

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 27

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 2, 2019

## Leverett Town Meeting Approves Spending On Elementary School, a Third Police Officer, A Solution for Toxic Wells, and a Dirt Road Study

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Leverett annual town meeting of April 27 lasted from 9 in the morning to just after 5 in the afternoon, with an hour-long break for lunch supplied by the North Leverett Coop. Most of the articles on the agenda were dispensed of quickly, with a minimum of discussion.

Exceptions included an appropriation to supplement the Leverett Elementary School budget, an article with three options to address contamination from the former landfill in East Leverett, and an appropriation to study Dudleyville Road, which became impassible during the recent March rains.

The meeting took place in the auditorium of the elementary school, and commenced with a crowd of over 160 voters. By the time the last petitioned article was read at the end of the meeting, the quorum had probably evaporated, but a challenge requesting a count was withdrawn to avoid the need for another meeting.

The day began with voting for elected officers, including positions on the board of health, the board of assessors, library trustees, and finance committee, as well as the town constable. Kip Fonsh, Tara Acker, and Gene Stamell were elected to the school committee, while Peter d'Errico was re-elected to the selectboard

see **LEVERETT** page A5

## Voices of Wendell: Connecting the Generations

By K. CAMARA

**WENDELL** – Under cover of winter in Wendell, while tending fires, they've been sittin' in rocking chairs and tellin' stories – in their own unique way. Easy back-and-forth conversation about the way it was – before "they" came, and after "they" came – and it being that they're still here, neighbors now, they're takin' the reins, takin' the time, makin' the space, lendin' an ear and gettin' it down.

Teens and elders, rockin' together to pave a path of historical documentation, Wendell style.

On Saturday, April 27 in the Herrick Room of the Wendell Library, participants engaged in laying the first stone of that path. They gathered to present to friends and family the fruits of the inaugural chapter of a three-phase project begun in February. Titled the Wendell Oral



Sally Houle interviews Ted Lewis for the Wendell Oral History Project.

History Project and presented to a standing-room-only crowd, Phase I showed nothing but promise for this far-reaching project.

Engaging six teens and eleven seniors in an interviewing process that spanned four weeks and included

see **WENDELL** page A7

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Greenfield to “Go it Alone” on Sludge Digester; Incentives For WPCF Solar Project in Doubt

By JEFF SINGLETON

Fresh challenges for Montague's Water Pollution Control Facility, and its director Bob McDonald emerged at the Montague selectboard's meeting Monday night. McDonald began a presentation about his department by announcing that Greenfield has decided to “go it alone” in its effort to construct an anaerobic digester to process waste solids generated by its sewer system.

Processing solids has become enormously expensive in recent years, in part because they must be shipped to

places like Rhode Island and Lowell. With the end of the so-called “Montague Process” for reducing solids – and the revenue it generated by allowing the plant to take in solids from other towns – this has become a significant problem for the WPCF and sewer ratepayers.

Over the past year, Montague has been negotiating with Greenfield to finance a regional “anaerobic digester.” Anaerobic digestion processes sludge in the absence of oxygen, and produces methane that can be used for fuel. But, according to McDonald, the effort to negotiate

see **MONTAGUE** page A5

## The Week In TFHS Sports: Boys' Tennis Still Perfect

By MATT ROBINSON

This week the Turners Falls softball team stayed perfect, the boys' tennis team stayed perfect, the baseball team played one-upmanship, the joint Franklin Tech/Turners track teams scored points, and the girls' tennis team stuck it out.

Going into the month of May, Turners has two undefeated teams. Many expected the softball team to be on top, but boys' tennis team, well, they have quietly climbed to a record of 7-0.

Another team to watch is the Turners Falls baseball team. They could just as easily be 7-0 or 0-7. Even in the Athol and Mohawk games, it could have gone either way – and the rest of the games have been one-run gut-wrenchers.

All three teams face challenges this coming week as they fight for postseason rankings. Girls' tennis is flirting with a .500 record, and may just make the playoffs if they continue their hustle, and of course, Track and Field invites individuals, not teams, to postseason competitions.

see **SPORTS** page A4



Lilly Nieves clears the 6'8" bar in the pole vault event as Turners hosted Greenfield in a girls track and field meet.

### THE BIG PICTURE

## Back and Forth to Beacon Hill



Natalie Blais, freshman representative for Montague, Leverett, and 17 other towns.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Every Monday Natalie Blais (D-Sunderland), the First Franklin district's representative in the state House, holds hours in the former nurse's office at Montague town hall.

In April Blais traveled through her district on a “listening tour” to mark her first 100 days in office, and the House passed its version of the state budget last Thursday. Lily Wallace, Blais' legislative aide, sometimes covers the Montague office hours, but this week the rep was on hand, along with her seven-month-old black lab puppy, Bo.

The *Montague Reporter* dropped in on Blais and Wallace just as they were hoping to eat lunch, and they were gracious enough to grant an impromptu interview. Bo was teething, and very curious. Our conversation touched on how Beacon Hill works, school funding, rural economic development, and more.

This transcript has been edited for clarity, and for brevity.

**NB:** I'm glad you dropped by, because we've been talking about a press release – we just had the budget process last week, and one of the amendments I was able to include in the House budget was \$25,000 for the roof at Unity Park.

**MR:** The field house?

**NB:** Yeah. That roof has been leaking for some time, and I was looking for projects in Montague that would impact the entire community, and this was one that [Montague town administrator] Steve Ellis advocated for. So hopefully, we'll be able to get that through the conference committee – it's not real money yet. It made it through the House budget, and then the Senate has their budget process; those two budgets go to conference committee, then the governor still has to sign everything into law. It's still a long road ahead, but I was thrilled to be able to do that.

**MR:** What committees are you sitting on?

**NB:** I'm on Transportation, on Tourism, Arts, and Culture – those two committees I'm really excited about, just because of my experience and what's impacting the 19 communities of the First Franklin – and then Public Service, and Municipalities and Regional Government.

**MR:** In terms of transportation, the last I've heard statewide was about the report on the regional transit authorities. Are there signs of change in the big picture there?

see **BLAIS** page A6

### REPORTBACK

## Realizing What Some People Have To Go Through Every Day

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**TURNERS FALLS** – On April 12, nine students from Great Falls Middle School and two teachers, Ms. Renehan and Mr. Carew, went to the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) Youth Conference in Boston. The conference was a follow-up to the three-day Building Bridges training with NCCJ we'd had in February, which I'd written an article about previously (*Middle School Students Build “Bridges,”* March 21, 2019).

We woke up really early on Friday morning, and arrived at the school at 5:30 a.m. Then we got onto the bus, and drove to the conference at the Boston Sheraton. When we got there, they gave us an ADL shirt and button. They had granola bars for a snack, and we went into a big room with a ton of schools from Massachusetts, New York, and New Hampshire.

First we heard from a couple speakers about stereotypes, racism, see **REPORTBACK** page A8



Left to right: Daniel Carew, Charlotte Valle, Ian Farrick, Izzy Vachula-Curtis, Aaliyah Costantino, Taryn McDonough, Griffin Reigle, Ashley Leblanc, Syna Katsoulis, Abby Moore, and Jennifer Renehan attended the Anti-Defamation League Youth Conference in Boston last month.



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# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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August 2002

## Corrections

In last week’s feature article on the work songwriter Sarah Pirtle is doing at Hillcrest Elementary (*Youngsters Learn to Weave Songs and Stories*, page B5), we mentioned a Spring Pageant concert scheduled for this Friday morning at the school.

It turns out that concert is for families and students, not open to the public! Sorry, hope we didn’t cause any confusion...

And in our report co-published with *The Shoestring* on page A1, *The End of the Road for the Charlemont Inn?*, a quotation was erroneously attributed to former region-

al health agent Glen Ayers.

Meeting minutes were originally *paraphrased* to say Ayers had indicated it would make the most financial sense to get an owner to help fix an aging building, and somewhere along the way this became an inaccurate quotation: i.e., that Ayers had said “it would ‘make the most financial sense’.”

The error was corrected on The Shoestring’s website, but the Reporter being a print publication, it’s one we will have made forever, unless people read this correction. We apologize to Mr. Ayers, and to our readers. Please correct it in your minds.

## Suggestion

Spring is a very busy time in these parts. No sooner does everyone emerge from their winter hiding places than the calendar is bursting with public events!

It’s hard, hard, hard for a little newspaper to keep up with everything, simply as a public ser-

vice, and find a space to preview, promote, blurb, or list all the things taking place. We really do try.

But there’s a foolproof way to get your upcoming event printed in this newspaper: *take out an ad*. They’re cheap, and best of all, we depend on them to stay in existence!

## Letter to the Editors

### Regarding the State Flag Article for Montague Town Meeting

As students of civics know, preambles set the stage for the resolution to follow, and a strongly worded set of preambles certainly doesn’t make the resolution itself a bad idea. I urge town meeting

not to succumb to pedantry when discussing this issue.

**Colin Mitchell**  
Montague Center

**NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK**

## Montague Dog Owners: Stay Out of the Dog House!

The deadline to register dogs in Montague is Thursday, May 30. Thereafter, a fine of \$20 will be added to the registration fee. On June 1, the Chief of Police will receive a list of delinquent dog owners for enforcement.

Dogs are licensed at the Town Clerk’s office. A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5, and a license for an unaltered dog is \$10.

The Clerk’s office requires proof of rabies vaccination, and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided.

License renewals may be obtained through the town’s website, [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov), only if your dog’s rabies vaccination that was used for last year’s registration has not yet expired.

The Town Clerk’s office is open Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays. For more information you can contact the office at 863-3200 x. 203, or email [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov).

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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

*A crab apple tree was planted in front of Turners Falls Pizza House by Tom Sullivan and Sean Mahoney last Friday. David Detmold read a proclamation, while Sarah Doyle and Linda Hickman observed the Arbor Day proceedings.*

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# Invitation and Announcement From the Shea Theater

**By REPORTER STAFF**

**TURNERS FALLS** – The motto “Light Up the Shea” once referred to replacing the lighting fixtures and improving signage, but moving beyond the completion of an amazing renovation of the 350-seat theater, assistant programming director Emma Ayres would like to make more things happen on more nights at the theater, to work with the community to provide many more reasons to keep the lights burning and the people coming in.

Ayres has been working on a series of in-house productions called “The Shea Presents.” “We are really excited about this,” she says. “We had a soft open with the Hitler/Bigfoot movie, and now we are going to be producing one to two or three events a month. Prior to this, we have only done a few each year; we’ve primarily been a space that co-produced or rented.”

Kicking it off this Friday, May 3, will be an album release show produced by The Shea Presents for local favorites *Home Body*, with opener *Sister Jawbone*.

“We are excited to be supporting the local music scene and making it happen,” says Ayres. “That’s the spirit of increasing the events we are producing at the Shea; I think really reaching out to the incredible arts community and working collaboratively, is what defines what Turners and Greenfield really is. This is the way we want to be working.” Ayres says she wants to support artists and musicians in producing shows that expand the diversity of programming at the Shea.

“We want to join a standard that is being set in a lot of venues locally to be sure that the artist is the priority: making sure they are compensated fairly, that their needs on

the day of the performance are being honored, that they have an enjoyable experience and keep coming back,” says Ayres, who is a musician and performer herself. A triple album release show on May 11 will feature her band, *Old Flame*, and two others, *Sodada* and *Fighting Giants*. Skipping ahead to the fall, renowned alt-country folk artist Fred Eaglesmith will be coming to the theater on September 27.

Ayres invites musicians, bands, and anyone with ideas for festivals, lineups, or other events to contact her. The theater is putting together more programming for the fall during the next few months, and she is open to discussing arrangements tailored to each circumstance, rather than a flat-fee rental agreement.

“My role is, ‘How can I support you?’ We have to make sure we are covering our modest operational costs, but it’s an invitation and an announcement: Let’s make more things happen here!” says Ayres. “Whether it is an organisation who wants to have a daytime business function, or a band that has an idea for a small festival or a lineup, or a theater company that thinks they don’t have a budget to make it happen but really wants to... I just think this space can be more accessible to the community, and people need the invitation to see themselves here in the space. Regardless of the rental cost listed on the website, we are willing to work with people and figure something out.”

Another innovation in the offerings at the Shea this year is the Lobby Tapes Series, a monthly Sunday concert event that attempts to create an intimate, unplugged listening experience in the front lobby of the theater. The aim is to present bluegrass and roots music by local

musicians and singer-songwriters.

The first event on April 14 outgrew the lobby, which holds only 50, and ended up in the theater with 120 tickets sold; the next, which features Lily Sexton and Max Wareham, will be held May 19 at 7:30 p.m. Local folk, local beer, and an affordable ticket price of ten dollars.

If you are a member of the Shea – and you can join at various levels, starting at \$25 – you can get perks at local businesses, as well as an invitation to an immersive pop-up speakeasy called Sam’s Place at the theater, which features live music and is a collaboration with actors from the Eggtooth Productions stable.

Community members have been waiting to hear about more film offerings at the Shea after the big success of the red-carpet premiere of *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*. Ayres says that they are working on figuring out the rights to what films they can show.

“There are various companies from which you can buy catalogues of shows and purchase the rights. We are trying to figure out what will be best financially and what would be of interest to our community. The long-term vision is having regular very affordable movie nights,” says Ayres. “One of my dreams is to organize a multi-ages film festival. That’s a little ways out, but it’s possible and on my list!”

Ayres invites people with ideas to make an event happen to “Literally, email me!” at [gettotheshea@gmail.com](mailto:gettotheshea@gmail.com). She concludes: “It is remarkable that a small community theater can have a full-time staff person and somebody like me; two paid positions for a humble theater in Turners Falls. That’s really something, and I am so grateful.”

## WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!

(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

I’ve begun reading the book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming*, edited by Paul Hawken. Greening Greenfield will be **hosting a book discussion** at 6:30 p.m. on June 3 at Greenfield Public Library. There are copies of the book available at local libraries if you would like to participate in the discussion.

I somehow missed hearing about the Arbor Day **tree plantings around the villages** last week, but there will be one more event on Thursday, May 2 at 6:15 p.m. The Montague tree advisory committee will be planting a honey locust at 71 Main Street, Montague Center. All are welcome.

Village Neighbors and the Wendell Council on Aging will be offering a talk on **medical marijuana**. Is it safe? What can it treat? How is it prescribed and how do you sign up for it? Learn the answers to these questions and more from a local certified nurse practitioner at the Wendell Town Hall on Thursday, May 2, at 7 p.m.

Village Neighbors is a non-profit organization that helps aging adults in the towns of Shutesbury, Leverett, Wendell, and New Salem lead independent and engaged lives at home. The organization provides help with the small things that make it possible to stay in one’s home and community, and sustain a high quality of life. Volunteers and new members who need services are always welcome. The Town Hall is located at 6 Center Street, Wendell.

On Saturday, May 4, from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Turners Falls branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, the

Community Room will be hoppin’ with puzzle-swappin’. Bring a **jigsaw puzzle** you’re finished with, and choose one new-to-you. All ages welcome, no reservations required. Light refreshments provided by GSB.

**Memorial Hall Museum**, at 8 Memorial Street in Deerfield, opens for the season with an ArtWeek celebration of the sights, sounds, and tastes of Our Living Landscape, a free weekend of art-making, tastings, and other sensory experiences on May 4 and 5.

Inside the museum galleries, you can make your own mini souvenir album with scenes from their early 20th-century postcard exhibit, emboss soft metal with landscape designs, and create nature-themed paper quilt squares. Outside, activities include wet-felting and collage workshops inspired by landscapes, bird-call identification led by the Great Falls Discovery Center/DCR, and tastings of local food and drink.

Admission to the museum’s 19 galleries of history, culture, and fine art – including landscapes – and all special activities is offered free for adults and school-age children on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Outdoor workshops will be moved inside if inclement weather. For more information call (413) 774-3768 or check their website: [www.deerfield-ma.org](http://www.deerfield-ma.org).

On Monday, May 6 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Tom Sullivan will speak about “**Creating Habitat for Native Pollinators**” at the Erving Senior and Community Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving.

Tom’s business, Pollinators Welcome, is about designing, consultation and education on pollinator habitat. He designed the pollinator garden at the Erving Elementary

School and the first pollinator habitat nursery in Massachusetts. He has given more than 50 talks and workshops and consults with landowners and land managers.

Come hear how creating nesting habitat and growing wild flowers is not only essential to help bees, but can be beautiful as well. Sponsored by the Erving Conservation Commission.

Looking ahead...

On Saturday, May 11, naturalist Nancy Goodman and Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center staff will lead a **free botanical exploration of Barton Cove**. The 1-1/2-mile walk will begin at the picnic area on Barton Cove Road in Gill at 1 p.m.

