

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 13

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 24, 2019

SCENE REPORT

Cross-Pollinating Resources To Give Bees a Chance



Landscape designer Tom Sullivan presents on pollinator-friendly perennials.

By ANNA GYORGY

NORTHAMPTON – This past summer seemed to be a tipping point for awareness of the dangers of climate disruption. The changes were so clear, the catastrophes so frequent, that movements for energy conservation and alternative, renewable sources of energy have grown in strength and number.

A crisis in biodiversity, involving species loss and the disappearance of much insect life, is related to the climate crisis, and is just as serious. But it is less well known, and more easily put out of sight and mind. Climate change contributes to this loss of biodiversity, as does unrestrained pillage of natural resources. As forests are turned into plantations, precious fertile land erodes, and traditional crop diversity is replaced by industrial agriculture.

The problems are plenty, and people and groups are responding in many ways. One of the most interesting, beautiful, and reward-

ing actions that can be taken was the focus of a recent meeting organized by a team from the Western Mass Pollinator Networks.

Their Sustainable Land Care Symposium, held on Tuesday, January 16 at the Smith College Conference Center, was a day-long, intensive training in both practical and attractive ways to prevent eco-collapse in our backyards, towns, and byways. The gathering brought together 90 participants from 30 western Massachusetts towns to examine the aspects of sustainability that insects provide – and how to help them. (I attended as a member of the Wendell energy committee.)

The full and well-thought-out program focused on key areas and issues. In her welcome, director Peggy MacLeod, who helped found the Pollinator Networks in November 2016, encouraged all attendees to “open a conversation about trying something new.”

Then came the science, from see **POLLINATORS** page A6

Erving Looks to Save on Library Loans by Paying More Up Front

By KATIE NOLAN

Erving voters will decide at a special town meeting on January 28 whether to appropriate \$540,598 from free cash for library construction, for payment of bills from the previous fiscal year, for a personnel policy review and wage study, and for replacing and installing a generator at the police station.

In order to save money that

would be spent on loan origination costs and interest, the selectboard is proposing to appropriate \$500,000 from free cash toward construction of the new Erving Public Library, and to reduce the borrowing authorized at the May 2017 annual town meeting by the same amount.

According to the information on the STM warrant, \$598.41 in bills were identified or received after the

see **ERVING** page A3

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Fire Chief Sounds Alarm Over Dispatch Reliability

By ROB SKELTON

Project manager Todd Stacy of the Congers, NY-based Goosetown Communications visited the Leverett selectboard Tuesday to support his company’s proposal to design, supply, install and maintain a “Two Site Selex VHF Simulcast” radio system for the Leverett fire department.

The reportedly “failing” Shelburne dispatch, run by the county government at the state police barracks, is prompting a modernization movement as fire departments upgrade to better and safer communications.

Leverett fire chief John Ingram proposes to switch from low-frequency UHF to the higher frequency VHF, which is better for hilly terrain, and join Hadley, Pelham and Amherst, the latter hosting dispatch duties.

“The Franklin County system is failing, and it’s time to make a change,” he stated.

A conclave of emergency providers is planned for January 31 at 7 p.m. at Greenfield Community College to address the shortcomings of the current system and plan for a better one. Selectboard chair Peter

see **LEVERETT** page A7

GILL-MONTAGUE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Principal Plans Medical Leave; Announces Resignation In June

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School principal Annie Leonard will take an indefinite leave next month for medical reasons, and resign at the end of the current school year, according to a statement released over the weekend by the regional school district.

“I recently shared my cancer diagnosis and upcoming medical leave for surgery with the secondary school staff and wider school community,” Leonard told the *Reporter*. “I care deeply about this school and its students, and about helping it become a school that feels welcoming and safe for all students, at all times, but because of my health situation, I have decided to resign from the principalship effective the end of this school year.”

Leonard, formerly an assistant principal at Amherst Regional High School, was hired by the district in 2015. Her job will be performed on an interim basis by assistant principal Kathi Smith.

“[M]y requests of the community are for support of her leadership, and for understanding of my need to step away to focus on my health,” Leonard wrote.

The news of Leonard’s leave and eventual resignation comes amid reaction to public allegations, from parents and students, that the administration at the high school and middle school has been unable to contain a climate of racism and bullying.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan told the regional school committee Tuesday night that he had “full support” for Leonard. “I am sure she will be able to retain her singular focus on doing what is best for our students



Principal Annie Leonard.

in the months ahead,” he said.

Students Speak Out

Several different aspects of the harassment and discipline controversy were discussed during the committee’s meeting.

see **GMRSD** page A5

Sewer Budget Set to Drop, But Rates May Hold Steady

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – Some “good news” about the 2020 Montague sewer budget was presented to a joint meeting of the town finance committee and selectboard on Wednesday. The Water Pollution Control Facility’s (WPCF) operating budget is expected to drop by over \$250,000, or at least 12%, in the next fiscal year. The current operating budget of the facility totals \$1,689,656.

The main reason for the decline, according to materials presented by WPCF superintendent Bob McDonald, was the cost of “solid waste disposal,” which will be reduced in half. McDonald attributed the cut to a surprisingly low bid from the company Veolia Water North America-Northeast, which contracts with the town to dispose of sludge.

McDonald also said the facility had improved the process for reducing the sludge’s water content, making greater use of the facility’s

Fournier Rotary Press for dewatering sewage. He said that the press was “underutilized” when he came to Montague.

“The icing on the cake,” McDonald told the committees, “will be if Montague is approved by the state for an expansion of its composting capacity.”

Sludge disposal has been one of the main reasons for the big budget, and sewer user rate increases, over the past two years. Under the so-called “Montague Process,” which was discontinued in 2016 under pressure from state regulators, the WPCF was able to reduce its own sludge very efficiently, and even generated revenue from accepting sludge from other towns.

The other reason for the large rate increases was the decline in industrial revenue due to the closing of the Southworth Paper plant in Turners Falls.

In the October 2018, a special town meeting approved an FY’19

see **SEWER** page A6

National Grid Interested In Wendell Depot Road Property

By REPORTER STAFF

WENDELL – Late last fall, a community solar project long planned for a town-owned lot at 97 Wendell Depot Road was shelved after National Grid announced it would charge the 250-kW project over \$3 million, much more than its expected construction cost, to connect to the power lines. The rationale for the expense was that upgrades to the area’s electric system needed to be funded, though backers protested that the upgrades are necessitated by much larger proposed projects.

Last week, a representative of National Grid reached out to the town of Wendell to inquire about the purchase of the same land.

The 36-acre parcel is split by Wendell Depot Road. A smaller lot has been carved out of the eastern

see **WENDELL** page A6

The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week, the Turners Falls boys’ basketball team defeated Athol on the road and then hosted the Frontier Red Hawks, the Franklin Tech wrestling team hit a milestone, the Turners Falls swim team swam with Lions, and the Turners girls’ basketball team hosted the Popes and the Wave.

Also this week, the New England Patriots punched their ticket for Atlanta!

Girls Basketball

Pope Francis 44 – TFHS 43

Greenfield 73 – TFHS 34

On Friday, January 18, the Turners Falls girls’ basketball team lost to the Pope Francis Cardinals by one point, 44-43. For Blue, it was another disappointing loss in a string of disappointing losses. But for the fans, it was an exciting game in a string of exciting games. This one came down to the very last possession of the game, and the Popes escaped with the single-point win.

I felt a little bad for the visiting fans. They came all the way from Springfield, and when they got to town, most of the bridges were out. In fact, my first conversation of the night was giving directions to the men’s room.

The game started ominously enough for Powertown. Five seconds into the game, the Cards were fouled on their way to the hoop. Turners then committed two more fouls within the first minute, but they settled down.

For the rest of the half, Turners played smart; a couple

see **TFHS SPORTS** page A4



Turners’ Dabney Rollins goes up for a shot in the paint as Pope Francis’ Rachael Cavavangh defends.

The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Group

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*
Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*
Lisa McLoughlin, *Science Page*
Gloria Kegeles, *Editorial Assistant*

Production Group

Lyn Clark, *Interim Distribution Manager*
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout Assistant*
Christopher Carmody, *Layout Assistant*

Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by

Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Deeper Roots

We believe the parents and students who describe a lack of capacity, in particular at Great Falls Middle School, to properly address patterns of harassment and a general culture of hostility among some students.

The picture emerging is an unsurprising one, in 2019's United States: on the one hand, a small but significant number of disaffected adolescent edgelords, who know they can find a tiny rush of power by using the language of domination and cruelty to trigger people; on the other, adults who know they don't want to be the first stop on the school-to-prison pipeline, but don't have the resources to truly engage with the offenders in a way that heals their underlying wounds.

Many Gill and Montague families – particularly affluent ones – opt to send their high schoolers elsewhere, bleeding the district's budget. But no single family can change that dynamic by staying.

The leadership in the towns has been fighting against this vicious cycle for years, and the school administration is now facing the problem head-on, nurturing projects that could revolutionize education at the high school by marshaling the resources of our broader community to support individually tailored education plans.

It's a precarious situation all around. A concerted, united push is needed to lift up our schools and give staff the support and encouragement they need, but there are some very real fault lines running through our community at large.

It seems unlikely that the situation will be fixed simply by firing and hiring top administrators. The revolving door has not worked in Gill-Montague's favor in the past. When schools fail to provide a safe learning environment for children, they certainly must change, but a

new weathervane alone won't necessarily transform a barn.

When we posted the news online this weekend that our high school principal was facing a health crisis and would be leaving this spring, a small but significant number of disaffected adult edgelords saw an opportunity to find a tiny rush of power by posting cruel, gleeful comments.

There are, roughly speaking, two camps of political activists here in town, and we notice members of both glomming on to the school harassment topic. They are the teams that formed during the 2016-17 debate over the high school mascot, and then polarized the 2017 and 2018 school committee elections with their acrimony.

As an independent paper that exhaustively covers the district's governance, we are pretty sure the problem here is not, despite what we still hear from the Save the Indians crowd, corruption. It is *austerity*, and all the ways an imposed lack of resources inevitably divides us.

The fact that concern over unchecked racism in the schools brings these two camps together could be a good thing – finally, an opportunity to move on, and figure out how to collaborate over exactly the kind of issue that nearly everyone agreed the whole time would probably be more important.

But we urge everyone to turn their focus away from the easy fight – and from the temptation to grandstand endlessly in front of the school committee cameras – and toward the heart of the problem: those young people in our community who, as it dawns on them that they will never have the comfort and privilege of many of the adults lecturing them about mindfulness and inclusion, are taking their first few spiteful steps down the long path of hate.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Kevin has worked at Red Fire North on Route 63 since its inception, helping fix up the former Montague Inn bar into a marketplace complete with a brick oven and patio dining.

Letters to the Editors

Endorsement for "Optional Green"

Last week the Leverett selectboard and energy committee held a public meeting with representatives from Colonial Power to discuss the new Leverett Community Choice Power Supply Program.

The Leverett selectboard has chosen Colonial Power to provide electricity to town residents from renewable sources ("green energy," mainly wind) at a rate lower than Eversource is currently charging. This agreement meets the goals expressed by voters on an Article presented by the Leverett energy committee at the 2015 Leverett Town Meeting: 100% renewable, less-costly energy.

Colonial Power explained the three options:

Option 1: 100% energy from National Wind – specifically, wind power generated in Texas. This option is referred to as "Standard Green" energy, and enrolls residents automatically.

Option 2: 100% MA Class 1 renewable green energy. This option, referred to as "Optional Green" energy, provides the cleanest and most local energy available of these three options. To choose a green product with 100% local renewable energy, residents must contact Colonial Power to "Opt In" and choose this option.

Option 3: Opt Out of Colonial's aggregation of both Texas wind and Mass energy. This means staying

with Eversource at a higher rate than either Option 1 or Option 2. Eversource is required by Massachusetts law to include 14% MA green renewable energy; the rest is a mix of fossil fuels and nuclear.

The Climate Action Group of the Leverett Alliance strongly urges residents who can afford to pay slightly more – \$0.00851 more per kilowatt-hour – to choose Option 2, "Optional Green" energy. It is the cleanest and most local energy, thus keeping the business in Massachusetts and further encouraging our state to expand green energy options.

Peggy Wolff
Leverett Climate Action Group

Sunday, January 27: Celebrating Don Clegg

TURNERS FALLS – The friends and neighbors of Don Clegg will hold a public celebration of his life this Sunday, January 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Don wore many hats over the 12 years he lived in town, including those of president of the Friends of the Discovery Center and distribution manager at the *Montague Re-*

porter. He died in November after a short illness.

Please help spread the word about this event – a lot of people knew Don, and this will be the first public memorial of his passing. There will be an opportunity for everyone who wants to share memories. If you have photographs of him to display, or would like to help with music or refreshments, contact this newspaper.

Enjoying Our B1 Photos

Just wanted you to know that the photo spreads on the second section are just great & beautiful.

I always turn to that section first to see what lovely scene here in Franklin County has been captured in print.

Peg Bridges
Montague Center

Transported

Thanks, David Brule, for another fascinating escape into the past.

As I sit snug by the fireplace reading my newly arrived *MoRe* out in the stormy hinterlands of St. Louis this afternoon, you have once again transported me years back and miles away with your well conceived, well written story.

Keep them coming.

Jerry Sears
Missouri

The Haves

Speaking of the town planning board of Turners Falls, the *Recorder* editorial staff recently wrote, "Their heart is in the right place."

Perhaps the residents in the nearby neighborhood may search their hearts a bit more... Seems to me the issue once again is: the haves versus the have-nots... and not in my backyard!

Mary Kay Mattiace
Turners Falls

Published weekly on Thursdays.

Every other week in July and August.
No paper fourth week of November,
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.

PHONE: (413) 863-8666

Please note new email addresses:
editor@montaguereporter.org
features@montaguereporter.org
ads@montaguereporter.org
bills@montaguereporter.org
circulation@montaguereporter.org
events@montaguereporter.org
poetry@montaguereporter.org
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org

Send address changes to:

The Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

Advertising and copy deadline is
MONDAY at NOON.

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

Annual Subscription Rate:

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

Call us or contact
subscriptions@montaguereporter.org
with any questions.

**WE WELCOME
YOUR LETTERS!**

(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@
montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

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

The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: _____

Address: _____

Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email (optional): _____



LOCAL BRIEFS

JESSICA LARKIN ILLUSTRATION

Saturday, January 26 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The "Music to Your Ears" concert will take place in the bank's Community Room.

The CRFC, directed by Hannah Smeltz, was founded in 2016 and consists of members from a wide variety of musical and professional backgrounds. Flute choirs traditionally include different voice ranges, similar to a vocal chorus of soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. In addition to the familiar sized flute, CRFC features the piccolo, alto flute, and bass flute.

Their repertoire includes pieces specifically written for the instrument, but also features arrangements and compositions from Baroque to contemporary.

In case you missed it due to the weather this past weekend, the Deerfield Valley Art Association is holding its **tag sale fundraiser** at the DVAA Center for the Arts Gallery and Gift Shop at 105 Main Street, Northfield for a second weekend on January 25 through 27 (Friday through Sunday), from noon to 4 p.m. each of those days.

They will be selling art and craft supplies, art display items such as frames and easels, and art books and magazines.

The Women's Resource Center at Montague Catholic Social Ministries at 41 Third Street is offering **free sewing classes!**

Sewing is a great skill to have, and it seems to be a dying art. They

used to teach sewing in school. I learned to sew in Home Economics class 30-something years ago, and I still enjoy both machine stitching and hand stitching.

The classes are funded by a Community Development Block Grant. You will have the use of a sewing machine, and the fabric and supplies are free. The goal of the grant is to teach women a skill that could possibly support economic security.

Classes run for eight weeks from January 28 through March 11 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and I saw on their Facebook page that they may be adding Tuesday afternoon classes from 1:30 to 4 p.m. due to the enthusiastic response so far. For more information or to register for the series, call Andrea Sears at (413) 863-4804, x 1003.

Looking ahead to springtime, registration for **Girls' Softball** opens on Monday, January 28 for the 2019 season, which runs from mid-April through mid-June. Girls ages seven to nine can play on the Purple Panthers team, and girls ages 10 to 12 play on the Diamond Dusters team (both teams are members of the Greenfield Girls Softball League and play at Murphy Park in Greenfield).

The registration period ends on March 15, or when the rosters are full. Call (413) 863-3216 for more information.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

ERVING from page A1

FY'18 books were closed, and payment must be approved by town meeting.

The \$15,000 requested for a personnel policy review and wage study would allow the selectboard to hire a consultant to review job descriptions, compensation, job categorization, and personnel policies.

