drawing an early gauze curtain over the summer.

Not that I’ll miss this past High Summer. My August journal carries entries of endless weeks of rain, and smothering humid heat.

The combination has made our riverbank woodlands and lowlands all but impenetrable. Knotweed, bittersweet, and cruel multiflora rosebushes have invaded and overgrown the pathways guarded by hordes of mosquitoes and armies of deer ticks. I’ve caught myself saying that I can’t wait for the first killing frost, to be able to get back to my riverbank haunts. I may well be sorry for that thought, but just saying it brings a modicum of comfort.

the beaded grass where he left it after playing last night.

By August 18, however, I’m grouching about forty days of rain, that in turn reminds me of the old guitar tune, “Forty Miles of Bad Road,” by Duane Eddy if I recall. Things oftentimes come in forties when we exaggerate. We probably get that *forty* reference from somewhere back in the old Bible.

Flirtatious redstart warblers take my mind off these matters. They’re flitting and lirting from tree to tree in their pale yellow autumn clothes. The red from the redstart is gone for now, maybe they will turn up in a few months in the Guatemalan rainforest, or maybe if they’re lucky they’ll choose a more secure forest in Belize for winter vacation. Down there they will be called *candelita*, little candle.

And now, High Summer is fading fast. August days are done and gone, the calendar gets flipped to September. Many say this is the best part of summer, these late summer days of September. At least the temperature is finally be-



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

The monarch butterfly, *Danaus plexippus*.

Back on August 10, the journal reminds me: “The chiming of ten thousand crickets ringing like silver bells is so loud and constant that I forget to hear them, and take little notice of the cacophony after a while.” The crickets provide the month with a constant background of white noise.

In other news, a newly-fledged catbird mews in the lilacs and has just discovered the ripening purple chokeberries. Just hatched this month, she has never seen such delicious berries before, and is making up for lost time.

The hummingbird is back. Whirring over my page, she’s looking over my shoulder to see if I’m writing the truth about hummingbirds.

Far off somewhere in the neighborhood an early chainsaw starts up, choking and snarling. It is a bit early for that kind of noisy work, but it is cool just at this hour, and lucky for me that I’m already up, not trying to get the last 40 winks before the whole day starts all over again.

The August morning glory, the *volubilis* as we like to call it in this household, climbs unerringly hand over hand along its string, carefully drawn taut and pegged by the woman of the house.

The only other activity, other than the grass growing and the firewood drying, is the dog of the house lounging thoughtfully in the new cool of the morning before a day of muggy humidity begins. His bright blue toy ball gathers dew in

low 90 degrees for the time being. It’s easier to breathe more freely after those heavy days of humidity covering the landscape and the mindscape like a damp blanket.

This strange weather has created a rainforest that is encroaching on the house. We may soon be submerged in vegetation, like old Mayan ruins. Jewelweed is thriving, to the delight of the hummingbird and bumblebee. Orange or yellow blossoms explode everywhere, creeping up to the windows, growing up through the floorboards of the back porch. They’re called *touch-me-nots* also, and when their seeds ripen, we’ll remember why: just a passing touch or brush-by, and they shoot their seeds outward, scattering them as far as possible for new jewelweed next year.

Somehow, as in a miracle, it’s been a summer of monarch butterflies. They’re everywhere. Perhaps the news of their demise was premature. We have left a patch of milkweed to spread as it wished, and the monarchs have appreciated that. They lilt and float like silken kites in the gardens, roadsides, and flowering patches along the bikepath.

None are yet thinking of floating off to Mexico. Many will stay here well into October, or at least long enough to produce another generation of monarchs that will head south, leaving their parent, grandparent, or great grandparent behind to fade and die in old New England.

see **WEST ALONG** page B6



Francis Davis Millet, The Puritans (1909)

