

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 30

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 23 2019

## Montague’s Ancient Stake in Car Barn May Factor in Greenfield Building Politics

By MIKE JACKSON

**GREENFIELD** – A single remaining property in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts falls under the jurisdiction of a 1920 state law known as the Transportation Area Act. The old “car barn” on Deerfield Street in Greenfield now serves as a garage and maintenance facility for the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), but the building’s fate is equally controlled by the town of Montague

and the city of Greenfield.

This spring, Greenfield mayor William Martin said he would like to see FRTA put on a short-term lease, because he envisions other uses for the site: a regional anaerobic sludge digester, perhaps, or a temporary location for the city’s fire station. But it appears that any such change in use would have to be approved by the Montague selectboard.

The garage is the sole possession of a nearly century-old entity called the Greenfield-Montague Trans-

portation Area (GMTA), which is governed by four trustees, two from each side of the river. Montague is represented by town administrator Steve Ellis and town accountant Carolyn Olsen; Greenfield by Mark Smith, the mayor’s director of general administration, and assistant accountant Angelica Desroches. The group meets four times a year, mostly to review its budget and oversee the building’s maintenance.

According to recent meeting see **CAR BARN** page A5

## Five Eyed Fox Closed for Now; Hoping for Change



The Third Street restaurant is closed, for now.

By NINA ROSSI

**TURNERS FALLS** – “I’m not shutting down with the hopes of shutting down forever,” said Ashley Arthur, seated in the empty dining room at the Five Eyed Fox, the Third Street eatery she opened with two partners in October 2014. It was a Sunday afternoon, and normally the spot would have been busy with the customers who flock in to enjoy weekend waffles, coffee and tea, and selections from the bar. On a nice day like it was, customers would be enjoying dining on the deck outside.

On this day, though, a sign on the Fox’s door said *Closed*, and Arthur and I conversed quietly to the distant rattle of someone cleaning things up back in the kitchen. Victor, her Australian cattle dog, looked apprehensively at the door as if to say, *Where is everybody?*

“My reason for closing isn’t because I want to see the Fox permanently closed, but I needed to create space for something better to move in. I want to see this place succeed,” Arthur explained. “It is too much for one person. I am burnt out.”

Citing a lack of availability from the other two original partners in the venture, Arthur says she wants to find

see **FIVE EYED** page A6

## Local Elections Change Nothing

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE and GILL** – Townwide elections were held on Monday, and about 8% of Montague’s registered voters and 6% of Gill’s made it out in the rain to participate.

The only contested race on the ballot in either town was for Montague’s tree warden, and it almost

proved to be an upset, as challenger Dina Souza, who hopped on the ballot at the town’s Democratic party caucus meeting this spring, came within 50 votes of incumbent warden Mark Stevens.

“She came out of nowhere,” said town clerk Deb Bourbeau. “Everyone who ran uncontested won,” Bourbeau added, for the record.

Whether on the merits of her

party enrollment (Stevens was listed as Unenrolled), her name, or dissatisfaction with the incumbent, Souza, who did not campaign and appeared second on the ballot, won 55% in her home Precinct 1, Montague Center, and 52% in Precinct 5, downtown Turners Falls. Support from Precincts 2 (53%), 3 (60%), 4 (65%), and 6 (60%) saved Stevens

see **ELECTIONS** page A6

## Fruits and Veggies: Got SNAP? Get HIP!

By TROUBLE MANDESON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Massachusetts SNAP recipients are getting a bonus this weekend through the Healthy Incentives Program

(HIP), which pays SNAP shoppers back for purchasing eligible fruits and vegetables from approved vendors. Since HIP rewards must be earned each month in a “use it or lose it” system, with the HIP pro-

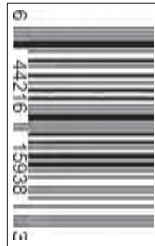
gram restarting on May 25, SNAP shoppers must quickly earn this month’s benefits before they renew again on June 1.

The goal of HIP is to incentivize healthy eating for SNAP households. Items eligible for purchase under the guidelines are any fresh, frozen, dried, or canned fruits and vegetables, including plant starts. When shoppers purchase from participating Massachusetts farms, farm stands, farmers’ markets, and mobile markets using SNAP, they earn HIP rewards back automatically, dollar for dollar. Each time a shopper purchases directly from an approved vendor, this matching bonus is instantly applied to their EBT card for future spending. Printed receipts allow shoppers to track their declining SNAP balance and see total HIP rewards earned each month.

HIP does require a few basic see **HIP** page A8



Shoppers can spend their Healthy Incentives benefit on fruits and vegetables at the Greenfield Farmers Market, which runs every Saturday morning until the fall.



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### SCENE REPORT

## In The No Man’s Land Of Our Grandfathers’ Wars



A Civil War reenactor tows an artillery cannon from World War I on his ATV.

By PETE WACKERNAGEL

**ORANGE** – For three days over this past weekend, soldiers from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries fought over the territory of the Orange Municipal Airport. Trenches were dug by excavator, and foxholes by teenagers with shovels. New barbed wire was strung across no man’s land, and military tents sprouted in clusters, based on the war they represented.

On Saturday night, perhaps for the first time ever, an American infantry platoon from Vietnam fought Hitler’s Wehrmacht. Later, in a pitched battle on the Western Front circa 1918, artillery fire from the Central Powers repeatedly lit the grass on fire. Valiantly responding to these grassland wildfires in the middle of no man’s land, Nazi soldiers from twenty years in the future put out the fires by kicking and throwing dirt onto the blazing grass.

Later in the battle, an Allied soldier was hit by his own grenade after it bounced out of a dead tree. He either survived unscathed, like a hero, or pretended that his error had not occurred.

Over the frequent boom of artillery and crackle of small arms fire that permeated the Exposition, the sounds of Creedence Clearwater Revival’s reverb-heavy guitar wafted, lending a cinematic excitement to the scene. Under the tall speaker tower made of scaffolding sat Drew Paton, a frequent performer at the Rendezvous, ensconced in the Comm Shack. He looked sharp in his uniform, and, like the best DJs, danced while sitting. “Doesn’t kiss you like

she useter? Perhaps she’s seen a smoother rooster! *Burma-Shave*,” he read. Behind him, against the back wall, a sign read “Why We Fight.” Underneath it hung a large white bra.

The Massachusetts Military Exposition is a special zone, separate from everyday existence. As a relatively ephemeral, week-end-long event, it is separated from Normal Time – the work week. In a geographic sense, it is separated spatially from Normal Space by the apparent remoteness of the Orange Municipal Airport. No houses, steeples, or mill towers ruin the illusion of a generic battlefield, and with effort, the distant, forested hills could as easily be in France, Russia, or Vietnam.

Inside this zone of controlled admittance, a number of specialized activities occur. One is the fetishistic reverence for decontextualized military artifacts. Another is the performance of battle, as reenactors stage battles for crowds of spectators from World War II, World War I, and earlier. Finally, the Expo can be seen as a theater to express certain cultural messages. Many of these were patriotic, and expressed support for veterans. Some, like in the Comm Shack, were sexist, and a smaller minority of messages can be seen as inflammatory challenges in a culture war.

In any case, I set out to discover why people decided to participate in the Massachusetts Military Exposition. Were they inspired by political, familial, social, or personal reasons?

Inside the Comm Shack, my girlfriend and I spoke with Paton, see **EXPO** page A4

## GOING, GOING....



Turners Falls slugger Aly Murphy slams a two-run homer during Monday’s game against the Greenfield Green Wave. See page B5 for our full high school sports coverage.



# The Montague Reporter

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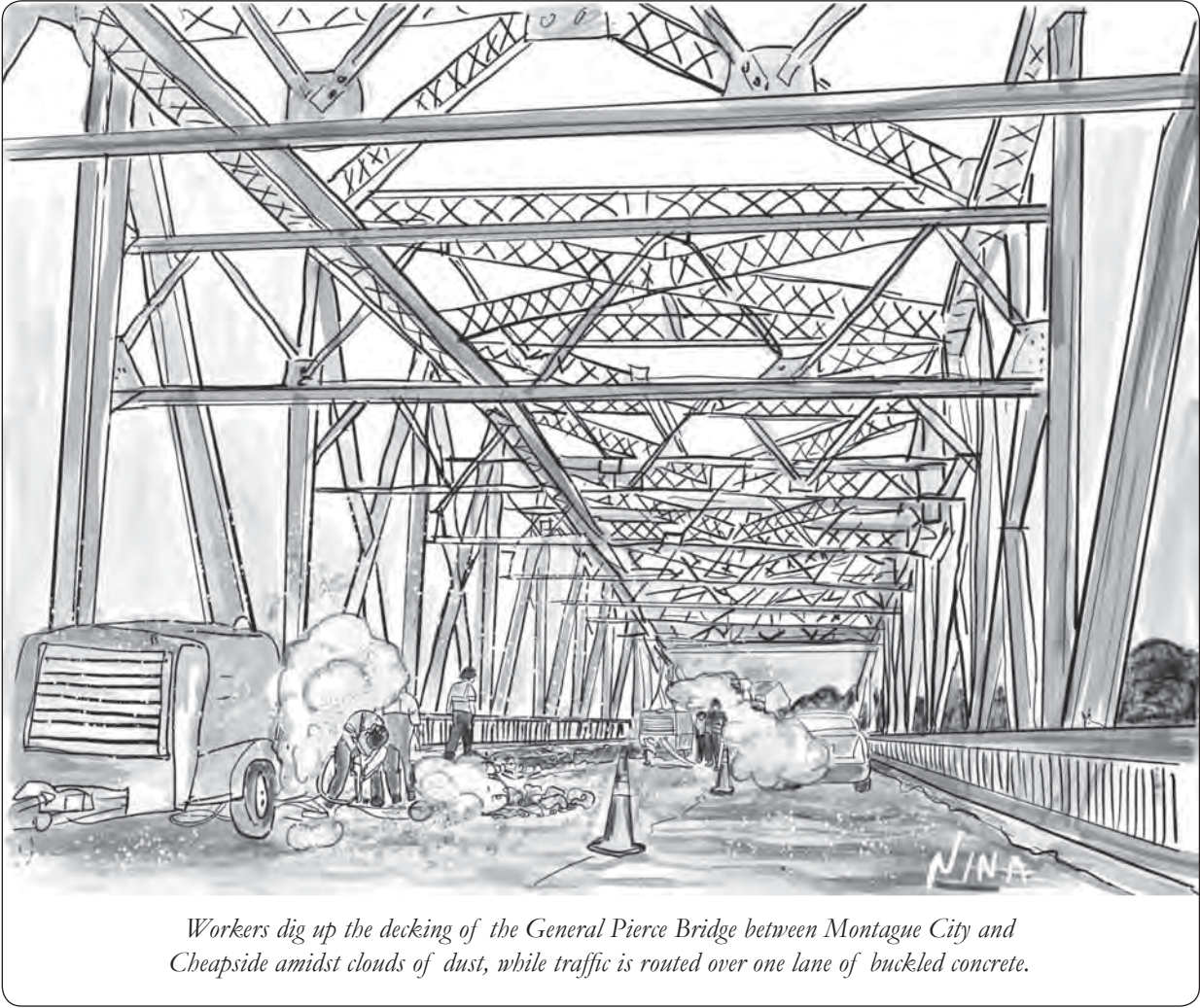
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August 2002



# North-South

On Wednesday, the Alabama Historical Commission announced that wreckage of a ship uncovered last year during a low tide event on the Mobile-Tensaw river delta had been proven to be the long-sought schooner *Clotilda*.

