

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 23

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

APRIL 4, 2019

## Montague, Gill May Instigate Six-Town District Study Group

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Town and school leaders from Montague and Gill debated Tuesday night what next step to take in investigating the possibility forming a six-town school district with Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick. They agreed to reconvene on April 30, inviting their counterparts from the Pioneer Valley regional district to consider forming official town planning committees to determine the feasibility of the idea, which could take up to three years to implement if all towns are on board.

The meeting, held at the Gill-Montague senior center, was a continuation of the “civic leaders” meetings on the future of public schools in the six towns. Pioneer and Gill-Montague have been suffering the ef-

fects of enrollment loss, particularly at the secondary level, for years.

This month, the two school committees received a report from consultants adding up the expected financial costs and benefits from merging middle schools, high schools, and central offices. The report’s rough calculation indicated a six-town district could save the towns about \$400,000 a year, or 1.9% of their combined current assessments.

The path to a six-town district would be arduous, but by state law, it must begin with every town – either at town meeting, or by joint action of the selectboard and school committee – appointing three people to a “planning committee”; the six committees would then merge to form a “planning board” tasked with studying the idea closely and, if it still looks

see **DISTRICT** page A5

## Franklin County’s First Recreational Cannabis Shop Opens for Business

By JEFF SINGLETON

**GREENFIELD** – By 10:30 a.m., the line outside Patriot Care, the Greenfield medical marijuana dispensary that has recently been approved to sell “recreational marijuana,” had increased to over 30 customers. This was the first

day of legal recreational sales in Greenfield, and the atmosphere was jovial.

Patriot Care was allowing customers to enter the building behind Green Fields Market in blocks of three or four. They showed their identification, which now did not have to be a medical marijuana

card costing \$200, to Patriot security personnel.

The Reporter asked a small sample of the line how they had heard about the opening. “Word of mouth” was the most common answer, followed by “the internet,” with “the newspaper” a distant third. “Forty years of trial and error,” judging from the response of the crowd, was the winning answer. The jovial atmosphere was no doubt encouraged by the fact that for some, this was the first time in their lives they had purchased cannabis outside the black market.

Buying cannabis is not what it was 40 years ago. After entering the building, customers must register at one of two windows reminiscent of a theater ticket booth. Then there is a locked door entrance to the sales room itself, which has a lounge area and two lines: one for recreational, see **CANNABIS** page A7



BOB MAYERSON SUBMITTED PHOTO

Man bites dog: News cameras swarm as Greenfield mayor Bill Martin buys special weed lotion purported to help soothe aches and pains.

## A Rare Public Discussion of Hydro Relicensing Process

By JEFF SINGLETON

**NORTHFIELD** – The process to create new federal licenses for hydroelectric projects on the Connecticut River owned by the FirstLight power company is now in its seventh year. For the most part discussions between the power company and various stakeholders have taken place behind closed doors in so-called “settlement negotiations.”

But on Friday, March 29 there was a rare public meeting to, in the words of Mark Wamser, “receive input from stakeholders on any proposals regarding recreation and erosion for the new license.”

Wamser is the senior resource engineer for a New Hampshire company called Gomez and Sullivan. The firm is the “lead company for the FirstLight relicensing team,” according to Andrea Donlon of the Connecticut River Conservancy. At the March 29 meeting,

Donlon organized and introduced the various stakeholders who commented on the two FirstLight projects on the agenda.

The first project is the Northfield Mountain project, which pumps water up from the Connecticut River to a reservoir on Northfield Mountain for use during peak electric demand. The project also includes the mountain itself, with its recreational trails, and the river from Northfield down to the Turners Falls Dam.

The second project includes the Turners Falls Dam itself, the river and power canal below the dam, and two “hydro” power stations on the canal.

Public discussion at the meeting was limited to comments on two issues – recreation and shoreline erosion – and took place in two distinct segments. Sarah Ver-ville, of a company called TRC Solutions

see **HYDRO** page A6

## PROGRESS OF LIBRARY



KATIE NOLAN PHOTO

Last Friday, state and town officials, townspeople, and Erving Elementary School children and staff celebrated the groundbreaking for the new Erving public library building on Northfield Road. They were joined by representatives from architects Johnson Roberts, Inc., project managers from P3, Inc., and a construction supervisor from Marois Construction of South Hadley, the general contractor.

Left to right: state senator Jo Comerford, representative Susannah Whipps, library director Barbara Friedman, library trustee Mackensy Bailey, and building committee co-chairs Sarah Campbell and Rebecca Hubbard hoist their ceremonial shovels. Friedman said she started planning for the project in 2010. In February 2018, the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners announced a \$2.7 million grant to help the project. At their annual town meeting in 2017, Erving residents agreed to pay the remainder of the \$5.5 million project’s cost. The library may be open early next year.

## ERVING SELECTBOARD

### Geothermal Woes Continue: Senior Center Basement Floods

By KATIE NOLAN

After the groundbreaking ceremony for the new library on March 29, when townspeople and state and local officials went into the senior and community center to visit and eat extraordinary homemade treats, administrative coordinator Bryan Smith and highway foreman Glenn McCrory went into the building’s basement to check out the flooding. The center’s geothermal heating and cooling system was malfunctioning, again.

The geothermal system has been problematic since before the senior center opened in December 2011. In October of that year, this newspaper reported that former administrative coordinator Tom Sharp told the se-

lectboard “something is clogging the well” for the geothermal system. A week later, architect John Catlin told the board that the problems with the well had been resolved by drilling the well deeper and reinstalling the pump. But problems with the system would continue for years.

According to an April 1 memo from current administrative coordinator Bryan Smith, over the last few years, well water was “entering the system at such a low temperature that it would cause freezing in the air handling units.” Whenever this happened, the backup propane boiler adjusted to heat the water, resulting in high usage of propane.

Smith scheduled a meeting with McCrory,

see **ERVING** page A6

## SCENE REPORT

### Out of the Streets, and Into the Sewers

By MIKE JACKSON

**GREENFIELD** – “These are moderate reforms,” Sheila Gilmour said, kicking off the Municipal Socialism conference on Saturday by laying out its basic premise. “They’re things that even the most conservative of our neighbors should be able to get behind.”

The 120 or so people who showed up at Greenfield Community College at 8:30 a.m.

for workshops, sandwiches, and a keynote address were a mix of locals and out-of-towners, baby boomers and younger activists.

The event was the first major public showcase for Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR), a group that formed in the wake of Bernie Sanders’ 2016 presidential campaign and has since organized local taskforces on single-payer

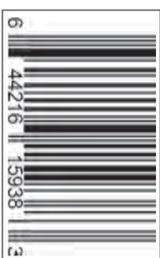
see **SCENE REPORT** page A4



The workshop session on affordable housing was packed, with attendees pouring out into the hallways.

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## GUEST EDITORIAL

# The Measure of Our Happiness

By H. PATRICIA HYNES

For the past seven years, the United Nations has issued a report titled the World Happiness Report. While this report may sound somewhat lightweight, it actually ranks countries by serious measures including income, freedom, trust in government, social support, life expectancy, and how happy citizens perceive themselves to be.

The highest-ranking countries are those, we learn, that have "strong social welfare systems and an emphasis on equality."

I was not surprised to learn that in 2019, our country fell in rank from 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in the report. Despite our high employment, millions of working people hold two jobs to pay bills and are an illness away from bankruptcy.

Moreover, we have seen a steady increase in the number of hate groups, the majority being white male supremacist groups, over the past three years, coinciding with President Trump's campaign and presidency. In his recent manifesto, the Australian-born murderer of 50 New Zealand Muslims at worship in mosques attributed Trump as the "symbol of renewed white identity."

While some may protest that the United States is a more complex society with a higher rate of immigrants, Canada, which has a higher percent of foreign-born residents than the US, ranks higher in the recent UN report. So also do Britain and Germany, with comparable percentages of foreign-born residents as the US.

Let us consider some other factors that might cause us to fall lower on the World Happiness Index than other democratic countries, less wealthy than our own.

A recent study of hundreds of federal government policies found that most policies adopted by our government are those that favor the economic elite and business interests. Only when the general public's interests coincide with powerful business corporations do our interests get served.

Consider also that our life expectancy has dropped over the past year due to drug overdoses and suicides among white men in the late 40s and 50s – a tragic sign of something, maybe hopelessness or a sense of no future that plagues

some in our country.

Countries can also be judged by the way they treat their children, so let's consider our own. While the US is among the wealthiest nations in the world, it has a higher rate of child poverty than other wealthy countries. Why? Compared to other wealthy countries, our government underinvests in its poor children and their families, and this leads to higher persistent child poverty and poor child health, poor educational outcomes, and no exit out of poverty.

Budgets are moral documents, and they mirror the values and priorities of a country. So let us look at US values and priorities through the lens of President Trump's proposed discretionary budget for 2020.

As in past years, the Department of Defense (DOD) is allocated an increase and the lion's share in the proposed budget (more than 60%), while every other department and agency that contributes to Americans' daily well-being is cut:

- A 31% decrease for the Environmental Protection Agency: Think climate change, lead in drinking water, clean air, clean water, and hazardous waste.

- A 22% decrease for Department of Transportation: According to the American Society of Civil Engineers, the US infrastructure, including roads, bridges, dams, and airports, gets a D+ grade.

- A 16.4% decrease for Department of Housing and Urban Development, while half a million Americans are homeless, and Section 8 waiting lists for affordable housing range from one to five years.

- A 12% cut in Health and Human Services, despite the opioid addiction crisis.

- A 12% cut in Department of Education: US education quality is falling when compared to most developed and even lesser-developed countries in annual international testing of high school students.

- At the Department of Energy: a two-thirds cut in wind power research; a 92% cut in research on energy efficiency in buildings.

The military budget assures the economic health of defense contractors and pours our tax money into the Pentagon's ongoing masculinist goal of maintaining military superpower status, championed by both Democrats and Republicans even after two decades

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Pam Eldridge is the Dickinson Memorial Library's "best friend next door" in Northfield. Here, she volunteers at the dessert table during a Soup and Games fundraiser for the library at Hope & Olive restaurant in Greenfield on Monday.

## Letters to the Editors

### Time Off To Vote

Voting is the cornerstone of democracy and a constitutional right of every citizen of the United States.

That right, however, is continually infringed upon by the creation of voter ID laws and limits to polling locations and times. This is why I am writing on behalf of Youth Rise Together, a youth-led activist group in the Pioneer Valley, in support of bill S.384, An Act to Increase Voter Participation.

Introduced to the Massachusetts state legislature by Senator Michael Barrett, S.384 would drastically increase residents' voting access by requiring that all employers grant employees at least two hours of paid leave on statewide or federal election days.

Making voting more accessible to all people is essential to the continual success and function of our democracy. Low income and minority communities often do not

of failed wars.

Yet it does not prioritize its soldiers and veterans. Veterans commit suicide at twice the rate of non-military citizens, and they have a higher rate of homelessness, particularly veterans of color and women vets.

A recent survey of military families portrays slum-like conditions with mold, lead, and rodents in military housing. Concurrently, environmental studies expose extensive groundwater and drinking water contamination at US bases, most

have the time or resources to take away from their regular schedules and make it to the polls. In an era of growing restrictions on voting access, the Commonwealth has an obligation to all of its constituents to make voting more accessible by passing S.384.

The best way to encourage the enactment of this bill into a law is to call or write your state legislators and ask them to support S.384. Spreading the word about this important piece of legislation by talking to your friends and family is another great way to grow support for S.384. Please support this bill – we must make voting accessible for all residents of Massachusetts.

Find your legislator at: [malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator](http://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator).

**Gabbi Perry**  
Northampton

### Sure, Cash Works, Too

In brief reply to Michael Joyce's recent LTE supporting local use of the Common Good payment card:

Thanks, Michael, and please note that a bank account is not required to load money on to your card: you can exchange cash for Common Good credit at Fosters Supermarket in Greenfield – and soon, we hope, at additional locations.

**Ivan Ussach, Warwick**  
Operations director,  
Common Good

### CLARIFICATION

The town of Montague is not in negotiations with performance artist Marina Abramović for the sale of the Strathmore Mill. Our apologies to anyone still excited or angry following our April 1 announcement on the Facebook.

able housing, quality education, repair of roads and bridges, safe drinking water, cleanup of hazardous wastes and the climate crisis.

Otherwise, states will turn to casinos and sports betting – which can give temporary highs, but not lasting well-being – to fill the holes in our social safety net.

Pat Hynes, a retired Professor of Environmental Health from Boston University, directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice ([traprock.org](http://traprock.org)). She lives in Montague.

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No paper fourth week of November,  
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## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

I hope everyone made it through **April Fool's Day** without significant damage! Lots to share with you this week, so bear with me.

Are you a fan of the **Great Falls Farmers Market**? Join the Community Forum to discuss how to make the weekly summer market more accessible, convenient, and fun. The Montague Agricultural Commission wants to hear your thoughts on Thursday, April 4 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall, 1 Avenue A in the second floor meeting room.

The Great Falls Discovery Center's Kidleidoscope program on Friday, April 5 will feature a story, craft, and games based on the **theme of beavers**. 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.

Happy 150th birthday to **Greenfield Savings Bank**! From Monday, April 1 to Friday, April 5, stop in at any GSB office and enter to win one of ten \$150 gift certificates. You don't need to have an account to enter, and they will be drawing one winner at each GSB office. On Friday, April 5, there will be fun and food (cupcakes!) for everyone...

Ever wonder what legal documents are stored in the Registry, and how this office functions in preparing, maintaining and protecting our Franklin County records? Have questions on the Homestead Act? Now is your chance to find out how simple the process is, and the added protection this document can provide to the homeowner.

On Saturday, April 6, the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank hosts **Franklin County**

**Registrar of Deeds Scott Cote** from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Community Room. Feel free to invite a neighbor, as Scott is happy to answer any questions pertinent to his office. Coffee and light refreshments provided by GSB.

Mass Audubon naturalist Laura Beltran will teach children ages three and above and their families all about the **amazing beaver, the largest New England rodent**, on Saturday, April 6 at the Great Falls Discovery Center. There will be hands-on activities to learn about the beaver lodge and get a closeup view of beaver fur, sticks, and more!

The program will run from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and is sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center and the Montague Cultural Council.

My mouth is watering already for the 79th **Annual Sugar Supper** at the Montague Congregational Church, 4 North Street, Montague Center at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 6. The menu includes corned beef hash, baked beans, Harvard beets, coleslaw, homemade bread and doughnuts, and sugar on snow! Call (413) 367-2652 to reserve your seat or to order the meal to take out. The cost is \$12 for adults and \$5 for children under ten. Walk-ins are welcome if space permits.