Free cash is also the proposed funding source for a new \$25,000 propane generator at the police station, which would replace the current diesel generator, which has had maintenance problems.

The voters will also be asked to consider:

- Transferring \$7,200 from the "open space and recreation plan" account to the "consulting" account, to pay for a consultant to work with residents, business owners, and town government to plan future development in Erving Center.

- Appropriating \$265,000 from the "sewer enterprise" fund to upgrade the sewer line on Northfield Road. According to information on the warrant, the existing line is sufficient for the use of the senior and

community center and the new public library but would not have enough capacity for the planned development of senior housing off Care Drive.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will be opening Northfield Road in 2019 for the installation of a new sidewalk to Care Drive, and after this work, the road will not be allowed to be opened for at least five years.

- Transferring \$149,418 from the account established to re-side town hall for the purpose of conducting a design and feasibility study as well as future renovations of town hall.

The meeting will be asked to give the selectboard authority to enter into a 20-year structured tax agreement, also known as a PILOT agreement, with solar developer Poplar Mountain Solar 1 LLC to establish an annual payment in lieu of a personal property tax bill. The proposed agreement can be reviewed at Town Hall during normal business hours.

The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the senior and community center at 1 Care Drive.



www.MontagueMA.net
local gossip, news & business listings

GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918
269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

Local Farmer-Owned

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

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

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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

MACKIN FUEL TRUCKING SAND & GRAVEL

(413) 773-3622

Nina's Nook

Uniquities, Frivolities, Un-necessariums

Closed during January except by appointment (or chance)
413.834.8800

125A Avenue A Turners Falls
www.ninasnook.com

Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending Jan. 18:

Grade 6
Noah Titman

Grade 7
Anne Kolodziej

Grade 8
Tommy Hall

Related Arts
Stephanie Peterson

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

I hope you all enjoyed the **snowstorm on Sunday** and stayed warm and safe during the frigid weather earlier this week.

We took our Norwegian elk-hound out for a snowshoe hike on Sunday afternoon before the football games. Shadow likes the snow, and likes to drop his shoulder and plow face first into it.

If you like to go snowshoeing too, join Kim Noyes at Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center for a **snowshoe ramble** on Saturday, February 2 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. On this winter ramble you will explore animal tracks, porcupine signs, and an abandoned 19th-century stone quarry.

Snowshoeing is fabulous exercise, incredibly easy to learn and no prior experience is necessary. This moderately strenuous hike is approximately 1½ miles in length with an elevation gain of 300 feet.

Bring water, snacks, wear wind pants or gaiters and dress in warm layers. Warm, waterproof footwear is essential. All levels of experience are welcome. If snow is insufficient

for snowshoeing, the program will take place on foot.

This event is appropriate for ages 10 and older, and is free with your own snowshoes. Snowshoe rentals are \$16. Pre-registration is required by calling (800) 859-2960.

The Great Falls Discovery Center's **Kiddleidoscope program** on Friday, January 25 will feature a story, craft, and games based on the theme of "Who Lives in a Tree?" The program is geared toward tykes three to six years old and their caregivers, and meets in the Great Hall from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

There is a special program on Saturday, January 26 from 1 to 2 p.m. for kids ages three to six and their families called "Who's Been Here?" The program will investigate the mysterious signs that animals leave behind through stories, crafts, and activities.

If weather permits, they will explore outside, so be sure to bundle up.

The Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank at 282 Avenue A is hosting the **Connecticut River Flute Choir** (CRFC) on

mittee representative, one high school parent representative, one high school student representative, and one community representative from each of the towns in the district, with Erving also having a voice in the process.

These representatives should be appointed by the town selectboards, to ensure that this committee is not stacked with "yes" people hand-picked by the school committee or superintendent.

Hopefully, this diverse input could use a logical process to choose a new principal who will represent the agreement of all towns and stakeholders. We have had enough of one kind of thinking dominating the decisions for our children. It is now time to recreate a transparent process in which all meetings are open to the public, and all decisions will be made based on logic rather than "feelings" and ideologies that are not representative of our local community members.

I will be happy to volunteer to chair this committee, create a mission statement, and help develop the decision-making process that will be followed as outlined in the initial formation documents. Maybe this can bring some logic and financial control back to our district, and help to restore confidence in the school processes.

Rachel J. Roy
Turners Falls

Another Letter to the Editors

A Transparent Process

As we all know, education of our children is one of the most important things we can do as parents and community members. The GMRSD has been fraught with contention for the past year or so, and now we are getting the news that the high school principal will be leaving very shortly.

As a Montague taxpayer, I am not feeling a whole lot of confidence in the decisions made by this school committee or superintendent. I think they are seriously disrespectful to many parents, and to community budget implications.

Results of the town and student votes on the logo issue were completely ignored. Most recently, a parent spoke out about the racial climate, and in the past many parents have expressed concerns about the rampant bullying in the district schools. Both of these assertions were supported by student-backed surveys and statements, but apparently, no action was taken by the superintendent or the school committee. There is even a rumor that a vote of no confidence in the administration was taken by faculty.

It has reached the point that consultants have been hired to address the situation. At what cost? And where will this money come from?

As a result, this decision to hire a new principal is going to be a very important one. I would like to propose the formation of a search committee comprised of a chairperson, one school com-

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

Available Space FOR RENT

900 Sq. Ft. COMMERCIAL STORE FRONT plus basement storage space

Located on AVENUE A in DOWNTOWN TURNERS FALLS!

Call: 413-559-7345

REAL PICKLES

Locally grown vegetables
Fermented & raw
100% organic

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

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

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

RECYCLE

BOTTLES & CANS
Week of January 29
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

GUEST EDITORIAL

“Farming on the Fringe”

By DANNY BOTKIN

GILL – I have a small hilltop farm that’s been the source of great joy, healing and devotion, now twenty turns around the sun. My partner and I work constantly, but live idyllically, reveling in a continuous, home-grown cornucopia, including our own veggies, fruit, chestnuts, goat cheese, and heirloom tomatoes.

And we’ve practiced and refined a uniquely opportunistic, “low-till” style of raising this incredible food, which we sometimes laughingly call “guerrilla gardening” or “farming on the fringe,” based partly on the realization that not all successes are planned, and that a rich bounty can often be gleaned (recycled) from Nature, just by observing, mimicking and incrementally cooperating with Her...

(Incidentally, this “collaborating with Nature” business, and “doing better by doing less,” actually applies quite elegantly to other human endeavors as well: guerrilla parenting, guerrilla cooking, guerrilla medicine, art, music, and theater!)

I first tagged our little operation “farming on the fringe” as a humorous nod to our thin experience, advancing age, and all the money we’d not yet made selling produce. After surviving 9/11 and the Bush years, I decided it more aptly referred to our living on the fringe of history, of coming “Earth Changes,” climate chaos, and the like.

The truth is, these crazy times notwithstanding, we have long been ridiculously, laughably, over our heads: just one fanatical foodie geezer and his loyal wife – plus a smattering of WWOOF-ers, housemates, and other itinerant helpers – attempting to farm three-plus acres of mixed annuals, perennials, greenhouses, or-

chard, and goats, all by hand!

It’s been a wild and worthy adventure, yes. But this simple, glaring truth led us ultimately toward a leaner, humbler, more minimalist approach... to everything. The Cavalry never materialized, so we stepped back from rules, schedules, and conventional wisdom, and responded instead to circumstances, epiphanies and “magic moments” on the ground.

Now in our 60s, we’re learning how to farm “playing small ball”: smarter, simpler, and nimbler, not necessarily trying to bash “home runs” every day.

And I’m encouraged to report a widespread, fully-engaged constituency of such backyard-scale, “small ball”-style food producers, far too serious to be labeled mere “gardeners” but not much akin to what you would call “traditional farmers.” This wildly diverse, grassroots movement includes small-scale apiarists, home fermenters, permaculture aficionados, green chefs, food forest designers, urban and rooftop gardeners, wild crafters, herbalists, “carbon farmers,” mycologists, and innumerable other incarnations of enlightened, community-based, foodie alchemy.

No matter what we call it, this veritable army of under-the-radar green practitioners offers much needed hope to our withering planet.

I’ve long appreciated the concept and practice of cross-cultural “literacy,” that is, the ability to internalize and embody the knowledge, language, and tools of our “adversaries” and complements. For example, as a lifelong Yankees fan (from toddlerhood on Dad’s knee), after settling in western MA in the early ‘80s I also came to simultaneously love and follow the Red Sox – depend-

ing on situation, friends, year and standings, of course! As a Jewish, suburban kid I long ago learned to embrace the spirit and celebration of both Chanukah and Christmas. As a dedicated, continental hitchhiker in the ‘70s and ‘80s, I learned to jibe comfortably with all classes of people: stockbrokers, construction workers, right wingers and hippies alike, as well as professionals, borderline personalities, gangsters, cops, and “rednecks.”

Operating for years on the cultural cusp between “backyard garden” and a “real farm” allowed this wannabe grower to strategically glean the best from all worlds. For example, we’ve long exploited traditional gardening “tricks” like hand pollination, seed saving, cloning, and natural pest control – areas where conventional farming methods can be cumbersome, costly, or toxic. But we have also learned to shamelessly utilize professional grade hoopouses, row covers, improved seed, and other potent tools of commercial agriculture. (Who says you can’t root for both the Sox and Yankees?)

Now, I’ll be the first to admit to the underlying privilege of *not having to make an actual living* from this tiny farm. This liberated us to experiment more, take bigger risks, and to hand grow (crops, animals, interns, etc.) that aren’t necessarily “profitable” in the usual sense. Having other income and living low permits us to remain a “mission-driven” farm, freed from measuring every person, plant, and project through the narrow crucible of commerce.

It turns out, nurturing living plants (and animals!) can be hugely enlightening, since they take nothing personally, harbor no grudges, and remain reliably, dispassionately themselves, responding faithfully to

Earth’s rhythms, without conceit, regret, anger, or ennui. Growing our own sustenance also helps us refocus the mundane yet critical functions of our own biology: food, protection from the elements, and our sometimes tenuous, but always vital connection with the “herd.”

We live in a gilded age in which the permaculture and food movements have merged, joined forces, and spawned thousands of brilliant “offspring,” further blurring the dubious divide between “real farmers” and the rest of us. But whether you are a *bona fide* farmer, a “backyard warrior,” a food fanatic, or some unique hybrid thereof, nurturing green life, growing food, and feeding others will always be a timely mission and potent antidote to the latest, soul-crushing news cycle.

Apologists for corporate agriculture reflexively impugn “organic” and “regenerative” solutions for the world’s thorniest problems – food, climate, and energy – while rationalizing the continued necessity of their extractive model. But the sum effect of all of us energized amateurs goes far beyond bushels per acre, or dollars per hour.

Enlightened horticulture on any scale also nourishes the soul and the heart, while supporting vibrant, local community, on so many levels. For a growing legion of micro-producers, the *raison d’être* is no longer simply production and sales, but also longterm stewardship, soil building and carbon sequestration, education, community, inspiration, and legacy.

Because now, we’re *all* “farming on the fringe.”

Danny Botkin stewards Laughing Dog Farm, an organic, mission-driven homestead in Gill.

TFHS SPORTS from page A1

of turn-around shots and a few skillful layups gave them a 24-20 halftime lead. The teams played even in the second half, and with 33 seconds to go, Turners clung to a 2-point lead, 43-41.

At 23 seconds, a Blue foul made it a 1-point game. Then the Cardinal D came up with the ball and scored the backbreaker with 8 seconds on the clock to take the game by a point, 44-43.

Dabney Rollins scored her usual double digits, putting up 11 points. Hailey Bogosz and Lily Spera scored 8 points each. Fleming, who returned from injury, got 7 points, while Sarah Waldron (4), Vanessa Moreno (3), and Lindsay Whiteman (2) also scored points for Powertown.

Then on Tuesday, January 22, the oh-and-11 Turners Falls Thunder hosted the Green Wave of Greenfield.

Before the varsity game, Turners won a minor victory as their JV team beat Green 38-27. The Green Shirts in the bleachers were a little stunned after that loss, but it didn’t take them long to recover. And there were a lot of Green fans in attendance.

The Blues were mostly parents and students, but the Green Wave contingent included all sorts of townfolk, including the entire cheer squad. They cheered and clapped throughout the game, even rivaling the noise from the Turners Falls students.

On the court, Powertown surprised the favorites, matching Greenfield 9-9 with 3:23 left in the first quarter. Then Rollins hit a basket underneath to give Turners their second lead of the night. On the next possession, the Blue D got the ball, and Turners went up 13-9.

But that’s when it all fell apart for Powertown. Greenfield went on an incredible 40-0 run to close out the first half at 49-13.

Turners regained some of their composure in the second half, outscoring the Wave 12-11 with 7 seconds left in the third, but as luck would have it, Green scored 5 additional points in those 7 seconds to give them a 65-25 point lead going into the final period.

Both defenses came alive in the fourth, with Turners scoring 9 points to the Fielders’ 8.

Nine different players scored for Powertown. Rollins led the team with 14 points, followed by Bogosz (4), Whiteman, Moreno, and Fleming (3), Waldron, Lucy Spera, and Lily Spera (2), and Eliza Johnson (1).

Turners has little time to rest as they travel to Deerfield on Thursday to take on the Lady Frontiers.

Football

New England 37 – Kansas City 31 (OT)

I don’t have explicit expressed permission from the NFL to report on this game, but the Pats are going back to the Superbowl.

Wrestling

On Saturday, January 12, Franklin Tech’s Brody Wood got his 100th career victory at the Burt Burger Invitational held at Pelham High.

But Mr. Wood’s name won’t be the only addition to the banners hanging in Franklin’s gym. The Tech wrestling team might earn three additions to their gym banners this year. According to coach Joe Gamache, Kyle Brunelle, who wrestles at 138, is also closing in on the century mark and may get it this weekend at the State Vocational Wrestling Championships.

And as a team, the Franks are on track to win a third consecutive Suburban League North Championship – they can win it outright with a victory over Frontier. Tech will be hosting the Division III Western Mass Tournament on Saturday, February 9.

Boys Basketball

TFHS 65 – Athol 31

This weekend was typical for New England. The first winter storm of the year blanketed the region, and then an Arctic front dropped the temps to below zero. By Monday, I was feeling a little cabin fever, so I decided to go to the Frontier-Palmer basketball game.

The Frontier Red Hawks are currently 10-1 and will come to Turners this Friday. I recognized several people at the game, including several scouts from Turners who were sizing up the competition. Incidentally, the Hawks were down 9 points at the beginning of the fourth quarter, but came back to win by 7.

On Thursday, January 17, the Turners Falls boys’ team traveled to Athol and defeated the Red Raiders, 65-31.

Because of a book foul, Athol was able to build a quick and temporary 9-5 lead. But that was it for the Raiders. Even without Chace Novak and Jovanni Ruggiano in the lineup, Blue Thunder stormed out to a 42-17 halftime lead.

In the fourth, with the result pretty much determined, both coaches liberally substituted their bench players. The starters didn’t just go away – along with the fans, they loudly encouraged the relief players.

Ryan Kucenski led Blue in this one with 12 points, Anthony Peterson hit four field goals and a foul shot for 10. Tyler Lavin scored 9 points, and Jaden Whiting also scored 9 by sinking three long distance shots. Also helping out with points were Ryan Campbell (7), Kyle Dodge (5), Avias Politas (4), Brendan Driscoll and Jeremy Russell (3), Nester Rodriguez (2), and Ryan Duclos (1).

Then on Wednesday, the 10-1 Frontier Red Hawks came to town. For the second straight evening, Powertown played the role of the underdog. And for the second straight

night, Turners made a game of it.

Blue skyrocketed out to an 11-2 lead, though by the end of the quarter, the Hawks had narrowed the margin to 17-8. In the second quarter, Turners grew cold and Red took advantage, pulling down rebounds on both ends of the court. This combination of missed shots and lost rebounds gave the Birds a 31-17 lead.

Turners pulled within 10 points, but were unable to make up any more ground. At the half, Frontier led by 31-20, and after three, Turners trailed by 10, 47-37. In the fourth, the Raiders pulled ahead and won the game by 19 points, 70-51.

The loss evens Powertown’s record to 7-7. They get back on the court on Friday against the Green Wave of Greenfield.

Swimming

Ludlow 100 – TFHS 51 (Boys)

Ludlow 112 – TFHS 48 (Girls)

Last Friday the Turners Falls swim teams traveled to the Ludlow Boys and Girls Club to take on the Ludlow Lions.

In the boys’ meet, Cam Bradley won two events: the 200 freestyle, which he swam in 2:07.13, and the 100 butterfly, which he finished in 59.52. Nik Martin won the 500 freestyle in 6:50.08.