The *Clotilda* was burned and sunk in the summer of 1860 to cover up a major crime, not just against humanity, but against US federal law: the importation of 110 human beings kidnapped and enslaved in West Africa.

The smuggling operation took place a full 52 years after the US congress banned the international slave trade, and less than a year before Alabama would join with the Confederacy in secession.

The *Clotilda*'s owner, a rich shipyard owner named Timothy Meaher, had allegedly made a bet with "Northern businessmen" that he could pull off the crime and get away with it.

He did – though five years later, a number of the West Africans who had made the hellish journey crammed into the schooner's hull formed the free community of Africatown just outside of Mobile.

Until this week, there were those who claimed the story of the *Clotilda* was a hoax. Every atrocity has its denialists, of course, but historians believe that over seventy other slave ships also landed in the period of the ban.

Of course, the ban itself did not place those who complied on a higher moral ground. It was promoted by Thomas Jefferson, and like so many other slave owners, Jefferson directly benefited from outlawing the importation of enslaved people because it greatly increased the economic value of those he himself legally controlled.

Between 1810 and 1860, the

number of people enslaved within the United States' borders increased from 1 million to nearly 1.8 million. The economy and social world of enslavement became increasingly focused on the use of human beings as *breeding capital*.

Slavery was the foundation, not only of the Southern states, but of the industrial revolution that occurred during this period in the North.

Locally, John Russell, who founded the Green River Works in Greenfield in 1834, did so with capital he had amassed in the cotton trade. His first products at Greenfield included knives, axe heads, and other tools that had a market in the plantations.

And up in Colrain, Joseph Griswold built his first cotton mill in 1833. For nearly three decades the cotton spun by Irish adults and children at Griswoldville was grown and picked by enslaved Africans.

Every economic system at every point in time operates as a whole, even when its parts might appear differently. Back then, the most valuable mass of capital in the country was a million and a half human bodies, transported in chains and controlled by a system of violence and law that very little light shone through. Every other commodity bore at least trace of their value – many, more than a trace.

It's always been easy for those of us up North to sit and pretend the problem somehow lies *within* Alabama – or Georgia, Mississippi, or Missouri. And even today, as national lobbies and federal judges again make the Black Belt a battleground for reproductive control, we hear echoes of this old-time Northern condescension. Don't fall for the easy way out. Now, as in 1860, Alabama reflects on us all.

# Letter to the Editors

## Trees Sold for Biomass?

Thanks to George Shapiro for his guest editorial regarding Mass-Wildlife's wholesale logging of the Montague Plains.

My husband and I recently returned from winter in Florida, where we were dismayed by trees in the state park where we volunteer having been abruptly nearly clear-cut, in a fashion exactly like the scene that awaited our arrival home to Lake Pleasant. While some areas of the Plains had been cut in recent years, we had understood that this was intended to create a fire break and protect the Village. But now the woods have been devastated right to the western edge of Lake Pleasant Road.

According to George S., the trees logged on the Plains went into trucks to be used in biomass plants. In Florida they had put up signs saying the project was part of a "carbon-neutral biomass" operation. In Massachusetts, it seems many more

people know there is no such thing! Public hearings around the state in recent weeks heard much testimony proclaiming that cutting trees and burning biomass is extremely toxic and polluting and bumps climate chaos ever higher.

The Manomet Report, commissioned by Massachusetts to inform the state's biomass energy policy, said that wood-burning power plants emit *more* (my emphasis) CO<sub>2</sub> per unit energy than even coal- or gas-fired plants, pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere just when we need most to reduce emissions. Plus, it takes decades to grow forests back!

Cutting trees to burn is considered to have the highest carbon impact, because otherwise they'd continue growing and taking carbon out of the atmosphere, *or* they'd be harvested for a long-lived wood product that locks up some of the tree's carbon.

In addition, the American Lung Association says burning biomass harms health by emitting pollutants like particulate matter and other carcinogens which endanger health and can cause premature death.

Despite all this, the Baker Administration is aggressively promoting more subsidies and support for polluting biomass energy through programs that are supposed to promote clean and renewable energy! Please let Gov. Baker know you oppose biomass, and contact your state representative in support of these two bills:

- **Bill H. 897:** protects all state conservation land as parks or reserves where forest ecosystems are guided primarily by natural processes. This action will fight climate chaos by reducing carbon loss and increasing carbon sequestration and provide clean air and water, while allowing management flexibility to address public health, safety, and costing nothing.
- **Bill H. 853:** removes subsidies for wood-burning heating systems, while providing incentives for true renewable heating technologies – including solar hot water, air source heat pumps, and ground source heat pumps – thus protecting our forests, climate, and health.

While MassWildlife may defend their "management" of the Plains on the basis of "habitat restoration" in support of some endangered species, it seems to me that such practices put *all* of us species in grave danger as our world becomes less and less habitable via climate change chaos and all the destruction that results.

Joy Kaubin  
Lake Pleasant

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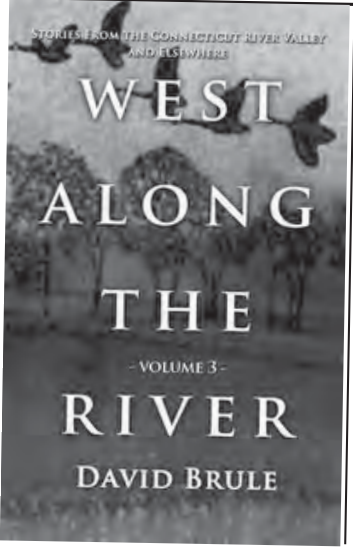


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While we're on the subject: Mugs are still available for sale, at \$10 including sales tax, if anyone is interested. And we also still have copies of columnist David Brule's recent *West Along the River: Volume 3* anthology, which David is sending out as gifts this season to all readers who make donations of \$20 or more who would like a copy.

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Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

What will you do to **celebrate Memorial Day** this weekend? Here are a few ideas for honoring veterans, taking part in community events, and enjoying the great outdoors.

On Saturday, May 25, the First Congregational Church will hold a **Tag, Plant, and Bake Sale** on the front lawn and the Fellowship Hall at 4 North Street, Montague Center from 9 a.m. to 1:15 p.m.

From 10 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday at the Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank, you can **play board games** in the Community Room. Bring a friend or meet someone new while playing cards, dominoes, Chutes and Ladders, or other games. Light refreshments courtesy of GSB.

Don't forget about the Veteran Excursion at Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary at 835 Millers Falls Road in Northfield on Saturday. There will be a **guided tour of the accessible trails**, an address by the chairman of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Northfield Post, a moment of silence, and a flag ceremony.

Festivities begin at 10 a.m., and refreshments and lunch will be provided. Volunteers are needed to help set up and clean up. Contact Cami by email at [duquet@mountgrace.org](mailto:duquet@mountgrace.org), or call (978) 248-2055 x 13 for more information.

Join staff from the Great Falls Discovery Center on May 25 from

10:30 to 11:30 a.m. and **explore along the Canalside Rail Trail**. All ages are welcome to discover the natural world with field guides, binoculars, and a fun game to see just how much you can see. Meet at the main entrance to the Center. Bring water, bug spray, sunscreen and wear sturdy shoes. Free.

A display of **Tibetan spiritual scroll paintings** is on display through this Sunday, May 26, at the Great Falls Harvest restaurant at 50 Third Street in Turners Falls.

The display is in advance of the Child Haven International benefit dinner and silent auction on Sunday at 5 p.m at St. Kaz Society Hall, 97 Avenue A. Check out the sacred wall hangings, and see the ad on PAGE B3 for more information about the benefit.

On Sunday, May 26, from 8 a.m. to noon, ecologist Pat Serrentino and naturalist Ted Watt will lead a leisurely exploration of the **bird life around the Greenfield Community College campus**. Look for returning late migrants and birds that stay year-round in the wetlands and park-like habitats at the college, listen for beautiful bird songs and possibly see some early fledglings.

This free walk is limited to 12 people, so register early. Everyone from ages 8 and up are welcome. Binoculars are recommended but not required as are sturdy hiking shoes for this easy walk. Be prepared for biting insects and ticks. Heavy rain cancels. Register by

calling Edie Heinemann at (773) 465-1646 or by email at [info@greeninggreenfield.org](mailto:info@greeninggreenfield.org). The group will meet at the college's Parking Lot B. Directions will be sent upon request.

**Memorial Day services at the Gill Church** begin Sunday, May 26 at 10 a.m., followed by a gathering at the Veterans Monuments across Main Road from the church.

A Memorial Day Service will also be held on the **Montague Center Common** on Sunday, May 26 at 11:15 a.m. The flag flown on the Common flew over Fort McHenry, 100 years after the Battle of Baltimore during the War of 1812.

This event is sponsored by the Montague Center Fire Association. The Montague Veterans Committee, members of the First Congregational Church, and the Fire Department will take part. Everyone is invited to remember all fallen veterans.

**Erving will commemorate Memorial Day** on Monday, May 27 with a parade starting from Riverfront Park at 10 a.m.

**Turners Falls Memorial Day ceremonies** will be held on Monday at the Veterans Memorial Park on Avenue A in Turners Falls beginning at 10:15 a.m. There will be speeches from various veterans' groups, and the Montague Elks Lodge will perform their 11th hour ceremony.

In the case of bad weather, the ceremonies will be held at the Montague Lodge #2521. All are invited to participate.

The **Brick House Community Resource Center** in Turners Falls is in the process of beautifying its building, and needs your help. Spring cleaning has been productive, thanks to volunteers.

On Memorial Day – Monday, May 27 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. – they will be painting and organizing their Front Room, which serves as a community space and is used by the organization's Teen Center.

Please join in for the whole time, or only part of the day! To register, email [volunteer@brickhousecommunity.org](mailto:volunteer@brickhousecommunity.org).

Get ready to laugh on Thursday, May 30 from 7 to 8 p.m. at the Leverett Library. Entertainers from Happier Valley Comedy will perform **short-form improvisational comedy**, made up on the spot based on the audience's suggestions. The show is free, and "rated" PG-13.