Learn to identify trees, early spring wildflowers, and evergreen ferns. This hike is appropriate for ages 16 and older. Participants should wear sturdy walking shoes and bring insect repellent, water, and a magnifying glass and binoculars if they have them. Heavy rain cancels. Pre-register by calling (800) 859-2960.

Join representatives from the Save Our Schools Network at the Brick House on Tuesday, May 14 from 6 to 8 p.m. to learn about the militarization of **community-based indigenous schools in Mindanao, Philippines**. The Lumad, or indigenous peoples of Mindanao, are facing heightened attacks because of their defense of ancestral land, which sits on over \$840 billion of mineral resources.

There will be beadwork and other items for sale, and information about how to get involved. All proceeds go directly back to Lumad communities and their schools. The Brick House is located at 24 Third Street in Turners Falls.

There will be a **Gardening Tool Cleaning and Sharpening** Workshop on Saturday, May 18 from 9 to 11 a.m. at Dry Brook Garden, 105 Old State Road in Erving. Bring up to five hand tools to get you ready for the gardening season. (No power tools!) The \$20 fee includes the

workshop, coffee, refreshments, and a bucket of gardening goodies. Space is limited, so you need to pre-register by calling the Erving Public Library at (413) 423-3348.

“**You’ve Been Bitten by a Tick**, Now What?” A free talk by Dr. Nitya Jessica Eisenheim, naturopathic doctor of Cedar Rose Naturopathic, will take place on Thursday, May 23 at the Blue Dragon Apothecary, 158 Main Street Suite 10, Greenfield at 6:30 p.m.

Topics to be discussed include the top warning signs of Lyme disease, what to do when you get a tick bite, and why you may still be sick even though your labs are negative and you’ve taken antibiotics. Reserve your spot by May 21 by calling (413) 676-9009 or emailing [cedarroseheals@gmail.com](mailto:cedarroseheals@gmail.com). Seating is limited.

The Leverett Historical Society will be holding their annual **Plant Sale fundraiser** on Saturday, May 25 from 9 a.m. to noon at Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, rain or shine.

Plant donations are welcome, and can be dropped off behind the Leverett Town Hall during the week prior to the sale. They ask that you please label all donated plants. Master Gardener Dawn Marvin Ward will be on duty to help assist with plant choices and answer general gardening questions. For more information, contact Dawn at (413) 367-9562 or Julie at (413) 367-2656.

You can register now (and save \$5) for the **Brick House 5K** fundraiser on Saturday, June 15 at 10 a.m. The race starts and finishes at the parking lot at the top of the bike path at Unity Park in Turners Falls. There is also a course for non-runners. Register at [brickhousecommunity.org/tbh5k/](http://brickhousecommunity.org/tbh5k/).

The mission of The Brick House is to support individual, family and community well-being through collaboration on economic development, youth development, leadership development and education.

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

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Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending April 26:

Grade 6

Sofia Moreno

Grade 7

Charlotte Valle

Grade 8

Samuel Hoynoski

Related Arts

Alex Johnson

## Town Allows Golf Course Foreclosure to Move Forward

By GEORGE BRACE

A light agenda resulted in a short April 29 meeting for the Gill selectboard. The board decided to waive a 90-day notice requirement for the foreclosure auction of the Oak Ridge golf course, and heard updates on the elementary school well water treatment project and the town’s new police cruiser, among other business.

The board agreed to waive a 90-day notice requirement for a foreclosure auction of the Oak Ridge golf course at the request of the bank conducting the auction. Town administrator Ray Purington said the town had been notified the bank had tentatively scheduled the auction for May 22, at 11 a.m., pending the board’s decision on waiving the requirement.

Purington said the town holds a lien on the property due to its enrollment in the state’s Chapter 61 program, which allows for reduced property taxes in exchange for providing certain public benefits, such as recreational use. The law requires that the town be given 90 days’ notice in the event of a foreclosure sale, and gives the town other rights, including the ability to collect rollback taxes if the land use changes.

Purington said he discussed the matter with town counsel and the state Department of Revenue, and determined that 90 days’ notice wouldn’t do the town “a whit of good.” He said

the town would maintain its lien and rights with new owners in a foreclosure sale, and waiting 90 days would only let the golf course sit idle and deteriorate for longer than necessary.

He suggested that the town would be best served by having Oak Ridge continue to function as a golf course, and that an earlier sale was preferable to increase the chances of this happening. The board agreed, and voted to waive the notice requirement.

Purington reported that the new water treatment system at Gill Elementary School continues to function normally, and that a meter to measure the amount of water being treated had been installed and was operational. He also reported that Heath Cummings, the facilities director for the Gill-Montague Regional School District, is working on purchasing and installing water bottle filling stations to replace the school’s aging bubblers and drinking faucets.

Purington said the town received a second insurance check of \$4,599 to replace equipment destroyed when a police cruiser was totaled in an accident in March. The town had previously received a check of \$36,778 for the cruiser itself. He said police chief Christopher Redmond told him he had not seen the insurance company’s report on the equipment, and wanted to check it, as the figure seemed low to him.

Purington also reported that the markings and

lettering on the new cruiser had been completed, and it was now heading to another vendor to get equipped. He said he thought the cruiser might be ready next week, and that the timing was good, as one of the town’s two other cruisers recently had a gear box issue repaired.

An agenda item to approve a 6% excise tax on short-term room rentals, such as those booked through internet services, was found to be unnecessary. A new state law going into effect on July 1 authorizes such taxes, but Purington reported that, due to Gill having previously approved the same tax on traditional hotel and motel room rentals in 2009, the tax on short-term rentals would automatically take effect.

David Adams was approved as a firefighter. The board announced that the Slate Memorial Library was reopening after six months of renovations, and would hold an open house celebration this Saturday, May 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be coffee, donuts, and events for kids.

The board thankfully accepted an invitation from the memorial committee to have a member speak at Gill’s memorial day celebration, to be held on May 26 at the Gill Church.

The board announced that the “Clean Sweep” bulky waste recycling day would be on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to noon, with the closest reception station being Northfield Highway Garage. No pre-registration necessary, cash only.

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SPORTS from page A1

Girls’ Track and Field

Greenfield 93 – TFHS/FCTS 54

Last Tuesday, April 23, the Green Girls of Greenfield crossed the river and defeated the Turners/Tech track team 93-54. Blue took first in all the dashes: Aisha Pruitt-Gonzalez won the 100 in 15.10, Jade Duncan took the 200 in 32.70, and Kaylin Voudren finished first in the 400 in 1:12.00.

Turners also did well in the field events, with Dabney Rollins winning the triple jump (25’6”), the javelin (88’3”), and the discus (82’7”).

Boys’ Track and Field

Mahar 85– TFHS/FCTS 57

Pioneer 78– TFHS/FCTS 65

South Hadley 89– TFHS/FCTS 56

Last Thursday the Mahar Senators came to town, and defeated the joint boys’ track team 85-57. Ryan Duclous took the gold in the shot put, discus, and javelin, although he was the lone placer for Tech in discus and javelin, Deven Goshea and Kai Rodriguez finished second and third in the shot put, and Rodriguez went on to win the long jump.

Tech also had first place finishes in the high jump (Ryan Bergmann), the 100 hurdles (Zack Conway), and the 100 (Donte Rosewarne), and took first and third in the 200 (Rosewarne and Bergmann). The rest of Tech’s points were earned by sweeping the relays.

Then on Monday, the team traveled to Northfield for a dual meet with Pioneer and South Hadley.

Against Pioneer, Tech swept the shot put with Duclous, Rodriguez, and Goshea taking all 9 points. Tech also swept the relays. Duclous also won the javelin and discus, with teammate Sam Nieves taking third in the discus.

Rosewarne won the 200 and placed second in the 100, while Conway finished first in the 100 and 400 hurdles. Other events in which Tech scored points included the mile (Clapp 2, Sam Nieves 3), the triple jump (Rodriguez 2, Lucas Upham 3), the 400 (Cam Gauthier 2), the 400 hurdles (Lucas Upham 2), the high jump (Bergmann 2), the 2-mile (Miguel Clapp 3), and the pole vault (Owen LaValley 3).

Against South Hadley, Duclous also swept the discus, javelin, and shot put, and Rodriguez and Goshea retained their second and third places in the put. Conway won both hurdle events, Rodriguez finished second in the long and triple jumps, Rosewarne finished second in the 100 and third in the 200, Bergmann second in the high jump, and LaValley retained his third-place finish in the pole vault.

Girls Tennis

TFHS 3 – Palmer 2

Frontier 4 – TFHS 1

The Turners girls’ tennis team hosted the Palmer Blue Panthers on April 23, and Frontier on the 24th. The win and the loss gives the Thunder Ladies a record of 2–4.

Blue never gave up in their win against Palmer. They would’ve lost if they just gave up, but they didn’t. All five first sets were competitive, and could have gone either way.

Playing first singles is tough in any match, but when your opponent is a teenage boy, it’s even tougher. But Haley Green made him work for every point, winning three games in the first set and four in the second. On the second singles court, the ladies battled it out to see who would take the all-important opening set. After 10 competitive games, it was

tied up 5-5, but Izzy Farrick powered ahead and won the first set 7-5. With that out of the way, Farrick cruised to a 6-2 win to take second singles.

In third singles, Steph Peterson finished strong in her first set, winning 6-4, and cruised to a 6-1 win in the second set. In first doubles, it was Palmer who finished strong, beating Ceci Wood and Maria Labelle in the third and deciding set, 6-3. Mercedes Bailey and Emily Dennison won their second doubles match 6-4, 6-2.

Then the Frontier Red Hawks flew into town. This was a tough one for Powertown, as Frontier swept the doubles courts as well as first and second singles. Peterson would not allow a shutout, however, as she won third singles 6-3, 6-2.

The Blue Ladies were back in action on Wednesday against Pioneer Valley Christian – see next week’s paper for a report.

Boys Tennis

TFHS 5 – PVC 0

TFHS 4 – Chicopee Comp 1

TFHS 5 – Sci Tech 0

The Boys’ tennis team traveled down to Blunt Park in Springfield on April 24 to take on Pioneer Valley Christian. Turners won every match in straight sets, as Brian Poirier, Will Turn, and Brody Trott swept singles and Joe Kochan/Mike Boyle and Corin Wisniewski/Miles Keefe netted shutouts on the doubles courts.

They went south again on April 25, this time to Chicopee, to play against the Comp Colts. Poirier and Turn swept first and second singles, while Trott lost to Comp’s third man in a third-set super-tie-breaker. In doubles action, Kochan and Josh Gaulin won in straight sets, and Boyle and Wisniewski held on in second doubles to win 6-3, 7-5.

Then on Monday, the Cybercats came to town. Because the Cats have a small squad, they were forced to cede third singles. But the match went on, as a young lady from Sci Tech played an exhibition match against Trott. The other four matches were all one-sided, as Tech only managed to win one game – against 24 Turners wins – in singles play, and 2 games to 24 on the doubles court.

The road gets a little harder for Blue as they face a very tough team this Wednesday against the Bombers of Westfield.

Baseball

Smith Academy 4 – TFMA 3

TFMA 10 – South Hadley 9

This week, just like last week, the Turners Falls baseball team traded one-run decisions. The first game ended on a heartbreaker, as Smith Academy scored three runs in the seventh, but in the second, Blue built a huge lead and held off a late rally by South Hadley.

On April 24, Blue hosted Smith Academy. The game was a scoreless tie until the bottom of the fourth when Ryan Campbell scored on a Kyle Dodge sac. A half-inning later, however, the Smithies snuck a run home to tie it at 1.

Turners answered in the sixth with two runs as Campbell reached on a walk, advanced along the base paths, and was knocked in on a K. Dodge single. Dodge then stole a base, advanced on a wild pitch, and scored off a Jon Fritz single. Going into the seventh inning, Powertown was up 3-1, but in the seventh, Smith scored three runs to take the win.

Turners had four hits in this one, with Dodge getting two of them along with his two RBIs. Fritz and

# Kickball for Kicks

**TURNERS FALLS** – Join the Brick House Community Resource Center at Unity Park from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 11 for a BBQ, field games, and a few games of kickball... for kicks!

They are raising money for our “Kicks Fund,” which will help local youth access new, safe shoes for all seasons.

The Brick House has been hearing from youth, their families, and school personnel that footwear is a huge unmet need in the community. Join in a day of fun to help get shoes for youth!

Suggested donation of \$20 to play. Sliding scale (no one will be turned away for lack of funds).

Unable to join in? Prefer to give online? Follow the link on their website to make a digital donation to the Kicks Fund: [brickhousecommunity.org/kickball-for-kicks/](http://brickhousecommunity.org/kickball-for-kicks/).

Jacob Burnett had the other two hits for Blue. On the mound, Jake Dodge allowed seven hits, three runs, and four walks, while striking out one batter. Brother Kyle came in in the seventh and gave up a hit and a run. And although Smith scored four runs, only two were earned.

Then on April 25, the Blue Man Group traveled down to South Hadley and won a wild one, 10-9. Turners got most of their runs in the second inning, breaking the scoreless tie by putting 8 runs across.

Fritz led off with a double, and Cayden Lehtomaki followed suite with a two-bagger of his own, driving him home. Don Carme reached on an error, and Burnett got the RBI single. The hit parade continued as Jake Labelle and J. Dodge got singles, Campbell was hit by a pitch. and K. Dodge reached on an error. The last two runs of the inning came off a Lehtomaki base hit.

And just like that, Blue was up 8-0. Smith got a run back in the bottom of the second, and the teams traded runs in the third and fourth to make the score 10-3 after four full. But Smith wouldn’t go away. They kept pecking away and in the seventh, they came within one run of sending the game into extra innings.

For Turners, there were no weak points in their lineup, with seven different batters getting hits: Lehtomaki (2), J. Dodge (2), Campbell, K. Dodge, Fritz, Burnett, and Labelle. Jack Putala recorded the win on the mound.

Softball

TFHS 10 – Saint Peter/Marian 0

TFHS 17 – Frontier 6

On April 24, the Powertown softball team traveled to Worcester and shut out Saint Peter/Marian 10-0.

Blue scored early, putting two runs across in the first inning, four

more in the third, and two in the fourth. Then they put the cherry on the sundae in the seventh, scoring two insurance runs to make it an even 10-run victory.

Turners banged the drum at the plate, cracking 15 hits, with Alyson Murphy, Catie Reynolds, and Casidhe Wozniak all slicing doubles. In the circle, Jade Tyler scattered seven hits, struck out eight batters, and gave no walks.

Then on April 25, Lady Thunder went to South Deerfield to take on the Lady Red Hawks. This was a sticky win for Blue, as Frontier refused to go away. Three different Blue Ladies hit it out of the park in this one, and when a third of your starting lineup hits homers, it’s hard for your opponent to keep up.

But Frontier did, at least for a while. Turners led 2-0 off an Olivia Whittier homer in the first, and Red came back and scored two of their own in the bottom of the first. Turners scored another two in the third and the Birds matched them in the fourth, so going into the fifth inning, the game was knotted at 4-4.

Powertown put it out of reach by scoring four runs in the fifth, and another in the sixth. Then in the seventh, Blue Thunder buried the Hawks with an additional eight runs.

The Birds were down 17-4, but they weren’t out. They hit a 2-run homer of their own in the bottom of the inning to make the score a little more respectable.

Turners amassed 21 hits against Frontier, with Whittier, Tyler, and Taylor Murphy all crushing home runs. In the circle, Tyler gave up four earned runs, struck out nine, walked one, and allowed seven hits.

Next week: The Westfield Bombers try to pop Powertown’s balloon.



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners’ Jaiden Whiting-Martinez tags Smith Academy’s Samuel Dadmun out as Dadmun tries to make it back to first.

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

and Lisa Stratford to the position of town clerk. Later in the meeting, an article was passed making the clerk’s position an appointed one, causing some confusion as to when the selectboard would appoint Stratford.

Sam Black was elected to the board of assessors, although he did not attend the meeting. “Very often that’s how we get our best candidates,” said meeting moderator Larry Farber.

Farber read the entire \$6,153,972 town operating budget (**Article 4**), which increased over the last fiscal year by 1.7%. The budget passed with little discussion, but there was a good deal of debate on a supplemental appropriation of \$33,126 for the Elementary School (**Article 6**). The selectboard and finance committee had not supported the appropriation because, they argued, it conflicts with their growth guidelines for town departments, and brings the budget closer to the “hard cap” imposed by state law Proposition 2.5.

Supporters of the school gave impassioned speeches arguing that significant reductions had already been made. Further cuts, they said, would eliminate core programs, and could undermine the school’s reputation, which draws new tax-paying residents and school choice students from other districts.

In the end, these arguments prevailed, as the supplemental appropriation passed by a significant margin.