In conjunction with the United Arc's Turners Falls Open House at 294 Avenue A on Thursday, April 11 from 5 to 7 p.m., Greenfield Savings Bank will **showcase the artwork** of several individuals served by the Arc who donated their work at the 2017 Annual Gala & Auction.

The artwork will be on display in the bank's Community Room from Monday, April 8 to Friday, April 12, during normal lobby hours. For

details and lobby hours, please call (413) 863-4316. Feel free to drop by both during normal hours, and the special evening hours on the 11th.

The New Salem Public Library is hosting a free workshop for everyone age eight and up on Tuesday, April 9 from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. Lou Leelyn of Lou's Upcycles will teach participants about **recycling plastic bags through the process of fusing**.

Using the heat and pressure of a household iron, participants will create a new type of textile from un-recyclable plastic bags and wrappers that would usually be thrown away.

This class teaches the basics of fusing, and each participant will complete a final project using the fused textile. Space is limited, so please sign up by calling the library at (978) 544-6334. The Library is at 23 South Main Street, New Salem.

On Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m., the same library will sponsor a free program by naturalist and educator Dawn Marvin Ward entitled **North Woods Nature and the Hermit**. This program is part of the Community Read, and will provide a close look at some of the animals that the North Pond Hermit (from the book *A Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel) may have encountered in his 27 years living in the woods. Dawn will have animal artifacts to explore. Call the library at the above number for information and directions.

Montague residents are invited to **share food and cultural reflections from various countries** on Thursday, April 11 at Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 Seventh Street in Turners Falls. There will be a shared meal beginning at 5:30 p.m., and a program at 6:30.

Part of the Interfaith Council of Franklin County's yearlong series, "Who Is My Neighbor?," the April gathering will feature tamales made by immigrants from Central America, pierogi from a woman in sanctuary from Russia, dumplings and other items from our Tibetan neighbors, as well as babaganoush, falafel, and grape leaves from a friend from Egypt.

The program will include reflections on our connections to these

cultures, as well as updates from groups working on immigrant rights in the state and region. Donations are welcome, but the gathering is open to all. For more information, email [interfaithcfc@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithcfc@gmail.com) or [songline50@aol.com](mailto:songline50@aol.com).

Artspace Community Arts Center offers music lessons to people of all ages, shapes, and sizes. **They need an adjustable piano bench**. Please call (413) 772-6811 or email [info@artspacegreenfield.com](mailto:info@artspacegreenfield.com) if you have one you could donate.

Looking ahead...

Mark your calendars for the **Easter Bazaar** on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Our Lady of Czesochowa Church, 84 K Street in Turners Falls. Coffee and doughnuts will be served in the morning. Come early for Easter gifts, religious goods, a bake sale, Polish food sale, vendors, a giant raffle, lunch and more!

Save the date! On Saturday, April 27, at 7 p.m. at the Turners Falls High School Theater, **ABBA tribute band Dancing Dream** brings the brilliance of the pop sensations to the Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala. Expect to hear hits like "Dancing Queen," "Take a Chance," "Fernando," "Mamma Mia" and many more at this high-energy concert filled with lush harmonies, elaborate costumes, and iconic choreography.

Advance tickets for this benefit concert are available at Hillside Pizza in Bernardston; Weatherheads/Dunkin Donuts in Erving; World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield; Scotty's Convenience Store and Greenfield Savings Bank in Turners Falls; by calling Sandy at (413) 863-7296; and at [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org). Advance tickets are \$25, at the door, \$30.

And put Saturday, May 4 from 6 to 10 p.m. on your calendar. The **Pop-Up Pub will be back at Leverett Crafts and Arts** with a Wheelhouse Food Truck and music including John Sheldon. Sounds like it will be a good time!

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

## This Sunday at the Shea: Celebrating Immigrant Voices

From combined sources.

**TURNERS FALLS** – "Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts" returns to the Shea Theater this coming Sunday, April 7 for the fourth year. Starting at 3 p.m., this event highlights area immigrants' artistic contributions. This year's performances include dances from Cambodia and Mexico, songs from Iran, El Salvador, and Bulgaria, African drumming, and poetry from around the world.

Marilyn Sylla, director of the Bamidele Dancers and Drummers and a Five College dance instructor, has volunteered to direct the event as she has for the past three years. Her experience and vision transform a disparate group of performers into a polished showcase. Some of the performers will offer dance classes, including salsa, after the stage production is over.

Monte (Christopher) Belmonte, president of the board of the Shea, emphasizes that the Shea's mission is to serve as a community performance space and the Center for New Americans (CNAM), which puts on this annual showcase, helps fulfill this mission each year.

CNAM has been welcoming and serving immigrants in western Massachusetts for more than 25 years by teaching English, computer skills, literacy, and career pathways. All classes are free, and they offer citizenship and immigration legal services at their four program



Jobanne and Rose, former Center for New Americans students, who will be singing songs at the Immigrant Voices event at the Shea this Sunday.

sites in Amherst, Greenfield, Northampton, and Turners Falls.

"There is remarkable diversity in our area," comments CNAM executive director Laurie Millman. "It is stunning to me how many people take the stage, and are really a presence on the stage. We have three sisters from Rwanda who sing: they barely look at each other, and start singing on cue, on key, in three-part harmony with no accompaniment... Whoa! It is incredible."

There will be quite a few poets presenting at the show. Millman noted that a student from Venezuela, who is in the Center's certified nursing program, will read a poem about her Venezuelan flag.

"Another woman from Iran, will be reading a

poem decrying the censorship of women artists in Iran, and then she will sing and dance as a way to demonstrate how much is lost by muzzling artists," she says. "Another student at the Center, a woman from South Korea, will read a poem on identity, about what it was like to be adopted as a South Korean by an American family."

It is not uncommon, according to Millman, for people who are in a new community and not as able to communicate freely as they might like to while they are mastering a new language and new customs, to tend to hold back a little bit until they become more proficient in English and more comfortable in their surroundings.

"But this is an opportunity for people to be onstage, in the spotlight, showing a whole group of people how much talent and skill they have on their terms: music and dance are universal," says Millman. "We will hear this woman read in Farsi and hear the sisters sing in Kinyarwanda, and you won't need translation – you will get it, on their terms."

Millman describes the show as "very upbeat, very moving, very high energy, and a really good time!" Tickets are priced at \$10 and can be purchased in advance through Center for New Americans' website, [cnam.org](http://cnam.org), and at the door.

Can't make it? WGBY will be filming the entire show for the Channel 57 *Connecting Point* news magazine.



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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**  
Week ending Mar. 29:

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Savannah Reipold

**Grade 7**  
Aaliyah Constantino

**Grade 8**  
Derek Helms

**Related Arts**  
Noah Ausikaitis

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## SCENE REPORT from pg A1

healthcare, campaign finance reform, climate change, labor, and more.

Gilmour said David Cohen, who sits with her on the FCCPR coordinating committee, originally conceived of the conference as focusing on "sewer socialism," a term originally used to deride the moderate goals sought and often won by socialists in Milwaukee, Wisconsin between the 1890s and 1930s.

"The Milwaukee socialists sort of deemphasized the social theory and revolutionary rhetoric around socialism," Gilmour told the crowd. "Instead they started working on moderate reforms like cleaning up neighborhoods and factories, putting in new sanitation systems, city-owned water and power systems, and improved education."

### Pooling Our Resources

Though the morning's first workshop time slot offered sessions on solar power and broadband, over half of the attendees crammed into a single upstairs classroom to discuss "affordable housing." Representatives of the Pioneer Valley Land Trust, Bernardston Country Estates, and Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity were each invited to explain how their organization helped provide shelter at cheaper-than-market rates, followed by an hour-long, free-ranging discussion.

The three organizations, it turned out, each offered an approach to reducing the cost of homeownership. The land trust splits the ownership of houses from the land underneath them; members own the houses themselves while paying a small lease fee on the land. The Bernardston site clusters 38 manufactured homes onto 12 acres, and members pay a maintenance fee into a coop that covers water and other infrastructure costs. And Habitat, a non-profit, uses donated materials and labor to build houses that it mortgages to income-qualifying families.

"A home is anywhere from 50 to 60 thousand dollars cheaper than it would have been if it came with the ownership of the two acres underneath it," Aric Savage explained of the land trust model.

Paul Parda said the homes in his Bernardston neighborhood were "affordable for us to own because we don't have to pay for profit to somebody else - all of our profits go right back into the corporation... We just roll it over into the infrastructure of the park."

"Because of the community support that goes into it, we put a deed restriction on the house that stays with the land and the house in perpetuity that limits the resale price, so that it'll be affordable to the next person when they go to buy," explained Habitat director Megan McDonough.

The panel elicited a very wide range of reactions from the socialist and socialism-curious attendees.

"I'm wondering what our town could do to attract affordable housing," said a Conway resident named Bob, who spoke of high taxes and the lack of businesses. "How would you encourage people to be willing to lease their land through the land trust for somebody else to build a house on? We have a lot of people who put their land in trust, but it's just to leave it wooded and alone."

"We just redid our zoning by-laws in my town, and there was this absolutely archaic definition of 'family,'" said Elizabeth Irving of Montague. "It was a 30-year terror response to the evils of communes.



The afternoon keynote address was delivered by Gianpaolo Baiocchi, a New York University sociology professor who has published books on mass movements and popular sovereignty in Latin America. "It does feel like science fiction," he said.

But there's no reason that heteronormative family structure, and the production of children, needs to be tied with ownership - I don't know how many towns have, deep in their bylaws, things that prevent 'a certain number of unrelated individuals' from living together."

"You have to change the zoning to be more dense," advised Marc Horne, director of a Lowell neighborhood group called the Coalition for a Better Acre. "You just can't make affordable housing work on multi-acre zoning. And the second structural barrier that municipalities actually have control over is water and sewer." Horne argued that leachfield requirements are "onerous" and have not kept up with septic system technology.

"People just simply need to make more money," he added. "The inputs required to produce housing rise at a certain level, and income does not track with that, so the affordability gap grows all the time."

"What are ideas for creating truly affordable housing - for people who make less than \$25,000 a year, which is me and most of the people I know?" asked Elliot Ezcurra of Turners Falls. "I think that tying affordable housing with ownership kind of limits who that's available to. For many people that's never going to be within their means."

Doug Selwyn asked whether a better way to help people afford rent is to "simply give people a living wage," citing Finland's basic income experiment. "All the results aren't in, but they're saying it's actually cheaper to give people enough money to live than to try to support them, when they can't live, with what is."

Another man pointed to the broad public housing in Vienna. "Public housing has been put through the gauntlet in terms of funding and political support - it's a shell of what it could be," he said. "It always has been, since it was developed in the '30s."

First Hampshire state representative Lindsay Sabadosa said that while Northampton has public housing, tenants have very few representatives in the housing authority, and her office fields numerous complaints about conditions in the system. "Yes, public housing," she said, "but we need public uprising to support the people who already live there."

"I love this idea of people-owned cooperatives, where we get apartments, and not necessarily places that people have to own," Sabadosa

said. "I think what's going to happen, if we don't start to take this seriously, is we're just going to be a really old retirement community... Every time I talk to someone in town, they're like 'yeah, I'm moving to Easthampton, or Holyoke, or up into Franklin County."

"This idea that we need these elaborate schemes to come up with money to scrape by is something that power is always going to have control over," observed Eleanor Finley, also still of Northampton. "I'm curious what the possibilities are for this region for kinds of direct action: building tenants' unions, and building homeless people's unions."

"I want to encourage us to think outside of this 'municipal socialism,' because that is going to be fiercely resisted," said Jean Derdarian of New Salem. "If you go in front of your town, in these conservative towns, and say 'oh, municipal socialism,' you're invoking a whole political barrage of things that have no place in our understanding of how we live and operate. I would encourage us to rethink that: call it 'the commons,' call it something else, call it what it really is, because we are not socialists."

"I am a socialist," a man in the back of the room piped up quietly, to murmurs of approval.

Roxann Wedegartner, a Greenfield planning board member making a bid for mayor, said that while the county seat has long met the state benchmark for affordable housing under Chapter 40B, "we still struggle to provide for affordable housing, so we're definitely looking to the communities around us to also begin to solve that problem."

Wedegartner said her board had pushed for an accessory dwelling unit bylaw, which would make it easier for homeowners to rent out apartments. "It was quite shocking to us, the number of people who really did not want to see that happen... We did get it. It was a struggle - it is indicative of some of the barriers we have to creating affordable housing."

"It's really hard to accept change," said McDonough. "We might be in favor of affordable housing as a general concept, but people often push against it when it's in their own neighborhood."

Asked how Habitat responds to local opposition to affordable housing development - including from residents who fear it could attract new people to the region, putting pressure on schools, hospitals, and job markets - she cited the organi-

zation Yes In My Backyard Pioneer Valley as a "way for people to get together on a pro-housing agenda" to make the case in local towns.

"I'm wondering if there are ways we can broaden our impact by connecting across communities," Selwyn asked. "Housing is a common problem across all of our communities... and socialism, I think, is not a word we should run from. What does socialism mean? It means pooling our resources for the good of everyone, and I'm okay with that."

Ferd Wulkan said that the hosting group, FCCPR, was "a county-wide, multi-issue organization, that until now has not had a housing group... I'm hoping that's something that can come out of this discussion."

### Harnessing Energy

While many workshop topics dealt with broad strategies and goals for popular power (affordable housing, public education, worker cooperatives, public banking), others addressed specific infrastructure: solar power, broadband, and hydropower.

The hydropower workshop turned out to be a presentation by a Bennington, Vermont resident named William Scully who successfully developed a small, disused local dam to generate electricity for the grid - presumably a project that might be of interest to municipal socialists, though Scully focused more on the nuts and bolts of assessing dams' feasibility.

Scully said he had involved environmentalists in the design of his project at the former Vermont Tissue Mill Dam in North Bennington, and described various ways he said the hydro development actually helped restore aquatic habitat.

Only 3% of America's 84,000 licensed dams, Scully said, are harnessed for energy, and he argued that this renders the removal-versus-green-energy debate beside the point: "We need to look at things on a community level, and on a basin planning level, and we need to tear a bunch of dams out, and we need to develop a bunch of dams. But right now we're simply doing nothing, other than arguing over ideology."