The **Wendell Planning Board is having a potluck** on Friday, May 31 at the Wendell Town Hall. Dinner is at 6 p.m.; doors will open at 5.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

### Leverett Dems to Caucus Saturday, June 8

Leverett's Town Democratic Committee will hold a caucus on Saturday, June 8 at 1:30 p.m. at the Leverett Library to elect two delegates and an alternate to the 2019 Massachusetts Democratic State Convention. All registered Democrats in Leverett are eligible to participate.

This year's state convention will be held on September 14 at the MassMutual Center in Springfield. Youth (17 to 35 years old),

The community is invited to come and talk about what they would like to see in their town. Solar bylaw changes will be on the agenda, as well as tiny houses and recreational vehicles. This is an opportunity to talk with your neighbors and let the planning board know how you see your community in the future.

Racial Justice Rising will be presenting the second half of a program titled **"Racism: The Power of an Illusion."** The film and discussion will be held Saturday, June 1, 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the First Congregational Church, 43 Silver Street, Greenfield.

This presentation makes visible the social, economic, and political conditions that disproportionately channel advantages and opportunities to white people, not necessarily because of merit or hard work, but because of the racialized nature of our laws, courts, customs and, perhaps most pertinently, housing.

Attendance at the first event, shown in May, is not necessary to attend. All are welcome and admission is free. For free childcare, contact [racialjusticerising.org](http://racialjusticerising.org). The church is wheelchair accessible.

Looking ahead...

**Greening Greenfield** will be hosting a discussion of the book *Drawdown* on Monday, June 3 at 6 p.m. at the Greenfield Public Library, located at 402 Main Street, Greenfield. You can obtain a copy of the book through our library system or by contacting Greening Greenfield ([www.greeninggreenfieldma.org](http://www.greeninggreenfieldma.org)).

As you read, note the ideas that are of greatest interest to you, and join in the discussion about where we can go from here to make the Pioneer Valley area a leader in implementing solutions. Refreshments will be served!

The Carnegie Library will host a presentation and demonstration by Elise McMahon of **Canine Head Start** on Saturday, June 8, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Elise specializes in the prevention and treatment of behavior problems in dogs based on the science of animal behavior and learning theory. This event will take place on the second floor of the Carnegie Library, and is not handicap accessible.

The **General Pierce Bridge** will be closed entirely this Thursday, May 23, down to one lane this Friday, open again for the long weekend, and then down to one lane from May 28 to 31 as well as June 3 and 4.

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

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Alina  
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### EXPO from page A1

an Orange resident and a lifelong musician who toured the country throughout the '70s and '80s. Raised in a military family, he wanted to be a part of the event to honor his family history. "My dad was in World War II," he explained. "He went in after Pearl Harbor and stayed in for 35 years. I travelled all over the world as an Air Force brat. I was an eight-year-old living in Venice." Paton said he also believes in supporting veterans as an important social cause, "especially the World War II and Korean guys. They're dying like 500 a day."

We walked over to the military vehicle exhibit. Like a car show, most of the vehicles in this area were owned privately by individuals who seemed to be very proud of their piece of history. Dave Comeaux owns a CUCV, or Commercial Utility Cargo Vehicle. This Cold War-era vehicle was basically an off-the-shelf Chevy truck modified for military use. His truck was deployed to Europe twice in the 1980s.

Comeaux said he takes part in the expo because of his own military experience. "I'm a veteran - I served in the Navy," he said. "My family has a history of serving in the military, too. It's ingrained in our DNA: the Revolution."

Next we strolled over to a tiny, olive-drab bulldozer, owned by Kenny Holmes of Worcester. It was slightly larger than a riding mower, but looked like it was much higher quality. Holmes explained that this was a 1944 Clark Airborne CA-1 Tractor. These airborne tractors were mainly used during World War II in the Pacific theater. Towed behind C-47 cargo planes, they were landed by unpowered gliders in undeveloped or bombed-out territory to construct military infrastructure like airstrips. Holmes explained that many airmen died trying to land them - they were "beyond the capacity of the glider, but they did it anyway."

Holmes mainly exhibits the airborne tractor at events, but has done some work with it as well. "I dig some holes and fill them back in," he said. Next to the bulldozer is parked his Korean War Jeep, made famous in the film *The Man Who Killed Hitler and Then the Bigfoot*, which Holmes also acted in. Holmes explained that he is not a Trump supporter, and is mainly interested in military history for mechanical reasons, and also because of its educational potential.

"I do it for the kids," he said. "Getting them to see [the vehicles], getting them away from cell phones and screens."

We approached the wooden palisade of Fort Bellicose, temporary home of the Hubbardston Militia. Bella Kaldera greeted us in a woolen uniform, tight leggings, and tricorne: "Welcome to Fort Bellicose. The year is 1774, the year of the Worcester Revolution. The flag is the Pine Tree Flag and the Liberty Flag under which we march." She then gestured toward a tiny cannon that I almost tripped on. It is a Coehorn Mortar, the size of a large toiletry bag. "They make them bigger, but this is a convenient size," she explained, in total seriousness.

Kaldera's own sidearm is a double-barrelled wooden pistol. "All of our guns shoot," she said. She told us she believes that remembering history is important for the welfare of our society. "When history is forgotten we make the same mistakes over and over again. We must remember our heritage. We must remember our ancestors." Kaldera also believes that people, in our time of digital tools,

must not forget the handy skills of that era: "The skills you learn reenacting are still useful today."

Fifty feet away were the large olive wall tents of the 2/8 1st Cavalry Division, a New England-based group of Vietnam War reenactors. Young sunglasses-wearing infantrymen lounged by a campfire, heating drinks in metal cups and eating canned peaches. Like movies I've seen about Vietnam, these young reenactors had a detached, informal coolness. I spoke with their medic, 2nd Lieutenant Sarah Bennett of Maynard, one of the few female reenactors I saw.

Bennett, age 33, has been reenacting for 11 years - reenactors are her main social group. She participates in events like this for recreational and familial reasons. "I love camping and being outdoors. Also, my dad was in the army - guns and all that." She said she also believes in supporting veterans as a social cause. "It's a good way to honor our vets, especially the Vietnam Vets - they were not treated well when they came back - called 'baby killers.'"

I asked about the four-foot-deep holes that I thought were graves. They were actually foxholes for sleeping in. "It could be uncomfortable and it could be comfortable," one teenage reenactor said. "It's like sleeping in a hole. On cold nights it's warm," he added.

Members of 2/8 1st Cav also participate in a different group called Liberty Canyon Airsoft. They are a "Namsoft" group, a subculture of airsoft enthusiasts that do Vietnam War-themed "tacticals." This group hosts their multi-day, immersive war games in Jamaica, Vermont and Wolcott, Connecticut. Often around 100 people will participate in these events, which are intensely planned beforehand.

According to their website, each game has a backstory, and each unit is given a different mission. Gear requirements are prescribed, from guns to uniforms. Everyone is given a "wounded card" that describes one's injury when shot. In this situation, participants are encouraged to act out their injury and scream in pain.

One reenactor described some of the hot action at last year's "tactical" to me: "He went down. I went to go revive him and I got shot in the head. They threw a smoke grenade." He explains that their "tacticals" usually use an actual military ambulance jeep, but hopes that this year will be better. "We're trying to get a helicopter this year, so you'll



WACKERNAGEL PHOTO

T-shirts for sale at the Massachusetts Military Exposition.

get airlifted."

J.B. Jackson has suggested that there are two main understandings of history. In one understanding, history is an unbroken continuum from the past to the present day. The past is "highly structured, highly political in the real meaning of that word. Past and present are linked by a contract, a covenant between the people and their leaders.... The present is the continuation, the re-enactment of the past, modified of course by intervening events, but the community is constantly reminded of its original identity and its ancient pledges."

Another view, the one that is dominant in America today, sees history as separated from the present by an impassable chasm. We live as fallen people in modern times, and remember the past as a lost and unreachable Eden. According to Jackson, "The contemporary American celebration suggests that the past is a remote, ill-defined period or environment when a kind of golden age prevailed, when society had an innocence and a simplicity that we have since lost."

"People are always reenacting their grandfather's war," Rocco, a 16-year-old Vietnam reenactor,

told me at the Expo.

The Massachusetts Military Exposition places the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, and the Vietnam War as conflicts that took place in an American Golden Age. A yearning for innocence is evident in the Exposition's display of military technology without analysis of its function, its performance of firing artillery at no one, and its spectacle of battle as entertainment. This presentation of military history sidesteps reflection on war and avoids any discussion of today's military adventures.

I do not mean to say that one model of history is necessarily better than the other. ("Both points of view celebrate the past, and seek to make it a part of daily life," adds Jackson.) Each model imbues history with a different function, a different social role, and a different expression on the landscape. The Massachusetts Military Exposition provides a valuable and fun space to interact face-to-face with veterans, military history enthusiasts, and other visitors. My plan is to begin saving now, so that I can afford the \$30 helicopter ride next year.



Allied forces defeated the Germans again during last Saturday's reenactment in Orange.

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CAR BARN from page A1

minutes, the roof is leaky, and the boiler has issues. A 2014 fire caused extensive damage, and FRTA is in the early stages of planning a new garage on Sandy Lane in Montague. The most recent lease was signed in March 2016 and extended twice, expiring on March 31 of this year. It is now in limbo, automatically extending month by month.

On March 25, Mayor Martin dropped in on a GMTA meeting to announce his city’s potential desire to repurpose the site, and proposed a six-month lease, with a required four-month notice of termination.

“That is clearly what the mayor expressed,” Ellis recounts of the meeting. “The city of Greenfield may, as a contingency, have need of that facility.”

FRTA administrator Tina Cote and assistant Michael Perrault were also present. “FRTA discussed concerns with being able to find another location for their buses in such a short time,” the minutes show. “They discussed that this could have an impact on the services of the area.”

Cote told the *Greenfield Recorder* that she was “taken aback” at Martin’s proposal, as the transit authority has no current venue to relocate its facility. (Cote, who is on a two-week vacation, was unavailable for comment; a message left for Perrault on Tuesday was unanswered as of press time on Thursday morning.)

According to the *Recorder*, Martin made this statement: “It’s our building, and we may need it.”

Its Own Beast

The garage, however, does not belong to the city of Greenfield. Over in Montague, the news set off a scramble for documents, and as it turns out it would not be accurate to call the GMTA a paper entity. As of this week, according to Ellis, no by-laws for its governance had been uncovered by either municipality. Nevertheless, it appears to be an independent entity – and disposing of its property would require the approval of a majority of its four trustees.

“This is one of those moments where we really miss Frank,” admits Ellis, referring to his predecessor, longtime Montague town administrator Frank Abbondanzio, who died last year. “He might have provided a lot of answers and information.”

In 1920, the extensive system of electric trolleys connecting many western Massachusetts communities had fallen into a crisis of profitability. Enabling legislation at the state level, which survives as MGL Ch. 161, S. 143 through 158, allowed towns or cities to band together to form a new type of political body known as a “transportation area.”