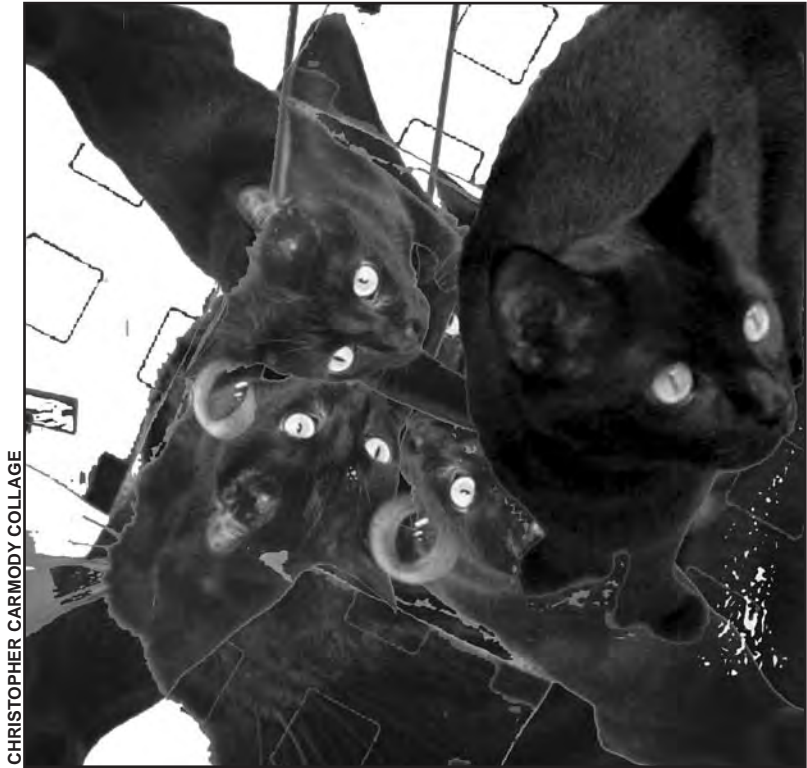


# Pet of the Week

Hey there, Moises here – like Moses with an “oi.” I’m very forward and friendly, and can be a clown, but you have to watch for signs: my tail may twitch, my ears pin back, or I may whip my head around when you’re petting me.

This means “I need a break!”

If you speak cat and will give me some outdoor privileges, you might be the one for me. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or at [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## “MOISES”

### Senior Center Activities

#### SEPTEMBER 10 THROUGH 14

<b>GILL and MONTAGUE</b> <p>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.</p> <p>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 machine when the center is not open.</p> <p><b>M, W, F:</b> 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise</p> <p><b>T, W, Th:</b> 12 p.m. Lunch</p> <p><b>Monday 9/10</b> 8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.) 1 p.m. Knitting Circle</p> <p><b>Tuesday 9/11</b> 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Health &amp; Safety Expo at Schuetzen Verein 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 11:30 a.m. Farm Share #9 12:45 p.m. COA Meeting</p> <p><b>Wednesday 9/12</b> 9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach 11:30 a.m. Friends’ Meeting 12:45 p.m. Bingo</p> <p><b>Thursday 9/13</b> 9 a.m. Tai Chi 10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga 1 p.m. Cards &amp; Games</p> <p><b>Friday 9/14</b> 1 p.m. Movie: “Guernsey Literary &amp; Potato Peel Pie Society”</p>	<b>WENDELL</b> <p>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.</p> <p><b>ERVING</b><p>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.</p><p>Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.</p><p>For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director, at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity.</p><p>Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.</p><p>Art Classes run July 10 to August 28, 1 to 3 p.m.</p><p><b>Monday 9/10</b> 9:30 a.m. Healthy Bones &amp; Balance 10:30 a.m. Tai Chi 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch</p><p><b>Tuesday 9/11</b> 8:45 a.m. Chair Aerobics 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Health &amp; Safety Expo at Schuetzen Verein 10 a.m. Stretching &amp; Balance 11:15 a.m. Homemade Lunch</p><p><b>Wednesday 9/12</b> 8:45 a.m. Line Dancing 10 a.m. Chair Yoga 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 12:15 p.m. Bingo &amp; Snacks 6 p.m. Pitch Night</p><p><b>Thursday 9/13</b> 8:45 a.m. Aerobics 10 a.m. Healthy Bones 11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch Noon to 2 p.m. Flu Clinic</p><p><b>Friday 9/14</b> 9 a.m. Quilting Workshop 9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling 10:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch 1 p.m. RAD Defensive Training</p></p>
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## SEPTEMBER LIBRARY LISTING

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

<b>Montague Public Libraries</b> <p><i>Turners Falls: Carnegie</i> (413) 863-3214 <i>Montague Center</i> (413) 367-2852 <i>Millers Falls</i> (413) 659-3801</p>	<b>Erving Public Library</b> (413) 423-3348 <b>Gill: Slate Library</b> (413) 863-2591 <b>Leverett Public Library</b> (413) 548-9220 <b>Wendell Free Library</b> (978) 544-3559 <b>Northfield: Dickinson Library</b> (413) 498-2455
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The Dickinson Memorial Library staff, trustees, and friends were recently named recipients of the 2018 Community Service Award from the Northfield Area Tourism and Business Association.

The library was described as “a model of what a cooperative, innovative and dedicated organization should be.”

Congratulations!

### ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

**2ND TUESDAYS**  
Dickinson Library: *I’d Rather Be Reading Group*, 7 p.m. (No meeting in September.)

**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. (Not on school vacations or snow days.) *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.

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.

**2ND WEDNESDAYS**  
Dickinson Library: *Readings: Non-fiction, Fiction & Poetry*. 3 p.m.

**EVERY THURSDAY**  
Millers Falls Branch: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. For children. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Yoga for Stress Reduction* with *Nancy Paglia*. 8-week course. Call (413) 687-2125 to register. 5 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. \$

**1ST THURSDAYS**  
Leverett Library: *Strength Training for 40+ with Kathy Sward*. Begins September 27. Register at the library, (413) 548-9220. 3 to 4 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Genealogy Gathering*. Informal discussion of

local family research led by Sarah Campbell. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

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

**3RD THURSDAYS**  
Dickinson Library: *Rep. Paul Mark: Office Hours*, 1 to 4 p.m.

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

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement with Dana Lee. Pre-schoolers and their caregivers. (No Story Hour on September 7, resumes regular schedule on September 14.) 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

**1ST SATURDAYS**  
Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, dvds, cds, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:30 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.*

Wendell Free Library: Herrick Gallery, *Bob Ellis, A Retrospective*. All proceeds from the paintings for sale support the library. Reception: Saturday, September 15, 4 p.m. Exhibit through October.