Rivers and streams were once widely seen as a source of green power, he said, but Reagan-era transfer of development incentives from hydropower to fossil fuels devastated the domestic turbine industry.

"One hundred years ago, everybody knew what I'm telling you now," Scully said.

see SCENE REPORT page A8

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**DISTRICT** from page A1

desirable, drafting a district agreement to pitch to the towns.

Tuesday's conversation was limited by its attendance: only two Pioneer Valley school committee members from Warwick, and one from Leyden, were at the meeting, and no selectboard members or staff from any of the northern towns came. The Pioneer ambassadors observed quietly as town administrators and selectboard, finance, and school committee members from Gill and Montague – eight from each town – hashed out the pros and cons of kicking off the legal process in the coming months.

Steve Hemman, executive director of the Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools, was on hand to answer technical questions. Hemman ran through the main points of the report both school committees had already heard, and outlined the regionalization procedure, which entails a planning process lasting 18 months to two years followed by a year-long transition period.

Gill-Montague superintendent Michael Sullivan showed tables of middle and high school staffing levels he said would be possible in a recombined district. “Both schools, in terms of physical plant, would have capacity to grow – there’s a lot of space in our buildings,” he said.

He also noted that the calculations assumed the towns’ elementary schools would remain unchanged. Last week, the Pioneer school committee voted to close Leyden’s Pearl Rhodes Elementary – a K-6 school with an enrollment of 32, according to state figures.

Gill-Montague business manager Joanne Blier showed that, if the towns use the actual headcount of students enrolled in district schools to assess town contributions, five towns’ assessments would drop, while Leyden’s would only rise by \$7,000 a year.

Tupper Brown of the Gill fin com criticized the report for showing the \$400,000 a year in savings would return to taxpayers, and said he felt it should be invested in the schools.

“We were asked what would be saved,” replied Hemman. “If you want to put it back into education,

you can do that.”

“This isn’t a plan – it’s a feasibility test,” added Sullivan.

“Just thinking of money is too shortsighted, in my mind,” said Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. “We need to think about how we keep kids.... If we can offer better programs, I would think that we would be able to start getting more kids back into the district, and maybe even attracting kids from other regions.”

Theresa Kolodziej of Erving, who holds a non-voting seat on the Gill-Montague committee, asked whether parents could be surveyed to see if they would choose back into a combined district.

Hemman told her he felt such surveys were unreliable, and that older students who had already choiced out do not frequently return. “You wanna get the younger kids to stay,” he said.

Gill selectboard chair Greg Snedeker, who teaches music at another school, commented that combining music and other electives makes it easier to make viable programs.

“This planning committee has one hell of a selling job,” Fred Bowman of the Montague fin com said. “We’re not just trying to educate better. We’re also talking about the cultural and social make-up of these communities, and that will determine how they vote when the time comes.” Bowman rapped the plastic folding table with his knuckles to emphasize most of the syllables of his statement.

Sullivan said the planning committee would be tasked with studying the proposal much more closely, and could recommend against it. “No one’s trying to sell regionalization,” he said. “But I honestly feel like I’m trying to sell the idea of doing more work, because it’s a serious proposition.”

“How close do we think we are to forming an exploratory committee?” Kuklewicz asked. “What do people think? To me it seems like an idea worth investigating.”

Tupper Brown said he would like Sullivan to draw up a more detailed plan for expanding the secondary curriculum.

“I think the central office plan is missing a lot of things we could use,” Montague fin com member

Jen Audley told Sullivan, referring to his staffing tables.

“There’s a point at which commitment to a planning committee, on a statutory level, becomes real,” Montague town administrator Steve Ellis warned. “If we have a sense that there’s no openness to this, regardless of the cost or the potential benefit... then it might not make sense to invest huge energy.” He suggested the superintendents should pitch the idea to the public at community meetings.

“These are very political decisions, and it’s not our role to even make recommendations,” Sullivan replied. “I’ve been hesitant to demonstrate what this could look like in an exciting way.”

Montague fin com member Mike Naughton said he thought it would be “premature” to form planning committees. “We’re not there yet,” he said.

“It comes down to how you portray it,” Kuklewicz argued, pointing out that the research responsibilities of the six-town planning board is “exactly what we’re talking about.”

“There are very few people in this room from other than the Gill-Mon-

tague district,” he added, “and there needs to be much more participation from all six communities equally.”

“I can see the reasonableness of giving it a formal title,” Ellis said, noting that his position had been “modified” over the course of the conversation. “But I think the important thing to me is that we engage in the community outreach process in earnest.”

“Can we call it a feasibility group?” asked John Ward of Gill’s selectboard. “So that we can have more input from the community at large, and make it look less like a *fait accompli*?”

“We live in communities where there’s limited capacities for this kind of work,” Audley said. “I want to keep the options open for people to be able to imagine what the future for public education in our region could look like, and not point it towards one particular vision if we’re not really psyched about that vision.”

Audley said she agreed with Naughton and would like to see benefits to curriculum spelled out before she would support a planning committee.

Bowman suggested aiming to form planning committees in September, but Kuklewicz advocated for a faster pace. “We’re going to be at the same table five years from now saying, ‘when’s our next meeting,’” he said.

“We need to ask Pioneer to talk,” observed Gill school committee rep Bill Tomb.

Naughton pointed out that Gill and Montague did not necessarily need to hold off for Pioneer’s towns to vote before forming planning committees.

“If there’s one way to get people involved,” Snedeker suggested, “it’s to put together a planning committee, and let ‘em get upset and come in and start figuring out what’s going on!”

The Gill-Montague school committee will discuss forming planning committees on April 9, the Gill selectboard on April 16, and the Montague selectboard, according to Kuklewicz and Ellis, on April 22. “Somebody’s gotta do it first,” said Kuklewicz.

The next summit of the six town’s “civic leaders” is set for April 30.



*The Reporter received this email as we prepared this edition for press:*

“This is an update on our search process for a new secondary level principal. After reviewing 16 applications and interviewing 5 candidates, the 12-member search committee selected two finalists. The finalists’ schools will be visited this week by members of the committee and the candidates will spend a day each visiting with us next Wednesday and Thursday.

“The candidate visiting GFMS/TFHS on Wednesday, April 10 is Paul Goodhind. Mr. Goodhind has been an educator for 30 years and has been an administrator for 20 of these. He is currently serving in his fourth year as principal of Mosier Elementary School in South Hadley. Prior to that he was principal of Bolyston Elementary School and prior to that as principal of Mahar Regional School. Mr. Goodhind holds a bachelors degree from Westfield State, and a masters from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University.

“Joanne Menard will visit on Thursday, April 11. Ms. Menard has been the principal of Petersham Center School for the past four years. Prior to that she was an instructional coach in Medway, a middle school science teacher in Spencer-East Brookfield, in addition to holding other teaching and private sector positions. Ms. Menard has a bachelors degree from Ohio State University, a masters from Anna Maria College, and she is working on a doctorate at the University of Hartford.

“There will be a public meet and greet in the GFMS/TFHS theater from 4 to 5 p.m. next Wednesday for Mr. Goodhind and next Thursday for Ms. Menard. I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to come out and meet our finalists. Regards,

**Michael Sullivan, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent of Schools**”

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**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD****Board OKs Replacing Smashed-Up Cop Car, 2-0-1**

By **GEORGE BRACE**

The Gill selectboard began their April 1 meeting with an executive session to conduct contract negotiations with police chief Chris Redmond. No news was reported from the session, and the board moved into open session to conduct its regular business, including a vote to approve the purchase of a new police cruiser, potential dates for town meeting, and a number of administrative matters.

Chief Redmond reported that the insurers had determined the replacement value of a cruiser recently totaled in an accident was \$36,778. The chief located a 2019 model cruiser costing approximately that amount, but said it would take another \$8,000 to get it lettered and properly equipped.

Redmond added that separate insurance on equipment damaged in the accident had not been processed yet, and this insurance, plus

the transfer of equipment that was still usable, would likely reduce the \$8,000 figure.

Board member John Ward brought up the subject of the timeline for consideration of a hybrid cruiser, which, previous to the accident, the board had intended to look at more closely in 2020 or 2021. The chief estimated that if the 2019 non-hybrid was approved, the department would be unlikely to need another vehicle for five years, unless the board wanted to upgrade for fuel economy reasons.

The board approved the cruiser purchase, with Ward abstaining. Ward said he was fine with delaying consideration of a hybrid given the circumstances, but cited the thought that the department may only need two, or two and a half cruisers, not three, as the reason for his abstention.

The board discussed the scheduling of this year’s town meeting. They decided that, due to the budget

not being ready, and there not being enough non-financial matters on the agenda to warrant a separate meeting, it would be best to postpone the meeting until June 10 or June 17, and do it in one shot, rather than have two meetings.

Board member Randy Crochier said he’d like to stick with the traditional first Monday in May, but it didn’t make sense this year. Chair Greg Snedeker commented that the town has been dealing with a “holy host” of issues recently, and he thought people would understand the need for a delay.

The board decided to look further into the June dates, with a preference for June 17.

A slate of nominees for the Board of Fire Engineers was approved. Appointed through April of 2020 were Gene Beaubien, Steve Connell, Jason Edson, Stuart Elliott, Andrew Howell, Greg Parody, Ken Sears, Mitchell Waldron, and Dan Ware.

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**ERVING** from page A1

Catlin and an engineer from Jamrog HVAC on March 28. McCrory said that "water was bubbling up in the parking lot."

Smith said that, after investigating the system, the Jamrog engineer determined that the well feed line is frozen, is most likely broken, and is filled with sand and silt.

The break in the line is believed to be under the sidewalk near the center's entrance and under the parking lot nearest the building. As a result of the damage to the feed line, the main circulation pump has burned out. Water discharged from the pipe may have undermined the sidewalk and parking area.

Smith said that the Jamrog engineer outlined three options for dealing with the problem: repair the existing open-loop geothermal system, at an approximate cost of \$20,000; retrofit the existing geothermal system to a closed-loop system, at an approximate cost of \$100,000; or abandon the geothermal system and install air-source heat pumps, at an approximate cost of \$100,000.

William Bembury and Jacob

Smith, the two selectboard members present on Monday, favored abandoning the geothermal system.

Bembury asked whether the center would need to be closed during work on the system. McCrory answered that the center could remain open, as all the work would be in the attic or outside the building.

Bembury and Jacob Smith considered how to fund repair or replacement of the system. Asked whether Green Communities grant money could be used, administrative coordinator Smith said that the geothermal system work would use up most of the grant money and make it difficult to meet the Green Community program's 20% energy reduction goals for other town buildings.

Bembury and Jacob Smith asked Bryan Smith to gather information about the estimated annual operating cost of the heat pumps, whether the heat pumps would deliver a reduction in energy use, and how quickly the heat pumps could be installed.

The selectboard will consider the information and decide on what to do with the geothermal system

at their April 8 meeting.

**Other Business**

The board reviewed and edited articles in the draft annual town meeting warrant, including the bylaw regarding excluding trucks from North Street.

If the bylaw is enforced under a civil disposition, the town may charge fines of \$100 or \$250, payable to the town clerk. If the bylaw is enforced as a traffic violation, the highest possible fine is \$20. However, with traffic violations, the driver might be subject to loss of license.

The board asked administrative coordinator Smith to ask town counsel Donna MacNicol to look further into how to enforce the truck exclusion.

The board reviewed the draft police department policies regarding testifying in court and interactions with transgender individuals, and approved them.

The board reviewed draft finance policies regarding debt management and financial reserves for the second time, and scheduled a third reading for April 8.

**HYDRO** from page A1

which subcontracts with Gomez and Sullivan, began the discussion of recreation with a short PowerPoint presentation. Verville moved quickly through several pages of bulleted points outlining the history of studies and negotiations on recreation since 2013.

Verville said recreational studies contracted by FirstLight had reviewed a total of 28 sites in the project area. Studies included a user survey, a whitewater boating evaluation, an evaluation of day and overnight facilities, and a study of trails on Northfield Mountain. After the presentation, Donlon called on members of the audience for comment.

Donlon argued that FirstLight was spending less than one percent of its revenue on supporting recreation, and suggested that was inadequate. She said that FirstLight needed a more developed recreation plan and an advisory committee. Donlon also argued for a maintenance plan for recreational sites, more marketing, and more focus on ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) compliance.

Kristen Sykes of the Appalachian Mountain Club said there were long gaps between campsites on the river, and called for a goal of accessible campsites. Sykes also noted that paddlers stopping at the Barton Cove camping area had "no way to lock their boats," and needed to walk a quarter mile with their gear to camp sites.

Like numerous other commenters, Sykes criticized the Poplar Street river access point in Montague, near the confluence of the Connecticut and Deerfield rivers, as "dangerous."

A key issue raised by both the town of Montague and whitewater rafting interests has been the limited number of days suitable for rafting and similar sports in the river's "bypass stretch," as it is called, below the Turners Falls dam. The bypass, essentially the section of the Connecticut River below the dam and parallel to the canal, is generally dry and unsuitable for recreation during the late spring, summer, and early fall months.

A 2015 study commissioned by FirstLight evaluated the reactions of paddlers of different classes to conditions at various water levels. The study found that a minimum flow of 2,500 cubic feet per second (cfs) was necessary for most uses.

Under the existing license, this flow occurs for roughly 40 to 45 days per year, primarily in the spring when river flows exceed the capacity of the Turners Falls Dam. Increased whitewater use would require opening the dam and reducing flow in the parallel canal, as is done in the fall when the canal is emptied for a week for maintenance.

FirstLight's 2015 flow study stated that "one concern already identified by federal and state fishery agencies is the potential impact of additional or extraordinary

flows in the bypass reach on short-nose sturgeon spawning/incubation/rearing periods in late spring and early summer. These potential impacts will be considered further after the other resource studies are completed."

The flow study also quoted a letter from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife as saying that "[t]he Division will not support seasonally inappropriate flow regimes for whitewater boating (i.e. high flows in mid-summer) as these flows will adversely affect the aquatic biota that the Division is seeking to reestablish and protect in the bypassed reach of the Connecticut River."

Speaking to the *Reporter* several days after the meeting, Bob Nasdor, Northeast stewardship and legal director of the non-profit organization American Whitewater, challenged the view that more river flow during the summer months would cause harm to the sturgeon.

**"What's a problem for the sturgeon is not having any water, not more water."**

**Bob Nasdor**

*Legal director,  
American Whitewater*

"What's a problem for the sturgeon is not having any water," Nasdor said, "not more water." He also said the sturgeon were "not there" in the summer months, and that "dam interests" tended to exaggerate the impact of increased water flow on species. Nasdor testified at the March 29 meeting.