The streetcars connecting all of Montague’s villages to downtown Greenfield were part of the Connecticut Valley Street Railway system, but price hikes during World War I and competition from automobiles and a rash of new independent “jitney” bus companies drove the company into receivership in 1921.

In 1923, a judge ordered the company to sell its assets by the end of March 1924. To save the trolleys, Montague and Greenfield voters agreed to form a transportation area that spring, and the towns issued bonds to raise a total of \$100,000: \$70,000 from Greenfield, \$30,000 from Montague. They purchased the system, fixed it up, and put it back in operation.

The same year, the Athol & Orange Transportation Area was formed in a similar manner to salvage a local section of the North-

ern Massachusetts Railway. In the mid-1930s, that system would be liquidated. But while the GMTA, the state’s sole surviving transportation area, sold the tracks and scrapped the trolleys in 1934, it took another route, making a successful transition to mass bus transit.

Beginning in 1978, FRTA and the GMTA functioned alongside each other as transit authorities; in 2006, the GMTA was defunded and FRTA took over its routes. At that point, though, the entity still held on to the Deerfield Street garage.

“I can’t speak to whether they thought that the garage would be strategic,” Ellis says, “either as an asset to possess, or because they thought there was some chance that a contract would bounce back.”

According to Ellis, Abbondanzio told him that he hoped Montague would disentangle itself of the responsibility. “At least ten years ago,” he says, “conversations about Montague selling its ownership share to Greenfield were in the air – here at town hall, and in Greenfield. I don’t know why it was never acted upon, but the conversation, and trying to sort through what that might take, was happening.”

Its Own Beast

The rent FRTA paid for the facility under the most recent lease was \$62,372 a year in 2016, and increased by 5% in 2017 and again in 2018. The earliest timeline for a move to Sandy Lane seems to be about two years. Last fall, a federal grant for the new building construction came in far short of what was hoped for, and architects are currently scaling back plans.

Meanwhile, a series of proposed capital projects in Greenfield has become mired in political controversy. The city council approved funding for a new library earlier this spring in order to secure a major matching grant, but a citizen’s petition has resulted in the project being sent to a voter referendum in November.

The city also plans to build a new fire station, and a city-owned property on Riddell Street is the favored site, though environmental cleanup must first take place if the property is to be viable. On Wednesday night, the city council voted to table a proposed \$550,000 for design and engineering work on the new fire station, perhaps until after the library vote in November. The projects are linked because the footprint of the new library would overlay the existing fire station. If the library is approved, construction must begin by March 2021.

Reached by phone on Tuesday, Mark Smith seemed to walk back the mayor’s announcement. “It’s more of an idea-concept that the mayor is looking to further explore,” he said, “but nothing is concrete at this time, because obviously we’ll be needing further discussion through the GMTA.”

“Right now,” Smith said of the new GMTA-FRTA lease, “we’re discussing a potential draft, because one of the visions for the mayor, if everything, say, worked according to a plan, if he needed a temporary location for the fire station, that’s what was thrown out as a possibility – but nothing definitive. We all know how government tends to work.”

Smith also pointed out repeatedly that Martin is not running for re-election, and that both he and Smith plan to end their positions this December.

Montague’s alternate representative to FRTA, Jeff Singleton, reported to the selectboard on Tuesday after a recent meeting of the transit authority’s advisory board at which

the lease issue was discussed.

“It was stated at the meeting that FRTA has been offered a six-month contract for that building,” Singleton said. “It seems to me it’s hard to offer a contract unless your trustees, or board or whatever it is, votes to do so.”

“At this point, we have not formally seen a lease presentation,” Ellis said. “I think it’s pretty clear that the town of Montague has an equal say in the disposition of that real estate.”

“We need to be aware of the value that FRTA plays in the communities,” said selectboard chair Richard Kuklewicz. “The people that are transported, and the need for regional transit, has been clearly demonstrated.”

Ellis said he expected the draft lease to be presented at the next GMTA meeting on June 4.

“I understand the urgency for Greenfield, with the projects that they have, and certainly don’t want to be an impediment to those,” said Kuklewicz. “Both communities should have a serious interest in figuring out where FRTA could temporarily locate, if this is a situation that comes about.”

“We may have to get creative,” he said, adding that he had one idea in mind.

The selectboard and Ellis agreed to consider Greenfield’s proposal after the June 4 meeting.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Shea Awarded \$100,000 Facilities Grant; South Street Bridge on List for \$2.9 Million Fix

By JEFF SINGLETON

The board that oversees the town-owned Shea Theater has received a \$100,000 grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund for improvements to the building on Avenue A in downtown Turners Falls. The award was announced at Monday night’s selectboard meeting by Montague town administrator Steve Ellis.

Ellis said the money will be used to fund digital projection and upgrades to the facade, lighting, rest rooms, and ticketing systems. He said that the grant provided a “critical infusion of resources” to complete projects that the theater’s non-profit operator has already initiated.

The Shea Theater Arts Center board, according to Ellis, had applied for the grant last year, but it was not considered by the state due to a “technical glitch in submission.” He applauded the board, saying the grant “is just another example of the excellent capacity they have in their leadership team.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz agreed, saying the Shea board had done “a fantastic job. There was a bit of turmoil in the transition, but they have been delivering really first-class events.”

Earlier in the meeting, the selectboard awarded a \$230,000 contract to R&H Roofing for replacement of the roofs on both the Shea and the town hall annex. Ellis said the company was the only entity to bid on the projects, but “we were fortunate that it was a contractor that was very well regarded.”

He said the roof work would begin in August, rather than in June as originally planned. The selectboard also voted to transfer \$2,000 for “routine maintenance” of the Shea from the town’s “community development discretionary account” to its “community development Shea Theater” account.

In a telephone interview with

the *Reporter*, Ellis was asked to explain the division of responsibility between the town of Montague and the Shea board for upgrades to the theater. The town owns the building, and Ellis said the “core building structure,” including the roof and HCAV systems, are its responsibility, while other “amenities,” such as projection, signage, and ticketing, are the responsibility of the operator.

Ellis did note however that there were certain “gray areas,” such as certain improvements to the green room bathroom that will allow the Shea to book unionized performers.

South Street Bridge

Ellis also announced that the town was “somewhat surprised, but entirely pleased” that the state has placed the South Street bridge in Montague Center on a list for repair. The bridge is one of two town-owned bridges over the Sawmill River – the other being the Center Street bridge – that have been reduced to one-lane traffic due to structural challenges.

Ellis noted that the state is not guaranteeing a “timeline” for funding the repair, but that “we are very glad the project is on the state’s radar screen.” He added that the state’s current estimate of the cost of the project is “in the range of \$2.94 million.”

“Holy cow,” said selectboard member Michael Nelson, who was participating in the meeting by telephone.

Ellis, who said 80% of the funds for the repair would be federal and the remainder state money, noted that “the public is often disbelieving about why we can’t fix this or fix that, but these projects are extraordinarily complex.”

Other Business

The board approved the “long awaited,” in Ellis’ words, lease of the Gill-Montague regional school

district administration building, as well as the Sheffield and Hillcrest elementary school buildings and the properties on which they sit, to the school district.

Ellis said the Newt Guilbault Little League, which has two fields on the properties, has a separate license agreement with the town, and that there is a clause in the agreement with the school district which assures that the league will not be “displaced” without the approval of the selectboard.

Ellis updated the board on the progress of the new department of public works facility. He said that the design phase has been completed, and “the project is live.” So-called “sub-bids” for construction will be opened on June 6, and the bid for the general contractor opened June 20.

The board endorsed a letter of appreciation to Paul Interlande, who has reconstructed the historic directional marker on the corner of Main Street and Old Sunderland Road in Montague Center. The letter said that the restoration of the marker was “highly professional” and showed “great sensitivity to the limited budget of the Montague Historical Society.”

The board appointed Patrick Murphy to the position of laborer at the water pollution control facility, and Jacob Dlugosz as a full-time patrolman in the police department.

Steve Ellis was appointed to the Franklin County Transportation Planning Committee.

At the beginning of the meeting, the board reorganized itself following the town election of the previous day. Kuklewicz remained board chair, while Nelson retained the position of vice-chair and Chris Boutwell, who was re-elected to the board, was again selected to be clerk.

The board retired to an executive session to discuss contract negotiations. The next selectboard meeting will be on June 3.

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ELECTION from page A1

his job, 257 to 207.

In May 2010, Randy Crochier and Christopher Boutwell, members of the Gill and Montague boards of health, both won selectboard seats, and this week each was elected to his fourth term in office.

In Gill, Bill Tomb and Doug Edson were returned to the boards of assessors and health; their Montague counterparts Teresa Miner and Al Cummings will also continue in their roles.

Montague also returned Eileen Seymour as treasurer and tax collector, Cummings to the parks and rec commission, Stanley Zera to the Montague Housing Authority, John Murphy as a Soldiers Memorial trustee, and Karen Latka and Nancy Crowell as library trustees, where they will be joined by newcomer Margot Malachowski. The highest vote-getter overall was incumbent town clerk Bourbeau herself.

Gill town clerk Lynda Hodsdon Mayo announced her retirement recently, too late for her seat to be filled by this week’s election, which is the last she will oversee.

“It was kind of sad,” Hodsdon Mayo said of the low turnout, “because we’re used to seeing more folks at an election – but there wasn’t a contest, so it’s understandable.” She added that it hadn’t initially occurred to her that it would be her last election. “I didn’t really think of it until I was partway through the day, and people were

shaking my hand,” she said.

Gary Bourbeau will remain a Gill cemetery commissioner, and Peter Turban, who has been filling in as treasurer since Ronnie LaChance’s retirement earlier this year, was officially elected to the position.

Gill’s sole newcomer to higher office was also a library trustee, Peter Weis, an archivist at Northfield Mount Hermon School. “He will be of great value in the work he’s going to be doing,” Hodsdon Mayo predicted.

Bourbeau said on Tuesday that she was still pursuing write-in candidates for Montague town meeting membership, “trying to call people I know know them,” to see who would go along with the idea.

In Precinct 1, she could confirm Elizabeth Irving, and suspected Charlie Edwards would fill the delegation (“I just need a verbal,” she explained). In Precinct 4, Liz Swihart was confirmed, and Bourbeau hadn’t yet heard back from Jeff Singleton; and in Precinct 5, Elliot Ezcurra was confirmed. Only one new town meeting member appeared on the ballot: Lilith Wolinsky of Precinct 6. Everyone else either ran as an incumbent or was written in.

School Committee

Voters in both towns went along with the five unopposed incumbent candidates for the Gill-Montague regional school committee: Jane Oakes and Bill Tomb of Gill,

and Heather Katsoulis, Michael Langknecht, and Thomasina Hall of Montague.