As far as the regional high school district is concerned, **Article 3** amended the regional agreement to calculate town assessments. The new method, which will only apply

to the upcoming fiscal year, would calculate assessments based 30% on a five-year rolling average of the “minimum contribution” – a wealth calculation in the state aid formula – and the remaining 70% according to the “per-pupil” method.

The regional agreement has been a significant point of conflict among towns in the district, but no one at the meeting raised objections to the current proposal.

The meeting also appropriated \$33,093 to hire a third full-time police officer. Police chief Scott Minckler pointed to the future reduction in part-time staff due to the “phasing out” of the state academy for these officers. Minckler and other supporters of the motion argued that a full-time officer would be more “connected” to the town and its residents than part-timers, who often leave after a few years. They also noted the long wait time for state back-up coverage, which would presumably be reduced by another full-time officer.

The appropriation will not be included in this year’s operating budget. Next year, according to Stratford, the wages for the new full-time officer will be covered by “restructuring” the department, while benefits will be added to the town’s operating budget.

There was some debate – focusing on an invasive plant species called milfoil – on an article to use \$160,000 from the town’s Community Preservation Fund to “replace the failing Leverett Pond Dam,” but the motion passed by a significant majority.

The meeting voted in favor of

three articles allowing the town to tax various “short term rentals,” which the selectboard defined as rentals “like AirBnB.” A 0.75% meals tax, which at this time will only apply to the Village Coop in North Leverett, was also approved.

Perhaps the most complex article on the warrant was **Article 16**, which proposed three different, highly technical, solutions to the toxic plume from a former town landfill in East Leverett. The plume has, for years, seriously contaminated the water of five homes. A number of East Leverett homeowners graphically described their experiences, and even produced pictures of their water.

The article contained three different options, with appropriations funded by borrowing. The first would connect the homes with Amherst water system at a potential cost of \$2,333,000. The second would “install a series of new wells,” drilled into the bedrock below the plume, at a cost of \$150,000. The third option would appropriate \$20,000 to appraise the homes to determine their value, “prior to their taking by eminent domain.” The selectboard requested that the town meeting approve all three articles and allow the board to determine the most viable option.

Most of the discussion focused on the risks and benefits of drilling new wells below the plume. David Foss, a hydrogeologist who has worked with the town, responded to concerns about drilling through the plume and into the bedrock. Foss emphasized recent improvements in well technology and told the meeting he was going to begin by

drilling a single test well. D’Errico urged the meeting to “trust” the selectboard to choose the most viable, and least costly, option.

The article passed unanimously, and the vote was followed by applause.

Lunchtime produced a noticeable reduction in meeting members, a trend which continued as the afternoon wore on. Yet **Article 41** – which came before the meeting ended at around 4 o’clock – produced perhaps the longest discussion of all, as the “committee of the whole” attempted to rewrite a petitioned article from residents of Dudleyville Road. The article began by stating that the road, which it said was poorly engineered, “becomes virtually impassable” during spring rains.

The original article sought to 1) appropriate \$15,000 for a study to determine what measures should be taken to stabilize the road, and 2) allocate funds to reconstruct it within three years of the completion of the study. The second part of the article was quickly changed to call for a committee to evaluate the study, create a timeline for a project, and potentially look at other problematic dirt roads in town.

Town meeting members spoke in favor of the general concept, but proposed significant changes in the wording. One member pointed out that the first paragraph did not clearly specify that the \$15,000 was earmarked to study Dudleyville Road. Another observed that other dirt roads were in nearly as bad condition as Dudleyville. This produced an amendment, which prevailed, specifying that the proposed committee

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should include representatives from other roads. Another amendment eliminated the proposed timeline.

As amendments and amendments to amendments proliferated, Peter d’Errico pleaded with the meeting to pass the latest version of the motion. “We get the message,” he told the dwindling crowd. The meeting soon passed a version of the motion, appropriating \$15,000, specifying Dudleyville Road was the subject of the study, and creating a committee with representatives from all dirt roads in town.

The meeting then passed three other petitioned articles – one advocating “support and compassion” for refugees; another calling for the US to join a treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons; and a third that supports a commission to investigate changing the state flag and seal, which feature an image of a Native American.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.



## Erving ATM Accepts Land Unanimously, Seal Article By 2

By DAVID BRULE

Roughly 60 citizens of Erving sailed through the annual town meeting warrant of 23 articles in about two and a half hours on Wednesday.

The meeting started off with a surprise: the 2018 Annual Report was dedicated to longtime volunteer Rebecca Hubbard, founder of the Friends of Erving Library. Hubbard had no idea what was in the offering, but admitted wondering why all of her family had decided to attend the annual meeting. With a self-effacing and simple speech she thanked all who had recommended her, adding that she felt that Erving was a wonderful place to work and reside.

With little discussion, most articles passed unanimously. Some questions did arise: for **Article 5**, the general FY’20 operating budget, what was the percentage increase over last year? Selectmen took time to sort out the figures, given that each line item had been taken individually, and no global percentage of increase had been calculated. One town member stubbornly prodded selectmen until a quick calculation determined that there was a difference of about \$408,000 between last year and this, about a 10% increase.

The meeting unanimously accepted a gift of approximately 55 acres to be added to the town’s Popular Mountain conservation lands. Mount Grace Land Trust had held those acres out of the original transfer, while 140 acres from the Guinuiiz family property on Old State Road became town conservation land. It took a few years of sorting out an old Mackin family deed, and the demise

of the Kinder-Morgan pipeline project, to close on the deal to add the parcel to the town’s holdings.

The second crucial vote of the night was **Article 23**, supporting a citizens’ petition to “provide for the creation of a Special Commission relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth.”

Many questions arose about the intention of the resolution. Historical commissioners David Brule\* and Cyd Scott presented the rationale behind the drive to support the ongoing work of Representative Susannah Whipps and Senator Jo Comerford, who are advocating for the Resolve (H.2776 and S.1877) in the General Court. Some citizens expressed support for the resolution, while others expressed concern that the effort would be akin to “re-writing history,” erasing one more Indian image from from our history. Explanations were given that if supported across the Commonwealth, the resolution would lead to the formation of a commission that included at least five members of Native nations, who would finally have a say in how they were depicted.

When it came time for a voice vote, it was determined that the voices in favor of the resolution carried the vote. That decision by the moderator Richard Peabody was challenged, so a further head count vote followed. The final head count tally carried the resolution, but only by a 23-21 majority.

Town meeting adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

\* Filling in here for our regular reporter, in a pinch. – Eds.

**MONTAGUE** from page A1

a regional funding and administrative mechanism for the digester has become too complex, and threatens to delay implementation of the idea. He mentioned “the complications of the funding and the grants” to explain why Greenfield has decided to proceed with the project on its own.

He said Greenfield’s decision “in some ways makes sense” for Montague, since the town’s expanded composting capacity has been approved by the state, and its current sludge disposal contract is “really good.” “If we can do a 50-50 compost and sludge disposal, we’ll be in really good shape,” McDonald said.

Town administrator Steve Ellis told the board that “there presently is no multi-town collaboration that would serve as a holding body for this initiative. The negotiation of the cost arrangements could take a very long time, and would be subject to having really good numbers.” He also said that Greenfield is seeking to get “a lot of projects done” during the remaining tenure of “their incumbent, but not seeking reelection, Mayor [Bill Martin].”

With regard to a proposed solar array that was supposed to generate electricity that could be used by his plant, McDonald said the engineering and design, financed by a state grant, had been completed. Unfortunately the state incentive program called SMART has “reached its limit” in western Massachusetts, so Montague can not apply for incentive payments until a new program is created.

McDonald said he had contacted the state to find out “if we build this new solar array, and two years from now a new program comes out, can an existing facility apply for it?” He also said he wanted to make sure “I cross my T’s and dot my I’s, as far

as the land that we’re using, to make sure I don’t choke myself off...”

Other subjects covered by McDonald included potential staffing issues, and progress on “pump station upgrades” (including new control panels, which can be monitored “from afar”).

### Police Promotion

In other news, police chief Chris Williams announced that officer John Dempsey had scored the highest on the Civil Service assessment process, and therefore should be appointed to the position of sergeant. The board approved the appointment. Williams said there would be an “official pinning ceremony” this Friday, May 3 at 6 p.m. at the public safety complex.

In response to a question, Dempsey said he had been on the force for 23 years. “I can tell you how many I have left,” he added.

Williams asked the board to approve the transfer of reserve officer Brent Williams to the Greenfield police department. The board approved the request.

### Parks and Rec

Parks and recreation department director Jon Dobosz came before the board to request that it execute a \$2,650 contract with a man named Scott Allen to install a “concrete pad” at the skate park. He said the pad was to help those with “mobility issues” enjoy watching the people skateboarding. The board executed the contract.

Dobosz also announced there would be a public input meeting at the public safety complex this Wednesday, May 1 about a future renovation of the Montague Center Park. When asked why the meeting was not held at the Montague Center fire station, he said that he was

concerned that the fire station meeting room would be too small.

The board approved a request by RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto for the use of Peskeompskut Park for a brass band concert on June 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. Executive assistant Wendy Bogosz received permission to schedule community band concerts at the same park on June 17 and 24, and July 1, 18, and 15. The concerts will be in the evening from 6:30 to 9:15 p.m.

A request by Debra Frenkel for use of property for the Brick House’s annual 5K road race on Saturday, June 15 was also approved.

### Other Business

The board executed the warrant for the May 20 town election. Precinct 1 will now vote at the Montague Center fire station; Precinct 2 at the Highland School Apartments in Millers Falls; Precincts 3 and 4 at the senior center in Turners Falls; Precinct 5 at the town hall; and Precinct 6 at the public safety complex on Turners Falls Road.

The board executed a letter to Elijah Plymesser requesting that town planner Walter Ramsey attend an “Opportunity Zone Academy.” Audience member Ariel Elan urged the board to make sure to read the “fine print” of any opportunity zone agreements.

The board approved the suggestion of the tree committee and tree warden to plant the elm tree being donated by the Greenfield Savings Bank next to the library.

Ellis updated the board on a number of projects, including work on the Colle Building windows, Avenue A sidewalks, and Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant.

The next selectboard meeting will be held Monday, May 6.



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**BLAIS** from page A1

**NB:** The recommendation for funding that came out of the “Task-force on Regional Transit Authority Performance and Funding” was \$90.5 million, and we were able to secure \$87 million. There was an amendment at the last minute to add \$1 million; it was originally 86. The Senate is going to be looking at this as well, so hopefully we’ll be able to get that number up to a full \$90.5.

***MR** [being teathed upon]: Does Bo go back and forth with you?*

**NB:** Bo goes back and forth with me here, and to Chesterfield, sometimes... He’s our little mascot.

**LW:** We’re lucky, we’ve got two dog-friendly offices. We’re usually here 1 to 6 on Mondays, barring having to be in Boston – if she’s got something at 2 p.m. in Boston, it blows the entire day.

**NB:** Usually we’re in session for the House one day a week, and then we have committee hearings two days a week: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday in Boston, and then Monday and Friday in the district for me – that’s why we keep the Monday office hours in Montague, and the Thursday hours in Chesterfield.

**LW:** It’s an even five-hour split: hill town, valley town.

**NB:** This has been really helpful. People just drop in with questions, concerns, and comments. If you want to make sure I’m here, just call ahead and make an appointment....

For transportation, that was really the big one.... The three recommendations that came out of the funding report were an increase to \$90.5 million, indexing future line-item appropriations to inflation increases – which is what happens with the MBTA – and establishing a mechanism for MOUs between MassDOT and the RTAs, “reflecting performance targets in categories of ridership, customer service, asset management, and financial performance.”

Those were put forward by Rep. Sarah Peake, the chair of the regional transit authority caucus. I was just elected vice chair. She ended up withdrawing the inflation factor one; the MOU one was adopted.

***MR:** How’s arts and tourism?*

**NB:** Tourism, Arts, and Culture is great. We have a new chair, Paul McMurtry, who is really interested in getting out throughout the state and having hearings everywhere. I’ve already talked to him about some possible locations in the district.

I talk to him about just how vibrant the creative economy is in the First Franklin. Economic development is difficult [here], but the creative economy is definitely an economic driver for us, and so the more we can highlight and capitalize on that, the better off we’re going to be.

***MR:** What are the major funding streams from the state?*

**NB:** The Mass Cultural Council, and funding through the regional tourism councils, like the Chamber – those are the two biggest ones. There are 16 regional tourism councils throughout the state, and they split a pot of funds the state provides.

It’s difficult, because Massachusetts has not kept pace with other states like New York, who’s spending way more money on marketing. I was just on MassLive, and there was an ad: “Come right over the border!” We seem to be falling behind.

***MR:** What are your other two committees?*

**NB:** Public Service, and then Municipalities and Regional Government.... I think I’ve had one hearing

for both so far. Municipalities and Regional Government does “the enactment of special laws for cities and towns, establishment of economic district and local planning commissions, rent control and zoning, salaries and tenure of employees, Register of Deeds and sheriffs.”

And the Joint Committee on Public Service deals with “salaries, civil service, retirement of public employees, public bargaining...” I’m learning more about what these committees do as we go along, but I have a Public Service hearing on... Tuesday?

**LW:** You have Public Service on Wednesday, and Municipalities and Regional Governments on Tuesday.

**NB:** For Municipalities and Regional Government, for example, we’re meeting Tuesday, May 7: “An Act related to marijuana-related revenue in the Town of Millbury.” “An Act accrediting the stabilization fund for the sale of Fuller School in the City of Gloucester.” “An Act relative to certain land in the town of Bernardston.” There’s charter things in Plymouth and Provincetown, conservation commissions – these are really dealing with local government issues. I’m interested in that committee, because it’s going to help me delve into issues that are facing local communities across the entire Commonwealth.

***MR:** Is that a place anything gets stuck? Is it mostly facilitation work?*

**NB:** As long as those communities are able to make their case – we ask questions we need to, but we generally want to be supportive of these communities, and the representatives that put these forth. We want to recognize that if a rep feels strongly enough to submit it as legislation, they’ve done their due diligence.

***MR:** Is it the first time for both of you on Beacon Hill?*

**NB and LW:** Yes!

***MR:** How’s the culture shock?*

**NB:** People have been really friendly and helpful. I’ve been able to talk with legislators who’ve been in the building for a really long time, and in particular during budget week, to talk about that process, and also the filing of bills. It’s a really intense couple of months, so I’ve been able to lean on some of those legislators. But also, with this new class, being able to lean on one another as we’re all learning these new things has been really helpful for me.

***MR:** You’ve been touring through the district. What have you been hearing about from people out here?*

**NB:** The biggest thing I hear about, in every community I go to, is the need to reform the Chapter 70 foundation formula. It’s really distressing our communities – it’s pitting our school boards against our selectboards, and communities against communities. Superintendents have said that they’re trying to steal students from the next community to try to shore up their budgets....

Senator Hinds was able to secure funding in FY’19 for the Rural School Aid Grant.... His original amount was way more than what they actually got, so they had to condense the number of [districts] who would be eligible. It was his intention all along to ensure that places like Gill-Montague would be included. And that was the point of including the rural school aid at \$9 million this year, an attempt to ensure places like Gill-Montague would get some additional funding.

Senator Hinds is pursuing two paths. One was to get the rural school aid into the budget, and then he’s also introduced a bill that would

include a rurality factor in the Chapter 70 funding formula.

[Gill-Montague superintendent] Michael Sullivan has been great to work with. As a result of conversations that he had with Senator Comerford and myself, she and I both introduced the Low-Enrollment Adjustment Factor bill, LEAF.

I have high hopes for that bill going through. It’s a study that would allow us to look at how low and declining enrollment are impacting schools. Not only here: the thing I’ve consistently heard from Education Committee members is that this is happening all across the state. The universality of that is interesting, I think, for a lot of members, and may help it get some momentum.

***MR:** You can slip out of the “rural/urban” and “west/east” framing.*

**NB:** Exactly. So I think that might have some legs, just because it’s impacting all people.

***MR:** And regionalization is not as easy as it sounds.*

**NB:** It’s very complicated, and there are a lot of questions that are unanswered right now, that I think communities need to have answers to before they can make a decision whether or not it’s the right choice....

The second thing I hear about most often – there are really five things. Climate change is definitely top of mind for people. Affordable housing; transportation; and, for this district, jobs and the economy.

And then the final thing, that ties into that, is infrastructure: making sure that all of the communities of the First Franklin district have broadband. Because eight of them are still one to two years out from getting it.

***MR:** The western hill towns?*

**NB:** Yeah, Goshen, Worthington, Plainfield – those areas, and Shutesbury will probably get service at the end of the year. I have a list of communities that I’m tracking, and I have a monthly phone call with MBI to make sure that those projects are moving forward, and on time.

Sort of like the General Pierce Bridge: I’m calling MassDOT every month, I want to make sure they’re still on schedule... Sometimes I feel like if we’re not asking questions, the project is not moving along.