### EVENTS

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5**  
Dickinson Library: *Reader’s Choice Book Group*. Book this month is *Summer of the Great-Grandmother* by *Madeleine L’Engle*. 10 a.m.

Dickinson Library: *Fiction, Non-fiction & Poetry*. This month: *Line Becomes a River* by *Francisco Cantu*. 3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
Leverett Library: *Yoga for Stress Reduction* with *Nancy Paglia*. First class of 8 week course. Call (413) 687-2125 to register. 5 to 6:15 p.m. \$

Dickinson Library: *Environmental Awareness Group* book discussion this month is 1491 by *Charles C. Mann*. 6:30 p.m.



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# Funding Available for Workshops, Performances, Exhibits and More

**MONTAGUE** – Individuals and organizations are encouraged to apply for grant funding to support community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs during 2019. Applications will be accepted until October 15, 2018.

Last year the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, awarded 22 grants ranging from \$100 to \$350 for projects including musical performances, theatrical productions, art-making workshops, readings, exhibitions, and educational programs.

These cultural activities were organized by artists, nonprofits, public agencies, and other local groups and have taken place at a variety of public locations, including schools, the Great Falls Discovery Center, the Montague Public Libraries, the Shea Theater Community Arts Center, and the Brick House Community Resource Center.

The Montague Cultural Council wishes to encourage proposals from a broad range of applicants and to fund programs that allow Montague residents in all five villages to experience a diverse array of program-

ming. In some cases we fully fund programs, but we encourage applicants to seek additional funding sources, including using our grants as seed money.

Filmmaker Richard Widmer, for example, used his MCC grant to start filming his documentary on the Turners Falls High School softball team and raise additional funds to complete the project scheduled to premiere this September at the Shea.

Potential applicants should review state and local guidelines carefully and then submit an application by October 15, 2018. Montague Cultural Council members will review the applications and name this year’s awardees by January, 2019. The application and guidelines are online at [mass-culture.org](http://mass-culture.org). For a printed copy of the application, please contact Kate Martineau, chair of the Cultural Council, at (512) 466-6052 or [montaguelcc@gmail.com](mailto:montaguelcc@gmail.com).

If you have an idea for a cultural event and are considering applying for a grant this year, please come meet with us on September 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street in Turners Falls.

## MOVIE REVIEW

### Alpha (Columbia Pictures, 2018)



By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – *Alpha* is an original, and very nice, take on the origin of man’s best friend. It was a very different “boy and his dog” movie. It was entertaining. I didn’t find it boring at all.

A boy named Keda crosses paths with a wolf while on a hunt with his tribe. He calls the wolf Alpha after the two have bonded.

There is mention in the film of what a wolf has to do to earn the place of an “alpha”. It matches up with who this boy is, which for both of them connects to their hearts – and with what the boy has to go through to get home, a journey that begins when he is thought to be lost by his tribe.

Alpha ends up going on the journey with Keda, and is very loyal towards the boy. This is shown by the wolf trying to reach him when he almost drowns. Markings the boy gets earlier in the film end up being very handy for him getting home.

The boy is very loyal to Alpha, too. He keeps the wolf by his side as the journey grows harder to en-

dure. Alpha clearly cares for him as well, which is shown in scenes where the wolf and the boy are cozying up to each other. The wolf’s face just has this look that clearly shows that.

The movie did a nice job with making it seem like it was really set a very, very long time ago. The buffalo that they were hunting in the movie seem real as well. It was just the right time for the origin story of man’s best friend to be going on.

Alpha seems to fit very well what an alpha acts like when earning the title. The wolf doesn’t leave Keda when told twice to go home. That is my take on Alpha being caring and very loyal.

You should pay attention to how the wolf is towards the boy at one point in the movie, which is very affectionate and nurturing. Now that I have seen the whole movie, I realize it was a bit of a hint. That leads to a cool revelation about the wolf.

*Alpha* definitely covers the origins of man’s best friend very well. When it comes to telling how these origins go on, I really like the path that it takes.

#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Cognac Enjoyment; Failed Excedrin Theft; Wasp Nest; Heavy Metal Migraine; Jousting; A Not Black Female In A Black Floral Top

### Monday, 8/20

6:20 a.m. Caller reporting what she believes to be a porcupine trapped in a runoff grate on Old Sunderland Road; does not see a way that the animal can get out. Call placed to local wildlife rescue.

1:52 p.m. Laptop reported stolen from an X Street porch earlier in the month. Advised of options.

6:23 p.m. Anonymous caller advising that while children are playing around Sheffield Elementary School, parents have dogs off leash. Caller is worried for safety of neighborhood, especially the cats that call this place home, and would like an officer to make these people use a leash. Responding officer searched area; negative findings.