Hall proved the most popular candidate among voters. “I look forward to doing my best to make sure that students, families, community members *and* staff members are heard,” she said, when asked for comment.

On Tuesday night the committee convened, off camera, for its annual reorganization meeting. By official policy, the members used paper ballots to vote on the committee chair and vice-chair for the coming year.

Heather Katsoulis nominated Jane Oakes to remain as chair, and it was seconded by Cassie Damkoehler. Katsoulis and Langknecht both declined nominations. “There’s so many things I’d like for the committee to accomplish,” Langknecht explained. “It’s easier to advocate from here than there.” Oakes was kept chair by 9 votes to 0.

Damkoehler then nominated Katsoulis to remain vice chair. She accepted, and then Hall nominated Damkoehler, who also accepted. Katsoulis held the seat by a 5-3 vote, with Langknecht abstaining. (“I couldn’t vote against either,” he said.)

“I’m so glad this is not being televised,” one member observed. “I have mashed potatoes on my shirt.”

By a 9-0 vote, Langknecht was then designated to remain as the committee’s secretary and the district’s assistant treasurer, and treasurer



JACKSON PHOTO

One last time around: Poll worker Ginnie McGann cranks the Precinct 5 ballot box on its last tour of duty, and its first at town hall.

er Cynthia Caporaso, a district employee, was affirmed in her position.

A 9-0 vote also reconstituted membership of the facilities, capital improvement planning, policy, warrant, budget and finance, and negotiating subcommittees with all the same members as the past year, with a single adjustment: Hall replaced Montague member Haley Anderson on the Unit D negotiating committee, and Oakes joined it as an alternate.

New Stations, Old Boxes

This year, following complaints from staff and administrators that the longtime tradition of voting at Hillcrest Elementary was disruptive to education and undermined security efforts, the school district signed a lease with the town of Montague that no longer allowed the town to use the school as a polling station.

Precinct 3 and 4 voters therefore voted on Monday at the Gill-Montague senior center on Fifth Street, displacing Precinct 5 voters down the Avenue to town hall.

FIVE EYED from page A1

somebody new to buy them out – “someone with money, and a mind for restaurant business.”

“If I kept going the way it is going,” Arthur continued, “it’s going to be just like Groundhog Day: every day you wake up and it’s the same, it’s never going to change. It’s not sustainable.”

The decision to close, which may have felt abrupt to her customers, was triggered by a staffing shortage. “We have a very small kitchen staff,” explained Arthur, “and our entire staff had very serious emergencies come up. We simply didn’t have enough hands. They didn’t get angry and quit – it was just a bunch of tragic stuff that happened.”

“Some people are upset,” she added, “but at the same time, if they had any understanding what brought us to this position, they would understand fully.... In previous years when we went through hard times, I always thought of the community and how much they loved this place, and kept charging forward. But it’s too much for one person.”

“I didn’t get a lot of grumbling,” Bourbeau said of the new polling stations, “so I’m excited.... I think people are ready for it.”

Bourbeau confirmed that, unless a special election is called between now and next March, this week marked the last election for the town’s traditional hand-cranked ballot boxes.

“They’re beautiful boxes,” said Bourbeau. “I get it.”

Gill uses its old box if a vote at town meeting goes to secret ballot, Hodsdon Mayo said, but when she came on the job in 2003, the town had already adopted Optech ballot scanners, and soon upgraded to AccuVotes.

“I always thought of her, those nights,” Hodsdon Mayo added, of Bourbeau’s job overseeing six precincts’ worth of poll workers who tabulated votes by hand.

She added that she wondered what will happen during next year’s national presidential election. “It seems like the ballots have been getting longer and longer,” she mused.



Arthur says that though the business was successful, in terms of the volume of people it served, it was just not possible for her to manage the business end of things alone while also serving as head chef.

Calling herself a “career survivor,” Arthur taught herself how to cook over the last four and a half years. When the venue first opened, it served a limited menu of small plates and charcuterie boards. “Our guests wanted food, so I made food,” she elaborated. “We built the kitchen. I wasn’t too happy with the bread options around here, so I learned how to make our own bread. I’m very proud of that; that was a hard endeavor. I’m going to miss those baguettes.”

Arthur said that for now, the business will continue renting the Third Street property, and she hopes to continue under the Five Eyed Fox moniker. “This has been my whole life, my heart and soul,” she said. “I don’t want to be anywhere else. I want to do everything I can to keep this place here, but make it better than what it is.”



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Senior Center HVAC Proves Tricky

By KATIE NOLAN

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory told the Erving selectboard at their meeting Monday night that a single air handling unit, as originally proposed for the senior and community center, was not compatible with the existing ductwork and plumbing at the center, and that it would be necessary to install seven individual air handling units.

In April, the board decided to abandon the geothermal heating and cooling system at the center and replace it with an air-sourced heat pump system. On Monday, the board approved using seven individual air handling units, provided that the cost was equal to or lower than the \$100,000 amount originally quoted for the project.

Administrative coordinator Bryan Smith said that, with the recent MassDevelopment grant of \$200,000 for hazardous materials cleanup at the former International Paper Mill property, the next step is to engage a licensed site professional to oversee the cleanup.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache commented that, once the property was free of hazardous materials, the board could have “real discussions” about the future of the former mill.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said he felt hopeful about revitalizing the former mill after visiting revitalized mills in Lowell. “It’s difficult, but it can be done,” he said.

Bryan Smith told the board that he and library director Barbara Friedman had been reviewing the expenses to date for the new library building and that they would present a report at the next selectboard meeting on June 3. He said that the bids for constructing the solar installation at the new library building would be opened on Thursday, May 23, and that the owner’s project manager would start providing regular briefings to the board on the progress of the construction.

According to Bryan Smith, while constructing the electrical infrastructure for the new library building, the town could install conduit and a transformer for future senior housing on town-owned land near the senior and community center and new library. Smith said he would get a cost estimate, and that it was likely that the senior housing fund could be used to fund the work, because it is in preparation for building senior housing.

McCrory provided samples of new street signs compliant with the latest state sign regulations. The board preferred signs with a blue background and white upper-case

and lower-case lettering, with the town seal in black and white. McCrory will provide additional samples at the next selectboard meeting.

The board reviewed draft articles for a special town meeting late in June, including establishing a revolving fund for library fees and fines, documenting road layouts that had not been properly filed in the past, and funding the capital stabilization account.

Bryan Smith reported back to the board from a recent Route 2 Safety Taskforce meeting. He said that the town should prepare a “concise plan” for Route 2 work in Erving Center, Farley, and the French King Bridge, and ask local legislators for support for funding safety improvements on the bridge. According to Smith, Fitchburg and Leominster are also organizing a safety taskforce further east on Route 2, providing competition for local safety improvement projects.

The town’s Memorial Day parade will begin at 10 a.m. in Erving Center on Monday, May 27. Selectboard member William Bembury will represent the board, because the other two selectboard members will be out of town.

The board met in executive session for half an hour “to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation.”

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Town Office Solar: Roof or Ground?

By JOSH HEINEMANN

May 15 was the Wendell selectboard’s first meeting after the annual election, and so to start, continuing member Dan Keller welcomed recently-elected member Christine Heard, to the board. The three-year term to which she was elected, unopposed, will be her eighth.

Second order of business for the new selectboard was to elect a new chair. Heard nominated Keller, and board member Laurie DiDonato seconded the nomination, which passed with their two votes. Keller did not vote, and accepted the results graciously.

Board members signed an appointment slip that put Sally Alley Muffin Stiffin on the town hall kitchen advisory committee.

Conservation commission chair Robin Heubel came to ask approval for a conservation commission agent who would work up to 20 hours a month as a contract employee, similar to the way the health agent works for the board of health.

Citizens Shawn Jarrett and Laurel Facey came to suggest a changed format for the farmers’ market. Weekly markets have taken too much potentially productive time from the growers who have come, and individually they have backed out. Jarrett suggested that instead of a weekly market, there could be one a month: the third Saturday from June through October, scheduled, with luck, to avoid Old Home Day and the NOFA conference. People with a craft to sell, or other product not out of the ground, may also be allowed to sell.

The selectboard allowed this new permutation of the farmers’ market.

Milton Bergman announced his retirement as mower of town properties as of June 30. His process involved pulling a bank of hand lawnmowers behind a riding mower to cover the large areas. For smaller areas and tight spots he used equipment as small as a weed whacker.

His replacement is likely to charge the town more for each

mowing, but a contractor with newer equipment and a less frequent mowing schedule might keep the cost down. Less frequent mowing is also one inexpensive way to encourage insect diversity and pollinator habitat. Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich gave the firm a figure of \$1,600 a year for the year’s mowing.

### Rooftop Solar

The meeting’s longest discussion was about solar panels on the town office building roof, for which the energy committee has gathered money from the Green Communities grant and other sources. The money gathered so far will pay for the panels and installation, but not for replacing the shingles, or work on the roof structure. Those shingles are ten years old, and board members did not have right at hand their full expected lifespan.

DiDonato said that consultant Greg Garrison, from Northeast Solar, had told the energy committee that solar panels can protect and extend the life of shingles underneath them. At her house, the panels extend just beyond the lower edge of the roof, so the melting snow and rain running off does not damage any part of the roof.

Town facilities engineer Jim Slavas said that the roof structure is strong enough to support the extra weight of the panels, but he thought replacing the shingles first would be preferable to installing the panels over the old shingles.

Keller asked if the panel supports would penetrate the shingles. Finance committee member Al McIntire, who has been attending selectboard meetings just to keep communication up, located a website on his phone that showed how panel supports can slide under existing shingles so there is no penetration through all the roof materials.

Heard offered a suggestion of ground-mounted panels. Garrison’s estimate is that they would cost \$14,000 more than roof-mounted panels. The estimate for replacing

the present shingles is \$11,000. An advantage of ground-mounted panels is that replacement would not involve the roof, and would be simpler.

Keller said that construction of a solar panel takes more energy than that panel will produce in its expected lifetime. DiDonato compared that to electricity generated by coal or nuclear power. She also said that this round of Green Community grant money must be spent by February 2020 for Wendell to be eligible for the next round of grants. The process of asking for bids and getting the work done has some, but not much, room for delay.

Board members agreed to address the issue again at their May 29 meeting, in time to get an article on the annual town meeting warrant, if necessary. That warrant must be posted before June 1, seven days prior to the meeting, which will be held at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 8.

### Other Business

Board members reviewed a draft of the town meeting warrant, without figures. A good number of articles are about regular town business and obligations.

Article 19 is about a town hall kitchen revolving fund. Article 23 would authorize spending the town’s share of replacing windows and exterior doors at Swift River School, which is expected to be reimbursed by the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) covering 76% of the total cost.

Articles 24 and 25 would establish and fund a broadband enterprise fund. Board members decided to postpone for another town meeting language to create an elected MLP board.