***MR:** Are they going to build a second bridge beside it?*

**NB:** I have not gotten a clear answer on that. That was one of the other questions I asked, whether or not it’s a rehabilitation or replacement, if a decision had been made yet.

Because, when you look at that bridge – I hold my breath when I go over that bridge.

So those are the main things that I’m hearing from people. Affordable housing is a challenge: we just don’t have the economy of scale out here.

**LW:** You forgot one of your other ones that I feel like all we do is talk about! Did you say health insurance?

**NB:** Oh, health insurance, yes! In our communities it’s certainly a driver. As you’re looking at school budgets and town budgets, healthcare cost is a real problem. That’s one of the reasons I support Medicare For All: it would have an enormous impact on our communities, and free up money that they didn’t have before.

***MR:** What does it mean to support Medicare For All in your position as a state rep?*

**NB:** They’ve just formed a Medicare For All caucus, and I’m a member of that. As a member you agree to host events in your district that educate people about what it means.

# FACES & PLACES



ANNE JEMAS PHOTO



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

*Top: Jonah the Dog checks out the graffiti under the Turners Falls-Gill bridge. Bottom: The Great Falls Farmers Market officially opened for the season on Wednesday, despite the chilly, overcast weather. New market manager Annie Levine says she is excited at the prospect of steering the market through a full season of delicious local produce, homemade goods of all kinds, plants and other delights yet to come. Interested in being a vendor? The rates are very affordable. Looking for an audience? Come perform on a Wednesday afternoon! Follow the market on Facebook or Instagram #greatfallsfarmersmarkettf, or email greatfallsfarmersmarkettturners@gmail.com.*

I think in Western Mass we have a good sense of what Medicare For All means – I don’t think that’s true throughout the state.... We just did one in Pelham, and I did one in Worthington. Western Mass Medicare For All is very active, and have a number of events, so I try to help them and attend those whenever I can.

***MR:** Have you taken up anything with Berkshire Gas about the moratorium?*

**NB:** Legislatively, I have not. You know, I haven’t heard from anybody about the moratorium since I was elected. The big thing, of course – when I worked for Congressman McGovern, and running up to the election – was people do not want to see additional pipeline capacity built. That’s just the way people feel, and so I want to respect that.

***MR:** I took a tour last week of the biggest buildout I’ve seen since I moved here, the cannabis farm in the industrial park. It seems to be one of the only hot industries right now.*

**NB:** In terms of legislation that I introduced, I’m hopeful we’ll be able to get the Rural Jobs Act through this year. Steve Kulik was able to push it through the House Ways and Means last year, so I’m going to see if I’m able to get it over to the Senate.

The Rural Jobs Act would provide tax credits for companies that want to invest in rural Massachusetts, just providing that incentive for people to locate here. There seems to be this gap that we need to fill in order to get people here, and this would do it. I’m hopeful we’ll be able to get that across the finish line.

***MR:** In terms of the tax credits – are there studies that actually show that’s been a limiting factor?*

**NB:** Connecticut has a program in place, and it’s been enormously successful. The rate of return on that program has been successful in terms of the dollar-to-dollar return on investment. That’s what our program is modeled after, but it is dif-

ferent in the way that the package is put together – it’s not all tax credits, the investors have to also put something in so they have some teeth in the game, and the clawback provisions are really strong so that we as a Commonwealth are ensuring that they keep up their end of the bargain.

***MR:** Are you seeing good support, or a lot of cosponsors?*

**NB:** I sat down with the chair of the committee, and said this would be an important thing for western Massachusetts, for economic development. We do have cosponsors, and Senator Hinds is leading it on the Senate side. I’m hopeful that we’ll get a hearing and get it out of committee – that would be a great thing.

And, of course, I’ve introduced the Office of Rural Policy, and the Office of Outdoor Recreation.

***MR:** Anything else you want to convey to our readers?*

**NB:** Just because it’s top of mind for me, as part of budget week I was able to secure \$650,000 for sexual and domestic violence prevention. The line item was at \$150,000, and because of an amendment I offered, they were able to get it to \$650,000 statewide.... I was thrilled to be able to get that line item, right next to Unity Park.

***MR:** When do we hear about the field house?*

**NB:** The Senate will start in May, then reconciliation occurs, and we have to have a budget by the end of June. And last year, the governor stripped all the earmarks. So we have a long way to go before that money becomes real....

And, I think it’s important for people to know that we’re here. Call Lily anytime. Calls are going into Boston and I try to spend as much time in the district as I can, so people can reach us directly on that number.

**LW:** [Holds up a flip phone.] If we’re in an area with cell phone reception! This phone is (413) 362-9453.



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WENDELL from page A1

video and photography, as well as school-related community service credits for the teens and an opportunity for reflection and acknowledgement on the part of the seniors, the project concluded with this event, and a chance at public speaking for all.

A sincere effort to chronicle the history of Wendell through the tales of those who lived it, it also hopes to unite the community in an intergenerational web: supporting, honoring, and documenting the lives, not only of the rabble rousers and change agents that rocked the world of Wendell (and more than doubled its size over the course of two decades), but also of those that had come before, or had never known a home other than Wendell. Those who held the ground and tilled the soil. Those who came, and those who welcomed them – mostly and/or eventually – and shared their know-how, and allowed for diversification.

There they sat in a wide circle, memorabilia and project photos to the side on one table and refreshments on another, teens and elders side-by-side and well integrated. The project’s midwives, writers Ruth Flohr and Mez Ziemba, proudly introduced the group with a brief summary of events, and before the sharing began they thanked the supporters that had enabled the project, including the Wendell Cultural Council, the Council on Aging, and the Friends of the Wendell Library.

Included in the group of teenagers were Matthew Regnier, Luke Chioda, Ava Chioda, Hannah Dziedzic, and Zachary Serrell. (Sally Houle, the sixth teen, was absent.) Sitting beside them were “their” seniors, including Annie Diemand-Bucci, Jonathan von Ranson, Jim Slavas, Phyllis Lawrence, “Dor,” “Boo” Pearson, Nancy Spittle, Christine Heard, Rick Drohen, Susan von Ranson, and Theodore “Ted” Lewis.

The participants ranged in age from 12-going-on-13 to 90, a span of 77 years, their lives now connected through stories told and stories heard, their faces radiating with the glow of shared accomplishment.

The project began with a questionnaire for the seniors, designed to introduce them to the youngsters as well as prompt memories, and a commitment from the teens to meet regularly on (gasp!) Saturday mornings. Under the skilled guidance of Flohr and Ziemba, the teens were introduced to the interviewing process, and honed their skills by practicing on one another. Then they gathered with the elders at the cozy Wendell Senior Center for a formal meet and greet over tea and cake, thereby beginning the dismantling of the age

barrier that separated them.

As teen Ava Chioda reported of the seniors: “Seniors are just like normal people.”

Elder Susan von Ranson spoke with sparkling eyes of the thrill she felt watching her teen come and go. “There was just so much joy in her face – with her hair going this way and that!”

A number of the seniors spoke of their own process of recalling and telling their tales, spewing forth easily for some, and for others requiring a deeper dig. Many of the interviewees shared common reasons for settling in Wendell: for example, cheap land, homesteading, the abundant nature surrounding the town, the people, the creative spirit, and the open-mindedness.

As part of a small, closely-knit community, many of the younger ones already knew of their elders. Some had interacted with them at school or the library; certainly they knew the kind faces of neighbors. Now the younger participants walk away with a wealth of information as to why their elders came, what interests them, why they did what they did and are the way that they are, as well as a deeper appreciation of what it means to be an active, engaged participant in community, and the joy that can come from creating, as Rick Drohen said of Wendell, “a community with a soul.”

From elders we heard of a deep connection and “pride in place,” of a devotional love for the town, the land (even the buildings), its people, and their shared history.

“Boo” Pearson, a professional musician who came to Wendell in 1976, spoke of the music scene and of how Wendell became a training ground for a renaissance of hand drumming that then spread through the valley, and still inspires through the work of Jaffar, also a resident of the town who offers drumming circles. Boo came to town with the Outer Space Band and later was a member of Loose Caboose, the Equalites, and Rhythm Inc., and he told of adventures with the band, including a visit to Bob Marley’s recording studio.

For me, one of the highlights of the event was hearing from Theodore “Ted” Lewis. His family moved from Maine to Wendell when he was a toddler in 1933, searching for a place to farm, and settled on West Street at the Fisk Farm. Schooled in Wendell for eight years in the very building we met in and for high school at the New Salem Academy, Ted then served in the military before returning to marry in 1952.

Now approaching 90, and having served the town in many capacities, he spoke matter-of-factly of the

neighborly spirit of the town, of the Grange, of Old Home Days of the past, of walking to Orange to catch a bus to the movies in Athol, and of the year that electricity arrived in town: 1945. His father served as a selectman, and later, so did he. Folks know him as the Road Boss. He also served as a police officer, firefighter, and assessor in addition to selectman.

“Through the Grange” Ted said, “word got around. You could always tell, after the Grange meeting, where you were gonna be workin’ for nothin’ that weekend.” Of politics, he said, “Politics never was a problem; we did that at the Town Hall, then left it there.” He recalled rebuilding houses that had burned down, or a barn. “Children helped,” he said.

His favorite hippie? Jim Slavas. What he loves about Wendell? “Good neighbors everywhere – you don’t have to agree with them everytime.” About living there he said simply, “I enjoy it. The wife enjoyed it while she was here.”

Each individual interview was videotaped, totaling 11 hours of recordings, and we were assured that editing was well underway, with a DVD available in the near future. To someone lucky enough to attend the event there were stories enough to hear, and a spirit rich enough to fill a heart until its release.

As spring erupts alongside the recording of history one stone, one conversation, one story and one relationship at a time, so too does a community literary tradition develop, with the potential to keep alive a way of intimate storytelling and reflection for generations to come.

Post-event, I learned from Flohr and Ziemba that a proposal for Phase II of the project, titled “Set in Stone,” has received funding; the proposal is to offer a four-week memoir writing class for townsmen at the library, starting in May. In addition to the photos, writings, and DVD, out of Phase II will come the creation of a chapbook, a sort of literary journal, published annually.

The third phase is a collaboration of the two on a book called *Faces of Wendell*. Those who may be interested in Phase II of this adventure can reach Flohr at [ruthwww@gmail.com](mailto:ruthwww@gmail.com), and Ziemba at [oter5660@gmail.com](mailto:oter5660@gmail.com).

For the past three years Flohr has facilitated an all-women’s memoir group in town. I attended the first “Chalice of Crones” public reading by this group in Wendell in December, and for any who may be interested, the group will have a second reading this Friday, May 3 at the Warwick Public Library.



## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION SEEKS PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS PERSON

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Candidates should have a comfortable handle on the English language, electronic communications and technology, and have personal roots in and knowledge of the five villages of Montague. Spanish or other additional languages is a plus.

Candidates should email their resume to [jobs@MontagueTV.org](mailto:jobs@MontagueTV.org) or bring / send them to the station 34 2nd Street, Turners Falls, MA, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday to Friday. Deadline for resumes is Monday, May 13, by 4 p.m.

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## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was April 30, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### Gill Hopes to Avoid “Messy Divorce”

On Monday, the Montague selectboard canceled their regular meeting to attend a public hearing in the Gill town hall, to hear a presentation from the Commission on Education in Gill. Under pressure from the state – and from local budget makers – Franklin County school districts are considering changing boundaries and merging with other districts, and the town of Gill has taken the lead in exploring options for the GMRSD.

After hearing the presentation, Montague selectboard member Pat Allen said she would take a copy of its report – and a copy of the warrant articles on Gill’s annual town meeting – back to Montague for consideration. The Gill town meeting warrant includes three articles asking voters to take preliminary steps to dissolve the Gill-Montague Regional School District, and to allow Gill to join the Pioneer School District.

Education commission co-chair Dorothy Storrow said, “We can’t do anything without Montague, nor would we want to. The downside would be, are we going to end up in a really messy divorce?”

### Gill Residents Raise Concern On Police Chief Contract

The four Gill residents who attended a meeting of the Gill selectboard last Thursday were given five minutes to speak before the board went into executive session to con-

tinue discussion about the renewal of the police chief’s contract.

Chief David Hastings’ contract is up at the end of June; the board has held several executive sessions recently to discuss the terms of his contract. Those discussions are expected to be completed with negotiations between Chief Hastings and the selectboard this afternoon.

The Gill residents who spoke at the meeting expressed the hope that the selectboard would limit what has been a three-year contract to a one-year contract instead, considering both the present economic uncertainties, and the effort Gill has been making to open discussions with neighboring towns of Bernardston and Northfield about the possibility of sharing a police chief.

### Town Hall Crash

On Thursday night, at about 7:54 p.m., customers exiting the Subway on Avenue A saw a purple van hurtling north.

It came to a halt seconds later, after striking another car at the intersection of First Street, taking down a large sign announcing the town’s sidewalk renovation project mounted on six-by-six posts, two ornamental hitching posts, and a replica antique lamp pole, and demolishing the glass foyer of the Montague town hall and crumpling a corner of the brick facade of the front door of that historic building.

According to witness reports and subsequent investigation, the driver of the Ford Winstar, Melody Hillock, 50, of Rastallis Street, was traveling at a speed of between 50 and 70 miles per hour when she attempted to execute a right-hand turn onto First Street.

### NOTES FROM THE WENDELL TOWN CLERK

## Wendell Town Election Monday

The **Wendell Town Election** is coming up fast! On Monday, May 6, the polls are open from noon to 8 p.m. If you are unable to make it to the polls and need an Absentee Ballot application for May 6, please contact the Town Clerk soon. The application deadline for voting absentee is Friday, May 3 at noon.

Sample ballots have been posted around town, and should be reviewed carefully before voting.

Candidates for re-election on the ballot include the following: Christine Heard, selectboard, 3 years; Anna Seeger, board of assessors, 3 years; Nan Riebschlaeger, planning board, 5 years; Anne Diemand Bucci, town constable, 3 years; Kathleen Nolan, town moderator, 1 year; Jon Bowers, cemetery commissioner, 3 years; Wayne Leonard, road commissioner, 3 years; Corine Baker, tree warden, 1 year; and Phyllis Lawrence, li-

brary trustee, 3 years.

Ballot nominees include: John Sullivan, board of health, 3 years; Beth Erviti, school committee, 3 years; and Michelle Wilder, library trustee, 3 years.

No papers were taken out for a 2-year vacancy on the school committee. This position may be filled by a write-in candidate, as can any other position on the ballot.

Also on the ballot is a Yes/No debt exclusion vote regarding the costs associated with paying for a front-end loader for the highway department. More information on this vote is available from postings around town, or by contacting the Town Clerk by phone or email: (978) 544-3395 x 2; [wendelltownclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wendelltownclerk@gmail.com).

Looking ahead, the **Annual Town Meeting** is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, starting at 10 a.m. Please mark your calendars. Your participation matters.

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**REPORTBACK** from pg A1 homophobia, and sexism. Then we heard from Mr. George Elbaum, who survived the Holocaust in 1941.

It was really inspiring to hear all of Mr. Elbaum’s experiences. He talked about the time when, as a little boy in Germany, he was eating soup in a restaurant. He had heard a loud *BANG!* at the door. Everyone ran to the door, but Mr. Elbaum kept eating, because he’d been really hungry. When he looked up, he saw a Nazi soldier standing above him armed with a machine gun. Mr. Elbaum simply smiled and kept eating his soup. Eventually, the soldier went away, but if Mr. Elbaum had reacted any differently, he might have been killed.

Mr. Elbaum recalled that when he was younger, his hair was light brown, which made him look “less Jewish” when the Holocaust was happening. He remembered living with multiple Catholic families, and not getting to see his mom much. She was trying to keep him safe, and working really hard to have enough money to pay the families watching him.

Then one year, right after New Year’s, his mom found him and told him, “You are safe.” The two then went to the front door, and saw two soldiers standing there, in a different uniform than the Nazis had.

Mr. Elbaum later found out they were Russian soldiers. One of the soldiers gave him some sugar, and Mr. Elbaum described it as

“the most delicious thing I’d ever had.” Today, he still loves sugar.

Mr. Elbaum said he still gets sad talking about his experiences, but it’s really incredible hearing about what he went through. He wrote a book called *Yesterdays Revisited*, and you can buy it on Amazon or read it for free on *scribe.com*.

After hearing multiple speakers talk, our school representatives split into two groups and went to a conference held by eighth graders about different phobias, and how to make our schools more positive and inclusive.

As part of the Bridges program back at Great Falls Middle School, we meet on Thursdays or Wednesdays in Mr. Carew’s classroom to talk about how we can make our school better and more positive for everyone. We’re hoping to present an anti-bullying video called *To This Day* at one of our morning meetings. Our Bridges group previewed the film, which was really sad. It made me realize to not judge people because you don’t know what they’re going through.