In the girls’ lanes, two Turners Falls swimmers swept their individual events, and Powertown won the 200 medley relay. Olivia Whittier won the 50 freestyle in 28.57 and the 100 breaststroke in 1:17.28.

Jade Tyler was the other double winner. She took the gold in the 100 butterfly (1:10.90) and the 500 freestyle (6:08.37). The Turners relay team of Allison Wheeler, Whittier, Tyler, and Lillian Poirier won the 200 medley in 2:14.96.



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

French King
Restaurant & Motel



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

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE
SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam
Main Road, Gill
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair



Stay
tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

GMRSD from page A1

Two Turners Falls High School students spoke on the topic during the meeting's public comment period. The first was Madison McCassie, a junior who spoke at the January 8 meeting, then sent a Letter to the Editors of this newspaper asserting the student body was critical of Leonard's leadership and engagement.

"I'd like to apologize for putting stress on somebody going through any illness," McCassie began. "However, there is still a majority asking for change." She handed school committee members printouts of surveys she had taken of 10th to 12th grade students, and criticized a letter superintendent Michael Sullivan wrote in response to hers, which she described as "retaliation."

"We, as students, understand that implementing punishments stretches many of the faculty thin," she said. "But this is no excuse.... We should implement restitution to those that are victims in such events," she continued. "Instead, students that have dealt with similar situations are being used as examples, or pawns, in mediating acts of racism."

McCassie was followed by sophomore Kate Graves. "I am faced with many conflicts," Graves told the committee. "However, I can safely say I have never had the urge to take them to the current leaders that rank higher than the teachers."

"Daily, I hear derogatory words being used by students, and have approached many educators about the instances," she said. "Nothing came of this, as there is no effective protocol.... When circumstances begin to become overwhelming, the victim and any students involved have the option to partake in 'mediation'."

Finding of Facts

The committee reviewed memos from both Sullivan and Leonard on the issue. "Examining how the secondary school responds to incidents of civil rights harassment has revealed there has been a high level of bias incidents, as well as a high level of other forms of disciplinary infractions," Sullivan said.

"It's like an onion - there's layers to this work, and the more we look, the more we see that there's a lot to be done, and it's serious work."

Incidents of harassment can be reported via a form on the district website, or by contacting Gill Elementary principal Conor Driscoll for complaints related to racism, and pupil services director Dianne Ellis for those related to gender equity.

In response to a request from the school committee, Leonard submitted a detailed explanation of the roles various other staff members - the assistant principal, dean of students, justice center paraprofessional, behavior interventionist, and school resource officer - are expected to play in addressing student misbehavior.

"I want to state clearly that all reported incidents of civil rights violations and other incidents of harassment this school year have been properly investigated," Leonard wrote.

"Increasing staff and wider school community understanding of the rationale and application for use of both traditional consequences and restorative practices is an area needing improvement," the memo read, "as is thorough communication of this rationale to staff and families on a case-by-case basis."

"It's not just an understanding problem," Sullivan added to the committee. "If we want to do some of this labor-intensive [restorative] work, do we have the people to do it, and the time to do it?"

According to the procedures, the school resource officer, a new position on the Montague police payroll filled by Officer Dan Miner, "does not participate in school-based disciplinary investigations, decision-making, or consequences," and focuses instead on "non-disciplinary supports and services."

Leonard's memo also explained that "behavioral interventions and consequences" for students in the schools' therapeutic programs "may differ from the general guidelines."

Reassurance and Buy-In

"One of the things that I heard clearly from the kids... is a timeline," Erving representative Theresa Kolodziej told Sullivan. "It's been five weeks, and nothing seems to have happened. There needs to be a time component that will reassure students, and the public in general... We can't take a long time to do these things at their expense."

"There has been an immediate response," Sullivan replied. "That's not easily translatable into 'we want to see X number fewer complaints, or more suspensions' - that's going to take a little bit more time."

Montague member Michael Langknecht suggested that a "student-generated code of conduct" might help. "The memo describes our process, but I've heard students say they're not buying in," he said. "They don't have confidence in it, and I think that buy-in is a more important piece than us refining this process."

The committee discussed the series of stakeholder input forums being facilitated currently by the Center for Educational Services. Some parents have complained that the first forum held for them last week was overrun by non-parent community members. The second parent forum is scheduled for this Thursday.

Lines of Authority

The committee also reviewed the district's policies governing public participation at school committee meetings, public complaints about school, communications between staff and school committee members, and "line and staff relations."

Complaints about school personnel, the policies state, should be submitted in writing. They should be taken up first with the subject of the complaint, and then their supervisor, and so on up the line of authority.

Staff are required to contact the school committee through the superintendent, and notify him if they seek to "appeal" any "administra-

tive decisions" by approaching the committee directly. "[I]n public session the Committee will not hear personal complaints of school personnel," the policies add.

Montague member Jen Lively asked for a review of these policies to be placed on a future agenda.

Budgets

The committee unanimously approved a preliminary budget of \$19,740,914 for FY'20, in advance of the announcement of state aid estimates from the governor's office. They had met a week previously to pore over the budget line by line.

They also heard good news from business manager Joanne Blier about the current year's finances. "The operating statement for Fiscal '19 is looking better than I have seen in quite a few years - since I've been here, actually," she told them..

Tuition from Erving has been higher than anticipated. "When we built the budget, we assumed about 70% of the Erving students would come to us for 7th grade, which is pretty typical," she explained. "But every single 6th-grade student from Erving came to us this year." This is currently estimated to result in a \$135,000 improvement in revenue.

Chapter 71 transportation aid from the state is also up, as is a line for "miscellaneous revenue"; on the expense side, there have been savings due to employees opting for less costly insurance plans.

All in all, Blier's calculations predicted a surplus of nearly \$450,000, as compared with the budget. This could be put into revolving accounts, she said, or used to rebuild the district's "excess and deficiency" account, the equivalent of free cash. The preliminary budget approved for next year would draw a scant \$50,000 from E&D, which has become depleted in recent years.

Buildings

Blier also passed along a request from the town of Montague that the committee reconsider its priority ranking for capital expenditures from that town's FY'20 budget, as not all requests are likely to be funded. After considerable conversation, the committee voted that the top priority remain sidewalk repair at Turners Falls High School, an estimated cost to Montague of \$67,778, but also recommended that to fund it, the town tap into a stabilization fund it set aside last year for the schools using revenue from a new solar array on town land.

They elevated the priority for a new truck, for \$35,344, to second place. Only two trucks can currently plow, and only one can sand, Blier said. Third, at \$21,000, was the installation of new pillars already purchased for the front of Sheffield. The old ones are rotten, but are not believed to be structurally significant.

The school committee discussed the lease with Montague for the schools in that town, which is being renegotiated for another 15-year term. One outstanding issue is Montague's use of Hillcrest Elementary

**LEGAL NOTICE
FY 2019 CDBG APPLICATION - PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF MONTAGUE**

The Town of Montague will hold a public hearing on **January 28, 2019** at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA to solicit public response to the Town's submission of an FY 2019 Massachusetts **Community Development Block Grant** (CDBG) application to the Department of Housing and Community Development. The snow date for the public hearing is February 4, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the same location.

The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the contents of this application. The town will be applying for the following activities: social service programs provided by Life Path Inc., The Brick House, Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) and Western Massachusetts Training Consortium and a construction project for the Spinner Park Restoration Project. The Town of Montague will contract with Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) to administer the CDBG Program.

The Town encourages residents to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity. HRA will be available to discuss the application and update the status of the Town's FY 2017 and FY 2018 CDBG programs. The Town of Montague Planner, HRA, Life Path, MCSM, The Brick House and Western Massachusetts Training Consortium representatives will be available to discuss the FY 2019 CDBG application's activities.

The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider.
Town of Montague Selectboard

as a polling station, which principal Sarah Burstein recently told the committee is disruptive to education.

Blier said that Montague town administrator Steve Ellis had requested "elections" be added to a section of the existing lease that allows the town to use gymnasiums and cafeterias for "Annual and Special Town Meetings" and "Meetings of Town Boards and Committees," at no charge.

"Given past discussion about Hillcrest being used, and how disruptive it is," Gill member Bill Tomb said, "and since it's listed here what types of facilities they want to be able to use, we can simply label all the rooms in Hillcrest, and none of them is a gymnasium or an auditorium."

Committee members giggled at the proposal. "I didn't want to go there, Bill, but I thought that myself," said chair Jane Oakes of Gill.

"I don't want to tie us down for 15 years," said Lively. "What if they build a great building in town?" She suggested that Sheffield Elementary might be a more appropriate building to use. The committee voted to extend the lease by another 60 days while negotiations continue.

Regionalization

Consultants from the Abrahams Group hired to investigate potential collaboration - up to and including a full merger - among the Gill-Montague, Franklin County Technical School, and Pioneer regional districts recently issued a report on their findings, which was presented last week to a public meeting of the area's "civic leaders."

The consultants recommended Gill-Montague and Pioneer form working groups to explore "efficiencies of operations" in a number of areas ranging from buildings to superintendents, and consider forming a supervisory union. They also recommended Gill-Montague and Franklin Tech synchronize transportation, bell schedules, and professional development. Finally, they counseled the districts "begin the discussion on forming a new 6-town region."

The committee was skeptical. "It's a lot of information to absorb," said Oakes. "I think we need more information on actual cost-sav-

ing that would be achieved through these processes before we make a move to form committees..."

"The idea of adding another district to the superintendent's workload is just a non-starter for me," said Langknecht. "One facilities director? You've gotta be kidding me!"

Lively added that she thought it was "premature to even assume that we would be moving forward" with discussion of a six-town region.

"Some people might have had the misconception that we were all ready to jump and move," said Gill's Timmie Smith. "I'm sort of comfortable with where we stand, fiscally."

"The reason this came about is because of declining enrollment," Kolodziej argued, "and you can't undo that, as a school system - you have to just cope with it."

But Blier disagreed. "Our foundation enrollment - kids that live in our towns - is very much the same," she said. "It's choice and charter that take the kids out of our buildings."

She also challenged the consultants' assumptions about Gill-Montague's fiscal position. "They show a \$300,000 deficit for Fiscal '20, and you all know that I gave you a balanced budget," she pointed out. "By the end of four years, they think we're going to be in deficit by \$400,000. That's nothing!"

By comparison, the consultants predicted that Pioneer, whose towns are in fact facing declines in foundation enrollment, will be \$3 million in the hole in the same time period.

Sullivan said that changes in the state aid formula could make a major difference to Gill-Montague. "A couple hundred thousand more could be all we need," he said.

"We do have a good population in the younger grades," said Lively. "We need to just keep more of them in our system, and meet our needs."

She said the outcome of the Powertown in the 21st Century process, which could mean fundamental changes in the structure and educational approach of the high school, could make it a more attractive option. "We shouldn't jump to conclusions, and we should look at this as an ongoing conversation," she concluded.



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

Free Mobile App with Mobile Check Deposit!

GREENFIELD NORTHAMPTON
Cooperative Bank Cooperative Bank
A Division of Greenfield Cooperative Bank

Avenue A, Turners Falls | 413-512-5012

BestLocalBank.com MEMBER FDIC MEMBER SIF

THE PEOPLES
PINT

OPEN DAILY LUNCH and DINNER
24 Federal St., Greenfield
773-0333 / thepeoplespint.com

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

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

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

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

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

THE SPIRIT SHOPPE

Homecooking
A Community Cooking Show
In Turners Falls

For a spot on this MCTV production
Email: HannahBrookman@gmail.com

Edward J. Terault
(413) 223-5494
www.REILCLEAN.com

Reil
CLEANING SERVICES LLC

• Complete Custodial Services •
• Bonded and Insured •

"We Don't Cut Corners, We Clean Them!"

Cleaning Franklin & Hampshire Counties since 1972

EDL Dealer in used Home Furnishings
SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets
Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make Lamps Lite! *Open 7 Days a Week*

GOOD USED USABLES

POLLINATORS from page A1

bee expert Dr. Robert Gegear, assistant professor at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and director of the New England Bee-cology Project. He urged all to think of biodiversity – and pollination – as involving more than honeybees.

There are currently 300,000 species of flowering plants, with the majority pollinated by animals, including insects. A third of our food requires pollination, and strategies and citizen action for conservation and restoration are critical to help reverse the decline in pollinating insects.

Although “agriculturally managed” honeybees are important in agriculture, Dr. Gegear pointed out that the honeybee is not relevant in the ecological context, where native pollinators are key, but in severe decline.

Because every species is unique, developing strategies to support pollinators in our own gardens and communities involves attention and research. It also involves learning how to avoid non-native plant species and chemical pesticides.

Luckily, there are a number of organizations which can help, such as the Pollinator Partnership (pollinator.org), and many other resources available on the organizers’ website, wmassbees.org.

Let the Grass Grow

Evan Abramson, land-use planner with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), said that bees pollinate 45% of Massachusetts-grown food, with about 400 species of bees in our state. He discussed the FRCOG’s proposal for a regional plan to support pollinator habitat across Franklin County.

One good way to start protecting pollinator habitat – and save energy as well – is to mow lawns, fields, and roadsides less often, and avoid times critical for the local habitat. For example, with roadside man-

agement, if adjacent land is mowed no more than 6 feet wide, with any additional land mowed once a year, these reductions can reduce costs, fuel, runoff and erosion, while protecting valuable pollinator habitat.

The issue of mowing was a theme for several speakers, who advocated setting mower blades higher, mowing less often, and waiting until after flowers are finished blooming. These simple changes, they said, can make a big difference to native insects.

FRCOG is currently offering Franklin town selectboards the opportunity to apply for funding to support the development of pollinator protection in their communities.

“The Symposium began a dialogue between Western Mass Pollinator Networks and large land-owners, such as towns and institutions,” Peggy MacLeod wrote of the gathering afterward. “Attendees seemed inspired to adopt land-care strategies that will not only help pollinators, but also create beautiful, living landscapes – while saving money and reducing fossil fuel use.”

An important part of the program included examples of strategies for sustainable land care, ranging from Great Barrington’s regional pollinator corridor plan to local pollinator-friendly planting in Northampton, Greenfield, and Turners Falls. In all cases, the point was made that the efforts had to involve as many people as possible, designed as bottom-up, not top-down.

And all efforts depended on volunteer help, which was reportedly both available and enthusiastic, when the projects were well-planned.

Pollinators and the Public

Tim Johnson, director of the Botanic Garden at Smith College, presented the ecological changes made there, from less lawn mowing to developing a Landscape Master Plan. He described what change takes: “a

What’s the Problem?

“Seventy-five percent of the world’s food crops depend on pollination by at least one of the 20,000 species of pollinators, including bees, butterflies, moths, wasps, beetles, birds, bats, and other vertebrates.”

In 2016, the UN’s Intergovernmental Panel for Biodiversity Ecosystem Services’s pollinator assessment went on to warn that more than 40% of invertebrate pollinators, especially bees and butterflies, face extinction.

Major causes of pollinator decline include use of pesticides, including neonicotinoids (or neonics) and glyphosate (in Monsanto’s Roundup). Neonics are commonly used in agriculture but also by garden centers. These poisons stay in the plant, and are transferred to pollinators.

Friends of the Earth (foe.org/neonicotinoids-glyphosate/) reports that: “Unbeknownst to consumers, many “bee-friendly” garden plants have been pre-treated with these bee-killing pesticides. Exposure to neonics can kill bees directly and also makes them more susceptible to other impacts like pests, diseases, loss of habitat and a changing climate.”

The European Union has halted use of three neonics because

of their toxic effects. France and other countries have moved to ban glyphosate over time. This common but deadly product is the most widely used herbicide worldwide. In the US, its use has contributed to wiping out milkweed, the key food for young monarch butterflies.

**What to Do?**

First of all, don’t use chemicals in your gardens and fields, and check with suppliers to make sure any plants you buy are not treated with neonics. Symposium participants were given a list of local “trusted sources for pesticide free plants and seeds.” (For a copy or to add local suppliers contact wmassbees@gmail.com.)

wmassbees@gmail.com.)

Secondly, a bill, H.44041, has been introduced in the Massachusetts legislature to protect the state’s pollinators. This “Act to Protect Massachusetts Pollinators” would, among other things, move to limit use of neonicotinoids.

Pollinator Corridors

Just as woodland creatures need unbroken habitat in which to move, forage and breed, pollinating insects need to find food sources in contiguous geographical areas.

Pollinator corridors or pathways serve to “rebind fragmented landscapes with thoughtful, planned connections between green spaces.”

This is the idea behind the Great Barrington Pollinator Action Plan, the plans of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and groups working together in Northampton.