The selectboard signed a letter withdrawing Wendell from Wired-West, but thanking them for their years of effort toward getting internet service into Franklin and Berkshire counties.

They also signed and sent a letter to the FRCOG in support of an implementation grant for creating a regional pollinator corridor.

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public hearing on June 3, 2019 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Notice of Intent submitted by GZA Geoenvironmental for **Eversource Energy** to replace five (5) priority structures within the transmission Line 1044 Right-of-Way located **west of Long Plain Road** (Route 63). The work will include the replacement of structures within bordering vegetated wetland and construction of work pads in Riverfront and buffer zone. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

This notice is also available at [masspublicnotices.org](http://masspublicnotices.org).

## LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on June 3, 2019 at a meeting beginning at 7:15 p.m. at the Leverett Town Hall, 9 Montague Road, Leverett, MA to review a Request for Determination of Applicability submitted by **Mount Toby Friends Meeting** for construction of a pedestrian bridge at **194 Long Plain Road**. The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays, 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

This notice is also available at [masspublicnotices.org](http://masspublicnotices.org).

# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was May 21, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### Four New Faces on G-M School Committee

The make-up of the Gill-Montague school committee changed markedly as a result of Monday’s election, with incumbent Kristin Boyle returning for three years, joined by Jeff Singleton from Montague and Jen Waldron from Gill.

Doug Brown cruised to an easy victory for the one-year seat from Montague, while Emily Monosson, running unopposed for the two-year seat in Montague, was the top vote getter, with 745 votes in Montague.

### Ward Wins Big In Gill

On Monday, with 25% of the town’s eligible voters showing up at the polls, John Ward, a 21-year resident of Grove Street, unseated five-term incumbent and lifetime resident Leland Stevens of North Cross Road for a three-year seat on the Gill selectboard. The vote was 197 to 73.

“It was a big win,” said Ward, after the results were in. “I feel good.”

Ward said his top priorities would include “working with the commission on education in Gill,” to consider the future of public education for the town’s K-12 students, “dealing with the town budget, and one of the big things I hope to take on early is seeing what we can do with the Mariamante property.”

Asked how he interpreted the large margin of victory for his first foray into town politics, Ward said, “Certainly, from what I’ve heard from a lot of people, the police chief’s contract turned the election. Word did get out through the grapevine, and it caused a backlash.”

Ward was referring to the fact that Stevens joined selectboard chair Nancy Griswold four days before the election in outvoting Ann Banash to offer a three-year contract extension to the town’s long-time police chief, David Hastings, over the objections of the finance committee, which had sought a one-year contract extension in consideration of the town’s uncertain finances.

### Biomass Hearing Rescheduled

In the face of rising public interest over plans to build a biomass-fueled power plant in the I-91 Industrial Park, the Greenfield Zoning Board of Appeals moved to continue its meeting to Tuesday, May 26 in the cafeteria at Greenfield Middle School to consider the required special permits for the proposed plant.

The motion to continue was requested in a letter to the ZBA from Matthew Wolfe. Wolfe is the principal of Pioneer Renewable Energy LLC of Cambridge, the company proposing to build the plant.

About 35 to 40 citizens were present for Thursday’s meeting at the police station meeting room, which seats 40. Many came with specific questions for the ZBA about the potential impacts of the power plant on the region’s woodlands, traffic, and air quality.

### Fairbrother Cruises to Victory

Montague has a new selectboard member, and his name is Mark Fairbrother. “I’m excited,” said Fairbrother, standing in the hall outside the town clerk’s office as the final ballots arrived at 10:35 p.m. from Precinct 1, his home precinct, where he racked up another big vote margin to add to his totals around town.

Fairbrother beat John (Jack) Nelson by 209 votes, with Joshua Gammon and Ed Golrick running a distant third and fourth. Fairbrother won in every part of Montague but downtown Turners, where Nelson, a resident of Canal Street, edged him out 43 to 38.

“It’s a big honor. I hope I do well. I’ll try my best. There are hard decisions to be made, and I’m sure we will make them together,” said Fairbrother, who added that his top priority would be working on the budget: “Everything else is dependent on that.”



ALISTAIR MCMARTIN PHOTO

*Wendell broadband committee co-chair Alistair McMartin reports:  
“A 40,000 pound precast concrete ‘hut’ is being installed in Wendell next to the town offices. The building will house all of the electronics associated with the broadband network being built by the town under the Last Mile program. The next step is for utilities to complete ‘make ready’ work, creating space on their poles for new fiber optic cables. Construction on the network itself is expected to begin in the fall, with service available to internet-starved Wendellites early in the new year.”*

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**HIP** from page A1  
criteria for Massachusetts SNAP recipients: shoppers must have a balance in their SNAP account – a \$15 minimum is suggested – and the eligible items must be purchased from and paid directly to HIP-approved retailers. Locally, these include Upinngil Farm in Gill, Red Fire Farm in Montague, Just Roots in Greenfield, and Clarkdale and Atlas Farms in Deerfield. (A map of approved vendors statewide can be found at the link at the end of this article.)

SNAP recipients can also use their benefits to purchase weekly community sustained agriculture (CSA) farm shares from local farms. This means in exchange for a set price, SNAP households can receive a weekly share of vegetables and fruits directly from the grower, doubling those benefits with HIP.

The HIP program began in April 2017 and is administered by the Department of Transitional Assistance, in partnership with the Department of Agricultural Resources and the Department of Public Health, supported by a grant from USDA, state financing, and private donations. When initial projections of \$1.25 million for the three-year pro-

gram were exceeded, funding for HIP was suspended on February 28, 2019.

Currently, the MA Food System Collaborative, a coalition of more than 300 farms, organizations and institutions, has tremendous support from legislators for this program, who are urging the Governor to fully fund the Senate budget of \$8.5 million for FY'20, rather than his own proposed \$5.04 million. This would enable HIP to operate year-round, and allow new farms to become vendors in underserved areas.

According to the MA Food System Collaborative, the number of direct-to-consumer retailers participating in SNAP increased by 65% since the HIP program debuted. The program supports 55,000 families, which means 102,000 individuals increased their fruit and vegetable intake by one serving per day. This translates to an annual cost of savings of more than \$1.9 million in healthcare costs. Over 40% of the families who participate include seniors in the household, and 30% have children.

Additionally, SNAP sales at farm retailers jumped nearly 600%, and added 40 to 60 new jobs in the farming sector, helping to increase farm sustainability.

With just one week to earn HIP

in May, Franklin County residents are fortunate to have several HIP-approved vendors all in one place at the Greenfield Farmers' Market, which runs every Saturday, April to October, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Greenfield town common. They are Lyonsville Farms, Hart Farm, Rainbow Harvest Farm, Johnson Farm, Just Roots, MycoTerra Farm, Clarkdale Fruit Farms, and P.K. Industries.

HIP vendors can also be found at the Great Falls Farmers Market, every Wednesday from 2 to 6 p.m. in Turners Falls. May 29 is the market's last day on Second Street, and it will move to Peskeompskut Park on June 5.

For more information on HIP, visit [www.mass.gov/healthy-incentives-program-hip](http://www.mass.gov/healthy-incentives-program-hip), or contact Project Bread (800) 645-8333.

Staff from local organizations who want to learn more about HIP, to better support clients receiving SNAP, may attend the next Franklin County Resource Network (FCRN) meeting on June 6, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Olver Transit Center in Greenfield. To RSVP, contact [mcclintock@communityaction.us](mailto:mcclintock@communityaction.us).



The monument at Riverside celebrating the May 19, 1676 massacre at the Falls has been modified, as it seems to be every year around this time.

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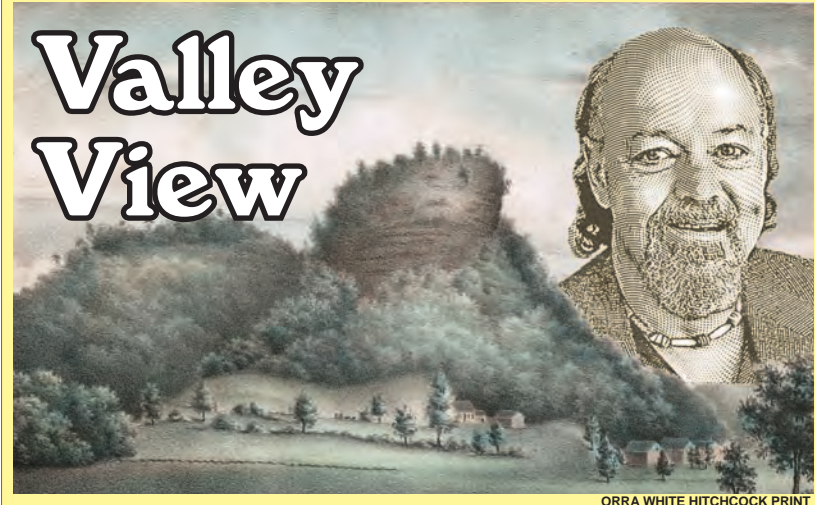
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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER MAY 23, 2019



Valley View

ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – The front-yard Japanese maples wore their springtime crimson alongside the gnarly old apple sporting its complementary light-magenta blossoms. A short distance away, at the southern tip of our sunny driveway island, faint lilac flowers were starting to pop. Across the street by a horse barn, a majestic black walnut was beginning to show signs of leaves. Who needs a shadbush? I knew shad season was here.

It’s been an unusual spring on the Connecticut River. Extended cool, rainy weather has complicated matters significantly, keeping our valley’s aorta cold and swollen. Such conditions always necessitate closure of the Holyoke Dam’s Barrett fish-lift, responsible for hoisting migrating anadromous fish upriver, past the man-made South Hadley Falls obstruction.

On an unrelated front associated with spring in these parts, I have to believe the weather was no boon to turkey hunters, either, over the first few weeks of the four-week season that ends Saturday. Big, vociferous toms prefer dry, still, open, high-pressure skies in which to announce their daybreak presence with territorial gobbles from lofty roosts. But let’s not digress. Back to the shad run.

The river has finally settled enough for the lift to open, allowing previously blocked shad to furiously resume their annual spawning run in warming waters. Unquestionably, these fish are now streaming through the tight Rock Dam channel, where, sadly, deep-time indigenous oral narrative was long ago erased by Christian conquerors. Oh, how those today interested in this special Montague City site would love to hear those obliterated deep-time tales of the land, the, rivers, the mountains, and nature’s spirit world. So much could be learned about our valley from that oral history extending all the way back to the first Connecticut River spawning runs many millennia ago.

Myself, I have stopped chasing shad, fishing rod in hand, from the Holyoke tailrace to Rock Dam as I once did, often in the company of old fishing buddy “Indian Al” Niemiec with his leather headband. From Chicopee Falls, Niemiec taught me to catch shad on

homemade willow leaf lures fished on a flyrod with sink-tip line, with his ingenious two-segment leader scheme weighted in the middle with bead-chain trolling sinkers. The front end of the leader setup was lighter line than that behind the sinkers. Thus, snags only cost you a cheap willow leaf and a foot or two of line, saving the sinkers.