Now I’m going to interview one of my best friends, Charlotte Valle, about her experience at the ADL Conference.

*Izzy V-C: What was your favorite part of the training?*

**Charlotte Valle:** My favorite part was learning about other schools in the challenges they face, along with the ways that they deal with these challenges. Also I

learned about some of the things that each school does to spread kindness, and to be a more welcoming environment.

*IVC: Why do you think it’s important to learn about this?*

**CV:** I think that it’s important to learn about this because knowing about different situations in different places gives you a better understanding of what the issue is, and how to resolve it.

*IVC: What was the most surprising thing you learned?*

**CV:** I learned a lot about other people’s point of view on some of the issues, and about some of the issues themselves, such as discrimination against races and religions.

*IVC: What do you wish there was more of?*

**CV:** I wish we talked a little bit more about how we can resolve problems in our communities, because we did spend a lot of time talking about the issues themselves.

This was an amazing experience! It was really inspiring to realize what some people have to go through every day, or what people have gone through.

I think my favorite part was hearing Mr. Elbaum speak. I would definitely do this again! Thank you to Mr. Carew, Ms. Renehan, Charlotte, and all the organizations and speakers.



Above: Mark Hudyma of Turners Falls reads the Reporter in Key Caulker, Belize.

Below: Klon Koehler takes a break before Katy Perry’s set at the 50th New Orleans Jazz Festival. “Wish you were here,” he writes. “Bring the Village next year!”

Going somewhere? Take us with you! Send photos to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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NINA ROSSI PHOTO

Above: Spring blossoms along a rocky outcropping on Fifth Street in Turners Falls.



### Unearthing the Archives

By Charlotte Kohlmann



Part IV: Linda Temple and The Orange Historical Society

**ORANGE** – “My father would point to things in town, and he would make a guessing game out of local historical sites,” says Linda Temple, archivist and historian for the Orange Historical Society. “When I was very young, he would teach me about why these places mattered to him. His own father would take him around town too, they’d visit buried family members and remind them of who they were.”

“The Historical Society is preserving a legacy that doesn’t really exist anymore,” Linda continues. “When I was a teenager, the everyday necessities were in the middle of town – you could walk to buy your shoes and groceries. Businesses today are a lot of antique and souvenir shops. We need jobs to come back again.”

The New Home Sewing Machine Company was the largest industry in Orange. At its peak in 1892, it employed 700 people locally, who created 1.2 million machines which were shipped worldwide. In 1900, The Grout automobile company was considered the first automobile built in a factory in the United States.

Today, a few Grout cars sit in the Society’s barn, and a display of early New Hope sewing machines line the walls of the “Industrial Room” inside the house where the collection is kept up by its volunteers.

Linda has lived in Orange for most of her life; she was born two blocks away from where she currently resides. Her father worked on the highways, her mother at



KOHLMANN PHOTO

Orange Historical Society archivist Linda Temple shows a book of late 19th-century student portraits from Orange High School.

the old Minute Tapioca factory. She raised her children and grandchildren here, and now helps raise her nine great-grandchildren.

“I just want people to be proud of where they come from and remember it,” Linda says. She often spends evenings on neighborhood porches with other locals as

see **UNEARTHING** page B8

GALLERY REVIEW

# Jack Nelson: It’s In the Brush



CRAPO PHOTO

Artist Jack Nelson, in front of his artwork now on display at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls.

By TRISH CRAPO

**TURNERS FALLS** – Jack Nelson was kicked out of calligraphy class when he first tried to learn it twenty-five or thirty years ago, back when he lived in New York and signed up for a course in Chinatown.

“I was all excited, having a wonderful time,” the Turners Falls artist recalled, “And then, I was asked – or, it was stated by the lady who was running the calligraphy, that I really didn’t have the right approach.”

The instructor didn’t actually force him to leave, Nelson explained, “But there was a suggestion.”

“So it wasn’t classical or traditional enough, your approach somehow?” I asked.

Nelson and I were sitting outside on the front porch of the Rendezvous, which wasn’t open yet, with his wife Eileen Dowd.

“There were times I got too aggressive,” Nelson said of his first attempts at calligraphy. “I had studied Tai Chi for a number of years, and so it all just kind of

made sense. For me,” he added.

“For you,” I said. “Not for her.”

Nelson laughed.

“Good things come from travail,” Dowd said with a smile.

Nelson decided to take his expulsion as a kind of compliment, and continued to have an interest in calligraphy and ink painting, even as he pursued other media such as watercolor, ceramics, metal fabrication, and bronze casting. About a year ago, Nelson returned to ink painting in earnest. He devoted a small table to the practice, and hung above it a photograph of his mother, one of his grandfather, and a small, framed calligraphic image he had made that said, “Hello.”

“And I would go into the studio, maybe I’d have sipped off of yesterday’s leftover coffee, and I would still be in my bathrobe and slippers, and I’d go down to this special place,” Nelson said. “And I would ink up the brush, which is there waiting. Everything is waiting.”

Nelson would read his calligraphic “Hello,” and answer out loud, “Hello.”

As he worked, he found himself saying to himself, “It’s in the brush ... Do not try to overdo this. It should be done within 15 seconds.”

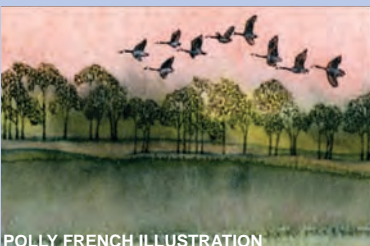
Nelson was awed by his first, simple, gestural painting.

“Not bad for a start,” he thought. “This is cool!”

He scrounged around the studio and found some scraps of framing wood to “suit up” that first piece. And, over the year, he continued to make the quick, gestural paintings, amassing several hundred of them.

From now through June, you can see a display of Nelson’s ink paintings at the Rendezvous during the restaurant’s ample open hours: Monday through Saturday, 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 1 a.m. Since the exhibit runs so long, Nelson hopes to change it out, perhaps once a month. In addition to the

see **IN THE BRUSH** page B4



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

## WEST ALONG THE RIVER

### THE LAST TIME I SAW NOTRE DAME

By DAVID BRULE

*If you are lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you go for the rest of your life, it stays with you....*  
– Ernest Hemingway, 1950

**PARIS** – It was a day in Paris just 806 years after the first stones of Notre Dame were posed back in 1160 AD. The train pulled into the Gare de Lyon, and a young man stepped out onto the crowded quay that October. That was me.

I had come up from Tours in the Loire Valley. My friends in the University Year Abroad program had other plans, but Paris was drawing me like a magnet.

I was headed for the heart of Paris: the Latin Quarter, and the Ile de la Cité.

I found an affordable room on Rue Des Ecoles near the Sorbonne, and within sight of the Cathedral.

Little did I know that I was completing a round trip begun by grandparents of mine eight generations ago. Little did I know that hundreds of years before, some of my ancestors, with names like Louis Hébert and his wife Marie Rollet, Catherine Bureau, and Elisabeth Aubert, had left this very same Paris neighborhood in the 1600s, never to return, to start a new life in New France.

Little did I know then that within six years I would meet my wife a few streets away, that our son would be born here, and that I would spend almost half of my life in this city.

Of course I didn’t know any of that. I was just a young man on his first day in Paris, and I was walking on air.

That first Sunday morning, I made my way down the boulevard, crossed the Seine, and stood in front of the Cathedral. It was easy enough in those days to walk right

in, pushing the swinging doors that moved softly aside and to step into the overwhelming majesty of Notre Dame de Paris.

Massive columns rose up to the vaulted ceiling, 90 feet above the floor. Some speak of standing in a cathedral of ancient pines, sequoia or redwood, and feeling the awesome power of faith, Nature, or God. Never having seen those ancient trees, it could have been the same feeling sweeping over me. Only I was standing in a real cathedral, among immense columns, feeling small, finite, and ephemeral, in the presence of overwhelming majesty.

When the mighty organ boomed into a *magnificat*, some around me could barely keep from dropping to their knees, overcome by the immense glory and beauty of it all. Even now, tears from deep down well up in my eyes as I write these lines. Notre Dame can do that to you.

Incense and candles burned, and the ancient words of the Latin Mass echoed out though indecipherable in the distance of the far-away main altar.

Small chapel after chapel lined the sides of the interior, each with ranks of candles and individual altars. I remember dropping francs into the offering box. They made a clinking sound as they fell into the pile of other coins inside. I lit candles for Saint Theresa and Saint Anthony, patron saints of my family.

The stained glass *rosace*, dating from 1260, dominated the transept, filtering multicolored light down upon those of us praying or wandering far below.

That first day, I took in all I could before stepping out of the Middle Ages and back into the calm Sunday morning bustle of Paris, resuming the next fifty years of my life.

see **WEST ALONG** page B3



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

Notre Dame, seen in spring 2018 from a nearby park called Saint Julien le Pauvre.



# Pet of the Week

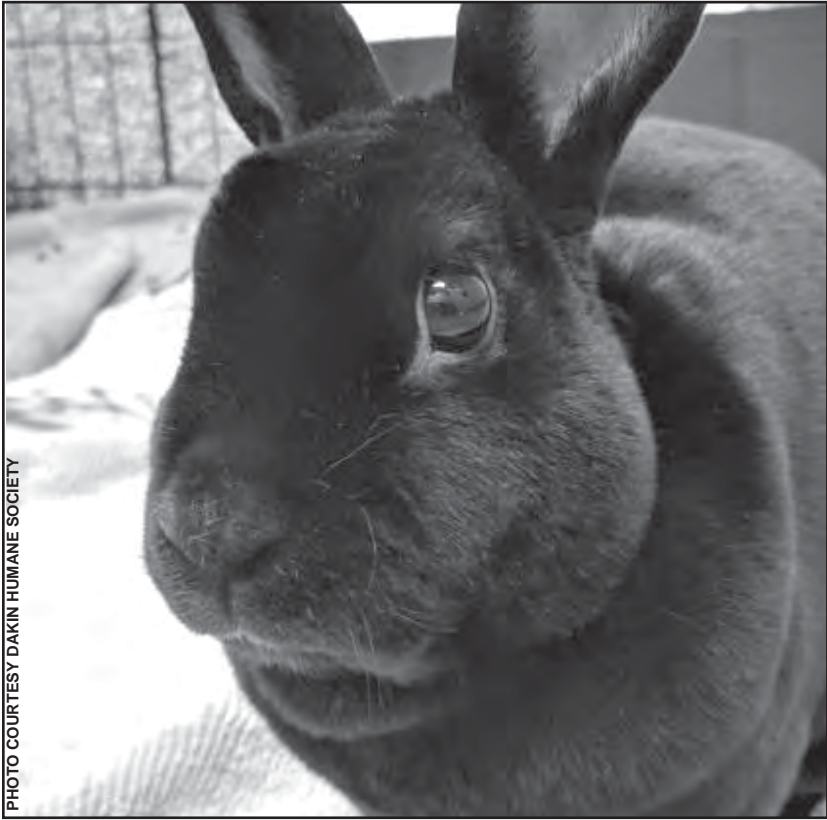


PHOTO COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

## “NIGHT VELVET”

Some people say Rex rabbits are like “living velvet;” when you pet me you’ll see why! I’m as soft and plush as a stuffed animal but of course, I’m the real thing. With my gentle temperament, inquisitive nature, and stellar litterbox habits, I’d be an excellent choice for first-time

rabbit adopters or for those already acquainted with the joys of co-habiting with a house rabbit. For more information or to inquire about adoption, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society in Leverett at (413) 548-9898 or [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

## Senior Center Activities MAY 6 THROUGH 10

**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 5/6**  
1 p.m. Knitting Group  
**Tuesday 5/7**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
3:30 p.m. Meditation (pre-reg)  
**Wednesday 5/8**  
9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach  
11:15 a.m. Friends’ Meeting  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 5/9**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga  
**Friday 5/10**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

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 5/6**  
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance  
11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch  
12:30 p.m. Pitch card games  
**Tuesday 5/7**  
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance  
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich  
1 p.m. Blanket Making  
**Wednesday 5/8**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 5/9**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12:30 p.m. Brown Bag pick-up  
**Friday 5/10**  
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.

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

# MAY LIBRARY LISTING

<b>Montague Public Libraries</b> <i>Turners Falls: Carnegie</i> (413) 863-3214 <i>Montague Center</i> (413) 367-2852 <i>Millers Falls</i> (413) 659-3801	<b>Erving Public Library</b> (413) 423-3348 <b>Gill: Slate Library</b> (413) 863-2591 <b>Leverett Public Library</b> (413) 548-9220 <b>Wendell Free Library</b> (978) 544-3559 <b>Northfield: Dickinson Library</b> (413) 498-2455
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## ONGOING EVENTS EVERY SUNDAY

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

**EVERY TUESDAY**  
Wendell Free Library: *Strength Training Classes for Adults of all Ages* with Kathy Sward. Must pre-register. Intermediate at 9 a.m., beginners at 10:15 a.m. \$. *Adult Watercolor Group*, working from YouTube painting tutorials. BYO brushes and paper. 6 p.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. Ends for the year on May 22. 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.

Erving Library: STEM activities for 2nd- to 6th-graders, with Jean Daley. 1:30 p.m.

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

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

**1ST THURSDAYS**  
Dickinson Library: *Environment Awareness Group*. Topic facilitated by Emily Koester. 6:30 p.m.

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

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

Dickinson Library: *Story Hour*. Stories, crafts, music and movement for pre-schoolers and their caregivers. 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**1ST FRIDAYS**  
Carnegie Library: *Mystery Activ-*

*ity*. 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.

**EXHIBITS**  
*In order to apply for a show at these venues, find the applications forms on their websites.*

Dickinson Library: *Birds: Paintings by Miranda Vitellow*. Through May.

**EVENTS**  
**MAY 1 THROUGH 15**  
Erving Library: *Book and Plant Sale Fundraiser*.

**THURSDAY, MAY 2**  
Carnegie Library: Author Rebecca Daniels discusses her book *Keeping The Lights On For Ike: Daily Life of a Utilities Engineer at AFHQ in Europe During WWII; or, What to Say in Letters Home When You’re Not Allowed to Write about the War*. Refreshments by the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 3**  
Carnegie Library: *Craft and Care Family Event*. Youth Advisory Committee highlights the place of humans in the natural environment by reading excerpts from books that are part of the Traprock Center collection. Immediately following, participants will be invited to make crafts, using recycled materials. Funded by a grant from the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice. 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Red Scare in the Green Mountains, VT in the McCarthy Era*: Book talk by author Rick Winston. Held in the Wendell Town Hall. Potluck 6:30 p.m. Program and discussion, 7 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**  
Slate Library, Gill: *Open House Celebration*. Help celebrate the re-opening of the library after six months of renovation. Refreshments and activities for children. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Playground Spring Clean-up*. BYO rakes and tarps. Children welcome to help or play. 10 a.m. to noon.

Wendell Free Library: *Movie, Fantastic Voyage*. A trip through the body to the brain in a spaceship! Part of the Sci-Fi/Horror Monthly Film Festival. 7:30 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 5**  
Leverett Library: *Leverett Community Co-op Story Time* with Natane Halasz. 10 to 11 a.m.

Leverett Library: *Ayurveda 101: Causes of Dis-Ease* with Nadya Tkachenko. 2 to 4 p.m.

**TUESDAY, MAY 7**  
Montague Center Branch: *Pre-teen and Teen Art Series*. Cynthia Fulton, director of Meadowedge Art, offers Part 3 of this series for ages 10 to 15. Funded by the Montague Cultural Council. 4 p.m.

Erving Library: *John S. Burk*, writer, photographer, and historian, will be talking about his latest publication, *Hiking in Central Massachusetts*. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 9**  
Leverett Library: *Drop-in Tech Help*. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Ukulele Strum-Along* with Julie Stepanek. 6:45 p.m.

Wendell Free Library: *Dam Removal 101*. Presentation by Nick Wildman, MA Division of Ecological Restoration. Sponsored by the Wendell Open Space Committee. 7 p.m.

**FRIDAY, MAY 10**  
Dickinson Library: *Flowers and Bees*. All about pollinators. A STEM event for kids of all ages. Pre-register. 2:15 to 3:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 11**  
Carnegie Library: *Card-Making Party*. Make a card for Mom, or for anyone, and celebrate the colors of Spring. Designed for children and their caregivers. Refreshments. 10:30 to noon.