### Tuesday, 8/21

1:28 p.m. Report of loose horse on Turners Falls Road, about half a mile south of Hatchery Road. Officer located horse and made contact with owner, who is bringing horse home.

2:27 p.m. 911 call reporting female drinking from bottle of Remy Martin cognac inside and outside of a vehicle, then going into Turners Falls Pizza House. A child and one other party are in the vehicle. Officer off with vehicle at Fourth and L streets. Units clear; no sign of impairment.

6:41 p.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue believes that his pet rabbit was stolen sometime last night. Report taken.

### Wednesday, 8/22

12:04 p.m. Caller from Federal Street complaining of neighbor working on vehicle in yard and revving engine for the past hour. Officer advises quiet on arrival.

2:37 p.m. Report of three horses in Turners Falls Road. Officer responding. Owner is leading the horses home.

4:44 p.m. 911 caller advising that a large black dog and a small tan dog keep chasing after deer in the area of Demers Lane; she is afraid that they will hurt a foal. Caller first called environmental police but was transferred to MPD. Message left for animal control officer.

8:05 p.m. Caller from Federal Street has two broken legs and cannot walk but heard tires screeching and thinks that someone was in an accident. Caller’s neighbor told him that it was two women in a car who hit the back end of a deer. No injuries to report; deer and vehicle left scene. Investigated.

### Thursday, 8/23

3:24 a.m. Officer reporting yellow lab in area of Cross Street and Millers Falls Road. Transport refusal.

10:33 a.m. Report of ongoing vandalism to a grave site in Springdale Cemetery. Advised of options.

10:45 a.m. Report of attempted shoplifting at Family Dollar: male put a bottle of Excedrin in his pocket, but caller caught him, so he put the bottle on the counter and walked out of the store. Officer viewed surveillance and will be on lookout.

1:06 p.m. Report of exhaust pipe in middle of Canal Road. DPW advised; same retrieved; item was badly rusted out so they disposed of it at the transfer station, should the owner call looking for it.

2:37 p.m. Report of shoplifter inside Family Dollar. Store owner declined charges and requested that female be trespassed from store. Same advised.

10:41 p.m. 911 caller from Keith Apartments reporting a broken window and a person trying to enter her home; person ran off in direction of Second Street after breaking window. Officer advises he spoke to caller and walked house with no findings. No signs of forced entry. Not as reported.

### Friday, 8/24

8:21 a.m. Report of a large wasp nest in a fruit tree next to the bike path by the old bridge abutment. Caller advises he has seen swarms in that area and that he and others were stung earlier in the week. Spoke with Parks and Recreation department, who confirmed that this is FirstLight property. Parks & Rec also advised that they were having the same issue during their summer camp programs but had not been able to determine where the wasps were coming from. Contacted FirstLight, who advised they will send someone to address the issue.

4:10 p.m. Report of shoplifting at Family Dollar. Female stole a can of Fix-a-Flat, which she returned, but something else in her purse was setting off the sensor. Female refused to show caller her purse then left store. Investigated.

8:53 p.m. Detail officer advising that a female party was asked to leave the music event at Millers Falls Rod and Gun.

**Saturday, 8/25**

7:36 a.m. Report of dog barking since 7 a.m. on Grove Street. Ongoing issue. Officer advises quiet

upon arrival.

9:35 a.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that his neighbor is spray-painting a vehicle twenty to thirty feet from a stockade fence between their properties. Officer spoke with Board of Health and determined that no laws were broken and no violations occurred. Neighbor spoken to; agreed to move further from fence.

1:24 p.m. 911 caller reporting erratic operation on Route 2 eastbound near the Wagon Wheel. Conferred with Shelburne Control. Caller advises that the vehicle passed her safely in a passing zone as she was turning and that there was no oncoming traffic at the time. Caller later acknowledged that the vehicle was not driving unreasonably and that she gets nervous when vehicles drive fast on Route 2.

2:48 p.m. Report of dog barking outside for past 30 minutes on Grove Street. Referred to an officer.

5:22 p.m. A 35-year-old Greenfield man was arrested on a default warrant.

6:44 p.m. Caller from Randall Road complaining of music coming from Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. Advised caller of event that is happening at that location.

8:42 p.m. Party into station to complain about music coming from Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. Caller states that the music has been going on for a long time and is worried that it will trigger a migraine. Officer spoke with caller and shared with her the laws regarding disturbing the peace. Second caller advising of loud music from this location. Officer advised.

8:59 p.m. Report of man threatening caller and other staff members at Connecticut River Liquor and Wine after being cut off. Officer checking video; unable to identify man.

10:14 p.m. Caller complaining of loud music coming from Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. Advised that it would be over at 11.

10:44 p.m. Caller requesting that officer clear basketball court at Unity Park. Parties advised of complaint and moved along.

11:22 p.m. Greenfield dispatch reporting 911 misdial from Stevens Street. Upon callback, all parties sounded happy and advised that they did not mean to dial 911 while resetting cell phone.