Yeah, yeah, I know that’s not the tackle of haughty flycasting purists, but it works. That’s all that mattered to Indian Al, a commercial fly-tier who founded Indian, then Native American Nymphs and Flies, which provided him a profitable and enjoyable lifestyle for many years. He always allowed himself ample time for “field research” on lakes, streams and ponds. The man could catch fish, and invent flies and creative methods that worked.

Niemiec also had a cursory deep-history feel for the Connecticut and its tributaries. It was he who introduced me to the Chicopee River and its storied Chicopee Falls, where many an ancient shad and salmon would have been caught by our First People, stationed streamside in temporary, festive, seasonal, fish-gathering villages. Though I never fished there with Niemiec, I did hear his success stories. The same can be said of Enfield Falls in Connecticut, an early-season site he also frequented annually.

By the time my days with Niemiec had faded to distant memories, I had delved much deeper into the indigenous history of both ancient fish-gathering sites and others. If there’s one thing I’ve learned as an explorer of this place, it is that there are many teachers from whom to glean tidbits of helpful information. All of them represent crucial sources while piecing together a complex puzzle obscured by the dense fog of “conventional wisdom,” far too often dead wrong and misguided.

I guess there just came a point when – after I had mastered the art of catching shad and understanding the dynamics of their spawning run – I became more interested in discovering their importance to the indigenous people who greeted the entrepreneurial William Pynchon to the Pioneer Valley in the 1630s. When he founded Springfield in 1635, it was the upper Connecticut see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

A PART OF THE PROCESS: BUDGE HYDE’S STUDIO

Above: Gill’s North Cemetery.



CRAPO PHOTO

Budge Hyde sorts through images that will be collaged onto his large canvas, while Karen Chapman waits on a ladder.

By TRISH CRAPO

**GREENFIELD** – The first time I visit Budge Hyde’s studio on Haywood Street in Greenfield, the place is loud with hammering. Hyde’s assistants, Karen Chapman and Joe Serna, are using 1” x 2” x 10’ lumber to build frames for canvases. Each panel will be ten feet high by four feet wide, a width Hyde says is based on the width of his truck bed. “It’s just what fits,” he says.

The panels are hung side-by-side in twos, threes, or fours to create huge canvases. Right now, a four-panel canvas sprawls across the wall of the old warehouse building, its surface alive with collaged images, strokes of paint, and lines of charcoal.

The untitled series, referred to as “The 10 Foot Paintings” on

Hyde’s website, makes use of Hyde’s original mono-prints, scans of those mono-prints, photographs of modeling sessions he arranged years ago, and large pieces of paper swabbed with paint and then cut or ripped. Hyde will also photograph one of his collaged paintings in progress, blow the image up digitally until it almost falls apart into pixels, print that, rip it up and work it back into a canvas, creating an endless recycling of imagery.

On his website, Hyde begins his description of the paintings with an excerpt from Stanley Kunitz’s poem, “Raccoon Journal”:

*I’ve waked into the separate  
Wilderness of age,  
Where the old, libidinous  
beasts assume familiar shapes,  
pretending to be tamed.*

Though it’s always risky, not to mention of dubious worth, to try to say in words what works of visual art are trying to express, it’s fair to say that the 10 Foot Paintings are an exploration of “the wilderness of the inner life.” It’s fair because that’s what Hyde says on the website, adding that the painter’s work does this with “intrepid consequence.”

Hyde was born in Nevada and grew up in San Francisco. He was hired as head of the art department at Greenfield Community College in 1972, and, though no longer department head, has taught there for 47 years. When I ask if he’s planning to retire now that he’s in his 80s, he says he’d like to go on teaching as long as he can, and as long they’ll have him.

“I’ve never had a bad day see **BUDGE HYDE** page B4

THE GARDENER’S COMPANION

No Spare Time



By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – As is often the case, overnight Spring has truly sprung, rushing in with daffodils, then the fruit trees, the lilac and the magnolia, with azaleas and rhododendrons waiting in the wings.

The bird chorus begins at four a.m., adding new members daily. First to join our year-round friends were the song sparrow, then the cardinals, the orioles, the wood

thrush. Most astounding was the appearance of a scarlet tanager. When the apple trees bloomed we had a few visits from a small band of cedar waxwings, but the orioles have largely beaten them to the punch, delicately picking the bugs, unlike the boxy-beaked waxwings who are only able to pull the full blossom off and mouth it into oblivion. Maybe we’ll have some fruit this season.

We are rediscovering the joys of gardening: planting potatoes, kale, lettuce and basil. The pleasure of starting new growth is matched by the delight of replacing lost, aging plants with new favorites. We have

set in grapes, a sweet honeysuckle vine, and are transplanting the tomato plants one more time before their expected move to the garden in a few weeks. The asparagus, like an old friend, continues to come up each year.

The mid-month full moon has shortened some recent nights as has the intensity of my pollen allergy in the proliferation of this on-year. I am reminded of the favorite adage of an old friend, “There is no good thought in the middle of the night.” Just the same, knowing this to be true doesn’t always change the brains’ wanderings as it see **GARDENER’S** page B8



# Pet of the Week



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## “HENRY”

Rabbits are very smart. They can be taught to come to their names, sit on your lap, and do simple tricks. They can also live in harmony with other pets. They will be your best friend their whole lives – that’s eight to ten years!

Please speak with an adoption counselor for more information or to inquire a bout adoption. Contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

# GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

**TURNERS FALLS** – Down-town Turners Falls is awash in a sea of petals. It’s proof that once again the thought that nags at the back of my mind on the coldest of winter days, that spring will not return, is unfounded.

Making plans with the Great Falls Apple Corps is a great way to counter that fear. Plans being made for sunny days in the garden seem to have the power, just for a moment, to transmit an ounce of sunshine back in time, sending a shiver of warmth even on the chilliest of wintry days.

Spring, when it finally arrives, is a time of abundance for wild food. Early in the winter we decided we wanted to hold our first plant walk in the spring, featuring wild edibles at Unity Park. Starting to promote the walk early felt like an act of hope. If we made plans for May, then the season had to pull through!

And pull through it did! Over a thousand people responded to the event on Facebook, and on Sunday there were more than enough delicious plants to teach the 70 (!!) folks who showed up to our walk, led by me and fellow GFAC member Moon Mooney. Our starting point was the Unity Park Community Garden, and I don’t know if the garden has ever seen that many people at once.

Even the weather cooperated, with the rain stopping an hour before our event to give us a warm and sunny day. The animal kingdom was also present, as a fellow GFAC member found a snake napping in a garden bed right before we set off. It was quite a sight seeing dozens of people trying to get a look, and it served as an excellent icebreaker.

We walked past the skate park, around the ball fields, across the street, and onto the bike path, ending at the fish ladder. During the walk we talked about chickweed, cleavers, raspberry, mulberry, plantain, dandelion, garlic mustard, grapes, nettles,

japanese knotweed, and juneberry. While the list seems long, it is by no means an exhaustive inventory of all of the edibles at Unity Park.

We made stops along the way to point out plants and to talk more about the philosophies and context of foraging; how to do it, and why. We talked about topics we’ve mentioned in past articles, like safe places to forage (not too close to roadsides or polluted areas; look out for poison ivy!); how much to forage (depending on how prevalent it is, and how fast it can repopulate); invasive species (eat them!); and the spiritual aspect of foraging (seeking a plant’s permission, thanking the plant for its gifts, and giving back something in return).

We are going to be planning more plant walks along the same route at the park so we can observe how wild food evolves throughout the season: stay tuned for dates!

### Wild Edible Spotlight: Amelanchier

We ended our walk inside the fish ladder enclosure, fittingly, under a large Amelanchier or shadbush, otherwise known as serviceberry and juneberry. This small tree is native to our area, and makes a delicious and beautiful addition to a native plants garden.

The plant’s multiple names each carry their own etymology, mostly related to the plant’s early flowers in April. “Shadbush” refers to native mythology that the shad runs when the flowers bloom. “Serviceberry” is most likely borrowed from the English tree Sorbus, or “service tree,” that is in the same family and also makes fruit.

A more colorful, but perhaps less accurate, etymology says that colonial settlers saw the tree’s blooming as a sign that the ground had thawed, and they could bury the winter’s dead and hold funerary services. The name “Juneberry” carries the most basic explanation, as the fruit ripens in June.

Some of the last flowers, with five small and floppy white petals, are still hanging in there on the shadbush inside the fish ladder enclosure. The tree’s leaves are sharply toothed, and right now there should be clusters of tiny fruit that will grow over the next month or so, turning from red to dark purple.

The fruit has a stem like a cherry, but looks more like a dark blueberry, with a crown-shaped puckering on the end. This crown is present in other fruit in the same family *Rosaceae*, like apples and rose hips. The seed is edible, chewy, and tastes of almond.

While delicious in June, if you are patient enough I suggest waiting until they are really dark, around the first week of July, to eat them. Your patience is a gamble, however, as you must compete with the birds for this tasty treat. You could use the fruit in pies, or jams, but personally I think the berries are so good on their own that I usually just eat them all fresh.

**Upcoming Events**  
*Saturday, May 25 at 10 a.m.:*  
**Avenue A Permaculture Talk and Planter Workday.** Come help us maintain our two permaculture-inspired tree planters on Avenue A. The two planters are located on the corner of Avenue A and Third, in front of the Montague Catholic Social Ministries. We’ll have a short “Permaculture 101” presentation, and then get our hands dirty weeding, planting, and getting the planters ready for the summer.

*Saturday, June 15 at 11 a.m.:*  
**Plant Swap** at the Unity Park Community Garden. Come bring your extra seedlings, starts, and perennials to our free plant swap, and bring home new plants for your garden. You do not need to bring a plant to attend, as we will have donated extras on hand.

To contact GFAC, check out our Facebook page, Instagram, or send us an email at [greatfallsapple-corps@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsapple-corps@gmail.com).



Apple Corps member Moon Mooney talks about *urtica dioica* (stinging nettle) during a wild edibles walk last Sunday at Unity Park.

## Next at the Nook: “Gathering My Wits”

**TURNERS FALLS** – Artist Linda Baker-Cimini’s new show, “Gathering My Wits,” runs at Nina’s Nook from June 6 to July 10.

Linda’s pen and ink drawings continue to find their way into the hearts and minds of many, where they create smiles and a little more laughter. Her most recent musings, ponderings, and miscellaneous tangents spring from imaginary worlds far beyond Franklin County.

Nina’s Nook is at 125A Avenue A in Turners Falls, next to the Black Cow Burger Bar. Online at [ninasnook.com](http://ninasnook.com) and (413) 834-8800.