**SUNDAY, MAY 12**  
Leverett Library: *On Leverett’s Pond*, a free film about the past and present lives of the pond. Film creators Anisha Pai, Lynn Shen, and Shan Jiang of Mount Holyoke College will be present for the screening. 2 to 3 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 16**  
Leverett Library: *Drop-in Tech Help*. 6 to 7:45 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Library Book Discussion Group*. This month’s selection: *Regeneration*, by Pat Barker. 6:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, MAY 18**  
Dickinson Library: *Interactive Robot Demo*. Students from WPI/Mass Academy’s FIRST Robots Team, along with their professor, will do an age-appropriate guided demo/discussion and have spectators operate the 140-pound mobile robot. Presented by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute Robotics Resource Center. A STEM event for kids of any age. Please pre-register. 10 to 11 a.m.

Carnegie Library: *Family Movie*. Families are invited to come watch a movie at the library. Snacks. 11 a.m. To 1 p.m.

Leverett Library: *Pediatric Asthma Discussion* with Dr. Kimball Prentiss. 1 p.m.

**SUNDAY, MAY 19**  
Leverett Library: *Storytelling Neighborhood Workshop for Children*. Children will build a collage neighborhood project with facilitator and artist Emily Neuburger. Pre-register. Funded by Leverett Cultural Council. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Leverett Library: *On Leverett’s Pond*, a free film about the past and present lives of the pond. Film creators Anisha Pai, Lynn Shen, and Shan Jiang of Mount Holyoke College will be present for the screening. 3:30 to 5 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 23**  
Wendell Free Library: *Forum on the Green New Deal*. Sponsored by the Wendell Energy Committee. 7 p.m.

**THURSDAY, MAY 30**  
Leverett Library: *Happier Valley Improv Comedy Show!* Funded by Leverett Cultural Council. 7 to 8 p.m.

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THE

SPIRIT SHOPPE



WEST ALONG from page B1

During those days of the ‘60s, President Charles De Gaulle had determined that the façade of the cathedral needed a cleaning, so his government set out on a project of washing and sand blasting away the soot and grime of the war years. It had only been about twenty years before that Paris had been liberated from Nazi occupation, and miraculously, Notre Dame had come out unscathed but rather dirty. Cleaning up the nooks and crannies, several forgotten faces and likenesses of saints came forth, once again discovered after a century of being lost to memory. The façade was covered with scaffolding during that process. It wasn’t the last time I would see the cathedral shrouded in such a way.

Notre Dame wove its way in and out of those succeeding years of my life. Years filled with jobs teaching English in the Latin Quarter, tossing down beers after work with temporary ex-pat classmate Jim Higgins, reading newspapers in the café opposite, prepping for exams at the University.

I once attempted to attend De Gaulle’s grandiose *Te Deum* state funeral there. At least I tried to attend. The esplanade was so jammed with people that my arms were pinned to my sides by the mass of humanity. Uncontrollable waves rolled over the crowd like wind ripples over a field of wheat, and I was twisted and turned in spite of myself, and wound up facing the cathedral backwards.

Worried about being trampled, I wormed my way out of the crowd even before the funeral motorcade arrived and headed for home. I listened to the rest of the funeral on the radio.

I spent my university years in classrooms down the boulevard from Notre Dame, stopping by the church of Saint Sulpice when I needed a break from the world, or a few moments of quiet reflection if nothing else. I was later to learn that this very church was the parish where one of my ancestors, Elizabeth Aubert, was born and baptized in 1636. As a young woman she was brought into *Les Filles du Roi*, along with another ancestor, Catherine Bureau.

These women were given dowries from the royal coffers to immigrate to Québec, marry, and have children. They did what they were supposed to do, and never saw Paris or their families again, all the while contributing their DNA to my gene pool, for which I am grateful.

Over the next 25 years of my connection with the cathedral came biennial visits with students. I

brought hundreds of high schoolers there over the years. In those days my students and I could visit every nook and cranny of Notre Dame that was allowed, and even some that weren’t! We crept up cramped medieval stone steps in the towers to reach the twin bells that hung there in all their grandeur. They were named *Emmanuel* and *Le Bourdon*. We touched them, heard the wondrous ringing of the metal baton on the bell rim, drawn around the bells’ lip by our guide. A forest of ancient oak beams stretched as far as you could see into the interior of the dark roof.

Before the days of the high screen security barriers, we walked the ramparts like Quasimodo, visiting the gargoyles, and stared like them out over the Seine and the City of Light.

Quiet visits on my own, just dropping in when I was in the neighborhood over the years, made this massive edifice something of a personal touchstone. Although I’m sure I’m not alone in that feeling.

Embedded in the *parvis* or esplanade is a brass disc, from which all distances in France are measured. It can be reassuring to find yourself at Notre Dame, or even 5,000 miles from that point that symbolizes the heart of French civilization. You know where you are in relation to Notre Dame.

The last time I saw Notre Dame was about five years ago. Although I couldn’t get inside, the lines were too long. I wouldn’t have been able to get up to the ramparts either: the security concerns of this too modern and dangerous world have ruined all that.

I did spend time contemplating the massive statue of Charlemagne standing guard over the esplanade, thinking about my ancestors and the generations of my students who had sat there in front of the cathedral, happily feeding the tame *piofs*, the sparrows of Paris.

And I did, of course, like millions of others, see Our Lady of Paris on newscasts just a few weeks ago, going up in flames. So much was lost, but so much was saved. The relics, the rose windows, the paintings, the magnificent organ that could cause the air, even the walls, to vibrate on Easter mornings and other holy days, survived. The bells *Emmanuel* and *Le Bourdon* were saved too.

One day again, they will ring out over all of Paris, reaching into the walls of her sister churches, the white Basilica of Montmartre, the simple Saint Julien le Pauvre, Saint Germain des Près, and my ancestral parish of Saint Sulpice.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Gen. Pierce Bridge Rotting; White Bridge Snags Log; ATVs, BB Gun, Goats or Sheep, Needles, Kids Fighting

**Sunday, 4/21**  
9:40 a.m. Party into station to report rebar showing on the General Pierce Bridge. MassDOT, TFFD, Greenfield dispatch, and AMR advised. Officer advises that three or four patches have come up and need to be repaired.  
5:36 p.m. Passerby reporting that a large piece of metal is hanging off of the White Bridge and banging up against the side of the bridge. Appears to be part of a tree stuck under the bridge, not a piece of metal from the bridge. Officer advising that tomorrow’s day shift should contact MassDOT.  
6:58 p.m. Caller from F.L. Roberts states there is an unwanted party harassing customers outside of the building. Party moved along without incident.

**Monday, 4/22**  
1:24 a.m. Officer checking on party who has been pacing in area of Rendezvous for about 30 minutes. Party states that his mother lives in the area and he is just outside enjoying the nice weather.  
3:08 a.m. Caller from Griswold Street complaining of noise and music coming from neighbor at this location. He states it is an ongoing problem that the residents here sleep the day away and are up being loud all night. Lights were on upon arrival; turned off upon officer’s approach. Resident’s vehicle is not there. No answer at the door.  
3:57 a.m. Report of a car alarm sounding on Third Street. Officer spoke to vehicle owner, who said they are having an ongoing problem with the car alarm and they are working on trying to fix it for the night.  
1:42 p.m. Caller reporting oil on the ground all around a greenish goldish four-door sedan across from the bakery on L Street. TFFD advised and responding. Officer requesting Rau’s; vehicle is leaking transmission fluid.  
2:24 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road requesting live trap to be set up due to an issue with a woodchuck on their property. Animal control officer contacted, and will be calling reporting party.  
3:49 p.m. Caller from Clark Avenue states that there is an injured/sick skunk in her side yard. Message left for ACO; PD responding. Animal left the yard; unsure if it is sick. Neighbors will call back if it does not leave the area.  
3:53 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road states that there are some loose

chickens in his yard that may belong to a neighbor.  
4:27 p.m. Anonymous walk-in reporting that she found a hypodermic needle on the ground near electric pole #15 on the bike path. Unable to locate.  
**Tuesday, 4/23**  
12:05 a.m. Caller operating on Federal Street near Hunting Hills reporting large number of goats in the road; traffic hazard. Contact made with owner of farm. She will be heading out to take care of her sheep.  
2:37 a.m. A 60-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with possession of a class A drug, subsequent offense.  
8:17 a.m. Caller from Court Square states that there is a newspaper delivery driver for the Gazette who has a very loud exhaust and disturbs the neighborhood, generally between 4:30 and 5:30 a.m. Caller would like a police officer to be out that way to try and catch the vehicle and advise them of the complaint. Referred to an officer.  
11:18 a.m. Caller from Federal Street states that his neighbor has added new cameras that point directly to where his kids play and he has concerns. Caller advised of options; neighbor advised of complaint.  
7:07 p.m. A 31-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.  
11:30 p.m. Caller reporting that parties are playing guitar and violin on a second floor porch on Avenue A and disturbing the peace. Officer advises no one on porch. Clear.  
**Wednesday, 4/24**  
6:27 p.m. A 36-year-old Greenfield man was arrested on a default warrant.  
7:05 p.m. Passerby reporting a needle on the ground under the foot bridge that leads to the paper mill. Item retrieved.  
**Thursday, 4/25**  
1:20 a.m. Caller from High Street reporting that an unknown party entered his secured back enclosed

porch approximately ten minutes ago. Party was seen on foot toward front of house, unknown direction of travel. Officers checking area; will continue to be on lookout.  
8:23 a.m. Caller requesting officer meet them at Montague Catholic Social Ministries. Caller believes there is a lot of activity going on after hours; food is missing, and feces have been found in paper towels. Services rendered.  
10:23 a.m. Caller from Oak Street reports hearing an explosion that shook the house; neighbor heard it as well. TFFD advised and responding.  
11:37 a.m. Officer in area of bike path checking suspicious person, possible drug activity. Unable to locate.  
6:01 p.m. Report from Lyman Street of BB gun shot through the window sometime in the past. No injuries. Report taken.  
6:31 p.m. Caller from Brick House states there was a fight; they were able to break it up. Officers arrived on scene shortly after. Unable to locate involved parties. All is calm. Clear.  
8:19 p.m. Caller reports that she is traveling on Avenue A towards L Street, and a vehicle with three kids inside was throwing things at her vehicle; passengers were also hanging out of the vehicle flipping them off. Vehicle located. All involved parties advised.  
**Friday, 4/26**  
10:51 a.m. Report from High Street of raccoon walking on three legs, looking dirty and rough; caller thinks raccoon might be rabid. Unable to make contact with ACO. Officer checked all of High Street to Seventh Street and was unable to find the raccoon.  
3:03 p.m. Caller from Country Creemee reporting graffiti in multiple places (bathroom and hallway). Caller states there have been two other cases

of such in other parts of town. Checked logs and didn’t see any reported in last 24 hours. Report taken.  
3:29 p.m. Report of boulder or rock that fell out of a wall and is now in traffic on Avenue A. Officer advises rock is now moved to side of road and out of traffic; contacted DPW direct, and they will come check it out.  
8:26 p.m. Report of hypodermic needle found in bathroom at Food City; requesting officer respond. Services rendered.  
**Saturday, 4/27**  
8:39 a.m. Caller reporting a 4’ x 4’ hole on the Greenfield side of the General Pierce Bridge. GPD contacted; TFFD advised.  
**Sunday, 4/28**  
6:22 a.m. Caller requesting officer meet him at the top of Reservoir Drive; advising someone has been mudding with a vehicle near the water tanks and the vehicle is stuck. No one is around. Officer contacting Rau’s to explain where vehicle is and see if he can even get it out. Rau’s *en route*. Officer advising damage in the Plains; not sure how much has been done; request to contact Environmental Police. Rau’s refusing tow as of now and requesting that officer obtain keys from operator. Vehicle owner located; keys obtained. Byrne’s responding to remove vehicle. Environmental Police on scene. Officer *en route* to give tow slip to owner.  
8:47 a.m. Horse out of its stall by road on Route 63; brought back in by owner. Unit clear.  
1:07 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that a man is walking around begging for money from people. Party located outside of Rite Aid; advised of complaint of panhandling.  
1:52 p.m. Caller from Fosters Road states there is a loud ATV driving around through people’s yards. ATV owner advised of complaint.

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

This Week at MCTV

Abigail Tatarian, who has been writing these weekly briefs, has retired her post, and Montague Community Television is seeking a part-time communications person.

The hired contracted writer will author a weekly marketing email for MCTV: promoting new TV shows about to air as well as those in the production phase, occasionally profiling volunteers, staff and/or board members, discussing new equipment purchases and how they’ll be integrated and used by the station, and anything else positive and noteworthy going on at MCTV.

The article will be distributed

through our website, in the *Montague Reporter*, and social media. This weekly task should typically take about an hour and a half to accomplish. The position currently pays \$25 per weekly article, and may expand in the future.

Candidates should have a comfortable handle on the English language, electronic communications and technology, and have personal roots in and knowledge of the five villages of Montague. Spanish or other additional languages is a plus.

See our help wanted ad on Page A7 of this edition for full details about how to apply.



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**IN THE BRUSH** from page B1  
ink paintings, there are several painted bus windows hanging in the Voo’s large windows, and Nelson plans to bring in a few more.

**Search for Creativity**

The morning we sat on the porch of the Rendezvous, Nelson said that part of his exploration with the ink paintings was an attempt to understand creativity itself.

“Where does it really come from?” he asked. “What is it all about? I’m just trying to get as close to square one as I thought I could, or wanted to.”

“Square one being ...” I began.

“The beginning,” Nelson said.

“The root of creativity?”

“Something like that,” he allowed.

“The spirit of the stroke?” I asked.

“Yeah, the whole gestalt,” Nelson said. “Kind of what eventually captures you. But I wanted to find out what it was before I got captured.”

Nelson worked quickly and intuitively with a range of brushes that included traditional Chinese Sumi brushes, watercolor “mops,” tiny makeup brushes, and one, a long-handled brush meant for sweeping the inside of a pizza oven, that is about two-and-a-half feet wide.

He used that last brush when making the background of the long image of a serpent that hangs on the Voo’s back wall. It was a challenge to figure out how to load such a large brush, Nelson said, but he found the answer in a long wooden tray made for olives.

He said, “The Zen of it might be translated as, ‘What you need is right here.’”

“And there goes your olive dish,” I said to Dowd.

“Right!” Nelson said, laughing. “And if there were olives in it, they probably would’ve been –”

“Chopped up finely and smooshed,” Dowd finished, nonplussed.

**Butt Then Again...**

Once we got inside the Voo, Nelson showed me one image, placed – coincidentally or not – near one of the restrooms, of a woman’s derriere.

“So when I was just beginning,” he said, “I asked myself, ‘Well, what captures your attention?’ And I made this.”

He chuckled as he added, “And then I made another one pretty much just like it,

CRAPO PHOTOS



Another painting in the exhibit at the Rendezvous looks like a woman’s derriere.



One of Jack Nelson’s calligraphic paintings, on display at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls.

and I was like, ‘Okay, what else?’”

“What’s interesting is that I found that my mind had categories,” Nelson said. “And sometimes it would be this figure – wow! Or a face, or an animal. Or a bird.”

Many of the images are not literal depictions of anything specific, but just a swift, rounded stroke, or a quickly brushed grid. The gesture of the brush moving over the paper is captured in the thickness of the stroke – a heavier, darker area often indicates where the stroke began. Then the ink might taper away to a lighter gray as the brush is lifted off the paper. Several of the images have delicate black feathers applied over the ink marks.

Nelson uses special US Postal Service red ink to “sign” the images by dabbing with a brush through a small square of paper, or pressing his fingerprint through the square. As his stencil has degraded over time, the “signature” has become more rounded, he said.

As we walked down the row of ink paintings, Dowd said she’s drawn to the smaller ones, which she described as “little prayers.”

“You can stop in front of one of them and get everything you need,” she said. “It’s a perfect moment.”

She closed her hands palm-to-palm.

“They’re like visual haiku,” Nelson said.

“It’s interesting how you feel the stroke,” I said, pointing to one circular image. “You definitely – or, I do, anyway – feel where it started. It started up here, and came down. So I feel the movement of your hand, the energy.”

“The subtlety that I play with is motor memory,” Nelson said. “I’m right-handed. I’ve always held the brush in my right hand. And I’m fascinated to see, and I have noticed this many, many times, as far as compositions go, in drawings that I did fifty years ago, or even earlier – it’s like, oh my god, there’s some DNA in there.”

“By DNA do you mean that you still recognize yourself in them? Or in the work of them?”

“Yeah,” Nelson said. “And I just find that enlightening in some ways. It’s fortifying.”

See Jack Nelson’s exhibit at The Rendezvous, 78 Third Street, Turners Falls, or online at signedinstone.com. Click on the link for “See Jack Work” on that site to see more of Nelson’s artwork.

**REFLECTION**

# Learning From Juanita Nelson’s Literary Legacy

By EVELYN AUGUSTO

**TURNERS FALLS** – In these last two years, post 2016’s presidential election, I find myself frequently turning to the written pages of the rogue, the rebel, and the resister to train myself for the role of an activist. Everywhere. Everywhere. I am looking for answers.