**Sunday, 8/26**

1:25 a.m. Greenfield dispatch again advising of 911 misdial from Stevens Street. Spoke to female who advises no emer-

gency this time, either; they are attempting to fix the cell phone. No police response needed. Subsequent call received from female whose phone has dialed 911. Female apologized for problems and advised that there is no emergency. Officer advised; states that the cell phone had liquid spilled on it, the screen is now black, and female is unable to control it. Officer knows all people who were present (some family) and believes there is no emergency.

8:53 p.m. Caller complaining of the music coming from Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club. Caller knew that it would be wrapping up but wanted to make MPD aware that this noise has been annoying him all weekend.

**Monday, 8/27**

8:49 a.m. Report of an unknown problem. Call originally came into Shelburne Control with no voices, but strange noises coming through the phone. Confirmed misdial.

**Tuesday, 8/28**

9:25 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Food City. Two breakfast sandwiches stolen; possibly additional items. Suspect positively identified. Summons issued.

6:24 p.m. Caller complaining of a male, possibly intoxicated, screaming at Peskeomskut Park. Officer located party, who was not consuming alcohol but stated that he was waiting for a friend. Party advised of complaint. Agreed to keep volume at normal levels until he left this location.

7:35 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls requesting officer to establishment for a male who is threatening the bartender after being asked to leave. Caller states that the altercation is only verbal at this time. Officer located male; advised that another party will be taking charge of the subject and they will not be returning to this establishment.

8:19 p.m. Caller advising that two young men are moving a large TV set and that they were gloating about stealing the TV as they walked by. TV described as a large tube type, silver. Officer did not locate male parties, but advises that the TV matched the description of a set that was left for free on the corner of Third and L streets.

**Wednesday, 8/29**

12:32 a.m. Caller reporting skunk in her house; requesting advice or police response to assist

see MPD page B4

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**MPD** from page B3

with removal. Caller advises that the animal is in the dining room, and she is upstairs. Caller and her husband decided to open the door and attempt to let the animal leave on its own. Caller later advised that the skunk went to the basement and they closed the door; will attempt to bait skunk out of bulkhead later in the morning.

8:58 a.m. Caller from Millers Falls Laundry Company reports that someone stole her laundry detergent today at approximately 7:15 a.m. Caller advises that the manager reviewed surveillance footage and was able to get a description of the vehicle that the suspect got into. Officer off at suspect's residence for follow-up; advises this may have been a misunderstanding. Detergent recovered and left in dispatch with property tag for caller to pick up.

7:10 p.m. Caller from L Street came home to find a strange woman on her porch. As the stranger left, she apologized, but when caller asked why, she did not answer and instead got into a black BMW with a male and left. As caller was sharing this information, the vehicle returned; caller stated that the stranger was now on the other side of the street looking at people's doors. Stranger described as a not black female in a black floral top and shorts, holding her phone. Officer made contact with male and advised him of complaint. Male stated that female was looking for a friend's house. Caller called back to advise that she was mistaken and that the strange woman is the friend of a neighbor. Officer advised.

**Thursday, 8/30**

3:52 a.m. Report of an unknown problem. Officer is out with a male party at First and L streets. Party states that he was beat up and needs medical attention. MedCare transporting party. MedCare requested for second party at this location; trans-

porting same. Officers out at Avenue A, then at Peske Park. One suspect Mirandized and transported to station. Officer talking with parties who were transported to hospital. Prisoner booked and placed in cell.

6:10 p.m. 911 caller from Unity Street reports that while she was downstairs talking to a neighbor, someone entered her home and stole her purse. Investigated.

**Friday, 8/31**

3:52 a.m. 911 report of fire on G Street. Med-Care, FD, and state police on scene. Medical reports that female party cooking on a gas stove had something explode into her face. Report of fire still on stove as well. Contacting Berkshire Gas.

6:59 a.m. Caller from High Street states that someone broke into his house yesterday between 2 and 4 p.m. and stole money. Report taken.

7:36 a.m. Caller from Griswold Street requesting to speak with animal control officer re: a dead crow in his yard. ACO still on medical leave. Provided caller with number for environmental police.

8:22 a.m. Caller advising that two vehicles passed her transport van while she had her red lights on on Avenue C. Referred to an officer.

9:19 a.m. A 27-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

9:35 a.m. Report of altercation that just transpired on Turner Street in Lake Pleasant. Caller advises that two private investigators were in his backyard, and he chased them off his property with a knife. Caller was still outside at time of call but advises that he put the knife back inside the house. Caller advises he is not sure where the two PIs are now but suspects they are still in the area. Advised caller to go back inside the house and lock the doors while officers are en route. Recommended to caller that he contact his lawyer for advice. He suspects he is being investi-

gated over a lawsuit he is involved in. Also told caller to call PD in future and avoid handling the matter on his own.

4:51 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that her elderly father, who has dementia, slipped out of the house and is out wandering around somewhere. She has been walking around the neighborhood but has not seen him. Officer located male party at corner of Fourth Street and Avenue A. Male party transported back home. Officers speaking with family.

8:31 p.m. Caller states that she just drove by a large group of boys who were wearing a lot of pads and had a couple of shopping carts. She did not see them doing anything wrong, but it seemed as if they were about to do something unsafe. Officer spoke to group, who advised that they had been jousting but that they were done for the night. Officer advised parties of hazards of jousting and hours of park.