The presentation and discussion of erosion took up less time than the recreation discussion. Tim Sullivan of Gomez and Sullivan reviewed the results of a FirstLight erosion study. He said the "primary" causes of erosion along the banks of the river were found by that study to be "land management," water flow, ice, and waves from boating. FirstLight projects were only determined to be "contributing" factors.

Donlon called for a "shoreline adaptive management plan." Kim MacPhee, who represents the Franklin Regional Council of Governments at settlement negotiations, said she was concerned about "all of the years we have been talking about erosion," and that "dam and projects have a highly significant impact" on shoreline conditions.

Tim Shearer, who owns property on the river near Northfield Mountain, was critical of the power company's "failed" erosion control efforts on his property in the past. "I would rather have sold the land to you," he told the FirstLight representatives.

**NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD**

## Warrant Articles Approved for April 27 Annual Town Meeting

By **ROB SKELTON**

The selectboard met with members of the finance and capital planning committees to scour the warrant ahead of the annual town meeting, which is set for April 27. Discussed were the order and placement of articles.

The elementary school wants its article voted before the budget, said finance chair Ann Delano, referring to Article 6, which would raise \$33,126 supplementary to its budget, for operating expenses.

Dudleyville should come before nukes and refugees, said selectboard chair Peter d'Errico, referring to a citizens' petition to raise up to \$15,000 for an engineering assessment to fix the mud-prone road.

A policy of compassion toward refugees, and a call to abolish nuclear weapons, join an effort to change the state flag – as citizen petitions on the warrant.

Short-term rentals of the Airbnb ilk could become codified and taxed, should voters approve. D'Errico, whose board has been "hammered on" to find new sources of revenue, likened it to an "impact fee."

"Why not do it?" offered Wes Goscenski.

"It's all regulated by the state," d'Errico said. "We don't have to send the Gestapo around."

**Plume, and Fume**

Residents in the vicinity of the south Leverett "plume" whose drinking water is believed to be affected by leachate from the former nearby

landfill came to press the selectboard as it meanders toward a solution. Problem is, there are no solid numbers on the various "fixes" that the town can offer, hence a difficulty in "selling" it to town meeting.

When pressed, the selectboard has often turned to the draconian eminent domain option – basically "taking" all the contaminated properties off the tax roll and paying assessed values for them, which, these residents point out, would make them homeless.

The Amherst water line extension, currently being studied, depends on the alignment of a number of moving targets, with no guarantees.

And the East Leverett Waterworks, a municipal entity created to supply clean water from an aquifer at the former Adams estate, is mostly an idea, but Leverett has contracted with a hydrogeologist to explore the option.

The three options have been written up in the warrant, with no prices attached yet.

The residents felt it would be a hard sell without numbers, and the board agreed, and said they hoped to get some soon. Meanwhile, the residents must make a case of their hardship, and hope the townspeople pity them enough to finance one of these solutions.

The residents – Mark Doubleday, Virginia Goodale, and Pat Duffy – expressed their bewilderment with the difficulty of the process, but kept rancor to a minimum.

"Why is the onus on us?" Doubleday fumed.

"It's a complex issue that's been studied to death, and the time to do more studies has gone," said d'Errico.

**Other Business**

Kurt Adams of the Leverett Alliance requested a one-day license for a "pop-up-pub" event at the Leverett Crafts & Artists to be held Saturday, May 4. Adams promised a "diverse crowd of people," a food truck, and musician John Sheldon. The request was approved by d'Errico and selectwoman Julie Shively; selectman Tom Hankinson was absent.

An untethered pitbull owned by Lori Lynn Hoffer of North Leverett Road was the subject of a dog hearing, the complainant being Diane Crowe of Cave Hill Road, whose rat-dog was mauled but not injured while both were off-leash on Rattlesnake Gutter Road.

Hoffer apologized to Crowe, saying she felt terrible, and acknowledged that her 4-year-old dog was out of voice control, but that 95% of the time the dog is obedient.

"You've had your dog roaming all over town," Shively said to Crowe. The selectboard accepted Hoffer's assurances to adhere to the leash law; Crowe said she is scared to go back to the Gutter, and that she fears for all the other dogs who might fall victim to this dog's aggression.

"If it happens again..." Crowe started.

"If it happens again it happens again, and you'll be back here," said d'Errico.

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**CANNABIS** from page A1

and one for medical cannabis. Customers can browse folders with appealing pictures of a variety of cannabis products. Then the lines proceed to a sales person for consultation and the purchase of the product.

Although a line had gathered outside the facility, the first person to purchase recreational cannabis was the mayor of Greenfield, Bill Martin. This was quite the media event, with cameras clicking and reporters surrounding the mayor.

Martin, who said he had used marijuana in the past, said he purchased massage oil containing CBD for muscle pain which he hoped would reduce his daily use of ibuprofen. The mayor added that, by being the first in town to purchase legal recreational cannabis, he was following a tradition established by Northampton mayor David Narkowitz.

Marin emphasized the potential economic benefits to Greenfield of the facility. "It's a new revenue source, and it comes directly to the city — it doesn't have to be filtered through other state layers," he said. "It also fits into our downtown strategy to provide what people need."

The representatives of Patriot Care were friendly and informative. Mary-Alice Miller, an executive of the company, applauded the city for being "very supportive" during the

company's long process of obtaining a license from the state.

Miller said she hoped the legalization of cannabis would lead to more research on the product. "We need more testing," she told the *Reporter*. "That is one of the reasons I got on board with this: to see more research, which was very difficult when cannabis was illegal."

Miller has also said that recreational sales will benefit those with medical needs. "A lot of people out there do not seek help through the medical program that can absolutely benefit from our products," she said.

The standard rate for a medical marijuana card in Massachusetts includes a \$195 charge for a clinic visit for certification, and a \$50 state registration fee. However, the registration fee can be waived for those on MassHealth (Medicaid), SSI (federal disability), and those who can prove their income is below 300% of the poverty line.

When this reporter arrived at the Greenfield facility an hour before it opened, several customers were already waiting in the spring cold. They were cannabis users with medical needs who were looking forward to not paying the state license fee to be allowed to buy the product.

One said he uses cannabis products to "reduce the pain of cancer." "I am on Social Security, he said,

"and the medical license is expensive." He also said that he had been arrested for smoking cannabis on his paper route at the age of sixteen.

A second customer said she had been using medical cannabis to reduce inflammation caused by Crohn's disease, but "I can't afford a card."

Patriot Care owns a cultivation facility and another dispensary, which now sells recreational cannabis, in the city of Lowell. Its parent company is Columbia Care. According to the website Cannabis Ventures, Columbia Care was created in 2012, and by October 2018 was valued at \$1.38 billion. The site says that the corporation "has become the largest fully-integrated multi-state medical cannabis operator in the US."

Patriot Care will have some competition in the county. Herbology Group, Inc. has received a provisional license from the state to open a retail store near the Registry of Motor Vehicles in Greenfield.

And a company called 253 Farmacy will be opening a combined cultivation, production, and retail facility in the former Hallmark Imaging building on Millers Falls Road in Montague. Montague town planner Walter Ramsey said this week that the retail part of the business is targeted to open in July.



# A Spirited Contest

By DAVID JAMES

**LAKE PLEASANT** — For some residents of Montague's smallest and youngest of five villages, the summer highpoint is hanging out in Minnie E. Rutter park watching grass grow, while the winter counterpart is gathering on the Bridge of Names to watch ice disappear from the surface of the lake below.

Although there is no wagering event connected with the passion activity of the summer, up to 57 villagers are more than eager in winter to cast a dollar into a communal pot and blind-draw a dated ticket in an attempt to win the annual Ice Off the Lake contest, which began in 1977.

This year, tell-tale "walrus holes" began appearing here and there on the surface of the lake in the late afternoon of March 22. The holes are caused by springs below, and are harbingers of the beginning of the end of the season of the ice.

Traditionally, as winter is well on the wane, contest judges gather daily on the 220-foot long, 400-picket wooden footbridge which joins the two sections of the village. As much of the lake surface as is visible is carefully eyeballed for ice from the Raisin Rosen picket, the official contest seat of judgment.

According to contest common law, if no ice can be seen, no ice exists... no matter that the judges may have passed ice pockets near the shore while wending their way from one end or the other of the bridge to arrive at the judgment picket.

This year, the end came at 5 p.m. on March 30 when Chief Judge Patrick L. Otto, Sr., swept the lake surface with high-powered antique bird-binoculars from his post at the Raisin Rosen picket and declared not one ice cube could be seen.

The winner this year was the Spirit of Louise Shattuck, a third-generation Spiritualist who died in 2005. Shattuck, a lifetime member of the National Spiritual Alliance, is the second non-corporeal being to win the contest in its 43-year history.

The contest date range was February 22 through April 19. Those dates represent the earliest and latest dates ice has been judged to be gone from the lake since the event began. The start date was established in 2012, and the contest end date was determined by ice departure results in 1978.

Lake Pleasant was founded in 1874 by the Massachusetts Liberalist and Spiritualist Association as a warm-weather camp-meeting grounds. Twin core beliefs of that organization included: the human mind and soul is eternal, and communication exists between souls in the material world and souls in the formless world of the afterlife.

Though long a secular community, Lake Pleasant for half a century following its birth was the largest Spiritualist gathering place in the United States. Because the National Spiritual Alliance has been based in the village since 1913, Lake Pleasant remains the oldest continuously-existing same-site Spiritualist center in the country.

## NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Motorcycle Rally, Fashion Show, Elementary School Lease Discussed

By JEFF SINGLETON

The "new economy" in downtown Turners Falls is promoted by public events, many of them sponsored by the town's "Riverculture" program. Last Monday the Montague selectboard approved two events proposed by new Turners Falls businesses: a vintage motorcycle road rally, and a "fashion exposition" in Peskeompskut Park.

Peter Chilton of Nova Motorcycles, currently on Third Street, came before the board to request a permit for the "use of public property" for the company's third annual vintage "Unsprung Moto" rally. The rally takes place on May 4, and features motorcycles in a range of classes: those built before 1965; from 1965 to 1976; from 1977 to 1990; mopeds (500 cc); sidecars; and an "open" class.

"It's not a race in any way," said Chilton, "Everything is a timed trial. They have to match times that they have been given." Chilton explained that there would be four short "cones courses" with varying times — two in the morning and two in the afternoon — and two long "public road courses" in the morning and afternoon. Bikers are penalized for minutes over or below the prescribed times, and the rider with the least penalty seconds wins the rally.

"Last year's winner, I believe, had 1.9 seconds in penalties over the course of over 150 miles," said Chilton. He said the long morning route was 60 or 70 miles, usually east of Interstate 91 "through backroads in Montague, Orange, Northfield — back to the shop, and we provide lunch for them. They go on another agility route in the afternoon, and that's usually west."

Chilton said that we "don't generally announce [the routes] to the towns, but we arrow the course with

paper arrows." He also said there was a "timed release" of bikers, which would avoid clustering.

Nova is moving soon from its current Third Street location to Second Street. The board approved Chilton's request for the use of property from 141 Second Street to the Unity Park parking lot.

Co-owner Sayre Anthony told the *Reporter* that the word "unsprung," in the "motorcycle world," refers to weight that is not carried by the springs and, at higher levels, can make the cycle difficult to handle. The name of the rally "is actually a play on words, because the event takes place in the spring," he said.

### Fashion in the Park

Next the board approved a request by Richie Richardson, owner of a fashion boutique named FAB, also on Second Street, for a "Fashion Exposition" at Peskeompskut Park on September 21. The exposition will be located across from the former Ste. Anne's Church.

This is the second annual event Richardson has sponsored, and last year he planned for activities in both the former church and park. But the outdoor events were cancelled, he said, "in the interest of time." This year, he plans to have two days of events in the church and one in the park.

"We want to invite the public, vendors, people who do not necessarily design, but do a lot of vintage fashion," Richardson said. "We don't want to leave those people behind, because New England has a lot of that."

Richardson also requested that he be allowed to post "improved signage," because last year many attendees said they could not find the church. Town administrator Steve Ellis said he would be happy to work with Richardson on the signage.

### Other Business

The board approved a request from Ellis to extend the current lease agreement with the Gill-Montague Regional School District for the Sheffield-Hillcrest campus until June 3.

The district has requested that the town not use the Hillcrest Elementary School buildings for voting in Precincts 3 and 4, as the town has done for decades. The town, searching for an alternative location, is investigating the state-owned Discovery Center in Precinct 5. However, negotiations with the state, including the cost of a state police security detail, have not been completed. Furthermore, the school district has resisted naming Hillcrest as a potential backup location.

Ellis told the *Reporter* that the negotiations with the school district were "an easy conversation, but this is a busy time of year."

Ellis also reviewed the current status of the site plan for the new Department of Public Works facility on Turners Falls Road. He said there would be a review of a revised site plan by the zoning board of appeals in April, because the height of the building will be "several feet above the bylaw," and will therefore require a variance.

Ellis said site plan shows a larger tree "buffer" between the facility and Turners Falls Road, and that abutters were being given the opportunity to review the plan. He said that the town was targeting May to bid construction, with a construction contract awarded in June and "breaking ground" in July.

The board awarded a \$105,874 contract for facade improvements to the Colle Building on Avenue A to Renaissance Builders.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on Monday, April 8.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on April 2, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### Gill to Consider Sale Of Riverside Building

The Gill selectboard, facing tough budget options, is planning to put an article on the annual town meeting warrant this May asking the voters to declare the Riverside Municipal Building at 54 French King Highway — the former Riverside School — and the 1.5 acres of land it sits on surplus property.

A positive vote would clear the way for the selectboard to explore the possibility of selling the property, which is assessed at \$480,200.

The building still houses a school on part of the first floor: the Four Winds school, a small private middle school, leases classroom space from the town for a little more than \$10,000 a year, a figure close to what the town spends to heat and maintain the building.

### GMRSD Votes Assessments

On Tuesday night, the Gill-Montague school committee voted to apply the district's entire certified free cash reserves — \$492,642 — toward reducing the anticipated assessments for the towns of Gill and Montague, to meet the committee's proposed 1% budget increase.

On March 24 the committee

approved a \$16,792,890 FY'10 operating budget for the district. On March 31, the school committee approved assessment figures (including debt) for the member towns.

Montague would owe \$7,387,771, an increase of 2.7% from last year, while the assessment for Gill would be \$1,438,047, an increase of 4.5% from last year.