I read books about women working for social change, I study essays that describe the actions of Civil Rights activists like Ella Baker, Juliette Hampton Morgan (a white woman and activist who lived in Montgomery, Alabama during segregation), and Deerfield, Massachusetts’ own Juanita Nelson. Juanita, one of America’s civil rights pioneers, was responsible for co-founding the Congress of Racial Equality (1942) and Peacemakers (1948).

It seems to me that Americans, today – both government officials and American citizens – no longer understand power as they did during the JFK era, for example, when President Kennedy told our nation: “Here on earth God’s work must surely be our own.” With those ten words our President empowered every American by urging them to own their personal power and to initiate change.

Today, from the newspaper headlines and social media platforms, it has become apparent to me that Americans no longer know how to find the power within themselves or how to create it, the way they did when people like Juanita and Wally Nelson, her husband and fellow conscientious objector, dedicated their lives to peace and equality, at all cost.

Americans today no longer know how to use their power, and finally, no longer know how to hold on to it. Racism can be seen as the byproduct of this power outage. This was never more evident than during the events surrounding the white nationalist rallies in Virginia in 2017 and 2018. It is also witnessed today with the fiasco around President Trump’s border policies and immigration.

The desire to rise up and resist people who promote corrosive racial profiling due to the color of one’s skin or their facial features was once again ignited in me when I read on the *Daily News* Editorial Board (March 24, 2019) that President Trump was putting “the kibosh” on plans to put Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill.

Had you heard that Tubman, the abolitionist and former slave, was slated under President Obama to join Andrew Jackson on the front side of the third most frequently used piece of currency in our country, the \$20 bill? Jackson, incidentally, owned hundreds of slaves.

President Trump may have derailed the most heralded “conductor” of the Underground Railroad because he didn’t want his hero to take a backseat to a black woman, or because he simply had the ability to stop President Obama once again in his tracks, and that made him feel powerful.

This headline – coupled with ten words printed across a t-shirt in a meme I saw minutes later online, “I Don’t Argue with People Harriet Tubman Would Have Shot” – had me shaking my head. Those words, worn like a shield by an African-American woman with a halo of black hair, were intended to hit the viewer right between the eyes. (And it did this viewer, due to the slightly veiled threat of violence as a solution to racism.)

The coincidence of these two images of America colliding into each other could not be ignored. It gave me pause, and made me consider how pacifist and civil rights pioneer Juanita Nelson, who at sixteen years old took the first of many stands against racism when she risked the wrath of white folks on a Jim Crow train leaving Ohio for Georgia by leaving the segregated car assigned to blacks, would respond today.

At the time her cautious, yet brave mother hadn’t tried to stop her, and Juanita went on to experience her first taste of liberation by being true to herself and not afraid of sitting in a seat in every car on that train. (Talk about the significance of walking a mile in another’s shoes!)

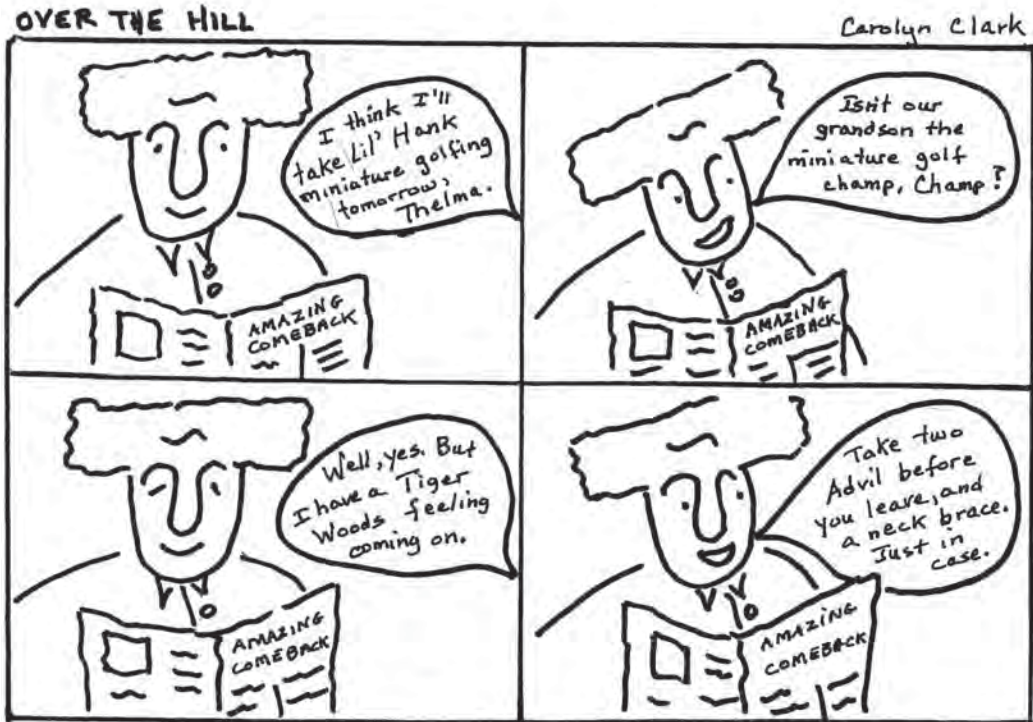
The chorus of Sarah Pirtle’s 2003 “Ballad of Juanita Nelson” captures the spirit of the woman who was so much to so many: Whatever age I be, I will follow what’s true for me. Oh, the world can’t change me. The truth inside has claimed me. I must do what I feel is true.

In her brief essay “The Nonviolence of Daily Living” in *A Matter Of Freedom And Other Writings* (San Francisco, Peace & Gladness Press, 1988), Juanita writes: “I am concerned to strive for a coherent, integrated life. So that the way I live and get my living might be the clearest statement I can make of my belief in nonviolence. So that my day to day relations might be an expression of my desire for a world of reason, sharing and creativity.”

She goes on to take responsibility for the world around her by saying: “To the extent that my very sustenance is embedded in a network organized around violence in many manifestations, I am a collaborator in the opposite of what I desire. It seems to me that only a profound change in my way of life can begin to correct these conditions.”

I’m game. Are you?

The Juanita Morrow Nelson and Wallace F. Nelson Papers, 1923-2015, is housed at the Swarthmore College Peace Collection. The finding aid is here: [www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/DG251-299/dg262NelsonJuanitaWally.htm](http://www.swarthmore.edu/library/peace/DG251-299/dg262NelsonJuanitaWally.htm)



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THEATER REVIEW

# Tales of the Lost Formicans Turns an Alien Eye on the Strangeness of Modern Life

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**GREENFIELD** – A sparsely decorated stage greets the audience as they enter. Rough pieces of wood, randomly connected, are displayed at the back of the stage, giving the feeling of chaotic destruction. A few pieces of furniture are all that fill the wide empty floor, with some chairs at the edges. At center is a table with a few chairs to match, the kind popular in the 1950s: a shiny formica table top with chrome edging and legs; chairs with curved chrome legs and backs and shiny pink cushions. Brightly colored lab coats hang at the stage edges, waiting to be worn.

*Tales of the Lost Formicans*, an original play by Constance Congdon, opens the Silverthorne Theater Company’s 2019 theater season at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center. As the play begins, the stage is lit with low blue light, while eerie sounds gradually fill the room. Actors wearing colored lab coats and goggles shuffle onto the stage, moving with stiff robotic action, describing in short bursts of limited vocabulary what they see in the world around them. They comment on furniture. They comment on people. It is all very analytical, impersonal. They are clearly aliens.

Interacting or not, these aliens live in the space with humans, but appear unseen. Only that’s not clear. The behavior of the humans may or may not be influenced by the behavior and actions of the aliens.

Director Yagil Eliraz explains it best: “Life is not organized around a coherent narrative, despite how much we would like it to be. Life

can be messy, jumpy, nonlinear, fragmentary and discordant, and we might find ourselves desperately trying to make sense of it.”

As the play moves to the central characters, we see a lot of distress and confusion in their lives. As audience members watch they might wonder, *What is real? What is a dream?* The differences sometimes appear clear, but often they are not.

The main characters are of a multigenerational family facing new challenges in their lives. At the start of the first scene, Cathy discovers her husband has been cheating on her with a (very) young woman who is having a baby, and that he is moving in with this girlfriend. Cathy’s teenage daughter Erika is dragged into the crisis, as her life is turned upside down.

Just as she is dealing with the end of her marriage, Cathy gets a call from her mother that there is something wrong with her father. Her mother, Evelyn, wants Cathy to come home and help. Evelyn and Jim McKissick live in a suburban subdivision in Colorado, far from New York City where Cathy and her family have been living.

And so the foundation is set. Only this is not your everyday tale that is plagued by tawdry family drama. This is so much more than that.

Cast members play both humans and aliens, stepping off from the human action to don a lab coat and goggles, make a statement, change the scene. As aliens, they examine things, comment to each other, then move on. Two aliens hold a long piece of wood to create a bar while Cathy and friend Judy have a con-

versation. In one scene where Jim is busy working, an alien (Michael Marceline) asks him for help with an odd mechanical device. The cast changes costumes and moves furniture as part of each transition.

Seven very gifted actors make up the cast. Stephanie Carlson plays Cathy, the central character, with great honesty and passion. Cathy is the heart of the family, the solid foundation that ultimately supports each of the other family members.

Erika is played by 17-year-old Molly MacLeod, a consummate professional who lives solidly in the part. Perhaps it is her youth that allows her the perfect stance of defiance when she stands up for herself and refuses to do as others want. She brings a gift of humor to the part, and light to the show.

Frank Aronson plays Jim McKissick, Cathy’s father. His performance runs the gamut from strength and self-confidence when he talks about his work as a contractor, builder, and fixer of all things, to confusion, misery, and doubt when he feels himself slipping away. “There’s nothing wrong with me,” he says more than once, but clearly there is.

Polly Pillsbury has a difficult role to play. As Jim’s wife Evelyn, she struggles with changes in her life beyond her control. At one point she flies in the face of it all with anger and frustration. Nothing melodramatic in this performance: her moment of fury is totally believable, totally real. How to cope with such devastating truth, watching a loved one fade before you? Pillsbury shows great compassion in her effort to love and defend Jim,



Cathy (Stephanie Carlson) and Erika (Molly MacLeod) argue, as an alien (Frank Aronson) watches.



As his illness becomes more apparent, Evelyn (Polly Pillsbury) comforts her husband Jim (Frank Aronson), in a touching scene in which reality becomes clearer for her.

BLANCHETTE PHOTOS

and ultimately accept what has happened to him.

Val Vaile plays Cathy’s best friend from high school. They talk about their past and ponder the future. She brings fun and a bit of sexiness to the play, as she makes clear that her character Judy is not done with life in any way. She may have returned to the suburbs with her kids and is now living with her mother in what could be seen as a setback, but Val has a bright personality that makes her character effervescent. She brings a little danger to Cathy’s life.

Rounding out the cast is Joseph Cardozo, who plays Jerry, their neighbor. His deep dive into conspiracy theory makes for some very humorous scenes.

And Michael Marceline, who fills the space between, almost always on stage with his large presence, usually in the blue lab coat and goggles, menacing or just a part of the furniture. His focus of attention to detail holds the scenes together. No drama here, but a great deal of self-control that includes silence in important moments.

The complex interaction between the characters and the aliens, plus the shifting situations of individual characters is shown with some 50 quick scene changes, allowing the aliens to be a kind of counterbalance to the family drama. The aliens try to make sense of how the people they are watching behave. The people try to work out their confusion over life as it is and what they thought it would be: how to parent their children; how to deal with aging parents; how to understand where everything went wrong.

While the role of the aliens may be to reflect on the strangeness of modern life, they also interject pauses which move the play along. They are often the device used to change scenes, or simply to shift attention from one family member to another.

In the end, the play reflects the struggle of dealing with suffering in many forms. It is about the fa-

ther, Jim, whose confusion is a story of loss of self, of the effort to hold on to who he has been as a man. It’s also about the women who face life alone: Cathy faces raising her teenage daughter now that her husband has left her. Erika has to figure out what she wants now that her family is broken. Judy faces living back home with her mother and raising her children in a place that’s nothing like it was when she was a child. And Evelyn is facing the long slow loss of her husband to Alzheimer’s disease.

While it shifts between dream, fantasy, and reality, *Tales of the Lost Formicans* is compelling as a whole. The language, the references to real events in the nation’s history, and the odd conspiracy theories that spin around this play carry the whole of our lives over time: messy, confusing, full of joy and pathos. This is the story of modern life, with more questions than answers.

In a discussion after the performance on opening night, playwright Connie Congdon gave credit to the director and cast for the way they took her script and gave it life. Congdon said she deliberately left the details of stage direction to the director, and praised the cast for working with him, creating the shuffling, animated way they played the aliens, and working out all those scene changes so that they occurred seamlessly.

Congdon said she wrote this play over several years. It reflects the personal loss of her father to Alzheimer’s, turning pain into art. As to why formica? Because it’s indestructible, replied Congdon, and that’s what these people are like. They’re made of strong stuff.

*Tales of the Lost Formicans* continues for another week, with shows on Thursday, Friday and Saturday night, May 2 through 4 at 7:30 p.m. at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center, located at 289 Main Street in Greenfield. For more information or to purchase tickets, go to [silverthornetheater.org](http://silverthornetheater.org) or call (413) 768-7514.

MOVIE REVIEW

## First Man (2018)

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – *First Man* was a Neil Armstrong biopic, starring Ryan Gosling as him. The name of the movie, *First Man*, connects to him being the first man on the moon. The tagline from the movie, “one step into the unknown,” I believe also connects to Neil’s famous line, from when he first stepped on the moon.

The movie covers his journey, from when he’s a test pilot of some kind at the beginning, to him deciding to try out to be a part of the Gemini Project, and then the years before those first steps on the moon.

The Gemini Project was NASA’s earliest exploration into space. We see it at the start in 1961, then 1965, and a couple of the years after that. Neil ends up being one of two astronauts who is part of the Gemini IV mission, which was to undertake the first successful docking of two spacecrafts in orbit. It had to be stopped, and the two astronauts found themselves in a free fall towards Earth.

The movie shows us Neil Armstrong as a reserved kind of guy who loved his family, and his wife knew that. We get a showcase of the balancing act that was done by these guys, their wives, and their families when it came to how their personal and home lives connected to having these guys going to space. Sometimes it was a very nerve-racking endeavor, and a lot of sacrifices were involved in their lives.

One such moment was that free fall moment during Gemini IV. Mission Control cut off the intercom connection between them and Neil’s wife, who had been listening to it at home. She went in and demanded



Hey, girl: Ryan Gosling plays Neil Armstrong in this movie.

it be turned back on. I believe not knowing what is happening to your husband would make calling it a nerve-racking moment more than likely the right words for it.

I saw a segment on TV with director Damien Chazelle where he said he wanted *First Man* to be as historically authentic as possible. He did a good job. It really felt as if we were falling to Earth with them during Gemini IV. The shaking of the capsule looked very realistic, like the two astronauts were really in free fall.

The next moment of authenticity was even better: when they were going to the moon. Again, I felt like the moment was really happening. Only this time, it was of being in a space capsule, looking at the moon landing and being on the moon. The being on the moon part was incredible, and felt amazing. The director really did well in capturing that moment.

Steven Spielberg was an executive director on this film. That’s no surprise, because he always seems to like having a hand in space films, and ones that have historic events in them. Even if he only put a little bit of his touch into *First Man*, it helped the film be a nice piece of cinema. The film shows space exploration in all its glory, along with its defeats and triumphs.

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WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO

# NatureCulture: The Science Page



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@montaguereporter.org](mailto:science@montaguereporter.org). Thank you!  
— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

## How Armored Mud Balls Led to the Discovery of the Only Dinosaur Bone In the Mesozoic Deerfield Basin

By RICHARD LITTLE

EASTHAMPTON — I think it was in the late 1980s that I was showing the Armored Mud Balls (AMBs), in quarried blocks at the dismantled bridge site in Turners Falls’ Unity Park, to geologists Phil Huber and Nick McDonald. I don’t remember if it was Nick or Phil who excitedly said: “Forget the AMBs. Look at this dino bone!”

There, near the edge of the several ton arkose (sedimentary) stone, was an odd-colored “pebble” which I had given no great thought or study. OK, I’m the AMB guy. That “pebble” was just part of the conglomerate deposit to me. But, it turns out to be a significant find! My guess is that if it wasn’t for the Unity Park Armored Mud Balls, this bone would have never been discovered. Who knows where a rolling ball of Mesozoic mud will next advance the study and understanding of our magnificent Pioneer Valley geology? Subsequent to its discovery, this bone, luckily near the edge of the quarried block, was sawed out and further studied. I do not know where it currently rests.