**Saturday, 9/1**

12:35 a.m. Party into station to report suspicious activity in area of his house on Montague City Road. Caller's motion sensor was tripped and light came on indicating that someone had crossed the threshold to the back stairs. When caller got up and looked out, he saw a person on the sidewalk and two people coming out from an abandoned property across the street. Area checked. No sign of forced entry. Officers will be on lookout.

9:38 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street wants it on record that she found the lock on her barn door pried off. She has not noticed anything missing but will call back if she does.

**Sunday, 9/2**

11:39 p.m. Caller from Chestnut Street reporting verbal disturbance between male and female in house across the street. Nothing seen, only yelling and swearing between male and female since 8 or 9 p.m. tonight. Patrol units en route. Residents had a couple people over and are playing board games; got a little loud. Advised of complaint.



**TALES** from page B1

found when he arrived at Watertown, Massachusetts with a wife and five children. We don't know what he expected, but in the years since the Plymouth Colony was established, the Massachusetts Bay Company had underwritten a vast influx of immigrants, and many had already settled themselves in Boston and the surrounding villages, including Watertown.

As a consequence, these new towns were not exactly welcoming. They already had the craftsmen they needed as well as ministers, had already divided their land into lots for the first comers, and were already urging new arrivals to push further west.

Richard Denton stayed in Watertown only briefly, and in October of 1635, with his band of followers, joined a group of some 60 families and set out for the Connecticut River Valley where, it was reported, fertile land existed south of the new village of Hartford. It was fall, arguably not the best time to establish a farming community, and several of the families turned back.

The remote settlement that the others founded after struggling through 100 miles of wilderness would be named Wethersfield. Levermore's *Republic of New Haven* (p. 32) describes the houses first built in the New Haven area, which were probably similar: "The first dwelling places were cellars or excavations... these rude shelters were probably protected by boards, sticks, and turf, and were not unlike the sod houses of our own Western country." Denton and his family stayed, suffered through that first winter, and although not the Wethersfield minister (Henry Smith had that honor), Denton doubtless was active in the church.

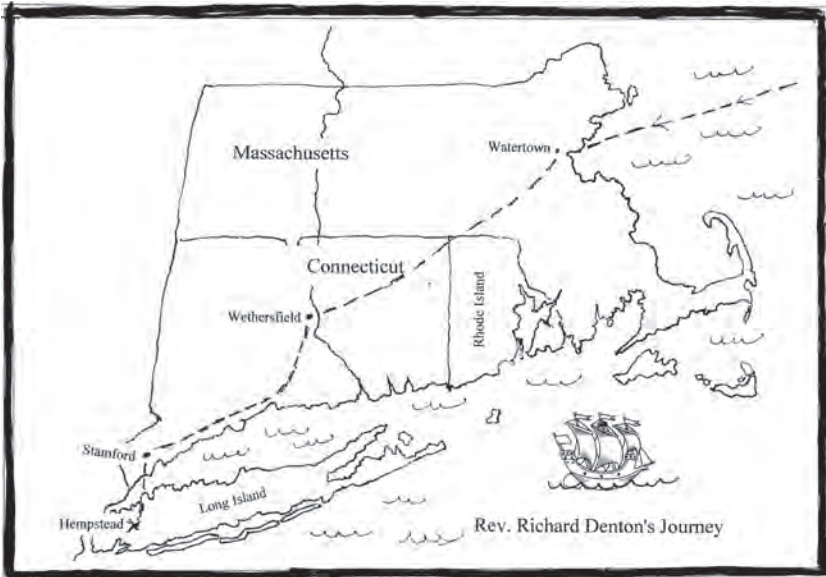
A year later the settlement was attacked by the Pequot Indians. The Wethersfield Historical Society site states that:

*Connecticut's first military episode was the Pequot War of 1637. The Pequots ... had been in Connecticut since 1600 and feared an English threat to their territories. Between 1634 and the start of the war, they had killed traders on the Connecticut River and raided a settlement at Wethersfield where they slew six men and three women and carried off two girls. In 1637, the General Court at Hartford respond-*

*ed after the Wethersfield episode by raising a troop of ninety men commanded by Captain John Mason.*

Mason pretty much decimated the Pequot tribe.

It was not, however, the Indian threat that soured Denton on Wethersfield (although we have no way of knowing how he responded to the attack), but rather certain of the church policies with which he took issue. There was already considerable disagreement in the Puritan communities throughout New England as to what constituted a simpler, more devout form of Protestantism. The disparities were sometimes simply in the details, but it led to such acrimony that congregations in many locations split, and the dissenting ministers went into the wilderness with their followers to establish new churches and new towns to support them.



So it was in 1640 in Wethersfield. There were seven voting members in the church at that time, and six had come with Denton from Watertown. We do not know what the exact dispute was, but the end result was that in 1641 four of the voting members with several other settlers – 29 families in all, plus two “negro servants” – opted to leave Wethersfield and establish their own church. Rev. Richard Denton again led his followers southwest, and along the northern shores of Long Island Sound into the unknown.