### Four Candidates Running For Montague Selectboard

At least four candidates are in the running for the three-year selectboard seat being vacated by retiring selectboard chair Allen Ross.

Mark Fairbrother, 53, of Meadow Road, chair of the conservation commission, is in the running for the seat, along with Joshua Gammon, 18 of Fairway Avenue, president of the student council and star center for the TFHS state semi-finalist basketball team.

Also in the running are Ed Golrick, 23, of West Main Street in Millers Falls, former board member of Montague Community Cable, and Jack Nelson, 74, of Canal Street, a town meeting member, artist, and businessman from Precinct 5.

The race could get even more crowded if the Democratic town caucus nominates another candidate. Letters of intent to run in that caucus are due to chair Jay DiPucchio by Friday at 5 p.m.

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**SCENE REPORT** from pg A1

He fielded a series of questions from Greenfield's Jim Terapane about whether the Mill Street Dam at the former Wiley & Russell tap and die plant could be appropriate for hydropower redevelopment.

Asked about the Southworth plant on the Turners Falls power canal, which closed in 2017 and is in tax taking, Scully said he believed the onsite hydroelectric turbine was recently rebuilt.

In both cases, Scully said he would need more information before advising a project be taken on.

After the workshop sessions,

attendees reconvened in the dining commons for a keynote address by Gianpaolo Baiocchi, a sociology professor at New York University who has published books on left-wing popular movements in Latin America and elsewhere, and their relationship to government power.

Baiocchi touted "Communities Over Commodities," a report on housing alternatives he had helped draft for the Right to the City Alliance, and urged attendees to learn about FUCVAM, a federation of housing cooperatives in Uruguay that houses over 90,000 people.

Baiocchi said FUCVAM's "se-

cret" lies in developing in its members "a non-capitalist ownership, a sense of investment in the human."

Baiocchi spoke against the tendency of some socialists to isolate themselves from mainstream institutions in pursuit of purist politics.

"It really is a disservice to our cause to think that you have good ideas, and the power of those are going to carry the day," he said. "We cannot give up the ground of being with real people, and listening to the things that they want."

A number of the conference's younger participants turned out to be members of the Democratic So-

cialists of America (DSA), some hailing from places like Lowell, Lawrence, and Pittsfield. Pioneer Valley DSA member Willie Thompson asked Baiocchi about "the limits of local control."

"What does local control mean in a segregated society?" he asked.

Baiocchi summarized the "municipalist hypothesis" as holding that "the local level is more porous to our influences... therefore municipal spaces are potentially more liberatory."

But, Baiocchi agreed, "local power does have a nasty history, too - if you think about all the towns

that segregated themselves from large urban centers in order not to pay taxes to people of color..."

To this he added the agenda of "states' rights," regressive school boards, and the limited leverage municipal governments have to improve residents' lives.

"It's not enough to say, 'all power to the local,'" Baiocchi argued. "Opening up the institutions is one part of it, but competing, and going to those places, and having those political and ideological discussions with the people in those towns that are asserting means of local control, is the other part."



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APRIL 4, 2019

Above: Cynthia Fritz shared this photograph of the evening sky over the Turners Falls power canal. Thanks, Cynthia!

## Unearthing the Archives

By Charlotte Kohlmann

Part III: Chris Clawson and the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage

*There is nothing quite like speculating about the future, for raising questions about the way we remember the past.*

— Michele Pierson, "Special Effects: Still in Search of Wonder"



**GREENFIELD** – Fifty years ago, “ham” radio waves were popular clubhouses on the air for many teenagers in Massachusetts. Chris Clawson, digital curator of the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage in Greenfield, was one of the countless 14-year-old amateur operators who built radios and communicated through personal stations.

“The radio was a physical thing that you had to assemble: you had to try and solve a problem using your experience and mental tools. Every generation should experience something like it,” says Chris. “There is a certain type of detachment of reality with today’s ‘black box’ technologies. Most of us just don’t know how it works, or how to navigate without it.”

The curiosity that began for Chris with shortwave radio led him to become fascinated with the tools used to digitize archaic film, which he is currently using to develop a public database of local Franklin County photographs and moving images.

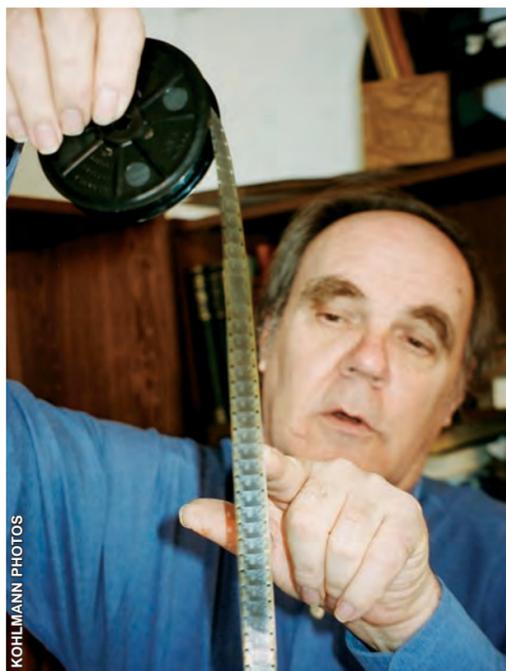
The museum’s website and YouTube channel showcase narrated films on various subjects from throughout the decades, including commercial Tap and Die presentations filmed in Greenfield, which new generations of audiences are now discovering. Commenters on YouTube share their own personal connections to these companies and local heritage sites: “[M]y dad ran the storeroom in a printing company, and handed out long Millers Falls screwdrivers to all the press maintenance guys, in the Fifties and Sixties,” one writes. “Good information never becomes obsolete. You could still train apprentices today with these films.”

This small film library uses a public platform to share local industrial archaeology, and discusses the ways technology was perceived and implemented over the generations.

As a self-taught fragile media archivist, Chris has rigged up his own system. He gutted out a 1970s high school Bell and Howell projector, and created an appa-



Early phonograph records are another form of communication that Chris Clawson admires and dedicates his time to. He has been collecting records since his college years, and holds 3,000 in his personal archive. He says he likes them because “I can go back to the originally intended audience from 110 years ago.”



Chris Clawson inspects 16mm film from 1921. He points to a pattern of silver migration and the deterioration of the acetate.

ratus with a dismembered camera body to capture and digitize film at a frame-by-frame rate.

Chris strives to see the whole image metaphorically and literally speaking. He will scan the full surface of the photographic glass plate to include the cracked corners; he will show the full border of the 16mm film frame, and not crop out any detail, as if to point out the reality of human touch from the maker. He says he scans photographs at the highest-quality resolution because “someone in the future could magnify her irises and see if she had an eye condition from the 1880s.”

“Lessons of the past are relevant to the future, and the preservation of the actual data and artifacts provide the proofs which allow the writing of new histories and the challenges to old – and possibly incorrect – ones,” Chris continues. “My motivation is for a reproduction that is faithful, understandable, and credible to the future. It should contain as much information as possible to the extent of my budget and technological ability.”

### History in the Attic

Chris is also restoring films of a different genre – films that were not demonstrations, weren’t created by studio production companies, and often weren’t even linear. Not only is he the digital curator for the Museum of Our Industrial Heritage, but he is also archiving and curating a library of forgotten home movies made and owned by Franklin County residents.

Old amateur film reels of 8mm, Super 8mm, and 16mm are often left in boxes located in a damp basement, forgotten in the back of a closet or sitting in the heat of a dusty attic. The decomposing film is a daily reality. Time is its biggest opponent: if you bend cellulose acetate, it will eventually crack and disintegrate.

These were films made from the perspective of an amateur individual whose goal was to document segments of everyday life, moments that are mundane and pass by without any weight or feel of significance: a communal dinner, a child by the riverbend, sequences of farm life.

“History is still going in the dumpster,” he says. “These are our own family films. If we don’t find the stuff that they produced, then nobody will – it will just be gone.”

These digitized films can be found on his website and YouTube channel under the name Meloware Media (Meloware.com). One can watch remarkable and rare moments like the Montague Field Day from 1940, or the Franklin County Fair from 1929.

Many of the faces that appear in front of the lens

see **UNEARTHING** page B3



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER YOU’LL KNOW BY THE SIGNS

By DAVID BRULE

**ERVINGSIDE** – When it’s springtime in New England, the warming southwest wind drapes the trees with redwinged blackbirds, rocking and bobbing in the bare branches way up there, all facing into the wind. Their excited, chattering voices drift down to us.

Here below, all is movement. Not only is the wind rustling branches but the low bushes and grasses are stirring with busy avian shapes, scratching in dry leaves, or singing from every possible perch.

The early spring has kept the winter sparrow clan close by, with the summer sparrow cousins mingling with them. The lingering tree sparrows and juncos cross paths with the fox sparrows and song sparrows, all of them singing their spring songs. One of these early mornings the northerners will be off, leaving the new-comers behind to their summer homes.

The phoebe arrived today on the south wind, singing out his wheezing two-syllable call.

We’ll see where he’ll build his nest this time. Will it be on the front porch shelf, the woodshed, or the cliff face overlooking the rushing river at the bend?

The other morning a cloud of tree swallows whirled over the fog-bound Connecticut River, moving on kiting wings between the noisy goose couples out on the water. Those swallows are pushing their luck and taking their chances: a cold snap sure to come will cause them problems. That could happen with the phoebe, too. Both count on early insects that could disappear for days when the temperature drops or the snow flies as it will once again.

The goose couple has returned to our Beaver Hole marsh in triumphant honking, swinging for the first time this year over the pond lined with last year’s cattails. Setting their wings and gliding downwards, they’re clamoring and joyful to return to their summer home. They made a goose racket as only geese can. The honking echoed all over the neighborhood of the Flat. I wonder if I was the only one to hear and notice?

The proud and fierce little kestrel has returned to its favorite telephone pole up in Northfield. It was known as the sparrow hawk when I was a

boy, but the bird bureaucrats re-named it, using the British moniker. That smacks of Eastern elitism, if you ask me.

This small reddish and hooded falcon, barely holding on to its original habitat, actually preys on grasshoppers and the smallest of rodents. Its shrill *killy-killy* calls ring out over fields and country roadways. You’ll see him and his mate, if you know what to look for.

The pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is still spending days in our woods, drumming out his claim to territory day in and day out. He’s whooping and hollering all over the place.

If you’ve actually heard speak of the pileated woodpecker, you may have wondered where he got his name. Why *pileated*? I got an answer from Sean Smith of Amherst, a Latin scholar friend with whom I taught for years, who filled me in.

That unusual adjective, not really a part of most people’s everyday vocabulary, comes from its scientific name and is seemingly used nowadays only in reference to that particular woodpecker: the descriptor refers to the particular shape of cap worn in ancient Rome by freedmen. *Pileus* meaning “those who wear such a cap.”

Somehow the sight of the crest of this woodpecker and the similarity to freedmen’s headwear inspired the Latin name for that particular species that haunts our woods. So there you have it.

The pileated, by the way, is a large, flashy, and noisy crow-sized woodpecker that has, for one reason or another, actually thrived in the midst of many human neighborhoods. It loves tall, dead trees, of which we have plenty in our woods and in our region along the Connecticut River. That alone is a good reason to let dead trees stand, if they don’t pose any danger.

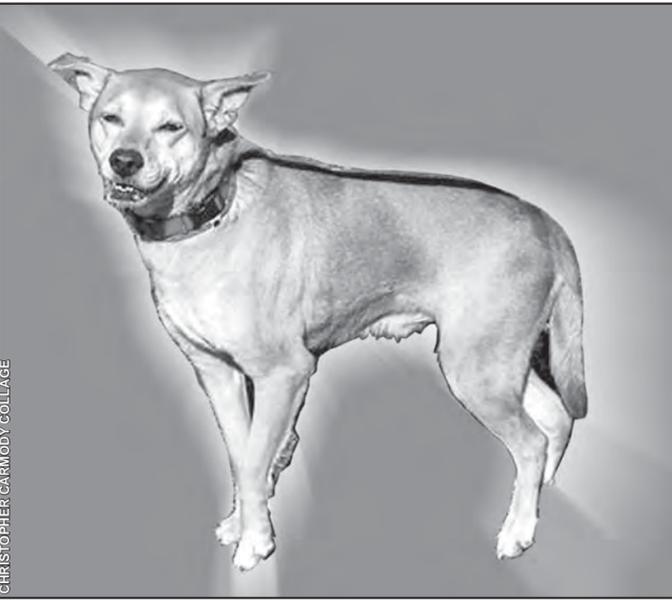
see **WEST ALONG** page B8



LOUIS AGASSIZ FUERTES ILLUSTRATION

American kestrel (*Falco sparverius*).

# Pet of the Week



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY/COLLAGE

## “BUDDY”

Buddy is from Memphis. We don't know much about him. Buddy loves being outside, and using his nose.

We think he may have lived very rural because he jumps into the bushes to avoid cars, so he will need a martingale collar with a loop that tightens when Buddy pulls, making it impossible for him to slip out. It doesn't stay tight, or hurt him, but will keep him safe.

We will have some for sale here.

Buddy should only live with teens and adults. We don't know what other animals Buddy may have lived with in the past, but based on what we've seen, he would do better in a home without small animals. Bring larger dogs to meet Buddy.

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

## Senior Center Activities

### APRIL 8 THROUGH 12

#### 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 a.m. Aerobics;  
10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

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

**Monday 4/8**

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 4/9**

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Theater: “Mabel & Jerry”

**Wednesday 4/10**

9 a.m. Veterans' Outreach

11:30 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 4/11**

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

**Friday 4/12**

1 p.m. Writing Group

#### ERVING

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. for activities and congregate meals. Lunch is at 12 p.m., with reservations required two days in advance. Call (413) 423-3649 for meal information and reservations.

For information, call Paula Betters, Senior Center Director,

at (413) 423-3649. Transportation can be provided for meals, shopping, or medical necessity. Call to confirm activities, schedule a ride, or find out about the next blood pressure clinic.