The website www.wmassbees.org contains many resources to access, including plant lists, a list of habitat designers, a calendar of events we know about, and a section on pollinator pathways.

And on a sister website, 1001PollinatorGardens.org, you can list your own pollinator garden, certify it, and put it on a map of western Massachusetts!

few dedicated people, a few success stories, and the ability to leverage institutional priorities so the work makes sense to institutions.”

Owen Wormser, landscape designer with Local Harmony, described his experiences designing and planting urban pollinator gardens with community funding and volunteer labor as “a template for how towns can affect change quickly.”

Fans of the Hungry Ghost Bakery on State Street in Northampton may value the corner bakery’s beautifully landscaped medicinal garden out front, as well as its excellent wood-fired sourdough bread. The herbal plantings have attracted so many pollinators, Wormser said, that he concludes that they are “good medicine” for the insects, too.

The project was based on land donated by Smith College, community contributions of the design and plants, and hundreds of hours of volunteer labor. With an earlier group, Wormser worked on volunteer plantings of 500 donated perennials at the River Valley Market.

Up in Franklin County

Landscape designer Tom Sullivan of Turners Falls described, with vibrant photos, development of a native perennial pollinator-friendly garden at the new John Zon Community Center in Greenfield. The project, which he helped design, was spearheaded by local women activists and volunteer labor.

This pollinator-friendly space will hopefully expand as others in the area make similar plantings. The Energy Park on the southern side of town is another center for a potential “pollinator corridor.”

In Turners Falls, Local Harmony collaborated with students from the Franklin County Technical School’s horticultural program to redo the sidewalk planters along Avenue A with 800 perennials. Here Wormser made the point others also emphasized: such a planting project must include continuation in care.

After all, as any gardener knows, it is not enough to plant and leave.

SEWER from page A1

WPCF operating budget increase of \$375,000 over that which had been approved by the annual town meeting the previous spring. The result was an increase in residential sewer rates of 71%.

At that time, town officials warned that another large hike could be expected in FY’20. But on Wednesday, town accountant Carolyn Olson predicted only a “small increase” in rates. She said she doubted that the cut in the operating budget would produce a reduction in rates next year, because residential sewer revenues will be needed to finance an increase in debt service, as well as a number of special projects.

Sewer rates are set in the fall by the selectboard, based on the budget passed by town meeting. The “sewer budget” voted at annual town meeting in May is actually four separate budgets: the WPCF operating budget; a Department of Public Works “subsidiary,” paying DPW workers who help maintain the sewer system; service on debt; and employee benefits.

The preliminary operating budget presented by McDonald this week maintains the current staffing level at seven, despite an evaluation by the state Department of Environmental Protection that called for “8.6” employees. McDonald said that, in communications with the state,

he had pointed to plants with even smaller staff serving larger towns. He said the state “isn’t in any hurry” to resolve the staffing issue.

“I’m a little gun shy because of recent history,” said acting finance committee chair Mike Naughton, referring to projected savings in the 2020 budget. “I just don’t want any surprises.”

Mystery Water

At the end of the hearing, McDonald presented an analysis of the cost of “infiltration and inflow” (I&I) to the system. “Infiltration” is storm and groundwater entering the sewers through cracks in pipes; “inflow” originates in storm drains, basements, and other types of drainage systems, often illegally connected to sewers. Residents’ sewer bills are calculated based on the amount of drinking water they use.

By comparing the total flows received by the Montague and Erving treatment plants – Erving treats sewage from Millers Falls – with water usage recorded by the towns’ water districts, McDonald estimated that 26.09% of the flow to the Montague plant was I&I. The calculation for I&I flow into the Erving treatment plant was a sobering 63.46%.

There will be a special article on the annual town meeting agenda to fund a study of the Millers Falls I&I.

WENDELL from page A1

section’s roadside frontage, and the western section is split in turn by a power line right-of-way, which New England Power obtained in 1922 from Marion Whitney.

In 2010, New England Power’s successor, National Grid, leased the property from its then-owner, the Lake Grove-Maple Valley School, and built a fenced-in area with temporary substation equipment within the right-of-way. The town took the land on both sides of the road in 2011 for \$2,385.47 in back taxes.

Last week, the electric company contacted town coordinator Nancy Aldrich in order to “lease or purchase” the parcel, in order “to make

refurbishments to several pieces of equipment within the fenced in site.” The company said it hopes to install a mobile substation in order to keep the grid operational while it repairs the site’s existing equipment between October 2019 and October 2020.

At Wednesday night’s meeting, the town selectboard discussed the phone call and email, and reviewed maps of the parcel. As a group, they decided to invite a representative from National Grid to their February 20 meeting in order to clarify what the company can offer the town.

Additional reporting was contributed by Josh Heinemann.



Top: Last week’s symposium was attended by representatives of many area towns and colleges. Bottom: The perennial medicinal garden at the Hungry Ghost bakery in Northampton, shown in fall.

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

COUTURE BROS.
Since 1910
Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor
Commercial • Residential • Industrial
“SERVING WESTERN MASS FOR OVER 100 YEARS”
www.couturebros.com
400 Avenue A Turners Falls, MA • 413-863-4346

EDWARDS TREE SERVICE
Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist
Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture
Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability
WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties
413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

Pipione's
SPORT SHOP
• Fishing supplies; Live bait
• Fishing & Hunting Licenses
• Paintball & CO₂ Refills
• Guns & Ammo
Open 7 am 7 days a week
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246

LEVERETT from page A1

d'Errico asked Ingram and police chief Scott Minckler to explore the possibility of intertown cooperation, perhaps with Shutesbury or Wendell, for efficiency's sake.

The New Salem relay tower is currently out of commission, and firefighters are expressing no confidence in what they are describing as an unsafe communication milieu.

The selectboard is leery of the costs, and has not taken a position yet.

Dire Plume

A handful of residents from the "Plume" area of South Leverett, whose groundwater has been contaminated by leachate from the former landfill, attended the meeting to ensure ongoing progress with the proposed Amherst water line extension to their neighborhood.

D'Errico explained that, in his opinion, a new municipal well envisioned for the water-rich zone at the intersection of Leverett, Shutesbury, and Cushman Roads is a non-starter, because "no one of scientific stature can assure me the plume won't migrate." Which leaves two choices: the aforementioned water line extension, which residents support, and land-takings, which they don't.

Pat Duffy of Cushman Road went through the group's concerns, and the board assured them nothing would happen fast.

Mark Doubleday of 101 Teawaddle Hill Road asked about a storage tank to hold more water than is currently being delivered in bottled form. "We have no water, zero," he said. The periodic flushing of his system has caused equipment blowouts, and the next day he had to help the Pelham water guru Buzzy Booth, who is 82, pull out his submersible pump for replacement.

Doubleday, 65, said he felt sad and desperate. He said it was a travesty that he had to live this way. His wife runs a daycare on site, and his daughter just had a baby, so the situation is dire.

He asked if he could dig a shallow well; selectman Tom Hankinson offered to mediate with the board of health, but made no promises.

Other Business

Librarian Natani Halasz crunched her budget with the finance committee, hewing to the suggested 1.5% increase for all town departments. Included was \$945 to be spent on new materials per the state library association, which requires a certain percentage of the budget be allotted or face sanctions. Some rural libraries, like Plainfield, are not bound by this because they are not members of the state association.

Mike Bucello, candidate for a temporary highway department job, was introduced by road boss David Finn, and recommended by contractor Isaiah Robeson. While not fully credentialed, he is needed, and the board voted to hire him.

The two-year process to change the town clerk position from elected to appointed continues. It requires voter approval twice.

Town treasurer and collector Jason Noschese is asking for an additional eight hours a week, from 32 to 40. Selectwoman Julie Shively explained that he used to be subcontracted by the previous collector DeeAnn Civello to do the taxes; now he's swamped, doing it all.

The board agreed to add eight hours to his schedule, and see how it goes.

The new Airbnb law signed by the

governor allows towns to levy a local impact fee of 3%. To do that requires registering with the state. The board chose to take the temperature of the body politic before committing to any decision, but to get authorization for the taxation "whether we implement it or not," said d'Errico.

The town hall chimney may need repair, possibly including re-pointing and re-lining.

The school sprinkler system has more problems, including out-of-code pipe drop lengths, previously undiscovered and undisclosed. Shively grumbled about contractors coming in and doing a poor job and the town finding out later.

The sprinkler contractor wrote a letter explaining how it may have missed code violations in its previous assessments; selectman Hankinson vouched for the company's overall competence.

The board signed an agreement to pay the county government \$250 annually for the recycling of wood pellet bags.



Local Group Heads South for Dialogue

By **MIKE JACKSON**

LEVERETT – This weekend, 18 Western Massachusetts residents will travel to Beaufort County in South Carolina's lowcountry to engage in a facilitated cultural exchange. They will be joined by some of the Kentuckians who visited Leverett last year during the Hands Across the Hills program. The trip will be answered with a June visit to our region by contingents from the Southern states.

According to Leverett's Sharon Dunn, Montague residents Deb Snow and Barbara White attended the public Hands Across the Hills events last year, "and thought it would be a good idea to have another bridging project that was focused on race and class." They helped bring a local group together, and chose a region where they had pre-

existing ties to find counterparts.

The new exchange project is called "Bridge4Unity." Paula Green, who facilitated last year's dialogues, was recruited to help with facilitation this year.

But while Bridge4Unity is "inspired by" Hands Across the Hills, and while some of the Letcher County, Kentucky residents who visited Leverett last year will be involved, it is not a continuation of the same project, said Dunn. Hands Across the Hills was initiated by the Leverett Alliance, which formed in response to the 2016 election.

"The members are from a wider geographical range than simply Leverett," Dunn said – from Springfield to Shelburne Falls – and the "self-formed group" from Massachusetts includes an equal number of white and African-American participants, as well as two indig-

enous North Americans.

The group will join another interracial group of 15 South Carolinians, and five from Letcher County. "It's a lot of people to have a big dialogue circle," said Dunn. Between the facilitated conversation sessions, they will tour regional culture and history.

Beaufort County, comprised mainly of islands, was home after the Civil War to a majority population of freedmen; West African cultural elements were preserved and revived, and the Gullah language thrived. Today much of the county has been developed as a resort area, and according to US Census figures is over 70% white.

"We hope to come to be able to listen to each other civilly, and begin to understand more deeply people's histories," Dunn said, "and how we can begin to move forward."

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Ultraviolet Malfunction; Hydro Split

By **GEORGE BRACE**

Tuesday's Gill selectboard meeting lasted for three hours, with much of that time focused on issues at Gill Elementary School. A group of residents was on hand to ask questions and express concerns over the continuing delays in the completion of the well water treatment system and its future oversight. The board and residents also discussed matters related to the recent flooding, and other concerns with the school facility.

Administrative assistant Ray Purington began the discussion with a report on the status of the treatment system. The system has been in the final test period required by the state Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) for approval, but recently experienced malfunctions. As a result of these malfunctions, on January 10, the school was forced to return to the use of bottled water for all needs other than toilets, in order to remain open to the public.

Purington said the system has been reviewed by multiple parties involved with its installation, including a representative from the manufacturer of the malfunctioning UV components, and two problems were identified with the UV system: a smudge on a lens, and a malfunction in a flow meter. The smudge was cleaned, and the flow meter was expected to be replaced on Wednesday.

Purington said a MassDEP representative will inspect the system on Thursday, and if it is functioning correctly, the school will be able to cease using bottled water as early as next Monday. He said that after the flow meter is installed, water samples will be sent to a lab for testing, and if they check out, MassDEP will then grant final approval of the system.

A resident at the meeting stated she had been troubled to witness students using the hand sanitizer in the bathrooms, but walking right by the temporary water stations without washing their hands. She also wondered if the town had made the right decision in selecting this system, and if the proper expertise had been employed in the project.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier explained that the system was designed by professional engineers, and installed by certified professionals, all of which work had to be approved by MassDEP.

Questions were also raised about the system's complexity, and who was qualified to monitor and operate it. Board members replied that an operator will be checking it monthly, and a custodian currently checks certain warning indicators, but additional oversight was a good idea.

Another resident said that, in addition to whatever monitoring was going to take place, he would like the water test results posted somewhere people could see them. Purington said he should be able to post them, perhaps on the town website.

Regional Schools

Later in the meeting, selectboard chair Greg Snedeker provided a recap of the January 16 meeting of the Gill-Montague regional school district's "civic leaders" meeting, at which the subject of regionalization of school districts was discussed.

Snedeker said both he and the school committee had a lot of questions coming out of the meeting. He said it was important that the public should know that it was just a report and discussion, and no decisions were made. He said the regionalization discussion focused on middle and high schools, not elementary schools, but he and the board expressed their support for local elementary schools.

Board member John Ward commented on the desirability of increasing federal discretionary budget funds towards education to aid struggling school districts.

The board voted in favor of applying to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) for reimbursement of the Gill Elementary roof replacement project.

Other needed capital projects at the school were also discussed, including work on the electrical system, and new floor tiles. Snedeker pointed out that all these projects remained on the selectboard's radar, and information on their status was available in the capital improvement committee's annual report.

Regional Governance

The board signed a letter put together by the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) requesting that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) deny FirstLight Hydro Generating Company's request for an expedited comment period on their proposal to split into two companies – one that would own Northfield Mountain, the other the Turners Falls hydro facilities – and transfer its licenses to the new companies.

The letter requests a comment period of 90 days, to begin after the end of the federal government shutdown and resumption of normal operations. It also requests that Gill be granted "intervenor" status in FirstLight's application for the license transfers, and states the town's concerns with the proposed transfers. These include the impact such a split might have on FirstLight's responsibility to account for the projects' impacts on the river banks, habitat, and water quality, along with its potential impact on tax revenues to affected towns.

The board reviewed FRCOG's District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) request form, and selected the projects Gill would like assistance with.

Of the possible planning projects, the board selected as its top priority "regional planning/technical assistance for large scale utility projects" – specifically "Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project/Turners Falls Dam FERC relicensing" – and as its second, "open space and recreation plan update."

For regional projects, the board chose "explore feasibility or continue work to establish new shared services" as its first priority, and "local official continuing education workshops" as the second. Several other planning and regional projects were also requested.

The board reviewed and approved a FRCOG proposal for a regional animal control officer. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office would provide the officer, and participating towns would reimburse the FCSO based on an assessment formula including population and property valuations.

Bob Dean, the FRCOG's director of regional services, was originally scheduled to attend the meeting to answer questions about his agency's recommendation that Gill seek a Community Compact grant for a regional municipal accounting project, but FRCOG had already reached the limit of available Community Compact funding, and there was no need for Gill to apply.

Gill will still be one of the towns taking part in the program, which seeks to address a need for municipal accounting skills identified by the state Uniform Municipal Accounting System, which has unique aspects requiring specific training not covered in standard programs.

Other Business

Cemetery commission chair Joan Pillsbury and members Shirley Flagg and Gary Bourbeau were in attendance to provide an update and announce next steps in the creation of a green cemetery.

The site, to be called "Riverside Woods," is located on a 2.8-acre parcel at the corner of Main and Mountain roads. Pillsbury said she'd sent a letter to explaining the project, which should appear in the town newsletter shortly. She said work had already begun on the project, but further clearing would be required.

Discussion turned to maintenance costs and supervision of the cemetery, both of which aspects have yet to be finalized. It was noted that it's a common practice to appoint the DPW to oversee activity at cemeteries.

The board approved buy orders for FY'20 diesel fuel and heating oil. The heating oil buy order was reduced from 3,500 to 3,000 gallons, due to lower expected demand resulting from the town hall and library insulation projects.

Colonial Power Group has suggested a group meeting of representatives of towns going through the electrical aggregation approval process in western Massachusetts, including Gill and many others, at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 12, at the FRCOG building. John Ward was volunteered, and accepted the position of representing Gill.

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

Crowd Mourns Two Found Dead

By KAREN SHAPIRO MILLER

GREENFIELD – About 80 people gathered on the snow-covered Greenfield Common in a vigil, called by Greenfield town council president Karen “Rudy” Renaud, to mourn the two homeless community members who were found dead on Monday afternoon in a tent behind the McDonald’s on the Mohawk Trail.

As of press time, authorities had identified one of the deceased as Clayton Wheeler, 51, but had not yet located next of kin of the other.

“It’s senseless that they had to lose their lives for us to pay attention,” said Kerri

Dionne-Santos, a co-worker and friend of one of the victims. One speaker at the vigil estimated that there are about 200 people in the community without housing.

Dionne-Santos and others have started a Facebook fundraiser page titled “Hope for the Homeless: a drive to keep the homeless warm.” They are seeking coats, hats, blankets and other winter gear.