Well, somewhat unknown. The year before, Captain Nathaniel Turner of the New Haven Colony had purchased from the Indian Chief Ponus a land area of 128 square miles known as Rippowam in southwestern Connecticut. It included what is now Darien on one

side, and part of Greenwich on the other, and in between what became the New York City bedroom community of Stamford with its present-day population of 122,000.

His cost? 12 coats, 12 hoes, 12 ratchets, 12 glasses, 12 knives, four kettles, and four fathoms of white wampum (or 33 lbs., depending on which source you believe). Stamford's 1641 population? Wolves without number, some Native Americans, a handful of Dutchmen from New Amsterdam (New York), a great deal of game waiting to be snared and served up for dinner, and fish from Long Island Sound just jumping right out of the water into the pot.

It was to this seashore paradise that Denton – having contracted with the New Haven Colony to do so and promising to repay the cost – and his “Rippowam Company”

wended their way during the summer of 1641.

There they built their meeting-house, and that October held their first meeting, during which they formed a provisional government and divided the land. Denton was allotted 14 acres on the west side of Rose Lane, in what is now the Glenbrook section of Stamford. They then went about the business of building their shelters.

But all was not well in paradise. We will finish this story next week, and tell you why!

*Let us know your ancestors' stories; each one is unique. We will help you edit them, or write them for you. Please contact us at genealogy@montaguereporter.org.*



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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EXHIBITS:

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

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Fabricated: Fabulous Functional & Whimsical Fiber Art*. Through September 16.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *PaperJam* group exhibit curated by Exploded View: art inspired by paper. *On a Roll – the Story of Paper in Turners Falls* is an exhibit exploring the transition from hand-made to machine-made paper, the paper industry’s arrival in Turners Falls, and the rise and fall of the village’s paper mills. Reception with Exploded View performance on September 9, 2 p.m. Through September.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Visions of Love*, abstract paintings by Cameron Schmitz. Through September 21.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Photographs by Ronald Greenberg*. Focus is on landscape and cityscape photography in Ireland, Italy and the US. Through September. Artist reception September 9, 1 p.m.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *Bob Ellis: A Retrospective*. Proceeds from paintings for sale will benefit the Wendell Free Library. Reception September 15, 4 p.m. Through October.

Leverett Crafts and Arts: *Susan Valentine’s Annual Gallery Exhibit and Open Studio*. See article on page B1 for details. Through September.

Nina’s Nook, Turners Falls: *Ixchelailee Art*. Digital collage by Turners Falls artist Diana Pedrosa. Through October 6.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *22 Homes* by Hannah Hurricane Sanchez. A colorful display of rigid spaces and flexible boundaries, a response to moving 22 times last summer, with family adventures and in between houses. Through October.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Works on Paper*, paintings by Greenfield artist Joseph McCarthy, and *Stream of Consciousness*, paintings by Petula Bloomfield. Through October 28.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Inspired by Nature*. Photographs by Candace Silver. Reception September 8, 1 p.m. Through September.

## CALLS FOR SUBMISSIONS:

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 is September 24.

## EVENTS:

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dick Williams*. Hosted by Comedy as a Weapon. \$ 7 p.m.



*Lunar Carnival is a contemporary group of troubadours, playing free-range folk spanning from swing to bluegrass. Vocal harmonies and instrumental improvisation abounds. Guitar, upright bass, clarinet, and drums will be included this evening at the Great Falls Coffeehouse at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. Friday, September 14, 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation \$6 to \$12.*

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Resonant Rogues*. Roots band from Asheville, North Carolina. \$ 8:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton’s Hit Parade*. 7 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Village Hill Trio*. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Flywheel Arts, Easthampton: *Mystra Records Fest* featuring *Dredd Foole, Allysen Callery, J. Burkett, Arkm Foam, Viewer Project, Anthony Pasquarosa, Wednesday Knudsen*, and 7 more. Psych, folk, noise. All ages. \$. 3 to 10 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lilith of the Valley*. Women’s art and music gala. Includes showing of film “The Breast Archives” by Meagan Murphy. Bands include *Lily Sexton, Flathead Rodeo* (featuring Miriam Sirota), *Re-Belle* (featuring Kalpana Devi), *Ex-Temper, Brittany Koff Music* and *DJ Cherry Moto*. \$. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield:

*Trailer Park*. Rock and Roll favorites. \$. 7 p.m.

Wendell Library: *The Philadelphia Experiment*. Movie about a US navy destroyer escort participates in a Navy “invisibility” experiment that inadvertently sends two sailors forty years into the future. Part of the Sci-Fi and Fantasy movie series at the library. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic Night #26*. Big town performance art in a tiny village. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill: *The frost heaves and haies, Austin & Eliott*. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *No Lens & Stillwater*. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Nite Caps*. 9 p.m.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

McCusker’s Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

and caregivers. 10:30 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hip Hop Dance Night with Craze-faze*. 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Millers Falls Library: *Music and Movement*. For children and caregivers, with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson. 10 a.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Tongue Depressor, Wendy Eisenberg, and Omeed Goodarzi*. \$. Early show! 6:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jim K*. 8 p.m.