**Monday 4/8**

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt

9:30 a.m. COA Meeting

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch

**Tuesday 4/9**

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

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich

**Wednesday 4/10**

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

1 p.m. Drumming Class

**Thursday 4/11**

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

12:30 p.m. Brown Bag Pickup

**Friday 4/12**

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

9:15 a.m. Flex & Stretch

9:30 a.m. Bowling Fun

10:30 a.m. M3 Exercise Games

12 p.m. Lunch

#### LEVERETT

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

#### WENDELL

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

## APRIL LIBRARY LISTING

#### Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214

Montague Center (413) 367-2852

Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Ten local libraries, including Northfield, Leverett, Erving, and Wendell are sponsoring a Community Read of *The Stranger in the Woods: The Extraordinary Story of the Last True Hermit* by Michael Finkel. Several events listed below are in conjunction with this event.

### ONGOING EVENTS

#### EVERY SUNDAY

Erving Library: Science Technology Engineering Art Math (STEAM) activities for 2- to 6-year olds. Pre-register. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Sunday Morning Yoga*, advanced-beginner to intermediate level, 10 a.m.; *AA Open Meeting*, 6 to 7 p.m.

#### EVERY TUESDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Intermediate Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages* with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Family Scrabble Club*, ages 7+, 3:15 to 4:30 p.m.; *Qigong* with Dvora Eisenstein, 5:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Erving Library: *Tech Tuesday*. Questions answered. 4 to 6 p.m.

#### 1ST TUESDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Youth Advisory Committee*. Youth ages 10 to 16 are invited to meet monthly at the library to volunteer, plan programs, meet people, and make a positive impact in their community. Snacks served. 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

#### 3RD TUESDAYS

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

#### EVERY WEDNESDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Sylvia's Awesome Play Group*, sand table and activities for newborn to 5 years old and their guardians, 10 to 11:30 a.m.; *Healthy Bones and Balance Class* with Marianne Vinal, geared to older town residents, tea afterward. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Story Time with Karen*. Young children with caregivers. 10:15 to 11:30 a.m. *Home-school Science*. Hands-on STEM activities. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

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

Erving Library: *Crazy 8s Math Club*. For 2nd- to 6th-graders, except first Wednesdays, which is STEM time. 1:45 p.m.

#### 1ST WEDNESDAYS

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

#### 2ND WEDNESDAYS

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

#### EVERY THURSDAY

Carnegie Library: *Music & Movement* with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson, bilingual Spanish/English fun for kids. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

#### 1ST THURSDAYS

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

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

#### 3RD THURSDAYS

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

#### EVERY FRIDAY

Wendell Free Library: *Explore Yoga* with Shay Cooper. Mixed

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348

Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591

Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220

Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455

level. 10 a.m. \$ or barter.

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement for pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. *Friday Afterschool*. Variety of activities for kids after school. 2 to 3 p.m.

#### 1ST FRIDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Mystery Activity*. Crafts, science experiments, tech tools, and more. For ages 8+ and teens. 3:30 to 4:45 p.m.

#### EVERY SATURDAY

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

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

#### 1ST SATURDAYS

Carnegie Library: *Book Sale*. Books, DVDs, CDs, etc. \$1 or less. 10 to 1:30 p.m.

#### 2ND AND 4TH SATURDAYS

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

### EVENTS

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

Erving Library: *Once-a-Month STEAM* for children in 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grades. Starts at 1:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Leverett Library: *Electronics Take Apart with Seth Seeger*. Come see what's inside all those gadgets. 3 to 5 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Wendell Burial Options*. Cemetery Commission chair Sylvia Wetherby explains making arrangements without a funeral home. 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Dickinson Library: *LEGOs*. For elementary children, but anyone is invited to build. 2 to 3 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Leverett Library: *Leverett Pond: Past, Present, Future*. Presented by Mitch Mulholland. 2 to 3 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Rodan! A pre-historic Japanese reptile has come to life!* 7:30 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Erving Library: *Maggie's Craft Day*. Make necklaces. Register (413) 423-3348. Time TBA.

Leverett Library: *Co-op Story Hour*. 10 a.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Children's Clothing Pop-up Swap*, newborns through 4-yr-olds. Noon to 2 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Mini-Golf in the Library*. Noon to 4 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Poetry Reading*. Hosted by Janet MacFadyen and Maria Williams. 2 to 4 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Erving Library: *Stranger in the Woods* book discussion and pre-hike meeting. Register for the April 14 hike at this meeting or before.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 11

Dickinson Library, Northfield: *Book Discussion* at Cameron's Winery to discuss *The Stranger in the Woods*. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Strum-Along* with Julie Stepanek. Library has ukules to lend. 6:45 to 7:45 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Dickinson Library: *Let's Go Fly a Kite*. Find about designs, pick one, build it, see if they fly, and learn physics. Open to 15 students in grades 3 to 6. Pre-register, (413)

498-2455. 2:15 to 3:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Leverett Library: *Perspectives on the North Pond Hermit & Mental Health*. Gail Hornstein provides insight about the “stranger in the woods” and his choices. 1 to 2 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Leverett Library: *Aerial Imagery of Casco Bay, Maine*, with Jamie Malcolm-Brown of Shutesbury. He will also discuss being a certified drone pilot, concentrating on nature in Maine. 3 to 4 p.m.

#### MONDAY, APRIL 15

Carnegie Library, Turners Falls: *LEGOS!* 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Carnegie Library: *Family Movie*. Snacks. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *Wildlife Cameras: How to See What's Hiding in the Woods*. Sally Naser explains nature/trail cameras: would the right one have captured “the hermit” on film? 6:30 to 8 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Wendell Free Library: *School Vacation “Take Apart” Program*. Seth Seeger helps explore what's inside old electronics. 1 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 20

Northfield Library: *Lego Zip-Line Challenge*. 2:15 to 3:30 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Montague Center: *Pre-teen and Teen Art Series*. Cynthia Fulton offers this series for ages 10 to 15. Parts 2 and 3 will be on April 30 and May 7. 4 p.m.

Dickinson Library: *The World's Worst Weather*. Will Broussard explains the extreme weather at Mount Washington Observatory. Appropriate for adults and children. 6:30 to 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 25

Erving Library: *Friends pre-sale meetings; also on April 26 for the events of April 27*. Volunteers needed. Email [ervinglibrary-friends@gmail.com](mailto:ervinglibrary-friends@gmail.com) for info.

Leverett Library: Discussion, *The Stranger in the Woods*. Facilitated by Arlyn Diamond. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**

Dickinson Library: *Movie Matinee: How to Train Your Dragon*. Aimed at elementary children, but space allowing, all can eat popcorn and watch the show. 2 to 4 p.m.

Carnegie Library: *Stuffed Animal Sleepover*. Register and drop off your stuffed animals which will spend the night at the library with “friends.” 3 to 5 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Deforestation & the Future of the Amazon*. Scientist Chris Neill presents findings from his 27-year project. 7 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Monthly movie*. Call for title. 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 27

Carnegie Library: *Stuffed Animal Pick-up*. See April 26. 10:30 a.m.

Erving Library: *Town-Wide Tag Sale, Plant and Book Sale, and Raffle* at the Library; plus *Friends of the Library Mothers' Day Flower/Bath Salts Sale*, Route 2 at Semb Drive. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Wendell Oral History Project*. Presentation of teens' interviews with Wendell seniors. 2 to 3:15 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Wendell Free Library: *Making Magic: Watercolor Illustration* with Gary Lippincott. 6 p.m.

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**THE SPIRIT SHOPPE**

**UNEARTHING** from page B1  
 have never been exposed to a camera before, and we can witness firsthand their reactions and expressions of what it feels like to be recorded.

It is a strange realization when you see faces that are now permanently unrecognizable and cannot be named: you can replay their movements again and again, but they remain unearthly. These are faces that don't know of a future like the one you know will unfold.

"We are able to remember the past, and presume it continues to exist beyond living memory," says Chris. "We also anticipate and believe in the future, regardless of whether we will personally exist in it, or not. Our great-great-grandparents are no longer living. Does that also mean they do not exist, in any sense? Is life only something imagined and created by an individual living in the present?"

Another goal of his is to gather film footage from the 20th century that shows the Mohawk Trail through the years, and eventually curate an anthology of how the trail has developed and was used, why people flocked to it, and how it became an early American tourist destination.

Chris is interested in using the films to learn about our communal history: to see how life was lived, but also how it was shared. He adds that he is not interested in a voyeuristic view of other people's amateur films, or their family members: "I want to see history," he says. "I want to see the way things were."

**Ideas and Images**

What are the chances moving images filmed more than half a century ago will be seen by future audiences? Or even decades before that? According to the Library of Congress, the chances of cellulose acetate film survival are very low: only 14% of the roughly 11,000 films produced between 1891 and 1927, the era of silent films, survive today.

Old films present a paradox because they immortalize a particular time period and perspective on culture, but the preservation of cellulose is not applicable to most films produced from this era because of the volatile medium it is generated on.

Given limited funding and technology, those films deemed to have enough cultural value for preservation are usually the ones originally produced for box office crowds. But what about the chances the films that continue to live in the forgotten dark corners of family homes and historical societies will be preserved?

Though each generation collects and preserves its knowledge, media that were once pertinent to culture are often rendered useless by

seceding waves of invention. Not many users of archaic moving image technology were thinking of its long-term preservation, let alone its self-destruction.

The constant stimulation of today's digital world also feels ephemeral, but not in the same ways as the archaic media Chris is trying to preserve and share. It is unlikely that many using computers and smartphones decidedly want to preserve every email, photograph, and text message. But while there is a cultural mentality that this information will still exist for years to come, how will images taken on a phone or saved on a computer exist half a century from now?

"The brain needs a mnemonic to stick on the shelf," Chris says. "Our minds create our reality from associating things. It is the relationship between things and how they interrelate: when we see something, we stick a label on it, and put it on an empty part of the shelf. It is not in the form of letters or printed words, but rather an *idea* and an *image* which we then have: visuals and sounds that can be mnemonic devices."

And so, how do we decide which ideas and images should be discarded, and which should be safeguarded? In our time of accelerated lifestyles, the records we create are treated as commodities, and it is seen as a matter of personal freedom to accumulate them or discard what we deem useless. The opposite extremes of material consumption – abundance and wastefulness – present challenges as we choose what should be remembered.

"The archive is the raw material," Chris says, "that we need to save and preserve in a form that people can see – cyberspace and all."

If you are lucky enough to have film reels or photographs in your possession that reveal a significant truth about Franklin County history and the way generations have lived here, Chris Clawson says, contact him. Digitize them. Preserve them. At the very least, store them in a dark, dry, room-temperature environment until you can. Let us all be able to see what these forgotten and overlooked films can teach us about the social history of everyday life.

"If I can be part of an archive that lets people answer their own questions," says Chris, "that would be a worthy thing."

Contact Chris Clawson at the *Museum of Our Industrial Heritage* for more information, and visit [MeloWare.com](http://MeloWare.com) and [industrialhistory.org](http://industrialhistory.org). The Museum is located on two Mead Street in Greenfield. Email [info@industrialhistory.org](mailto:info@industrialhistory.org) or call (413) 336-8275.



**HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG**

**Caller Offended By "No Nazis" Graffiti Under Bridge; Dumping; Stealing; Hit-And-Runs; Injured Wildlife**

**Sunday, 3/24**

1:32 p.m. Multiple 911 callers reporting a child struck by a motor vehicle in the area of Avenue A and Third Street. MPD, fire department, and AMR responding. Party transported to hospital.

1:36 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive states that there is a foul-smelling smoke/odor coming from a neighbor's fire pit. There is a history of illegal burning at this location. FD notified.

3:19 p.m. Report of four or five subjects in their early twenties smoking cigarettes and drinking beer in the skate park. Area checked; officer did not locate anyone drinking.

7:34 p.m. 911 call reporting yelling and crying from upstairs apartment. Units advise not a domestic; parties were celebrating after a sports game. Advised of complaint.

10:28 p.m. Caller complaining of loud music from Rendezvous. Referred to an officer.

**Monday, 3/25**

9:21 a.m. School resource officer witnessed a silver pickup truck dump some items across from the ballfields at Franklin County Technical School then take off. Officers unable to locate truck.

11:32 a.m. Caller from Eleventh Street states that a propane tank was taken recently from her gas grill. Referred to an officer.

2:40 p.m. A 27-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

5:38 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting motor vehicle accident with heavy damage and possible smoke/fluids. TFFD, TFA1, and AMR notified and responding. Three injured parties transported to hospital. Rau's requested to tow both vehicles.

8:27 p.m. Caller from Grout Circle requesting options re: a dispute with his neighbor. Neighbor cut down grapevines earlier tonight, and both parties believe the vines were on their property. Advised of options; caller only wants on record at this time.

**Tuesday, 3/26**

7:10 a.m. Caller reporting hit and run on behalf of one of his drivers. Vehicle rear-ended the company truck and left the scene. Officer advises suspect vehicle would be leaking fluid from damaged radiator. No apparent damage to victim vehicle. Area auto shops checked; negative contact with suspect vehicle. Officer followed fluid trail to area of Water Pollution Control Facility on Greenfield Road. Report taken.

12:04 p.m. Officer assisting tractor-trailer unit that is attempting to back up into traffic at Millers Falls Road and Industrial Boulevard.

12:23 p.m. Report of broken pipe with water leaking from above the porch roof at a vacant house on Linda Lane. TFFD advised.

1 p.m. Caller from Alice Street complaining of skunk in her yard. Caller advises animal does not look sick and is not acting strangely, but she has a dog and does not want the dog to encounter the skunk. Advised of options. Caller will use an alternate entrance or stay inside until the skunk moves along. Received second call re: skunk; second caller advises that the skunk is walking in circles in the road. Animal control officer advised and responding. ACO clear; advises issue was taken care of.

**Wednesday, 3/27**

10:10 a.m. Caller reporting offensive graffiti on the bike path under the bridge. Caller states it says "No Nazis." Officer located graffiti; there is a large amount of other graffiti as well. Contacted MassDOT as the graffiti is on the actual wall of the bridge buttress, which is in their jurisdiction.

12:46 p.m. Out-of-control brush fire close to residence on Turnpike Road. Second caller reporting out-of-control brush fire; boat also on fire; approaching tree line. TFFD advised; upgraded to first alarm. Multiple additional calls/walk-ins reporting same. TFFD on scene.

2:32 p.m. Report of four to six horses loose in Turners Falls Road; numerous parties trying to corral the horses. Upon arrival, horses had been corralled; roadway clear.

3:06 p.m. Report of two homeless people in the first floor common area of an Avenue A building. Caller advises she has been told that the landlord does not want them there and that there are trespass orders against

them. Officer advises parties were spoken with and sent on their way.