This excerpt, from the excellent geohistory *Guidebook for Field Trips in the Connecticut Valley Region of Mass. and Adjacent States* (vol. 2, p. 498) references the dinosaur bone we found:

### Reptiles

*The osseous remains of probable tetrapods in the Deerfield basin are represented by two bone fragments: one from the Sugarloaf Arkose; the other from the Turners Falls Sandstone[....] The second specimen was discovered (by PH and NGM) in a large transported block of pebbly sandstone in Turners Falls. The specimen is a blue-weathered, hollow bone fragment about 2.5 cm in diameter, exposed in oblique section. It extends into the matrix an unknown distance. The bone is quite thin ~0.5 cm. Thin, hollow bones are a shared derived character of theropod dinosaurs. We conclude that this fragment may be a portion of the distal end of a long bone of a medium sized theropod, and as such it is the first record of a theropod bone from the Deerfield basin.”*

Our Mesozoic rift valley had several sections. The Hartford Basin is the big one, ending just north of the Holyoke Range, and then the smaller Deerfield Basin — which



Top: An armored mud ball found in Guadalupe Mt. National Park, West Texas, in 2015, about six months after the stream in the background flooded.  
Bottom: The same armored mud ball, one year later.

has no relationship to the present Deerfield River.

Why are AMBs only here in the Deerfield Basin? It is intriguing to note that if the valley’s tilted sedimentary layers are returned to their originally horizontal position, the armored mud balls of Turners Falls, Greenfield, and Deerfield become the approximate same location, separated by only about 500 feet of rock, including the Deerfield Basalt lava. So, some rolled into this valley spot before the lava, and some after. This had to take thousands of years. Even though there are massive amounts of Jurassic red sandstones exposed in Connecticut, no armored mud balls have ever been found (although there are many mud pieces, and some unarmored mud balls).

Our Deerfield Basin must have had just the right conditions that were hard to duplicate. There had to be mud deposits just the right distance upstream, and, after just the right amount of erosion and transport to make them round and armored with pebbles, their burial had to occur quickly.

This area, for tens of thousands

of years was the “sweet spot” for armored mud ball formation and preservation! Unusual and amazing! Is it possible that dinosaurs came from far and wide to enjoy these rolling balls of mud and leave their footprints along the old river banks?

I always chuckle how armored mud balls have become such a fun way to interest people in geological history. I am a lucky guy, being the first person to discover them (in the Connecticut Valley) in the fall of 1969, after moving here from Southern California to begin my teaching career at Greenfield Community College. It was several years later that I discovered that “fossil” armored mud balls are very rare (though these are not true “fossils,” since all fossils must be due to living things). I wrote an article highlighting the Turners Falls examples, which was published by the *Journal of Geology* in 1982.

While “fossil” (lithified: “turned to stone”) AMBs are very rare, present-day armored mud balls are occasionally noted along streams. I found several after a flood in West Texas! However, to make it into the geologic record, they must be lithified.

A friend of mine found these along a streambed trail in Utah. They must be quickly buried before they disintegrate. Then, along with all the surrounding sand and gravel, they will be turned to stone as minerals are brought in by circulating groundwater, gluing everything together.

I was back at the West Texas location a year later. The armored mud balls had disintegrated into small piles of muddy fragment.



*Dilophosaurus wetherilli.*

(Artwork by Leandra Walters, 2015, under Creative Commons license.)

## A Global Climate Perspective

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

NORTHFIELD — The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. As the US government continues to do little to nothing about a problem our president doesn’t recognize, 195 governments in the global community continue their research and propose scientifically-based recommendations to combat climate change.

According to its website, this panel was enjoined to create neutral, policy-relevant but not policy-prescriptive, reports. These include not only scientific assessments of climate change, but also its implications and potential future risks, as well as adaptation and mitigation options. There are many ways for scientists to volunteer their time contributing to various task groups that include gender, financial, and data assessment-focused groups, while any qualified non-profit can apply for observer status.

The IPCC has prepared a special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5° Celsius above pre-industrial levels. With a high rate of scientific confidence, global warming is likely to reach 1.5° C between 2030 and 2052 if emis-

sions continue to increase at the current rate. Its effects will continue for centuries to millennia.

Global warming varies between land and ocean, with higher temperatures experienced on land. Weather extremes are likely to continue to affect land causing extreme heat, drought, and deluges, with the tropics most affected by increases in heat. The report goes on to compare the effects on sea rise and weather for 1.5° versus 2.0° warming.

For example, sea rise is predicted to be 0.26 to 0.77 meters by 2100 for 1.5° C, which is 0.1 meters less than for global warming of 2° C. This amount may not sound like a lot — 0.1 meters is about 4 inches — but mapped onto the coast, you can see what a big difference it would make. There are many digital tools you can use for free to visualize sea level change, for example NOAA’s Sea Level Rise Viewer, or the Surging Seas Risk Zone Map.

When considering global warming, it’s important to note that even if we stopped polluting the atmosphere today, we’d still experience some effects from the pollution we’ve already caused, including some sea level rise. We would need to switch to green energy, and use less, in order to stop damaging our planet.

## May 2019 Moon Calendar

New  
Moon

Saturday,  
May 4

First  
Quarter

Saturday,  
May 11

Full  
Moon

Saturday,  
May 18

Last  
Quarter

Sunday,  
May 26



*Crescent moon, western near side, obtained by the Galileo satellite.*

NASA/JPL IMAGE

You can see lithified armored mud balls in the wild at Greenfield Community College’s Geo Path (featured on the NatureCulture page last year), and at Unity Park in Turners Falls, which has several of the old quarried blocks right by the river. Finally, there are a few harder-to-see AMBs in the old bridge foundations across the river in Gill, and in the rocks exposed at the Turners Falls Sculpture Park at the intersection of Third Street and

Canal Street. Happy hunting!

*Richard Little, geology professor emeritus at Greenfield Community College, runs tours to scenic National Park locations, and always has his eye out for armored mud balls. He also has an email list for local geology events. Contact him at [RDLittle2000@aol.com](mailto:RDLittle2000@aol.com). For more information on tours and local geology, visit his website: [EarthView.rocks](http://EarthView.rocks).*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, MAY 2

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Deser-tion Trio*, *Myk Freedman*, *Fred Cracklin*, *Chris Wardlaw*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *GCC Rock and Jazz Bands*. Free concert. 7 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tales of the Lost Formicans*. Play explores the themes of ad-olescence, aging parents, fragile memory, lost love and divorce. (See review in this section.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Swimmer*, *New Motif*. \$. 9 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MAY 3

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Drew Paton Hit Parade*. 1940s hits. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rani Arbo & Daisy Mayhem*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tales of the Lost Formicans*. (See May 2 entry.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Pothole Pictures, Shelburne Falls: *The Awful Truth*. "Classic screwball comedy from the '30s. Cary Grant and Irene Dunne brilliantly play a couple that get divorced for all the wrong rea-sons. Hijinks ensue, many in-volving their dog, Mr. Smith, who went on to an even bigger role as Asta in *The Thin Man*. 1937."

**CALL FOR ENTRIES:**  
Slate Roof Press is taking submissions for the Glass Prize. One poem will be drawn from contestants in Franklin and Hampshire Counties, one from across the US. Cash prize, \$250. \$10 reading fee per submission. Deadline June 15. Details at [slateroofpress.com..](http://slateroofpress.com..)

## EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Paintings by Karen Axtell*, through May; artist reception May 10, 5:15 p.m.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Cen-ter, Brattleboro: Large paintings by *Sandy Sokoloff*; glass crea-tures based on children's draw-ings; narrative paintings by *Amy Bennett*; collaborative fiber art of *Jackie Abrams and Deidre Scherer*; immersive mixed-me-dia installation by *Joey Morgan*; paintings documenting several generations of an African-Amer-ican and Cape Verdean family on Cape Cod by *Joseph Diggs*. Through June 16.

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Spring*

Live music before the show at 7 p.m. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Home Body*, *Sister Jawbone*. Album release party for Home Body. Electronic dance music and spectacle. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Rus-sian Tsarlag*, *Baby Baby*, *Dan Talbot*, and *Home Body* album release after-party with *DJ Sub Dweller*. \$. 8 p.m.

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



"Nuclear Family," an exhibit of new work by Amy Bennett, is on view at the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center through June 16. The show features small paintings that tackle large topics, including marriage, child rearing, and female identity. "Problem Child," seen above, is the smallest oil painting in the show, less than three inches high and four and a half wide. Like all the paintings in the exhibit, "Problem Child" implies a narrative, raising as many questions as it answers.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *DJ Nite Owl*. DJ IPL from legendary soul/funk night Soulelujah re-turns. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 4

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tales of the Lost Formicans*. (See May 2.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Wendell Library: Screening, *Fantastic Voyage*. Miniature brain surgery inside a scientist's body. Short film before the show at 7 p.m. Part of the monthly Sci-Fi/Horror/Monster movie se-ries. 7:30 p.m.

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dave Richardson*, *Libby Kirkpatrick*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Memorial Hall, Shelburne: *The Awful Truth*. (See Friday's list-ing.) \$. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Dan Pell*, *Lashes*, *Tuft*, *Jenifer Gelin-eau*. \$. 8 p.m.

*Member Show*. Artists in various media. Through May.

Flourish Gallery, Turners Falls: *A Good Year for the Roses*. Paint-ings and mixed media work by *Alison Williams* and collabora-tive work with *Glen Scheffer*. Through May.

Great Falls Discovery Cen-ter, Turners Falls: *Portraits of Native Peoples of the Valley*. Photographs by Sara K. Lyons, curated by Rhonda Anderson. Through May 31.

Greenfield Community College South Gallery, Greenfield: *Stu-dent Art Exhibit*. Highlighting work from current classes in the Art Department. Through May 9.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield:

Deja Brew, Wendell: *The Equalites*, reggae dance party. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Marco Benevento*, *Lush Honey*. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *No Lens*, *Metazoa*, *Whalom Park*. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MAY 5

Yankee Candle Headquarters, South Deerfield: *Antique Truck Show*. 15th annual show with vendors and raffles. Free ad-mission and registration. 8 a.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Waste Not Want Not Art Work-shop*. Artists will demonstrate how to make art from recycled materials, with a chance to make your own to bring home as well. Noon until 6 p.m.

Polish American Club, South Deerfield: *Festival Danse Cafe*. French and Breton live music and dance party. Hors d'oeuvres potluck. Donation. \$. 4 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: Im-provised music night with *Paul Flaherty*, *Jake Meginsky & Lee Johnson* trio, *Neil Young & Don-nie Shaw* duo, *Owen Manure & Madden Aleia* duo. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Guerilla Toss*, *Carinae*, *Sun-watchers*. "Psycho de Mayo" celebration. \$. 8:30 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, MAY 6

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bin-go*. 8 p.m.

*Layers and Contingencies*. Painters *Kate Marion LaPierre* and *Hannah Richards*. Through May 11.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Art of Missy Ashton*. Paintings.

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Leah Burke: Heritage Sites* (reception Thursday, May 2, 5 p.m.) and *John Rathbun: Wild Creatures & Winter Flowers* (reception Sunday, May 19, 2 p.m.). Through May.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion: Im-provisatory Art* by *Adam Bosse*. Improvisations in color, paint, and ink, with a soundtrack from Bosse's musical projects. Through May 5.

### TUESDAY, MAY 7

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

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 8

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *LSDV*, *Trone*, *Angelsbreath*, and *Elias*. 8 p.m.

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

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

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

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *m & e duo*. Great Falls Coffeehouse Series pres-ents classical and folk guitar and voice with m & e duo. Spanning the ages with songs from di-verse composers including John Dowland, Franz Schubert, Joni Mitchell, and the Indigo Girls. Proceeds benefit programs at the Center. Refreshments. Do-nation. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Spring Into Summer*. Spring concert by the GCC Dance De-partment. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Big Fuzzy*, *Ona Canoa*, *Kimaya Diggs*, *Hollow Deck*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Screening, *Unemployable*. Film about 25 year-old Taylor, jobless and fighting to be financially in-dependent. A film by and about women. \$. 8 p.m.

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

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

Root Cellar, Greenfield: Prison abolition fundraiser feat. *Doo-nya*, *Yellowfront*, *Kobi*, *Stoner Will & the Narks*, *Domo B*, *Lone-town Rattlers*, *Mik3-Anth0ny AKA Rome*, *Odiosa*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Gypsy Wranglers*. Acoustic swing fusion. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Old Flame*, *Sodada*. Double album release show, with special guests *Fighting Giants*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Roads and Rails: Trucks, Trains, and Cars with a Twist*. Paintings by Louise Minks featuring her favorite steam engine trains and old cars and trucks. May 1 through May 31. Reception Sat-urday, May 11, 1 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Garden Structures and Or-naments*: works by *Piper Glass & Steel*. Structures providing visual interest and functional support in the garden. *Water-side: Man-Made Structures in Natural Landscapes* paintings by *Paul Hoffman*. Each painting establishes a unique sense of place. May 3 through June 30. Reception with classical guitar music by Chris Eriquezzo on

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**FRI 5/3 9:30 pm**  
**DJ Nite Owl**  
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**SAT 5/4 9:30 pm**  
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June 1, 3 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Fabrications*, a fiber art ex-hibit by member artists in May.

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entan-glements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials*. The story of plastic in 60 works by 30 contempo-rary artists, exploring our entan-gled love affair with this mirac-ulous and malevolent material. Through July.

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**UNEARTHING** from page B1

they retrace their town’s history together. Recently, they were trying to locate lost local cemeteries from the 1700s.

“My job is to write all this stuff down,” she explains. “People with this type of knowledge are dying off, and stories are being buried with them.” She also helps run a genealogy club that meets at the Historical Society, and teaches members how to retrace their personal lineages.

“Once my kids were getting older, I felt lost with what to do with my life. I started volunteering here and have been ever since for a long long time,” she says. “When the potatoes are going for supper, I can usually transcribe entries from an old



Army coats on a rack in the Orange Historical Society’s “Military Room” range from the Civil War era to the Iraq War.

book or do something like that.” Linda has recently completed the transcription of an old cemetery log book that references Orange family names. “I transcribed a few family names each night for months,” she tells me.

The Orange Historical Society feels like an untouched home from a century ago. There is no formal archival system, and nothing is hidden or stored in a private room. Each item has been donated from an Orange resident, and small scraps of paper detail who owned it and how they used it. Each surface is scattered and layered with objects and their handwritten paper footnotes.

“We have 18 rooms in this house, but there isn’t enough space to display everything,” says Linda.

Stereographs sit on a side table, robes and silk slips hang against the bathroom door, a 1930s curling iron sits in the Victorian bathroom which was originally owned by Linda’s mother, photographs cover most of the wall space, and the landline still rings in the “School Room.”

But this was, indeed, a home, long before it was a historical society. Local businessman Stephen French bought it in 1866. His wife, mother, daughter, sons, son-in-law, and grandchildren all lived under this roof together. Five generations reveal themselves in each room like they never left: the pencil drawings on the walls in the “Alumni Room” are from 1915, and remnants of the family’s furniture and framed paintings have taken on new roles as permanent pieces of the Society’s collection.

Stephen French’s daughter, Grace Weymouth, was the first curator of the Society. “She wanted Orange residents to be proud of their town,” says Linda. The artifacts were originally housed in the basement of the Library, until the flood of 1936. Water levels were almost seven feet high when Grace and her husband climbed into the basement and tried to salvage any artifacts they could. Unfortunately, the paper collections could not be saved, but Town Hall had copies of vital records.

“My father was one of the residents to take his boat out during the flood, and bring food from the upper part to the lower part of town and vice versa,” says Linda. “We lost everything from the flood – the railroads, and anything low lying. It was devastating. But Grace saved what she could from the collection, kept it in her family’s barn, and it just grew from there.”

Contemporary objects and records rarely become part of a historical collection, because they are considered too recent



A wall of New Home sewing machines in the “Industrial Room.”

to acquisition. But for Orange, past objects collide with the present day; yearbooks from the 1860s live on the same shelf as 21st century ones. Old file cabinets are mixed in with recent records. The “Military Room” has a rack of Orange veterans jackets that begin with a blue Civil War coat, and end with a camouflage jacket which Linda’s grandson wore on a recent tour to Iraq.

But when does an object transition from a personal consumer space into the archive stacks? How old does something have to be in order for it to become archival, or gain value?

When industries make their swift exit from small communities, they leave behind individuals in need of a steady income and a nurturing connected community. “But it’s not just Orange,” Linda says, “it’s every small forgotten town. We need to find a way to remember the past of these places.”

The fate of small town archives are in the hands of those who have stayed, and continued to thrive and push through. Volunteers like Linda keep these stories alive, and preserve the materials for those just as curious as she is.

*The Orange Historical Society is located on 41 North Main Street Orange, MA. It is open to the public from June through September, Wednesdays and Sundays, from 2 to 4 p.m. or by appointment.*



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