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

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Great Falls Discovery Center: *Lunar Carnival*. Great Falls Coffeehouse Series presents *Lunar Carnival*, “a magical blend of soulful harmonies.” Refreshments available. Suggested donation. \$. 7 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *One Flight Up*. 9:30 p.m.

Camp Kee-Wanee, Greenfield: *Wormtown Music Festival* featuring *Tuna Funk Brigade, Water Sauce, Moon Cup and the Keepers, Monkeysaurus Dance Co-op, Lee Gaiacocca, Deep Aquarium Field Trip, Shylock and the Elderz*, and many more. \$\$\$. Friday through Sunday.

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Kids Dance Party*. 3 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The O-Tones*. Motown, Swing. \$. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Reggie Harris*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Toby Meeting House, Leverett: *emma’s revolution*. Dancing on the edge of folk and pop, there’s a revolution: *emma’s revolution*. “Bold, profound, moving, hilarious and transformative.” The sound of passion in “deftly-turned phrases,” songs imbued with hope, warmth and the “power and drive” to turn tears into laughter, cynicism into action. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Gypsy Lane Cabaret*. Co-ed burlesque troupe with a unique blend of playful sexiness, cheeky comedy, live singing and dynamic dance routines in an unabashed celebration of inclusivity and body-positivity. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Date Night*. Musical Duo. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

McCusker’s Market, Shelburne Falls: *Celtic Sessions*. Musicians, all levels welcome. 10:30 a.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center,

Turners Falls: *PoetryJam Open Mic*. Hosted by Exploded View. Put your name in the hat and share your work. 4 p.m.

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion #10*, featuring *Bromp Treb and Weston/Pelchat/Bosse*. Monthly workshop / discourse centered on improvised music, open to all performers and noise makers. Suggested donation. 8 p.m.



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**WEST ALONG** from page B1

The first monarch caterpillar was spotted munching milkweed leaves near the front door one day in late August. By the next morning, it was dead. Nothing left but an empty skin, preyed upon by some insect specialist that targets monarchs. We leapt into action.

Out in the back shed was an old terrarium, stored away under boxes and storm windows. In a thrice, we cleaned it up, got some old screening to cover the top, and we began collecting the caterpillars as soon as they appeared. Stuffing the aquarium with milkweed stalks and leaves that needed to be replenished every few days, before long we had adopted seven monarch caterpillars and placed them in our improvised hothouse nursery in the living room.

They lived happily and safely, munching away, until

by August 28 they began making their way, one by one, to the screen top of the terrarium, to form their chrysalides. Now, as of this writing, seven of them are hanging from the screening like green ornaments with delicate golden points circling the top of their chamber, while another miracle is being accomplished within.

They began their transformation to chrysalides on August 28, and according to our Caterpillar Diaries from 2014, the last banner year for monarchs, they should be ready to come out by September 10.

One by one, they will stretch and dry their wings, visit the yard for a bit, and then, blithe spirits, they will lift up over the peak of the old house, get their bearings on Mexico and be gone, leaving us behind, down here on the ground.

I'll see if that happens, and keep you posted.

**VALENTINE** from page B1

about the yoga classes she was teaching. The interest in graphic design may be seen in the detail found in her paintings, and also helped her in the composition of her work.

She took graphic and web design classes at Greenfield Community College, which led her into taking painting classes, also at GCC. She was able to provide web design services for artists in exchange for

their art. Eventually, she ran out of wall space and then began exchanging her web design services for lessons in how to paint. Her primary painting teacher was Robin Keller. The weekly classes with Keller confirmed Susan's identity as a painter, and her work took off from there.

She has recently begun combining mediums. In one of her smaller marble paintings, she used an oil-based ink pen to better define the bubbles.

The pen allowed her to draw, as opposed to using a brush. This became her first mixed-media painting. Her primary medium up to this point has been oil paint. After the experience with the pen she found that "if I were to do the kind of detail work that I like to do in small paintings, it would really be a drawing."

She expects to incorporate more media in her future paintings. The pairing of the pen with the paint is a compatible combination that lends even more clarity to the detail of her work.

To experience Susan Valentine's art, go to her Annual Open Studio and Gallery Exhibit at Leverett Crafts & Arts, 13 Montague Road in Leverett. A reception will be held this Sunday, September 9, from 4 to 6 p.m. The regular Barnes and Hall Galleries hours are: Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 1 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 to 5 p.m.; and by appointment on Sundays.



SUBMITTED IMAGE



Detail from "Shadows in May" by Susan Valentine, oil on canvas board.

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**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

## This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

Happy September from Montague TV! Here are some of our new videos to look forward to this week – a testament to the human creativity that abounds in our local area:

- Greenfield Savings Bank Presentation on Diemand Farm in Wendell.
- Antenna Cloud Farm performance by resident band, Founders, of New York City.
- An original claymation by

Hannah Brookman and Sarah Lanzilotta, "Earthman," made for the Turners Falls-based band Viewer!

• Turners Falls Christmas in July 2018, filmed by Hannah and Joel.

Something going on you'd like others to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment.

Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [in-fomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:in-fomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We're excited to work with you!

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