Items can be dropped off at Kentucky Fried Chicken at 242 Mohawk Trail and at the Recovery Project on Federal Street in Greenfield, while financial contributions can be made through the Facebook fundraiser.



Many turned out for the vigil, arranged on short notice. “RIP The homeless on the common,” one sign read.

MONTAGUE REPORTER

ON THE ROAD



Heather Reed, Brian Jones, Quentin, and Teddy take a moment to read us in Tübingen, Germany just after New Year’s Day.

Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to editor@montaguereporter.org.

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

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.
SCSC “Rock solid service with level advice”
Complete Masonry Supply
 Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more. **Idéal**
 298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322
 and at our new location 529 S. Main St, Brattleboro or 802-579-1800
www.shanahansupply.com

Enjoy the Comfort of Insurance Protection

Competitive rates and discounts for all of your insurance needs!
 SINCE 1888 **A.H. Rist** INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
 159 Avenue A Turners Falls MA 413.863.4373
ahrist.com

Serving Home Grown Farm-inspired Food & Drink

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

Roundabout Books
a bookstore for book people
Wed - Sun: 12 to 5 pm
26 Kenwood St. Greenfield
(413) 773-0820
roundaboutbookstore.com

FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP
 144 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301 (413) 773-2567
 3 STATE STREET SHELburnE FALLS, MA 01370 (413) 625-2548

A BEAUTIFUL Smile Starts With Healthy Teeth
 GEETU SHOKEEN, DMD
Montague Dental Arts
 General Dentistry
 300 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 • 413-863-2288

Peter Waters Painting Services
 Interior/Exterior Custom Residential Fully Insured
 Office: 978-544-6534
 Cell: 413-461-5172
 Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

magpie
 • Pizzas
 • Entrees
 • Salads
 • Full Bar & Patio
magpiepizza.com
 21 Bank Row, Gfld. 413-475-3570
woodfired pizzeria

BLUE DRAGON APOTHECARY
 CUSTOM CRAFTED HERBAL PRODUCTS
 TRADITIONAL MEDICINES & HOLISTIC HEALTH
 OFFERING BODYWORK AND CONSULTATIONS
 RETAIL HOURS: TUE-FRI 10-6; SAT 10-4
 413-773-3730, INFO@BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM
 158 MAIN ST, SUITE 10 GREENFIELD, MA 01301
BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM

Totally FREE Checking ADVANTAGE #7
 Up to **\$25 Buy Back** of your unused checks and debit card from your old bank when you open a GSB checking account.
 View ALL the advantages of GSB Checking on our website.

Greenfield Savings Bank
 (413) 774-3191 • (413) 584-4441
greenfieldsavings.com
 *All items over \$10.00 may be subject to 1099 reporting.
 Member FDIC/Member DIF • Equal Housing Lender

DIEMAND FARM
Take the Chill Off!
 Homestyle meals available to heat & eat year-round
 Come see what’s cooking in our farm store!
 126 Mormon Hollow Road, Wendell, MA 01379
www.thediemandfarm.com

Bob's HOME PROS
 413-221-3837 WWW.BOBSHOMEPROS.COM
 25 Years Experience in Commercial and Residential Building & Remodeling

Follow the Sun into the Future

allEarth SOLAR PREMIER DEALER
GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE
 2 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield 413.772.3122
solarstoreofgreenfield.com
Quality and reliability you can count on.
 AllEarth Trackers are engineered and made in VT. A system that’s effective and efficient every day.
Panasonic Solar AUTHORIZED INSTALLER
 Artist: Christine Pellerin

MoRe

BARRY SCOTT PHOTO

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JANUARY 24, 2019

Above: Barry Scott of Montague City shared with us this photograph he took of the south end of the Patch, between the power canal (left) and Connecticut River (right), using a drone during Sunday's spectacular sunset.

A Cookbook, and a Cultural Snapshot



AUGUSTO PHOTO

The "Peace-Perfect Summer Corn Salad," made from Leslie Lomasson's recipe in the *Stirring the Pot* cookbook.

By EVELYN AUGUSTO

FRANKLIN COUNTY – My mother was a “foodie” decades before the American restaurant critic Gael Green coined the phrase in June of 1980. My mother was a foodie; her mother was a foodie; her sisters and aunts were all foodies! This clutch of matrons knew how to prepare delicious meals but did not necessarily possess the sophisticat-

ed palate for refined foods of “the gourmet.” They cooked together and lived together in cooperation with one another, sharing insights and cooking secrets, obscure spices and stories about injustice, unrequited love and local politics.

To be sure, they were foodies, not gourmet cooks, and there’s a difference. Unlike the famed chef Julia Child, the women in my familia seduced with food, nurtured

with food, healed the body, mind and spirit with food, and collected spiral-bound cookbooks.

Green wrote in *New York Magazine* of a character who “slips into the small Art Deco dining room of Restaurant d’Olympe... to graze cheeks with her devotees, serious foodies.” The term was embraced, virtually simultaneously, in both the United States and Britain, and came to define anyone who was obsessed with food.

My mother’s obsession with all-things food related culminated in an extensive library of those spiral-bound cookbooks – you know, the kind assembled by Methodist church groups and those of grassroots organizations, like the one The Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR) has just recently published.

Recently, I was handed a pristine copy of their cookbook *Stirring the Pot* to review, and was informed that FCCPR has organized around issues that affect the lives of Franklin County residents; according to the introduction to the cookbook, the group is “working to elect progressive candidates not beholden to corporate interests, and is striving

see **COOKBOOK** page B6

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN



LEVINE PHOTO

A branch of hemlock, whose needles make a vitamin C rich tea.

By ANNABEL LEVINE

TURNERS FALLS – Winter has finally arrived, and with it the cold and the snow that is currently burying my garden in about a foot of white powder. Basil and lamb’s quarters seed heads peek above the drifts, but most signs of life are tucked under the blanket and out of sight.

Our gardens may be resting, but the Great Falls Apple Corps is hard at work, keeping warm by plotting and scheming about all sorts of plant-related shenanigans come the spring.

Last winter we were just beginning our journey as the Great Falls Apple Corps. In our first year we spent time building foundations and observing where the group could fit in and make sense within our community. Part of this foundation work was applying for grants that would help put these observations into practice and enable us to grow in our second year.

We are excited to officially announce that the Great Falls Apple Corps has received two grants that will enable us to grow more food and community in downtown Turners Falls in 2019!

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) has given us \$750 to fund various initiatives at the Unity Park Community Garden. Although ironically situated next to a large body of water, the garden has no water source of its own. We currently run hoses across the parking lot to a spigot on the Montague Parks and Recreation fieldhouse to fill our water tank. This has been one of our greatest obstacles at the garden, and so we will use a portion of the grant money to install a rainwater collection system on the roof of our shed. There is also money earmarked for signage at the garden, and for a t-shirt fundraiser in the spring.

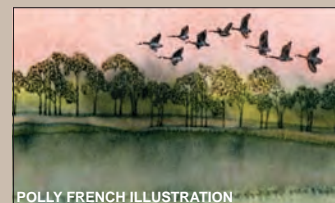
Our second grant comes from the Montague Cultural Council, and with \$253 we will be able to host three, free, “Pickling in the Park” events at Unity Park in 2019! Our events will take place in early summer, later summer, and early fall so as to enjoy the variety of vegetables that a New England season has to offer.

Last year, local farms like Just Roots, Atlas Farm, and Natural Roots, donated produce so that we were able to make colorful sauerkrauts, spicy cucumber pickles, and all sorts of unconventional combinations. This grant will enable us to purchase food processing supplies to have on hand so folks no longer have to schlep their own knives, cutting boards, and bowls to the park.

Each event will take place under the green shade tent adjacent to the playground, and picklers of all ages are welcome. Dates to be announced.

Wild Edible Spotlight #6: Eastern Hemlock Twigs and Needles

For last month’s forage spotlight we wrote about the White Pine, and we’re continuing the coniferous trend this month with another locally abundant evergreen, the hemlock. While sharing the name of the poison made famous by Socrates, the eastern see **APPLE CORPS** page B6



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER WAITING FOR SNOW

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT – January 17. Winter quarters this January morning has me snug up against the woodpile, taking comfort in the closeness of the simple oak, maple, and birch firewood that I carefully stacked months ago.

My January sun dial charts that pale pilgrim’s progress through the tall white pines on the ridge. You may recall, I record the season’s slow turning by the sun’s slow progress to the east. Bit by bit it is rising a minute or two earlier, by an imperceptible degree more eastward as it glimmers in the morning between the tree trunks.

I’m sick and tired of casting a baleful eye over the scraggly, scruffy landscape. No snow. Every scar in the earth here, every half-finished autumn chore, every frozen leaf pile and all the broken flower stems are exposed. In January, it isn’t supposed to be like this.

For sure, I’ve waited impatiently for the First Snow before, but usually December brings some relief. I fancy that having been born in that Christmas month many years ago now, that I belong to that snowscape as much as our Siberian pup, my constant companion. The two of us know something is missing out here. I know what it is, but he can only vaguely imagine it until the ground gets covered once again. But when will that happen?

No birds, no flowers, no white blanket, no skiing, no snowshoes, no *Snow-Bound* by Whittier, No – vember? No! It’s mid-January! How to earn our springtime Redemption if we haven’t suffered through the Purgatory of a long, cold, hard and snowy winter?

January 18. Porch-sitting at 7:15. Getting my buzz on strong black coffee. Few birds as of yet, just an early junco and cardinal, as I scratch out my morning observations into the notebook.

My writing desk is an old pine

board 15 inches wide, spanning my wooden Adirondack chair, arm to arm. This weathered chair must be close to 40 years old, made by Babe Fritz, an old Carlisle Avenue neighbor. The board itself I drew up from the dark cellar downstairs so long ago I can’t remember when.

My grandfather Abe hoarded boards and nails from the shipping department of the Millers Falls Company during the ‘40s and ‘50s, or even earlier, and stacked them down cellar. I’ve still got a lifetime, hell two lifetimes, of pine boards down there. This one, though, is just right for a writing desk. I get attached to old things like that, use them over and over, especially if they’ve got a connection with long-gone family and acquaintances.

Sitting here in the cold, at least my ink is not yet congealing, and I’ve got a little something going in my notebook. I still write long-hand, it feels more real and more connected than pecking away on the keyboard of the computer.

I’m feeling pretty good now about snow because of the ring around the Wolf Moon last night.

On our late night walk before bedtime, the dog and I ramble purposefully through the neighborhood and upper Millers village streets, just before midnight. He’s all dog business, on a mission, I just follow the upright plume of the husky tail. No stars, just that halo around the moon. For me, ever the optimist, that always means snow is on the way!

So just now, I don’t mind looking out over the barren backyard, knowing it will soon be obliterated by a purifying foot of the white stuff.

Hmm. A contradictory crowd of robins just flew up from the frozen frogpond. Long associated with spring, many linger here in the north now. They give out small little worried calls; perhaps they’re concerned about the dropping barometric pressure. A dozen see **WEST ALONG** page B4



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

A raven (*Corvus corax*) and a Canada jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*).

Pet of the Week

Bella is *not* your typical terrier. While she has some spunk, she is definitely more moderate than manic, content with leash walks and fetch, and forms a tight, affectionate bond with her immediate caretaker.

Though she responds well to re-direction when she meets dogs she doesn't like, Bella would be happi-

est as an "only child".

Bella could be your gal! She is currently residing in a foster home—please talk to Dakin's adoption staff if you'd like to meet her.

Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett at (413) 548-9898; in Springfield at (413) 781-4000; or at info@dpvhs.org.



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

"BELLA"

Senior Center Activities JANUARY 28 TO FEBRUARY 1

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Congregate meals are served Tuesday through Thursday at noon. Meal reservations must be made one day in advance by 11 a.m. All fitness classes are supported by a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs. Voluntary donations are accepted.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. Kitchen Manager is Jeff Suprenant. For more information, to make meal reservations, or to sign up for programs, call 863-9357. Messages can be left on machine when the center is not open.

M, W, F: 10:10 a.m. Aerobics;

10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise

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

Monday 1/28

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 1/29

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Wednesday 1/30

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

Thursday 1/31

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Friday 2/1

12 p.m. Pizza Party

1 p.m. Writers' Group

LEVERETT

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

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

Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregating meals. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with reservations required 2 days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

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

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

Monday 1/28

8:45 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch

1 p.m. Pitch/Bridge game

Tuesday 1/29

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

11:30 a.m. Homemade Lunch

Wednesday 1/30

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

12:15 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

Thursday 1/31

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

11:30 a.m. Congregate Lunch

Friday 2/1

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch

9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun

10:15 a.m. M3 Exercise Games

WENDELL

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

OUT OF THE PARK: January 2019

By JON DOBOSZ

UNITY PARK – Hello, everyone! I hope you all had a great start to the New Year. Now that we've put the decorations away, we should be settling into the winter. However, settling in doesn't mean hibernate. Make sure you get out and stay active. We're hearty New Englanders and can take it.

Our New Year, as always, started on a great note. On January 1 we hosted our Annual **Sawmill River 10k** in Montague Center. We had a pretty solid turnout of 140 runners for the event. Thankfully, weather was much more agreeable this year, and the time and energy exhibited by the participants and volunteers was certainly appreciated. Proceeds of the Sawmill Run benefit our Sponsor-A-Child Scholarship Program, so having them spend a part of their holiday with us is even more valued.

Open Swim also started at the Turners Falls High School swimming pool a couple of weeks ago. The program is held Tuesday and Friday evenings, with Family Swim from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. and Adult Lap Swim from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. If you or your family are not the "winter type," swimming is a great way to stay active. We hold Open Swim through Friday, March 9 so you cer-



tainly have a lot of opportunities between now and then to visit us.

We'll also be having our annual **American Red Cross Babysitting Course** on Tuesday, February 5 and Wednesday, February 6. Those participating will obtain the knowledge and resources to become a great babysitter! This is a fun and interactive course that teaches students first aid and safety skills, as well as helpful tips on how to prevent and respond to emergencies; not to mention the opportunity to develop responsibility, creativity, and leadership skills.

The course is open to youths ages 11 to 15, and fees are \$40 for Montague residents and \$45 for non-residents. Spots are filling up fast, so call us ASAP!

On Saturday, February 16 we'll also be holding our first ever **Night Sledding** event from 4 to 9 p.m. at

Unity Park. Come on down to the Unity Park hill, as we'll be illuminating the hill with light towers and we'll get a campfire going and enjoy some refreshments to keep us warm! We thank the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for the use of their light towers.

Even though winter just started, we're still planning ahead to the spring.

Registration for **Girls Softball** begins on Monday, January 28. Our Girls Softball Program includes the Nipper League (the Purple Panthers, for girls ages 7 to 9), and our Senior League Team (the Diamond Dusters, which is geared for girls 10 to 12). Both teams are members of the Greenfield Girls Softball League, with games being held at Murphy Park in Greenfield from mid-April through mid-June.

That's about it from here. For additional information on our programs, and more, feel free to contact us at (413) 863-3216, log onto montague.net, or view our Facebook page.

Other than that; stay warm, stay active, and we'll talk to you next month!

Jon Dobosz is the director of the Montague Parks and Recreation Department.

At the Greenfield Gallery: Marjorie Morgan's Dream Landscapes

By TRISH CRAPO

GREENFIELD – You wouldn't know, looking at the two dozen or more landscape paintings in Marjorie Morgan's new collection, *The Long View*, that Morgan had started out trying to paint abstractly. Each landscape is an exploration of the same motif – a body of water bounded on the right by a steep-sided cliff, on the left by a low, sloping spit of land. Clouds mass in the sky, and varying amounts of light spill from the sky onto the water. It seems to be early morning, or perhaps the middle of the night.

Morgan is almost giddy with excitement as she tells the story of how these paintings came to be. Experimenting with a process that starts with a paste of marble powder and gesso applied to the canvas, and then painting with oils on the fresco-like surface, Morgan used a palette knife to create abstract shapes on either side of the canvas that she then realized looked like two land masses.

"I thought, 'I don't want to make a landscape,'" she says. "But it was kind of interesting, so I kept painting."

It happened again with the second canvas she started. And then, incredibly, the third and fourth.

"I kept trying to paint other things and every time I'd paint, I'd paint these land masses," Morgan says. "And they started to become very consistent, over and over and over again. I thought, 'I don't know what's going on but I'll just keep painting.'"

There was so much energy in the motif that Morgan also began a series of prints based on it. Then one night, more than a year into it, Morgan had a dream in which she was floating above a coastline. She asked, "What is this?" and a voice answered, "This is what you've been painting."