4:33 p.m. Parties into station to report that approximately 1/2 hour ago a male was walking around their closed business, looking in the windows and trying the doors. When approached, the male states he was looking to buy a table and asked who the owner is. Female advised she was the owner and that they were not selling anything. Male then walked to the neighbor's house and asked them who the owner was, then walked back over and walked around the business again. Advised of options.

10:32 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that she went to take her pills and her entire pill box is missing. Investigated.

**Thursday, 3/28**

3:04 a.m. A 25-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

4:52 p.m. Caller states she received a scam call where they were asking for her credit card number. She would like a Code Red call put out to the community about this.

**Friday, 3/29**

12:41 a.m. Caller from Avenue A complaining of DPW being loud and disruptive cleaning streets downtown. Caller advised he would contact the DPW and Town Hall to lodge his complaint during business hours. Officer advised of complaint.

6:26 a.m. Officer reporting vehicle vs. motorcycle accident on Montague City Road; one party bleeding from facial area. TFFD, AMR, and Rau's notified and en route. AMR transporting one party to hospital.

9:58 a.m. Caller reporting hit and run to her vehicle sometime after 9 p.m. last night. Vehicle was parked on Third Street in Turners Falls until approximately 11 p.m., when she returned home to Greenfield. Caller is at her insurance company now; will be coming to

MPD to have officer view damage. Report taken.

4:41 p.m. Caller from Poplar Street states that someone may have tried to break into a neighboring house. Report taken.

5:15 p.m. Caller from First Avenue states that there is a neighbor creeping around on his property. Neighbor was just looking for a chicken that had gotten loose.

**Saturday, 3/30**

9:04 a.m. Caller states that there is a raccoon sitting between two trees on Old Greenfield Road. Caller is concerned that it may be sick. Raccoon does not appear to be ill; just hanging out, trying to climb a tree.

1:10 p.m. Caller from South High Street states that he has a skunk trapped in his yard and that it looks like it may be sick. Report taken.

3:21 p.m. Caller requesting officers respond to Migratory Way for an injured deer that needs to be put down. Caller is not sure how the deer was injured. Officers advised. Second call from person in area advising same. All units clear.

**Sunday, 3/31**

10:40 a.m. Caller from Federal Street states that neighbor has been loudly revving engines of vehicles on his property and moving some of them into the street, blocking traffic. Vehicles are unregistered and some have no mufflers. Very loud according to the neighbors. Only one vehicle was unregistered; no discourteous noise observed at this time.

1:07 p.m. Caller reporting injured fox on side of Lake Pleasant Road. Environmental Police officer dispatched fox in woods.

6:58 p.m. Report of skunk limping and dragging its tail at Avenue A and Second Street, last seen near parking lot for CeCe's Restaurant. Animal dispatched on Second Street. DPW advised.



A frame from "Montague Massachusetts and Neighbors - ca. 1929," which can be viewed on the *MeloWare Media* website. This little boy is driving cattle and bringing them down Main Street in Montague Center. Chris says, "It feels remarkable to see this little boy with the responsibility of getting the cows out of the upper pasture and in for the night. It was getting dark, and it was just a normal thing he had to do." This 16mm film is owned and shared courtesy of the Montague Historical Society.

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# This Week at MCTV

By ABIGAIL TATARIAN

This week, we direct Wendell viewers in particular to the "Latest Videos" page of our website, [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org), where you can find the Wendell selectboard's recent meeting with National Grid. This hour-long video reviews the town's energy needs and requests.

We encourage you to turn to us, your very own community TV station, to keep important

local conversations recorded online. At MCTV, you are history in the making. If you notice a gap in our collections, that just might be your cue to get involved at the station!

Something going on you think others would like to see? Contact us at (413) 863-9200, [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com), or stop by 34 Second Street between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. We'd love to work with you!



# In the Water: A Montague Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

**Monday, 5/12/14**

2:07 p.m. Report of two subjects on the island below the dam who could not get back to land due to rising water from the opened dam.

**Thursday, 7/3/14**

10:25 a.m. Caller concerned for occupants of motor boat that are in the water on the wrong side of the buoys approaching the Turners Falls Dam.

**Monday, 5/4/15**

11:03 a.m. Multiple reports of an empty canoe spotted floating downstream near the bike path bridge from Turners Falls into Deerfield.

**Thursday, 5/7/15**

12:28 p.m. Copied via radio re: possible party in the water beneath the General Pierce Bridge. TFFD responding. Units report that they have party out of water; MedCare transporting patient.

**Thursday, 5/21/15**

9:56 p.m. Deerfield PD requests that an officer meet them in the area of Montague City Road to check on a boat in the river shining a spotlight along the shore.

**Tuesday, 7/21/15**

2:25 p.m. Report of a rowboat with attached oars floating by the closed portion of the dam. Caller cannot see anyone in the boat or in the water. Northfield Control Room called and reported that their staging workers were using the boat but did not tie it up, so it floated out. If the boat does not wash to shore tonight, they will lower a smaller boat tomorrow morning and retrieve it.

6:32 p.m. Environmental police officer advises that he is off in the area of Green Pond with a few people swimming in the area. MPD officer en route. Three parties escorted from area and issued citations/fines by environmental police.

**Saturday, 7/25/15**

8:40 p.m. Request for officer to speak to a couple of fishermen sitting on the old bridge abutment at Unity Park; they are swearing at boats involved in the Christmas in July party that are making noise and disturbing their fishing. Caller states that there are a lot of kids around, and hopes an officer can settle the fishermen down.

**Thursday, 9/3/15**

6:52 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports an "aggressive" beaver in the river behind her house. She advises this is an area where her family swims, and they were "pushed out of the river" due to this animal. Environmental police advise that if the animal is in the water, it is not likely to be ill; it may be protecting a nest/young. Caller advised to stay out of water and away from animal. Caller not entirely happy with response; given phone number for environmental police.

**Monday, 9/7/15**

5:50 p.m. Caller who reported a beaver in the river near the Bookmill last week now reports that the beaver is no longer aggressive; it is dead. Caller concerned about the beaver being ill and in the water.

**Thursday, 6/30/16**

5:23 p.m. Caller advising of possible raft floating in the river near the end of Poplar Street. Officer and TFFD en route; area checked; raft has been pushed down the Deerfield River. Shelburne Control advised of same. Second caller advising of another tube in area; TFFD captain advises it appears to be same raft as before; is further down the river.

**Tuesday, 7/19/16**

2:16 p.m. Caller expressing concern that there might be contamination in the water at



Cranberry Pond; was kayaking there this afternoon and observed at least 15 dead fish. Caller is an avid kayaker and has never seen this before. Fish appeared to have a rash or other abnormal issue with their scales. Caller carefully bagged some of the fish and left them at the door of the hatchery with a note explaining the situation.



**Wednesday, 8/31/16**

9:37 p.m. Two calls reporting a loud disturbance on the bike path behind Town Hall. Responding officer reports that two subjects were playing with a chainsaw, and one of them threw the chainsaw into the river. Advised TFFD that chainsaw possibly has oil in it; they will look for it in the daylight.

**Thursday, 9/15/16**

8:13 p.m. Rite Aid store manager reporting that a female party has been in the bathroom for 20 minutes and won't come out. Upon officer arrival, party opened door and stated she fell in the river and was drying her clothes.

**Tuesday, 9/20/16**

7:08 p.m. Party into station to report that two young kids are walking in the canal.

**Wednesday, 9/21/16**

6:40 p.m. Report of female with warrant in an Eleventh Street apartment building. Officer spotted female running into the woods around Eleventh and I streets. K-9 unit requested; Gill officer assisting. Female fell into river;

is in water, but not floating. Female out of water; Med-Care en route.

**Friday, 1/6/17**

2:12 p.m. Report of a dark object in the river that the caller believed was in distress. Caller speculated that it may have been a dog or a deer struggling to come ashore.

**Saturday, 4/29/17**

10:18 a.m. Officer received

report of a kayaker who may be in distress. Area checked; officer has visual on kayaker, who does not appear to be in distress. Kayaker was intentionally riding rapids and was a considerable distance from dam.

**Friday, 5/12/17**

10:42 a.m. Caller reports that the dam opened up and several people in the vicinity barely had enough time to get out of the way before the water rose. Confirmed with caller that all parties are out of water and safe. Officer followed up at FirstLight, who advises that dam was already spilling water and the flow at the time of the report is from when they lowered the dam more to spill water faster. FirstLight contact advises that they are not required to play the tape again if they in-

crease the flow while the dam is already spilling water.

**Tuesday, 5/16/17**

8:17 p.m. Caller from Newton Street advising that his kayak was stolen. Officer confirmed that a group of kids threw the kayak into the river; a high school student witnessed it and is going to show officer where the responsible parties live. Caller later located his kayak but is not going to attempt to get it in the dark; it appears to be hung up on a log, and he will go back for it in the morning.

**Friday, 6/23/17**

12:19 p.m. Caller observed a subject throw a trash bag into the canal. Subject came out of a G Street residence before dumping the bag and walked back into the residence afterward.

**Monday, 6/26/17**

4:30 p.m. Officer reporting that a male jumped off the Eleventh Street bridge to swim in the canal. Units clear; male party is from Worcester, and decided to cool off in the canal after a beer tasting.

**Sunday, 7/23/17**

7:45 p.m. Callers advising that a male party in a speedboat was attempting to run over ducks down by the Unity Park pier. When caller tried to stop man, a verbal altercation ensued.

**Saturday, 9/23/17**

2:14 p.m. Third party report of two intoxicated males in the river below the dam. Officer advising male party is now in protective custody.

**Sunday, 11/5/17**

3:22 p.m. Report of a man in a [redacted] picking up rocks from the Saw Mill River and putting them into his vehicle. Caller advised the vehicle is

covered in [redacted] decals.

**Tuesday, 4/17/18**

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

**Thursday, 6/7/18**

4:43 p.m. Caller states that a dog she was walking jumped into the canal and now can't get out. PD and FD responding. Dog safely removed from water by caller's husband.

**Friday, 6/8/18**

6:39 p.m. Caller inquiring whether somebody hitting golf balls into the Connecticut River from the dog park area on First Street is a crime or not. Caller states that a man comes down there on a regular basis and hits several golf balls into the river. Caller states that she does not need a police response; the male hitting the balls was just about done. She will try to find out on her own whether this is an environmental crime or not.

**Sunday, 6/10/18**

7:17 p.m. Caller from Gill believes that she can see a dead dog in the water at Barton Cove. Information relayed to Shelburne Control.

**Friday, 7/6/18**

9:02 p.m. Caller from Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center reporting fireworks that are being set off close enough to this facility to disturb and stress the fish.

**Sunday, 7/15/18**

7:05 p.m. Caller advising that children are in the river near Unity Park close to the buoys; believes that they need to be removed.

**Saturday, 3/16/19**

9:25 a.m. Report of a log jam against the fence by the trestle that passes over the main part of the canal behind Food City, near the Patch.



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# NatureCulture: The Science Page

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO



Contributions to NatureCulture are welcome. What are you interested in? Would you like to write about birds, weather, science of any kind? We need your input. Send articles for consideration to: [science@montagureporter.org](mailto:science@montagureporter.org). Thank you!

— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

## Autism: Blood Tests – and Books

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

**TROY, NY** – Juergen Hahn, head of biomedical engineering at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and his team have developed a physiological test for autism that predicts if a child is on the spectrum with 88% accuracy. Using large, existing data sets instead of collecting new data has fast-tracked this research, and it is hoped that it will help children be diagnosed earlier in life by analyzing metabolites in a blood sample.

Their research is published in the June 2018 edition of the online, peer-reviewed journal *Bioengineering & Translational Medicine*, and the authors want to move forward into clinical trials, eventually creating a commercially available test for autism.

While “autism spectrum disorder” (ASD) is considered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to be a developmental disability, the autistic community takes a different approach, celebrating the differences that are expressed, especially among those with a less-severe form of autism known as Asperger’s syndrome.

Nationally-known local author John Elder Robison has two fantastic books about his life as a person with Asperger’s: *Look Me In the Eye* (Crown, 2007) and *Be Different* (Penguin Random House, 2011). He appreciates his ability to concentrate, to engineer, to connect to the natural world, and to think outside the box, and his books are filled with good information for those of

us who are, at the very least, socially awkward. Social awkwardness includes having difficulties with such skills as how to have conversations with people who don’t appreciate the level of honesty you’re inclined to share, how to learn to read body language, and how to make and keep friends.

Great books, both of them: even if you aren’t on the spectrum, you’ll enjoy reading them and gain empathy for those who are. Robison emphasizes that Asperger’s should not be considered a disability for two reasons: that it’s a different, not lesser, way of thinking, and that it does kids a disservice to label them disabled, giving them an excuse to fail.

Robison grew up in a time when there was no Asperger’s diagnosis. “I’d always envisioned myself as a loner, a geek, and a misfit, but I would never have described myself as disabled,” he writes in *Be Different*.

Robison’s other two books, *Switched On* and *Raising Cubby*, provide yet more information; the first one is about his experience with ground-breaking research, and the other is about raising his son. I haven’t read either of them; if you have, please consider submitting a book review to be published on this page.

Dr. Temple Grandin is another fascinating autistic author. Her book *Thinking in Pictures* explains how her life and her engineering work are grounded in her unique way of thinking, and there’s a movie named after her that tells her life story.

She credits her autism for her empathy for animals, which allowed her to develop more humane livestock handling methods. I enjoyed another of her books, written with Sean Barron and edited by Veronica Zysk, called *Unwritten Rules of Social Relationships: Decoding Social Mysteries Through Autism’s Unique Perspectives* (Future Horizons, 2016). This book addresses the two authors’ different experiences with autism based on how they relate to work versus people.

Grandin founded her self-esteem on her engineering skill from a young age. She now appreciates having been expected to follow social norms which has allowed her to relate to others in ways they can understand even if she doesn’t feel much emotionally. Co-author Barron writes that he always felt anxious about his relationships with others, and based his self-esteem on what they thought, which was problematic for him.

Together, these authors have written a book with something for every individual to relate to.

Reading all three authors gives one ideas for multiple pathways to success and enjoyment of life as an aspergian, both via academics and via work out in “the real world.”

For more information about autism and the community of autistic people, visit the Autistic Self Advocacy Network web page, a nonprofit run by and for autistic people, and/or Autism Speaks, which has links to stories, research, and information.

### WEBSITE REVIEW

#### Urban Forest Visual: Email a Tree



A part of Melbourne, Australia’s Urban Forest Map.

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

Melbourne, Australia has mapped every tree in the city. They also gave each tree an email address, so that people could report dangerous limbs, or other problems with a tree.