"But where is it?" Morgan persisted.

The voice answered, "The Amalfi Coast."

"I'd never heard of it," Morgan says. "I didn't even know if it was real."

Through some Internet searches, Morgan learned that the Amalfi Coast is in Italy, along the southern edge of the Sorrentine Peninsula. She even found a photo from the same perspective as the paintings she'd been making, and though the photo showed the area to be much more built-up than her paintings, the two distinctive land masses are there, plain as day.

"That's pretty wild," I say.

"It's really wild," Morgan says happily.

"So when are you going?" I ask, part joking.

"We're going in May," she replied. Morgan shows me the AirBnb site for the home she and her wife, the artist Whitney Robbins, have rented. The balcony looks out right onto the scene from her paintings. One friend cautioned her not to go, saying that seeing the real place, full of traffic and tourists and buildings, might spoil her mystical connection.

But Morgan's not worried about that. She feels certain that if this cycle of paintings is somehow ended by the trip, something else will come along. And she's already had a dream in which she was looking into the light through an ironwork railing that, when she went back and looked online, bore a striking resemblance to the balcony railing at the AirBnb.

"Do you always have dreams like this?" I ask her.

Morgan smiles wide, like a kid.

"I do now."

The Long View is on view at The Greenfield Gallery through March 15. Soft opening with live music and treats, Friday, January 25, 6 to 8 p.m.; Artist reception with live music and treats, Friday, February 22, 6 to 8 p.m. The gallery is at 231 Main Street in Greenfield. Hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Thursdays and Fridays, noon to 8 p.m.; Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Trish Crapo is the Greenfield Gallery's publicist.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



The Long View, one of Marjorie Morgan's paintings at the Greenfield Gallery.

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

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

"Home Town Auto Care - The Way It Used To Be"

JP TIRE & AUTO

Complete Quality Auto Care

147 2nd St.
Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-863-5423

Foreign - Domestic - Tires - Diagnostics
Aftermarket Accessories - Installation

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

TURNERS FALLS – When in your daily life do you get to send a message to somebody indirectly, without worrying about whether they’ll confront you about it? In the presentation “Talking Cloths: Kangas of East Africa,” Nell Koenings and Peggy Hart explain how women in East Africa engage in communication like this, through fashion.

Kangas are cloths, diverse in pattern and color, that women in East African cultures wear over clothes and on the head. Many are printed with words on a small section – the kanga’s “name.” Sometimes the name will be cordial – something like “Happy Holiday” – but other times they will be thought-provoking (“Don’t travel on someone else’s star”) or even upsetting (“What kind of person are you, that you don’t like your neighbor?”).

Kangas are given and received, and also often bought by the women who intend to wear them, so they are open to a lot of self-expression. Many people will try to infer the intended meaning of a kanga’s name based on who gave it, or where (and around whom) it is worn. If a woman wears a kanga to send a message to

someone she’s spending time with, she may alleviate shyness about sending the message by wearing the kanga inside out or cover the name. This will make it ambiguous whether she wore it in order to send a message or because she liked the pattern.

Many kangas are produced on a large enough scale that their name can be identified by men and women just by seeing the pattern. Culturally, it’s considered rude to ask a woman the meaning of wearing her kanga, as well as to ask about the meaning intended in giving a kanga as a gift.

To learn more about kangas, visit our website at montaguetv.org and find the presentation in our “Latest Videos” section, or look for it in our TV schedule. You can also check out the exhibit “Talking Cloth: Kangas from East Africa” on display at the Great Falls Discovery Center through February 8.

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, info-montaguetv@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!

Valentines for the Troops

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I was outside of a Walmart in Northampton, MA when I saw individuals from a group called the “4-H Hilltown Misfits” collecting goods for a project of theirs called Valentines for the Troops. It interested me, so I explained I was a freelancer for Montague Reporter and asked for a number I could contact to find more about the project.

I talked to Sherry Whitmore, the leader of the club since it started. They have been around for “seven years.” She told me that Hilltown Misfit is a 4-H club.

“We are involved with rabbits, horses and oxen, and crafting,” Sherry said. “It’s our sixth year around collecting items for the project.” The group is asking for quite a variety of items to send to US troops for Valentine’s Day. The variety includes Hershey’s Kisses, sunblock, small toys and school supplies for foreign children, powdered drinks, microwave foods, and tuna and chicken salads that are in ready-to-eat kits.

Sherry also told me, “this is the first year we have people who stood out and collected goods. Usually we just put our donation boxes outside of the stores and postal offices.” She said that “the most boxes we have ever done is 52 boxes. But we try to do more every year.”

Speaking of previous years, I learned from an article on the proj-

ect I found at www.masslive.com that one year, the boxes were sent to troops in Pakistan. I also found out from the site that the Misfits have “a group of 12 girls and boys, ranging age from 8 to 17 years.”

Besides the boxes going to Pakistan, Sherry also told me that they have gone to troops in Afghanistan, and troops in Iraq. The group apparently never knows where they are going until they are ready to be shipped to the troops. I was invited by Sherry to see those boxes when they are ready to be shipped.

Once decided to write up an article involving something called Operation Gratitude, which makes care packages for the troops, but I found a topic to do that interested me far more. When I found Valentines for the Troops, I thought it was an interesting way to go about focusing on people who do care packages for the troops. I hope that you think of it the same way, more or less. Perhaps so much so that you decide to donate some of the various items they are asking for. Maybe that will help them accomplish their desire to do more every year, when it comes to the number of boxes they send.

The deadline for people helping the Hilltown Misfits with donations is this Sunday, January 27. Sherry said to call her at (413) 250-9823 when it comes time to bring in the items for the boxes. If they get more than 52 boxes for the troops, it would be a very cool thing to happen!

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Prying Baker; Upstairs Racket; Lost-Looking Chicken; Ice, Deer, Muffler, And Mattress All In Roadways

Sunday, 1/13

9:41 a.m. Caller found a dog in Amherst. Referred to Amherst dispatch.

10:07 a.m. Caller from H Street complaining of neighbor’s truck idling for the past five minutes; also reporting that vehicle has North Carolina plates when the owner has resided in Massachusetts for a few months. Owner of truck advised of complaint.

10:47 a.m. Caller found a black cat with yellow eyes near the General Pierce Bridge. Caller brought cat home with her; advises it is OK to give out her cell phone number if the owner calls.

12:18 p.m. 911 misdial. Caller advises accidental pocket dial; no emergency.

5:59 p.m. Anonymous caller requesting police and tow truck to Fourth Street due to a vehicle being parked so close to the building that it makes it hard for the caller to use his door. Caller states that this happens almost every day, but he has not spoken to the vehicle owner or the landlord. Referred to an officer.

Monday, 1/14

3:10 a.m. Caller reports seeing a female attempting to pry open the side door of Food City that is facing Greenfield Savings Bank. Responding officer advises he spoke with female matching description; employee attempting to get in to bakery, and key was not working. Officer advises he has made contact with bakery manager; male was attempting to get in the door as well. Female is inside working. No problems. Units clear.

6:21 p.m. Caller from H Street complaining of a lifted white truck that is driven by a neighbor a few doors down. Caller states that the truck is loud and sometimes wakes him up at night. Truck is not running at this time. Advised caller to call back when truck is running. Officer advised.

11:24 p.m. Caller from G Street states that the neighbors in the apartment above her are being loud, banging and yelling.

Caller states that her husband is going up to yell at them; she is concerned it will create a bigger problem. Quiet upon arrival. Officers spoke to parties on second floor and advised them of the complaint.

Tuesday, 1/15

12:14 p.m. Caller requesting animal control officer to assist a woman who is trying to capture her dog near Food City Plaza. While on the line, caller advised that the owner captured her dog and is all set.

2:45 p.m. Report of smoke in area of Randall Road. Caller inquiring about burn permits in area. TFFD advises there is a burn permit in that area; they just checked on it, and it is all set.

4:06 p.m. Caller reporting a large patch of ice going across one lane of traffic on North Leverett Road. DPW foreman notified; he will go out to determine if it is a hazard.

7:48 p.m. 911 caller from Eleventh Street reporting that an unwanted female and her boyfriend are ringing his doorbell trying to get in the building so they can fight with him. Caller states that they have left, but he will call back if they return.

Wednesday, 1/16

12:05 p.m. Report of suspicious male who is believed to have used drugs in the library restroom. Subject was acting strangely and left and returned a couple of times. Last seen running on K Street. Officers spoke with library staff. Male was identified and verbally trespassed from returning to the library.

12:48 p.m. Caller reports that a tow truck is towing a junk car and parts of the exhaust system are falling off into the road. There is debris on Turnpike Road between Walnut Street and Montague City Road as well as the General Pierce Bridge at the base of Mountain Road. Officer checked length from Walnut Street to General Pierce Bridge; no vehicle parts in road. A muffler was observed on the sidewalk

at the General Pierce Bridge.

4:44 p.m. Walk-in requesting to speak to an officer about something “private.” Advised of options.

5:22 p.m. Caller just struck a deer with his vehicle on Greenfield Road. He is OK, but the deer is in the road and appears severely injured. No damage to vehicle. Deer is deceased. Officer requesting DPW be notified for morning pickup of deer.

5:54 p.m. Anonymous caller states that every morning, there is a large patch of ice in the road in front of Red Fire North on Federal Street. Caller thinks it is water coming from the farm into the road and that they are responsible for dealing with it. Advised caller that we would check on it in the morning and see if the source of water can be determined.

6:18 p.m. Clerk at Family Dollar reporting that they just had a female shoplifter in the store. Shoplifter positively identified. Officers went to suspect’s residence but could not locate her.

6:28 p.m. Caller from H Street states that there is a loud white truck with out-of-state plates that is disturbing the neighborhood. No truck found at location.

6:44 p.m. Motorist reporting a mattress in the northbound lane of Turners Falls Road, just north of Hatchery Road. Mattress removed from road and put off to side. Message left for DPW to pick it up in the morning.

8:12 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting K9 unit to assist with search for a missing child. Cancelled en route; child located inside the home.

10:59 p.m. Caller states that the music coming from the Rendezvous is really loud. He would like us to ask them to shut it down for the night. Officer spoke to owner and notes that music was at a reasonable level.

Thursday, 1/17

12:30 p.m. A 46-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default

warrant.

3:08 p.m. Caller from Roosevelt Street advising that six chickens have entered her yard from an unknown location. Caller states that the birds are friendly. Instructed caller to leave the birds alone and to call back should she need additional help or if the owner of the birds calls to report them missing. ACO and officer advised.

4:14 p.m. A 18-year-old Gill man turned himself in on a straight warrant.

Friday, 1/18
12:54 p.m. Caller from Dell Street states that there is a chicken that looks lost in her yard. Provided number for ACO.

3:39 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that food is on fire in her stove and she cannot contain the flames. TFFD and officers advised and en route. Officer closing Fourth Street at Avenue A. Officer advises fire is out.

Saturday, 1/19

12:21 a.m. Anonymous caller reporting possible fireworks in area of Newton and Bridge Streets. Shelburne Control advises they received a call on this as well. Unfounded at this time.

2:22 p.m. Walk-in reporting that her car was broken into overnight on Avenue A. Some change was taken, and coffee was dumped on her seat. Report taken.

3:51 p.m. Report of 4 or 5 people on the ice under the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Officer advises that people have been on the ice a few times this week and unless First-Light requests that they be removed, this is not a police matter. Area checked; no one found on ice at this time.


10:19 p.m. Caller advising of a vehicle off the road and into the trees on Millers Falls Road. No injuries, smoke, flame. Rau’s advised and en route.

Sunday, 1/20

1:42 a.m. Caller from Eighth Street reporting that a loud truck which he believes is from H Street just woke him up; requested it be put on record. Officer advised of complaint.

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


Open every day, 10 to 6



BOOK MILL
440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com

Books you don't need in a place you can't find.



RIVERSIDE RADIATOR
General Auto Repair
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT
Foreign and Domestic

Propane Filling Station

Route 2, Gill
863-4049 1-800-439-4049
855 Monday (e) Thursday

Doug's Auto Body
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785 39 Center Road
Fax: (413) 863-0120 Gill, MA 01354

FREE ESTIMATES FREE LOANER CARS
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

Brian R. San Soucie 863-2471
LOCKSMITH - CRL 28 MONTAGUE ST
certified - bonded - insured TURNERS FALLS, MA



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

- DEAD BOLTS
- HOUSEHOLD LOCK SETS
- MASTER KEYS & RE-KEYS
- SAFE COMBINATIONS CHANGED

Dudek Tax Service
10 Masonic Ave
Turners Falls
MA 01376

Frank J. Dudek

413.863.5394 - Office
413.775.3327 - Cell
frankd_74@yahoo.com



Rau's Auto
COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics



WEST ALONG from page B1

of them flow through the yard on the way to pick over the crop of berries produced by the bittersweet that is slowly strangling the wild black cherry. Got to remember to get over there and cut that vine at the base before it's too late.

A big midnight-black raven powers through the yard, eyeballing the cracked corn spread out under the lilacs for the blue jay throng. He doesn't linger long, noticing me noticing him, as I scratch away with numbing fingers holding this cold pen.

January 19. Saturday afternoon at dusk, and still no snow, in spite of promises that it would start at 4 p.m. Dog and I are sitting on the porch, me on my Adirondack winter throne with an ice-cold glass of Russian vodka taken from the freezer, dog on his personal rug, munching a dog bone treat to accompany me.

That glass of vodka was just to encourage the snow, by the way.

Finally the first flakes begin drifting down by 7:30 p.m., some emissaries carried into the house on the fur coat of the dog, who always provides a weather report when he comes in the door. Fires blaze in both the woodstove and the fireplace, *Prairie Home Companion* on the radio.

By bedtime, the inside of the house is alight with reflected whiteness from the snow steadily falling. We walk from room to room, window to window to take in the new landscape just out there.

January 20. True to my calling and fulfilling my snow responsibilities, I'm once again tucked up snug in my east-facing woodshed haven, the sound of snow and sleet tinkling down through the air.

Birds float by, frantic to start their breakfast fires within. They are truly breaking their winter night's fast, and unlike you and I, it's a question of life or death for them. They shiver all night to keep their body temperatures up, and by morning, they are depleted of calories and energy. They clamor into the feeders and argue for the suet, to ward off the cold winter morning, to stoke up those fires.

I note down the worried wheezing calls of the cedar waxwings just now moved from the sheltering rhododendron to that bittersweet vine still full of berries in the wild cherry tree.

The 40 of them spent the night not 20 feet from the deck. I can sense 40 pairs of eyes following me in the night when I venture out onto the porch for an armful of wood. They're familiar with my comings

and goings by now, and don't stir from their leafy shelter, knowing I mean no harm, and will keep my distance.

Suddenly, alarms go off among the chickadees and jays, then a quick all clear. It's only a red-tailed hawk winging through the snow-filled air down along the river's shore. He's no threat to the little ones, but pigeons best beware.

"It was snowing / And it was going to snow..." simply states Wallace Stevens.

The pointed spruce and hemlock lining the yard have perfectly evolved to create pyramids under the snow, where doves and jays shelter with hunched up shoulders and wings to wait out the white meteor shower.

On an earlier snowless morning a few days ago, one of those strange things happened. I turned a page in my breviary of a poetry collection, and there was a poem by Mary Oliver entitled *The Summer Day*. I wrote down part of it in my other notebook of quotes, it had struck such a chord in me.

Later that same day in the evening, NPR announced that she had just passed away on January 17. I hoped she had spent her last days in Provincetown rather than Florida. She had lived out the latter part of her life in that quirky and remote Cape Cod town, where I too had spent many a summer, working in a restaurant in exchange for the joy of living close to the dunes, the beach and the Atlantic.

On the air that day, January 18, they quoted the same poem of hers that I had copied down. Was that a coincidence, or did the nature poet that she is, give a wink and a smile before leaving this old world?

... I do know how to pay attention...
 How to be idle and blessed, to stroll through the fields,
 Which is what I have been doing all day.
 Tell me, what else should I have done?
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do
 With your one wild and precious life?