Instead, according to a story by Adrienne LaFrance at *The Atlantic*, people emailed their favorite trees positive notes of encouragement and thanks.

For example:

To: *Algerian Oak, Tree ID 1032705; 2 February 2015*

Dear Algerian oak, Thank you for giving us oxygen. Thank you for being so pretty. I don’t know where I’d be without you to extract my carbon dioxide. (I would probably be in heaven) Stay strong, stand tall amongst the crowd. You are the gift that keeps on giving. We were going

to speak about wildlife but don’t have enough time and have other priorities unfortunately. Hopefully one day our environment will be our priority.

Emails to Melbourne’s trees came from all over the world, some purporting to be from other trees. View the map, and maybe email a tree, at [melbourneurbanforestvisual.com.au](http://melbourneurbanforestvisual.com.au).

You don’t have to email a tree in Australia to express your gratitude to these life-giving plants. You can research and become involved in your town’s tree policy, tree “philosophy,” or tree committee. If you own a forest, contact a land trust or visit [Masswoods.org](http://Masswoods.org) to get information about your options for responsible forest stewardship in your lifetime and beyond.

You can also just speak with the trees directly.

## Carbon Sequestration And Storage in Trees

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

**NORTHFIELD** – Trees take carbon out of the air and store it, which is very helpful because human actions have caused an excess of carbon in the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide, which has increased by over one third and which contributes to global warming.

The process of storing carbon is called *carbon sequestration*, and the result is *carbon storage*. In order to understand how a forest is combating global warming, we need to separate out these terms.

Take an acre forest, for example. If that acre had young trees it would be sequestering carbon – taking carbon out of the air – at a faster rate than if it had old trees. That is because as youngsters the trees would be growing quickly, taking in lots of carbon in the process, and because there are more trees per acre in a young forest.

But that does not mean the young forest would store more carbon. In fact, if you had that same acre with older trees, its sequestration rate would be slower, but it would be storing more carbon locked into those big trees.

When discussing global warming we need to take into account

both storage capacity and sequestration rates, and also consider what happens to the wood and the area that was cut afterwards as part of the equation. Large, old trees, while slower sequester-ers, are big carbon store-ers. Next time you see one, thank a tree for combating global warming.

We can also choose to go beyond the equation and talk about what we value in terms of forests. One document that’s been featured on this Science Page is the *Wildlands and Woodlands* report from scientists at the Harvard Forest in nearby Petersham. They have recently released a stewardship science manual for landowners in New England as a companion document. This kit includes field note sheets and information about how to monitor a forest long-term, and how to submit your data to a database if you want to, which gives you access to graphing and analysis tools, as well as helping you see your data in context.

We can all be thinking about the economic, environmental, and other traits we value in our forests. Spending time in them, whether analyzing their health or improving our own, reveals new ways to see and value the forest and the trees.

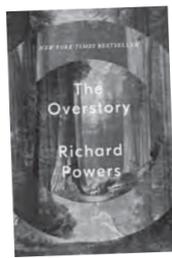
### Ecotone: An Environmental Journal Worth Reading

*Ecotone: Reimagining Place* is defined as “a transition zone between two communities, containing the characteristic species of each; a place of danger or opportunity; a testing ground.” This cleverly-named journal is published biannually by the University of North Carolina Wilmington. Each volume has a theme that strives to provide variety around the overall theme of place-based writing. This is a trend among journals, a way to say they are interested in nature and culture, and in how place becomes important.

### BOOK REVIEW

#### The Overstory: A Novel, by Richard Powers (Norton, 2018)

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN



This is a beautifully written book about trees.

At first, it’s a series of short stories, each of which has a tree as a central character.

The trees are not anthropomorphized by Powers, although some of the characters in the stories do think of them as individuals, and we come to understand them as living beings in some new way in each tale.

The stories themselves are so different that I wondered how they could be authored by the same person: dealing with love, war, death, wonder, work, and family in a variety of times and places around the globe.

The surprising thing that happens throughout the book is that the people touched by these trees come together in a larger story that is about how people and trees interact on Earth, and about some of the ways people try to change those interactions for the better. The story is dark at times, but extremely

compelling, and so well-written you’ll have no trouble keeping going through its 400-plus pages.

I highly recommend this novel as a way of stretching your understanding of, and imagination about, how trees individually and collectively influence all of life, and our individual lives, on Earth.

### April 2019 Moon Calendar

New Moon

Friday,  
April 5

First Quarter

Friday,  
April 12



Our moon’s largest impact basin.

Full Moon

Friday,  
April 19

Last Quarter

Friday,  
April 26

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, APRIL 4

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kids Music Series with Under the Tree Music Company*. A 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: *Open Mic*. 7 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *The Big Draw*. Figure drawing with a model in monthly sessions. \$ donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Oakland Stroke, The Shadow Twisters*. Rock, soul, funk, pop. 7:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. 8 p.m.

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Trivia Night*. Come with a team or by yourself, \$5 to play. Winning team receives \$25 gift certificate to the tavern, and all proceed go towards a monthly good cause. 8:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, APRIL 5

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Fred Cracklin, Taxidermists, Space Camp, Red Rainbow, Drought*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *John Sheldon, Annie Guthrie*. Folk and Americana, with Arlo Guthrie's daughter and master guitarist Sheldon. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Soul Remedy*. With Cindy Foster and Eva Davenport. Comedy and R&B music. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Film, *Left Luggage*. "A young, liberal-minded Jewish woman in Antwerp becomes the nanny for an orthodox Hasidic family with a handicapped child and comes to terms with her own difficult past." Live music before the show at 7 p.m. \$ 7:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masala Jazz*. Heady guitar/drums/Hammond trio. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 6

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Plants of The Bible* album release with *Bunnies, Mary Jester*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Gumboots: The Music of Paul Simon*. Tribute band. \$ 7 p.m.

St James and Andrew Church, Greenfield: *GCC Chorus Concert*. Baroque and classical choral music, directed by Margery Heins. 7:30 p.m. \$

Wendell Library: Movie, *Rodan*. A large mining accident sets loose prehistoric insects and giant pterosaurs on Japan. Part of the monthly SciFi/Fantasy and Horror/Monster series. 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Film, *Left Luggage*. (See April 5 listing.) Live music before the show at 7 p.m. \$ 7:30 p.m.



SUBMITTED IMAGE

*ZoKi is a folk-rock trio from Western Mass whose multi-talented members are adept songwriters and vocalists, as well as versatile instrumentalists.*

*They play covers and originals, which can be moving, as well as funny and quirky.*

*ZoKi features strong vocal harmonies and stop-you-in-your-tracks guitar solos.*

*They will be playing at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield, along with two other all-female bands, Habibi and Nanny, on Friday, April 12 at 8 p.m.*

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Suitcase Junket* album release show. Joyful wonder with multi-instrumentalist Matt Lorenz. \$ 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Izzy Hangerup, Grey Matter, Owen Manure*. \$ 8 p.m. zzzzzzzz

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Julia Mark, Zak Trajano*. \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Equalites Reggae Dance Party*. Reggae fantastico. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Berkshire Jazz Underground*. Local devotees of classic 1960s vibrant and challenging Blue Note recordings. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, APRIL 7

Leverett Library: *Poetry Get-together with Slate Roof*. Bring

a poem to share or discuss. Slate Roof Press editor Janet MacFadyen and Shape&Nature Press editor Maria Williams facilitate. 2 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Immigrant Voices: A Celebration of Arts*. Spirit-filled afternoon of song, dance, poetry from members of the region's immigrant community. \$ 3 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Lily Konigsberg, Victoria Rose, Ruth Garbus, Wendy Eisenberg*. Genius convention. \$ 8 p.m.

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

listing. 10:30 a.m.

Montague Congregational Church, Montague Center: *Fiddle Orchestra*. Directed by David Kaynor and Annika Amstutz. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Movie premiere, *Alienation*. Short film made by and featuring local families. Screening and Q&A with cast and crew. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Colleen Green, DeGreaser, Taxidermists, Jesus Vio, Editrix*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

### FRIDAY, APRIL 12

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *After the Rain*. Coffeehouse Series. Traditional Appalachian, classic rock, contemporary folk group. Refreshments. Donation. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Film, *Paint Your Wagon*. "An oddball musical about a gold prospector, his 'pardner,' and the boom town they help create, it's not like any Western you have seen." Live music before the show at 7. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Habibi, ZoKi, Nanny*. All-female indie rock/punk rock artists. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Big Sam's Funky Nation*. Funk with rock, hip-hop, jazz. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Grace Ives, Jack Whitescarver, Lucy, Plants of the Bible*. \$ 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Jetta Babes*. DJ with non-stop Brit-pop, indie, new wave, post-punk, psych vinyl. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Traditional Music Open Session*. Contra, Irish, old time, etc. Open jam session. 3 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: Film, *Paint Your Wagon*. (See April 12 listing.) Live music before the show at 7. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Montague Center: *Montague Common Hall Open Mic #33*. Featured artist *Bobby D*. Open mic in a beautiful space and friendly environment. By donation. 7:30 p.m.

souvenir albums, hands-on stereoscope, and a Viewmaster with other area scenes. Through April 21.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Layers and Contingencies*. Painters *Kate Marion Lapiere* and *Hannah Richards*. Through May 11. Reception this Friday, April 5, 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rodney Madison and Friends*. Paintings and mixed media.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Library: *Gary Lippincott*. Professional illustrator. Through April.

La Mariposa, Turners Falls: *Landscape Collage by Jesus Vio*. Vio uses landscape to explore new themes and aesthetics for the general global consciousness, using multimedia collage. Through April 26.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *A Group of Seven*, women painters from GCC, in the Barnes Gallery; drawings by Northfield Mount Hermon student *Zitong Xu*, a storytelling collection called "Lost Girls," in the hallway gallery. Through April. Reception April 12, 4 p.m.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion: Improvisatory Art by Adam Bosse*. Improvisations in color, paint, and ink, with a soundtrack from Bosse's musical projects. Through May 5; reception April 14, 1 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Women of Power, Fabric Figures by Belinda Lyons Zucker*. Through April 28. Also, *Creating Together*, collaborations between mothers and their children and an art making space for children.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *The Lay of the Land*, local watercolor landscapes by Nina Coler. Through April. Reception, April 6.

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials*. The story of plastic in 60 works by 30 contemporary artists, exploring our entangled love affair with this miraculous and malvolent material. Through July.

## EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Pastel Studio*. Recent works by Becky Clark's students. Through April 26. Reception, Friday, April 5, 5:15 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: Large paintings by *Sandy Sokoloff*; glass creatures based on children's drawings; narrative paintings by *Amy Bennett*; collaborative fiber art of *Jackie Abrams and Deidre Scherer*; immersive mixed-media installation by *Joey Morgan*; paintings documenting several generations of an African-American and Cape Verdean family on Cape Cod by *Joseph Diggs*. Through June 16.

Flourish Gallery, Turners Falls: *A Good Year for the Roses*. Paintings and mixed media work by *Alison Williams* and collaborative work with *Glen Scheffer*. Through May.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *The Time of My Life: Vintage Views of Western Massachusetts*. Reproduction postal

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**WEST ALONG** from page B1

Those trees are vital to the woodland ecology, and the woodpecker's livelihood.

Another sign that always marks the coming of my personal spring happened just last night. In the evening woods at dusk, the faint nasal call of the woodcock echoed

out from the seeming lifeless bottomlands of the old pasture. For those of us moved by various small phenomena in the outdoors, there's nothing as reassuring as hearing that little woodland sandpiper calling out for the first time, once again. If you live out of doors in kinship with the trees and the wild

creatures, you would understand the variety of emotions that something as simple as the woodcock's return in spring can bring to this human's spirit.

Regardless of the daily idiocy going on down in Washington, out here the world just keeps turning round. The enduring call of the persistent woodcock every year at this time reminds all that life goes on, that you too can defy the odds and fling a challenge at the stupidity of events in that bubble far from the outside world. You can take faith and inspiration from the constancy of the wild things who bring signs of spring and renewal to these parts.

Finding relief in the passing of one more winter was no new experience for those who have lived here for thousands of years before the coming of Europeans.

Later, among the Puritan new-comers was poet Anne Bradstreet (1612-1672), one of the first transplants from Old Europe to New England. She was the first colonist to publish a volume of poetry. She too celebrated the coming of the spring season, having

survived her first long cold winters in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. We can be sure she took comfort in seeing the cruel winter on the wane, in seeing the signs of the return of spring to her drear 1630s landscape of North Andover.

She wrote:

*In Pisces now the sun doth shine,  
And Northward still approaches to the line,  
The rivers 'gin to ope, the snows to melt,  
And some warm glances from his face are felt;*

*Which is increased by the lengthened day;  
Until by's heat, he drive all cold away,  
And thus the year in circle runneth round:  
Where first it did begin, in th' end it's found.*

— Anne Bradstreet, from her volume  
"The Tenth Muse Lately  
Sprung Up In America"



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July 15-18 AM Programs	July 15-18 PM Programs
Creating digital Animations	Create Digital Comics
Cooking for Kids	Cooking for Kids
Hair & Nails Beauty Fun	Hair & Nails Beauty Fun
Classic Cars-the works!	Mountain Biking & bike repairs
July 22-25 AM Programs	July 22-25 PM Programs
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Cooking for Kids	Cooking for Kids
Hair & Nails Beauty Fun	Hair & Nails Beauty Fun
Mountain Biking & bike repairs	Classic Cars – the works!

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\* If a minimum of six campers do not enroll in an individual program, the program will not run. Refunds will be made, or you can enroll in another program. Registration closes June 14<sup>th</sup>. Register early, as many programs fill quickly!

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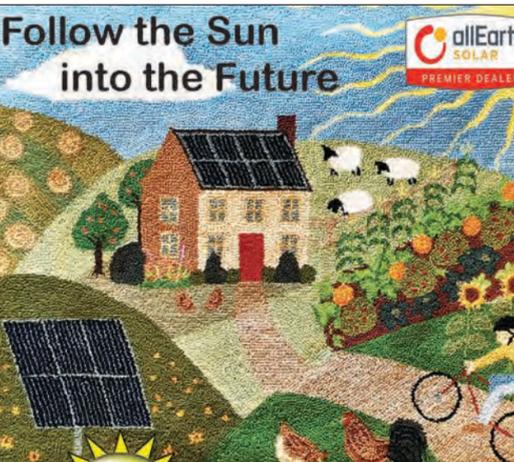
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