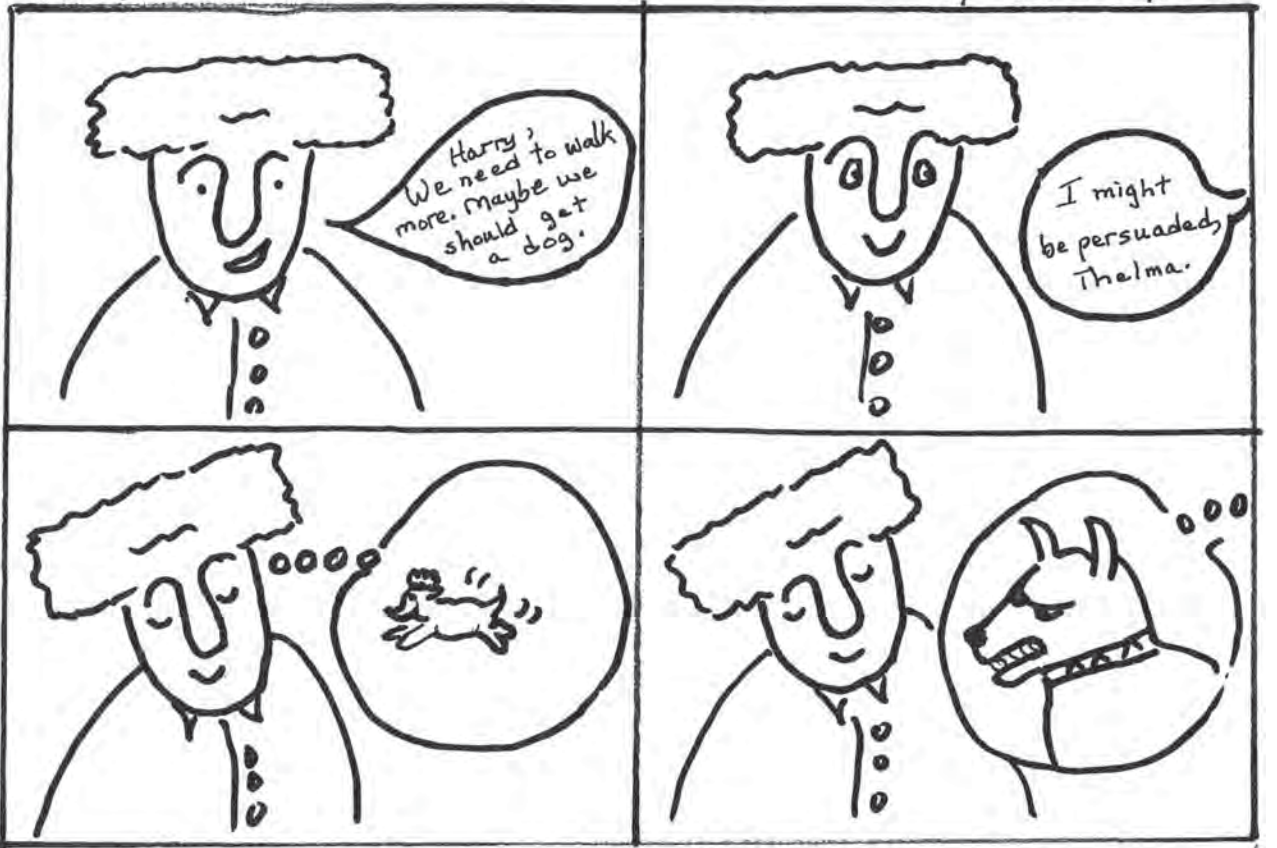
— Mary Oliver

Sitting out here watching the snow coming down, noting the white pines in the winter light, I know what I am doing and what I plan to do with that one wild and precious life.
 Do you?



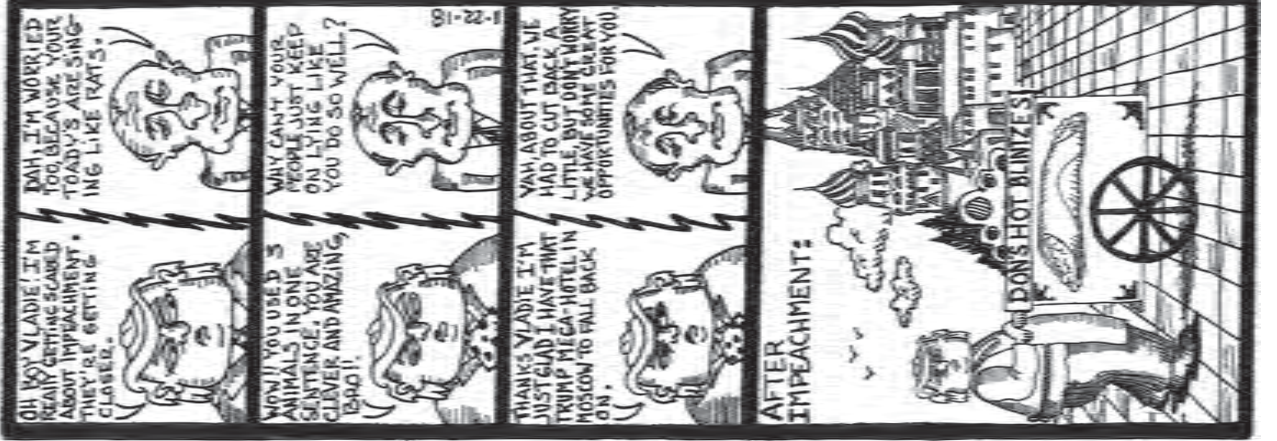
OVER THE HILL

by Ann O. Nymous



T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux



Heartbreak Café: A Valentine's Day Weekend of Events

"It is such a secret place, the land of tears."
 Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

GREENFIELD – Heartbreak Café, presented by Looky Here and the Root Cellar, is a ball, a museum, an art exhibit, a literary reading, a lecture, and a conversation.

Artists and community members are invited to submit art or personal memorabilia on the subject of heartbreak to coincide with traditional St. Valentine's Day celebrations. The heartbreak in question does not have to be of a strictly romantic nature, but can be a response to all the varieties of experience that break the human heart. Community members of different ages, walks of life, and backgrounds are encouraged to submit in acknowledgment of the universality of the abiding human reality of the heart's fragility, breakability, and tenderness.

Submissions are due Friday, February 8, and can be emailed to LookyHereGreenfield@gmail.com or brought to Looky Here, 28 Chapman Street in Greenfield. (Please email in advance to make sure someone will be there.)

Paintings, sculpture, film and video, mixed media works, poems, and other writing will be accepted for exhibit and reading. Everyday items representing individual heartbreak are also sought, to form a museum of heartbreak: these items should be smaller than a breadbox, and accompanied by a 500-word (or less) descrip-

tion of the heartbreak associated with them, howsoever each contributor chooses to describe it.

Examination of the items and their stories is meant to begin conversations about the hurt, sadness, embarrassment, disappointment, bitterness, regret, and despair of heartbreak, as well as, inevitably in some cases, the recovery, patching up, resilience, and renewal it precipitates.

Let us make our heartbreak plain to one another, lay our heartbreak down for unashamed study, and weep our stories to strangers and friends alike.

Thursday, February 14

Looky Here: *Museum Opening, Literary Reading, and Talk* by Sam Chaplin, whose just-published "Doing Crying: A Guided Healing Workbook for the Lovesick" will be available at 15% discount. 6 to 8:30 p.m.
 The Root Cellar: *Heartbreak Ball*. DJ George Myers will be spinning '60s soul, R&B, and funk. \$5 cover. Doors at 8 p.m.

Friday, February 15

The Root Cellar: *Heartbreak Karaoke*. 8 to 11 p.m.

Saturday, February 16

Looky Here: *Heartbreak Café Writing Workshop*. 2 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, February 17

Looky Here: *Museum Closing and conversation*. 5 to 7 p.m.

February 2: An Island Perspective on Wampum

TURNERS FALLS – Next Saturday, February 2, join Aquinnah Wampanoag researcher and artist Elizabeth James-Perry for an informative presentation focused on historic wampum arts, including adornment, diplomacy, and record-keeping. The presentation is from the perspective of a Native woman and will include a demonstration of wampum belt weaving using deerskin and handspun natural cordage.

James-Perry is enrolled with the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head-Aquinnah, a community located by the richly colored clay cliffs of Noepe (Martha's Vineyard). She continues the work of her many tribal mentors to shore up

culture, through museum and archival research in local and international collections. In her creative process, she focuses on early Northeastern Woodlands Native American culture.

The artist explores the rich purple hues of the quahog shell in designing jewelry, sculpturing whale and bear effigies, and making fine beads to weave the luxurious drape of collars and belts. She has revived traditional coastal plant dyes, using them to create museum-quality textile arts in milkweed and woven quillwork.

Elizabeth's art has received national recognition, earning awards at the Heard Museum Art Show as well as the

2014 Traditional Arts Fellowship from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. She will bring a display of her wampum jewelry for sale.

This free event is part of the Full Snow Moon Gathering, organized by the Nolumbeka Project and co-sponsored by the state DCR and a grant from the Montague Cultural Council. It will take place from 11 a.m. to noon at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls.

It will be followed from 1 to 3:30 p.m. by a wampum bead-making workshop, limited to 30 people and requiring a materials fee of \$40. Preregister at nolumbekaproject@gmail.com.

NANCY L. DOLE
 BOOKS & EPHEMERA

20 State Street,
 Bucklandside
 Shelburne Falls
 413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com
 closed Mondays and Fridays

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

Renaissance Builders

Quality. Craftsmanship. Original Thought.

www.renbuild.net
 863-8316

Cell: (413) 834-4444
bedson1@comcast.net
 Home Fax: (413) 863-0218

Maniatty Real Estate
 92 Federal Street
 Greenfield, MA 01301

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

www.ManiattyRealty.com

DOLAN & DOLAN
 ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

The Montague Reporter

also serving Erving, Gill, Severett & Wendell \$1



Please's petunia proposal will be added to the town meeting warrant.

Pritty Please Proposes Purple Petunias for Planters

By VIOLA LOVELIGHT

The selectboard member spoke quite heatedly, shaking her fist up and down repeatedly:

“Everything must go!
This wild jungle must be laid low.
A downtown is a civil place,
and now ours is unfit for the human race.
Insects, butterflies and bees,
and other things that make me sneeze
have fouled the edges of Avenue A.
Time after time, they ruin my day.
Dig everything up by the roots and replace it:
We need proper purple petunias, let's face it!”

Then a voice from the back of the room was heard to say,
“But Pritty Please, I really don't feel that way.
I often sit beneath the bows of the trees
in the Planters, that sway there now in the breeze,
and while away the happiest hours of spring,
and sometimes I even start to sing.
And when I see butterflies flitting there,
I thank God with a little prayer!”

Old Widow Plumpkin spoke out “Nay,”
so nothing could be decided that day.
A decision was made for a new town meeting
when research on the matter had been proceeding.

Stargazers Spy Spaceship

By HAROLD HARBINGER

The world is likely soon to end,
as a U.F.O. visits now and again.
The astronomy club at the Sheffield School goes
out on Saturday, as a rule,
and for the second time this week
they saw a flying saucer with a silver streak.

No thought was paid to the constellations, as they
discussed lasers of disintegration.
The sight of Cygnus, Aquila, and Canis Major
did not hold half the excitement of this sense of
danger.

“I hope to get drawn up in a tractor beam!”
said Holly Smith, captain of the astronomy team.

Meanwhile in the fairy gardens...



To be Continued

This month's Children's Page is actually the front cover of a newspaper that will appear in the first episode of Lovelights, a local television show that will premiere this summer!

COOKBOOK from page B1

to develop a vibrant culture of resistance and mutual support à la Bernie Sanders."

I thought: Ah ha! A bit of history! And boy, would mom enjoy adding this "thumb print" of democratic socialism to her prize collection!

This spiral-bound cookbook was a morsel of history, not simply because it had been produced by FCCPR, a political action group that describes itself as having roots in Sanders' 2016 presidential campaign, but because this genre of cookbooks has historically been a critical source of information about the many ways different cultures see, prepare and enjoy the foods they eat. The spiral-bound cookbook serves as a window into the lives of families we have never met, into relationships between people, and into the commitment the foodie has to her beloved recipe.

In my own daughter Julia's kitchen that afternoon, I called on her to choose from one of the 30 different recipes provided by Franklin County residents; and asked her to prepare it, sample it, photograph it; and provide me with some feedback about what she experienced, so that I might include her findings in my review.

Julia chose Leslie Lomasson's "Peace-Perfect Summer Corn

Salad," found on page 20 of *Stirring the Pot*. This is what she said: "It's a winner, Mom! Probably better in August when the corn is just picked, but still it's delicious in mid-January." Julia added, "It's important to the integrity of the salad that the avocados are firm, that the vegetables are diced all the same size, and the salad chilled before serving."

Inside the covers of *Stirring the Pot* foodies will find recipes for breakfast, soups and salads, entrees, sides, condiments, and desserts. There are even two recipes for the foodie with an imagination: "Eating the Pot" is an invitation to make homemade Canna-butter (marijuana-infused butter), and then there is the famed "Swing Left Chocolate Chip Cookie" – both vegetarian!

In *Stirring the Pot*, Ferd Wulkan writes: "Food is essential to our survival, and it is a vehicle through which we can experience a variety of cultures and express collective joy and kindness." Of course, I know there is more to activism than good intentions and a well-executed recipe book.

I asked Wulkan, a FCCPR member and initiator of the cookbook, a few questions to get clearer sense of what the group means to him, area residents, and the future of our country.

EA: What is FCCPR's stand on Confrontation Activism in the era of Trump?

FW: Not just in the era of Trump, but so long as corporations wield so much power, confrontation must be part of our tactics. Directly confronting agents of power helps build movements, empowers participants, draws the attention of politicians and media, and can lead to social change.

EA: Has Juanita and Wally Nelson's activism influenced this group?

FW: Yes, as inspiring models of leadership. While FCCPR has not been involved in war tax resistance

APPLE CORPS from page B1

hemlock (*Tsuga Canadensis*) is not related to its toxic namesake in the carrot family (*Conium Maculatum*). While my favorite part of the hemlock to forage isn't ready until summer (the small green immature cone, blended with salt and dried, makes for a heavenly seasoning), its twigs and needles are good all winter long for tea or a steam. Full of vitamin C, they are a nutritious and fresh ingredient at a time when local freshness is scarce.

Hemlock can be found in many of our surrounding wooded areas, and it is easy to spot. Look for branches that emerge horizontally from the trunk, with flat green needles and small cones about an inch long. The needles of *Tsuga Canadensis* have two white stripes on their underside. There's no need to cut any twigs off the living tree when you harvest. Look around the base of a hemlock, and you'll be sure to find a freshly fallen branch with needles still attached.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, February 4 at 6 p.m.: *GFAC February Organizational Meeting*, at the Unity Fieldhouse, Turners Falls.

as an organization, many of us have known Juanita and Wally, and have admired and learned from their courage and style of activism.

EA: Is there any particular focus for the collection?

FW: Not really a particular focus, but we made a point of highlighting some of the great organizations working on food issues in our area. Almost all of the contributors are members of FCCPR.

The book is available at Boswell's Book in Shelburne Falls, at Federal Street Books in Greenfield, at the Leverett Village Coop, and it can be ordered online at fccpr.us/order-the-fccpr-cookbook.

In this day and age, I think we can all agree with my friend Melody Levy, a photographer from Connecticut, who has trademarked the phrase "Find Your Kindness."

And if kindness can be found in the pages of a spiral-bound cookbook, with *Stirring the Pot*, how fortunate are we?

We meet to discuss ways to plant food and grow community in downtown Turners, and coordinate the Unity Park Community Garden. All are welcome at our meetings. Can't make it but still want to be involved? Send us an email.

Sunday, February 17 from 12:30 to 3 p.m.: *Free Cabin Fever Seed Swap*, at Green Fields Coop Space, 170 Main Street in Greenfield. A fellow GFAC member has been running this free seed swap for the past 12 (!) years. You don't need to bring seeds to participate. GFAC will be snaggin' a table, so come by and say hello!

Announcement:

For 2019, we will be holding our monthly meetings every first Monday of the month, except September where we'll meet on the second Monday. Meetings are in the Unity Park Fieldhouse at 6 p.m.

Donation wish list: Plants, garden tools, a bench and sign for the Unity Park Community Garden.

Contact us:

Catch us on Facebook, or email us at greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com.



LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was January 22, 2009: *News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

Barack Obama's Inauguration

You could feel it as soon as you walked into the room: the large open community room on the first floor of the Brick House, with the overstuffed sofas and armchairs filled with young people from the Four Winds School in Gill, glowing with anticipation, their eyes glued to the giant TV screen in front of them, where the pageant of the 44th presidential inauguration was playing live before them.

The back of the room was filled with adults: carpenters, teachers, social workers, equally caught up in the moment. Many were crying openly as the ceremony unfolded.

Obama said he was taking the oath of office amid gathering clouds of economic turmoil, domestically and globally. And he spoke of America as a nation at war against "a far reaching network of violence and hatred."

In one of many lines that brought rousing cheers from the crowd, he declared, "Starting today, we must pull ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of re-making America."

"We're going to remember this day," said Jasmine Serrano, 14, of Greenfield. "He's the first African American president. The race card is over, and we are there to see it. Things are going to change for the better."

Asked how she thought they would change, specifically, Serrano, who said she is from the second generation of a family that immigrated to America from Mexico, said, "America will start to be more Green, and a little less racist toward problems like immigration."

John McGough of Florence, age 12, called the speech "amazing. He's so confident and proud."

Olivia Smiaroski, 13, of Northfield said, "He's the best president yet. There was so much hope and joy in his speech. There's going to be change. He's going to lead us out of this war and make peace with other countries, and end violence, for the most part."

Work Scheduled For G-M Bridge

Two important announcements were made at Tuesday's meeting of the Gill selectboard. Construction will begin on the long-awaited Gill-Montague Bridge improvement project, starting as soon as May, but certainly by early summer.

And Juanita (Bunny) Caldwell, who has been the director of the Gill-Montague Senior Center for almost as long (but not quite) as the bridge project has been on the drawing board, will be retiring at the end of June.

"When you get to be older than the seniors, the time has come," joked Caldwell, reached on Tuesday at her office in the former Turners Falls Athletic Club on Fifth Street, now home to an array of programs for seniors from both towns.

Maureen Mullaney, transportation program manager for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, said bids for the \$47.5 million project are scheduled to be opened on February 24.

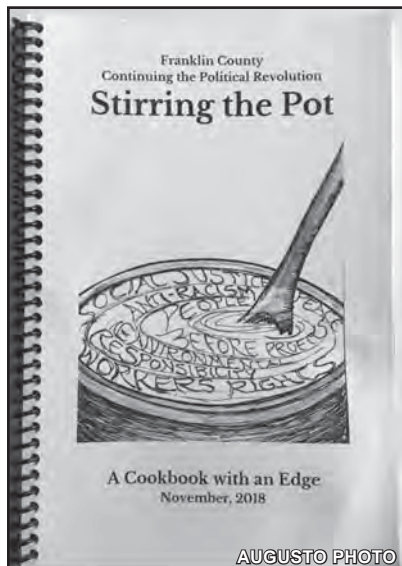
Budget Clouds Gather

The chair of the finance committee and the town administrator of Montague agree: this is going to be an extraordinarily difficult budget year. Even as the nation as a whole takes courage from the positive message of the incoming administration – and the promise of an \$800 billion economic stimulus package in February – local budget makers like John Hanold and Frank Abbondanzio in Montague are grappling with the growing likelihood of budget cuts heading down the pike. And not only for the budget cycle about to begin for Fiscal 2010.

"My guess is we are looking at a 10% cut on lottery aid for the current budget year," said town administrator Abbondanzio on Tuesday. "We'll know that within a matter of weeks."

Abbondanzio said if his prediction comes true, Montague will be looking to bridge a \$157,000 gap more than halfway through the current budget year.

How would the town do that, when departmental budgets were pared back so sharply at town meeting last year?



The cookbook is locally available.

Revolutionary Rosemary Apricot Pork Tenderloin

Submitted by Paul Jablon

Even for finicky teens. My daughter Nicole, when she was in middle school, could be particular about the food she ate. Her tastes seemed to change weekly. When I made this she commented, "Dad, this is perfect. It is seasoned just right with the rosemary and stuff" (she had stripped the leaves for the dish from the plants in our garden) "and it is tender and then it has that touch of sweetness." Yikes! Needless to say, we have been making it since then, and our guests have reacted equally well.

2 lb. pork tenderloin
3 tablespoons olive oil
6 tablespoons finely minced fresh rosemary
6 large garlic cloves, minced
1 teaspoon salt
Freshly ground black pepper, about 25 grinds
1 cup apricot preserves
3 tablespoons lemon juice
2 garlic cloves, pressed



Preheat oven to 400° F. Cover pork with 2 tablespoons of oil; sprinkle with rosemary, garlic, salt and pepper. Heat remaining oil in a large cast iron or other ovenproof skillet over medium-high heat. I like to use my 7-quart enamel cast iron pot.

Add pork and cook until brown on all sides, turning often with tongs for about 5 minutes or so. Transfer pan to the oven and roast pork for about 15 minutes. Internal temperature with a meat thermometer should be 150 degrees.

While pork roasts, combine preserves, lemon juice, and pressed garlic in a 2-cup pyrex measuring cup and heat in a microwave on high until warm. Stir to fully combine sauce ingredients.

Remove pan with pork from the oven and place on a rack. Pour preserves over the pork and let it rest for 8 minutes. Cut crosswise at an angle into 1/4- to 3/8-inch slices. Drizzle sauce from the pan on top.

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

**Authentic American Food & Drink
at the Montague Bookmill**

THEALVAHSTONE.COM • 413.367.5345 • OPEN 7 DAYS + NIGHTS

**Bryan Hobbs
Remodeling LLC**

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

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

Office: (413) 775-9006
Lic # 083982
Reg # 139564

Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1535
Greenfield, MA 01302

CHARON ART VISIONARY TATTOO

Inspired, holistic tattoos
with a focus on personal energy,
experience and spontaneous creation.

www.CharonArt.com
413.676.9146
107 Avenue A, Great Falls

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 24

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A five week music series for young children combining music, laughter, song and movement. Adults and infants under 1 year are free; small fee per child or \$20 for five weeks per kid. 10:30 a.m.

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *FACS, Strange Fate, TBA*. Abstract, modern art rock; Punk music. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heath Lewis*. 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25

Artspace, Greenfield: *Open Music Jam*. All musicians welcome. Blues jam led by guitar teacher Kevin Dee. Suggested donation. Piano available. 12 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Josie's Magical Flute Presents Comedy* at the Shea. Cash or check at the door only. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dave Kontak, PussyVision, First Children, Fred Cracklin, Corrode*. Experimental, electronic, brutal noise, ripping solos and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Vundabar with The Nude Party, Carinae*. Sludgy, Jangly Pop, Rock 'n Roll Boner Pop, and Psych Rock. \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

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

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Book to Movie Club*. Youth ages 10 to 15 can pick up a copy of the book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, at the library in early January. Then we will watch the movie and discuss both over snacks. 11 a.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*. Western Mass premiere of movie shot in Turners Falls, about a WWII veteran (played by Sam Elliott) who is drawn out of retirement to pursue the Bigfoot. Red carpet, photo wall, conversation with writers/producers/directors after screening. First screening on brand new digital movie equipment at the theater. 7 p.m. (SOLD OUT!)

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Independent Label Mixer*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *No Lens, Whalom Park, Metazoa*. 9 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*. Second screening of Western MA premiere. \$. 10 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Literary Rendezvous Poetry Reading*. Featured poet Lauren Marie Schmidt, plus open mic hosted

by Candace Curran and Beth Filson. Sponsored by the Straw Dog Writers Guild. Everyone welcome. 2:30 p.m.

Polish American Citizens Club, South Deerfield: *Bal Masque Danse Cafe*. French and Breton Music and Dance pre-Carnival party. Live music, masks provided, hors d'oeuvres potluck. \$ donation. 4 p.m.

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

SUBMITTED IMAGE



This photograph of folk dancers in bright red costumes by Albyn Davis is showing as part of the Shelburne Arts Cooperative's Seeing Red exhibit, on view during February.

MONDAY, JANUARY 28

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 30

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

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science*. Hands-on STEM learning. Call to register. 1 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Meditation Group*. Self led meditation group. Bring a cushion to sit on. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday*. With McCoy and DJ Roger Jr. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A five-

week music series for young children combining music, laughter, song and movement. Adults and infants under 1 year are free; small fee per child or \$20 for five weeks per kid. 10:30 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Cars Go West*. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 1

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Farms Art Reception*. Members show with agricultural theme. 1 p.m.

itself against strange underground creatures. Preceded by an episode of Fireball XL5. Part of monthly SciFi/Fantasy and Horror/Monster movies series. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Reggae Benefit. ReBelle, Dave Noonan's Green Island, Rhythm Inc, I-Ganic Sound System*; benefit for the World Central Kitchen and the Next Day House. \$. 8 p.m.

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *First Friday Mystery Activity*. Children 8 + and teens are invited to join us for a mystery activity: crafts, science experiments, tech-tools, etc!. 3:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Ticked Off Tapes Showcase #1. Cruudeuces, Spiritual Claymation, Two Years on Welfare*, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Taproots, Wurliday*. Soul-funk-reggae fusion. \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Looky Here Benefit with Chris Weisman and Wendy Eisenberg*. A night of songs to benefit community art space Looky Here. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Hey Kiddo*. Graphic novel author Jarrett J. Krosoczka discusses his book, *Hey Kiddo*, that features his dysfunctional family and is aimed at middle school readers. \$ 7 p.m.

Wendell Library: *Tremors*. Film about a small town defending

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

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

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-Op Straight Ahead Jazz*. Balcony in the afternoon. 12 p.m.

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

Quabbin Harvest, Orange: *Chocolate Shortbread Workshop*. Learn how to make Valentine's day treat. 3 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 6

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

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

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *Homeschool Science*. Hands-on STEM learning. Call to register. 1 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Meditation Group*. Self-led meditation group. Bring a cushion to sit on. 7 p.m.

EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Annual Teen Art Exhibit*. Opening Reception Friday, January 25, 5:15 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro, VT: Five new exhibits include a six-decade survey of the work of abstract artist Emily Mason, *Open Call NXNE*, and artwork by Orly Cogan, and Elizabeth Turk. *Open Call NXNE* features 13 juried New England and New York artists.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: Two weekends of *Art Finds* in January: January 18,19, 25 and 26. Art and art materials for sale as a fundraiser for the Center. Got stuff to donate? Email buckyredsox@yahoo.com. Followed by member's exhibit in February: *Farms*.

Flourish, Turners Falls: *A Good Year for the Roses*. Paintings by Alison Williams and

collaborative mixed media work with Glen Scheffer. Through January.

Geissler Gallery, Stoneleigh Burnham School, Greenfield. *Deal With It*. Prints and artists books by Esther S. White. Through February 14.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *East African Textiles: Talking Kanga Cloth* in January and February. Talk by curators N. S. Koenings and Peggy Hart on February 9.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Marjorie Morgan's The Long View*. Dream landscapes. Through March 15. Opening Receptions: Friday, January 25, 6 p.m. and Friday, February 22, 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Andrew Nighswander*. Automatic Landscapes. Through January.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: *Phyllis*

Lawrence: Textile arts and hooked rugs. Through February.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center, Leverett: *Resident Artists' Show*. Informal exhibit of work from artists who have studios at the Center. Through February.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: Gallery closed through January, opening February 1 with *In the Vicinity*, featuring Nina Rossi's mixed media works depicting Turners Falls, including new textiles printed with streetscape paintings. Through March 9.

Sawmill River Gallery, Montague Center: *Members' Show* of recent works by gallery artists.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: Gallery closed week of January 22 for renovations. Opening January 30 with *Seeing Red*, a member's show with a red theme, on view through February.

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



Letting Go (And Seeing What Happens)

By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – One autumn, many years ago, I watched – for what seemed like truly the first time – a leaf fall from a tree. As soon as it let go, it fell with divine grace, twirling and dancing its way down until finally landing on the earth. Witnessing this effortless release, I learned a valuable lesson that day: when the time comes, remember to relax, let go, and flow with grace and beauty.

It's a lesson I aim to embody, because more often than not, letting go feels more like an endless, ugly, exhausting tug-of-war. Fear gets the better of me, and I feel paralyzed. The wisdom to let go is drowned out by the loud voice of doubt. I waved goodbye to 2018 knowing exactly what I needed to let go of, while still holding tightly onto it on the first day of 2019. All the while, digging deeper into winter.

Winter is the time for inner work. A time to slow down, get quiet, and listen. A time of death and

a time to lay fallow. A time to evaluate, to take notice, to ask ourselves if we truly feel in alignment. To notice if we're in the flow.

Thing is, the more I slowed down, and the more I listened, the more I was being told to let go of a project I've been involved in for over four years. It's been more than just a job – I've invested so much of myself into its success. And because it takes up a lot of space in my calendar, this project and the clients I work for also provide my biggest income. So while my entire inner being was saying "it's time to gracefully bow out of this," my single-mama alarm said, "don't be foolish, wait until you have something else before walking away from this."

I struggled for weeks, and the longer I dragged out my decision, the more depleted I felt. The whole time, I suspected that I was messing with a greater flow, and that my resistance to release was doing nothing but tripping me up.

Worse still was how disconnected I felt from the present moment, including the day-to-day moments with my child. I aim to model for him what I believe to be kind and mindful ways of being, but as I struggled to let go, I was letting stress get the better of me, while failing to trust my-

self and take action on what I knew I needed to do.

I knew in my heart that by holding on to something that was no longer serving me, I was hoarding and holding onto stagnation, resentment, anger, and fear. Until finally, halfway into January, I gracefully resigned, knowing full well that I first need to make space in my life by clearing out the old. I expressed my deep gratitude, and let go. One-foot-in and one-foot-out had me feeling out of integrity: not at all how I want to live my life, and not what I want to model for my child.

I remember years ago, while waiting on the subway platform for my train, I noticed myself constantly looking towards the tunnel. I muttered under my breath, caught in my impatience, utterly suffering as I waited. It dawned on me then that constantly checking to see if the train was coming, and dwelling in anxiety and stress, would not make the train come any faster. I had to trust that the train was on its way – because it was – and that what mattered most was how I would spend my time while I waited.

So I raise my proverbial glass – to waiting. May this period of waiting for the next big project, and all the financial flow that accompanies work, be graceful. May I dance and twirl as I let go.

Greg,

How can it be five years? Seems like just yesterday we were talking on the phone. Celebrating another Christmas. Listening to a proud Dad tell another story about his beloved son.

Other times, it feels like it's been forever. Because we've so missed your voice. Your calls. And it's been too long since. So true.

But there's another feeling, too. Another truth. And that's that it often feels like you never left. And that's because you're still here. Every time we think of you. Every story we tell about you or with you in it. Every other Christmas, every other single day since. You are. Maybe in a way we see you more. In our minds and hearts, we get to visit. Every single day.



January is tough. The calendar brings to mind a date we'd do anything to erase. Or at least go back and do over. So we could change things. We'd bring you back in a heartbeat. We pray we can somehow. In the meantime, we will spend every day bringing to mind your spirit. Your smile. Your humor. Your love. And sending you all of ours.

You're dearly missed, Greg. You, too, are a beloved son. Dad. Brother. Uncle. Friend.

Skate the Heavens. We love you.

Mom, Dad & Melissa
Jeremy, Maryrose, Anthony, Sebastian
Emily, Damien, Owen, Ayleanna

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

LOCAL, NATURAL, ORGANIC
PRODUCE BAKERY GROCERY CRAFTS

OPEN DAILY 10-6
413.367.3071

485 FEDERAL ST
ROUTE 63 MONTAGUE

FIND US ON FACEBOOK! WWW.REDFIRENORTH.COM

TURN'S
LAWN CARE

Landscape Design & Maintenance
Accepting New Plow Customers
Within 7 Miles of Montague Center

522-2563

www.TurnLawnCare.com

Ariens Snowblowers \$649 & up

Backed by 50+ years of service & parts experience.
You can't get that at a big box store!

Pick up & Delivery Available!

www.sirumequipment.com

Rte 63, Montague 413-367-2481

The Gill Tavern

Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

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

Jeffrey Collura, D.M.D.
Cosmetic Dentistry

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

Office Hours By Appointment

CEREC : SINGLE-VISIT DENTISTRY

Dennis L. Booska Phone & Fax
Dennis L. Booska, Jr. 413-863-3690

Booska's Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls Tile
Lino
Carpet

Member The Flooring Network.

IN GOOD COMPANY
A SKILLED ELDER COMPANION SERVICE

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

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

Sita Lang
Hospice trained
CPR certified

Turners Falls Pizza House

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

PIZZA, GRINDERS,
DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS

www.turnersfallspizza.com

119 Avenue A, Turners Falls (413) 863-8000

About-Face
Computer Solutions

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

GREAT FALLS HARVEST
fresh • local • creative

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

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

Brunch Saturday & Sunday
11 AM to 3 PM

413-863-0023
50 Third Street
Downtown Turners Falls

TURN IT UP!

MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

Gerri Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • GerriJohnson@Realtor.com

Gerri Johnson & Associates
REALTORS

66 French King Hwy., Gill WWW.GJAR.COM
GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

HEART & SOLAR
WORKER OWNED SOCIALLY RESPONSIBLE SINCE 2002

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

Certified Corporation