### Senior Center Activities

**MAY 27 THROUGH 31**

**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 5/27**  
*Closed – Memorial Day*  
**Tuesday 5/28**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
3:30 p.m. Meditation (pre-reg.)  
**Wednesday 5/29**  
9 to 11 a.m. Veterans’ Hour  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 5/30**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga  
**Friday 5/31**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

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

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

**Monday 5/27**  
*Closed – Memorial Day*  
**Tuesday 5/28**  
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 5/29**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Bingo  
**Thursday 5/30**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch  
6 p.m. Swing Dance Class  
**Friday 5/31**  
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.

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VALLEY VIEW from B1

Valley, all points north uncharted territory where only the brave dared to roam.

Through the remainder of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, our earliest Connecticut Valley settlers from Saybrook to Northfield would have known the various, festive, spring fishing stations located at advantageous sites in our river basin. There Native Americans would gather an important seasonal food resource to soothe the pangs of winter hunger that could involve reduced diet and careful food rationing. Such cultural work stations would have existed primarily near waterfalls in the watershed, places of high spirit where fish could be harvested in seines, dip-nets, weirs, and traps, and even speared under torchlight.

The majority of people participating in the fish-gathering and processing chores called our valley home. But, yes, there also would have been visitors from afar, travelers trolling from camp to camp for gossip, celebration and courtship, maybe even deep-time fireside tales told by expert storytellers who employed all the bells and whistles to perform their carefully memorized narratives and skits.

These spiritual storytellers – referred to by early chroniclers as “powwows” here in the Northeast, and shamans almost everywhere else – sang and danced and chanted verse, at times donning bird or animal costumes while imitating their calls and roars, their gaits or flight. It is these cultural tales that have by no accident vanished.

Colonial Christian observers believed they were witnessing savage devil worship that had to be eliminated from the howling wilderness by any means necessary. Soon, even the Native languages were forbidden, and with the language went rich narrative, never again told in the Native tongue. Sad, sad indeed. But that’s what European colonizers did here and across the globe. North, south, east and west, no one was spared from Christian conversion.

I try to picture in my mind’s eye the annual riverside fish-gathering villages on both sides of the river from Riverside/Gill to the Rock Dam. It would have been all hands on deck, with everyone playing a role in gathering and processing fish for storage and on-site feasting.

There would have been fishing stations and adjacent drying racks on which the daily take could be sundried and smoked for preservation. Others would carry the processed fish to storage barns, underground chambers where the dried, smoked fish would be carefully buried as food storage.

At night, there would have been feasting, and with it drumming, singing, dancing, and storytelling that could go on for days – teaching the young and reminding the old to be thankful for each bountiful place of harvest. Also, there were competitive games that created great excitement.

My, how times have changed on the rivers. Today you can find fashionably-clad sport-fishermen in Orvis vests angling for shad at some of the old Native sites. Most of the anglers have not and likely never will eat shad. Most consider scaly, bony shad too difficult to prepare for the table. Little do they know how tasty the meat is if prepared properly.

On the other hand, it’s nearly impossible to reconstruct the indigenous puzzle of the deep-history fishing stations between Turners Falls and the mouth of the Deerfield River. The 19<sup>th</sup> century construction crews who built the industrial village, its canals and railroads, left no record of what was uncovered during excavation. At the time, the old ways and their vanquished culture wasn’t important. There was a new sheriff in town, one with “progressive” ideas about use of rivers and waterfalls. Though interesting, the artifact collections in dresser drawers have little or no context and are thus meaningless. How many burials were encountered? Likely many.

What we lost in the industrial process was more than history. We erased a culture – demolished brick by brick a holistic, nature-based worldview and sense of place that would be helpful today. The sacred landscape’s spiritual foundation was quite intentionally obliterated by “civilized” invaders who imposed their beliefs on pagan, indigenous people they viewed as devils in the howling wilderness.

Soon these Native inhabitants’ rivers were dammed and polluted, their forests were leveled, and fish and game was scarce indeed – all in the name of progress. A better way? I suppose it depends who you’re asking.



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childhaven.ca

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Old Railroad Torpedoes Discovered, Detonated;  
Deer at Strathmore; Thorough Shoplifter; Night Mouse

Sunday, 5/12

2:42 p.m. 911 caller reporting that a man in a blue hoodie was throwing around merchandise behind the Salvation Army. He was also checking door handles of cars, and then made a threatening gesture. Officers located suspect at corner of Fifth and T streets. A 33-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with assault; wanton destruction of property worth less than \$1,200; disorderly conduct, subsequent offense; and resisting arrest.

Monday, 5/13

10:18 a.m. Officer advising foot pursuit in alley between Third and Fourth streets. Female party ran inside a building on Third Street. Female on roof. Units entering building. A 40-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on three default warrants and a straight warrant.

2:02 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reports that vehicle was keyed last night or yesterday afternoon. Report taken.

7:54 p.m. Caller states that he was just assaulted by a male party next to the ice machine at F.L. Roberts. AMR responding to evaluate injuries. PD advising AMR can cancel. Report taken.

Tuesday, 5/14

8:54 a.m. Detail officer advised by a passing motorist that a mail truck is in the middle of the road on Federal Street; vehicle possibly disabled or involved in an accident. Involved party calling reporting accident with mail truck; no injuries; no flames; no airbag deployment. Minor damage. Citation issued.

2:21 p.m. Party into station to report that a dog has been missing from James Avenue for about two hours. Dog is a black-and-white Lab named Milo; turquoise collar; very skittish. Referred to animal control officer.

3:45 p.m. Caller from Coolidge Avenue advising that she just received a call from a working MPD number; male on the line stated his name and said that he was currently working for MPD, that the caller had a warrant, and that she was to meet him at MPD tomorrow at 2 p.m. Officer will look into incident and go to home to make contact with caller.

4:25 p.m. Manager at Brick House advises that there have been some ongoing issues with vandalism to the building and issues with people climbing into the dumpster; requesting that officers patrol area. Does not wish

to file any further report at this time.

7:10 p.m. Party into station to report that at least four gravestones have been knocked over in the front section of the Polish cemetery on Turners Falls Road; states that church rectory has pictures of the damage. Officer will contact rectory to get further information.

8:01 p.m. F.L. Roberts employee states that a male is outside harassing people for money. Officer spoke to male party in depth about the consequences of his actions; party has left area.

Wednesday, 5/15

1:30 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road reporting neighbor is having some sort of party and they are letting their guests park halfway in the road, creating a traffic hazard. Caller also reporting that traffic is down to one lane and people are going by honking their horns. Responding officer advises there are three cars well off the road; both lanes are open.

2:54 p.m. Caller reporting two deer by the canal at Strathmore. Referred to an officer.

Thursday, 5/16

8:34 a.m. Report of loose black Lab, possibly matching description of dog that has been lost in the area for the past few days, at Millers Falls Road and Reservoir Drive. Area checked at length; negative contact.

4:52 p.m. 911 caller from Sunderland Road reporting a car has just crashed into a barn on her neighbor’s property. MPD, MCFD, and AMR responding. Officer advises no injuries. AMR cancelled.

4:58 p.m. Walk-in reporting a phone scam where they have deposited money into her bank account.

6:54 p.m. 911 caller reporting fight in progress at/near Greenfield Savings Bank; witnessed a male striking a female. Female got into a Jeep and sped off north on Avenue A. Male left on foot toward

the back of Food City. Investigated; determined that female came over to male party who was at the ATM at GSB and started hitting him. He fought her off, and then she left on foot back into the Food City parking lot. Gone on officers’ arrival.

8:42 p.m. 911 caller states that two females are actively fighting and arguing while walking north on Avenue A near Fifth Street. Parties advised of options and have gone their separate ways for the evening.

Friday, 5/17

1:30 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street requesting police to help her with a mouse problem; same advises that there is a mouse in her stove. Caller was advised to contact friend, family, or landlord to assist; MPD would not be able to help.

2:05 a.m. Officer checking on suspicious vehicle on Migratory Way. Clear; vehicle owner is nearby fishing.

12:18 p.m. Shoplifter at Family Dollar. Officer en route. Party has been trespassing from Family Dollar and from Walgreens. Managers from both stores filling out statement forms.

3:25 p.m. Caller believes that there is a shoplifter in Food City and would like police assistance before confronting him. Officer on scene.

3:51 p.m. Shelburne Control advising that MCFD is being toned out to Federal Street for railroad torpedoes that were found in a garage as caller was cleaning out his brother’s home. Officer en route. Bomb squad activated; one trooper coming from Chicopee and the other from Devens. MPD working on place to detonate; requesting MCFD and AMR be toned out to location so they can assist at the detonation site for the items. All units heading over to the gravel pit. Officer advises that all torpedoes have been set off; dispatch may receive several calls from residents

inquiring about the noise. Received numerous calls from concerned residents; advised that this was a controlled detonation; no concern needed.

Saturday, 5/18

4:30 p.m. 911 caller states that a light blue sedan almost hit him head on on Turners Falls Road. Vehicle was in his lane and traveling at a very high rate of speed. Area checked; unable to locate.

5:27 p.m. 911 misdial. Upon callback, female stated her watch must have dialed 911.

5:56 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road states that she and her dog were just attacked by another dog in her backyard. Report taken.

6:20 p.m. A 36-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

8:32 p.m. Complaint of loud music coming from Millers Pub. Front door of bar closed to help keep noise level down.

11:18 p.m. Caller reporting an injured possum on Greenfield Cooperative Bank property. Same was last seen in bush next to tree on right side of drive as you pull in to use ATM. Caller states that animal appears to have been run over; rear of same is crushed. Second caller reporting same. Animal is now northbound on Avenue A in same area. Officer advises that animal is lying in the grass next to the bank and appears injured. Officer unable to use firearm due to proximity to buildings and passing motorists. Officer later advising that animal is no longer in area; unable to locate at this time.

Sunday, 5/19

12:15 a.m. Small group of people moved along from skate park.

1:27 p.m. Report of injured raccoon on Second Street; caller believes animal sustained its injuries after falling off the roof yesterday. Raccoon dispatched and left in alley for DPW to pick up tomorrow.

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BUDGE HYDE from B1

teaching,” Hyde says. “I’ve had some that were more difficult than others. But I’ve never had a bad one.”

Hyde shows me some photographic prints that he’s applied paint to, using paper towels instead of a brush, “So I could play with it. So it didn’t look like everything just filled in with a brush.”

“They’re beautiful,” I say.  
“They came out okay,” Hyde replies, with what I learn is characteristic humility. He is not interested in aggrandizing himself as an artist. What he’s interested in is the work.

Layer Upon Layer

Nearly a month after that first visit, I return to the studio to find Hyde and one of his students, Pat Little, using paper towels to daub and swipe a large, table-sized sheet of paper with salmon-colored paint. Chapman and Serna have climbed ladders and are applying strokes of yellow paint to a white canvas.

“I trust them implicitly because they’ve worked here for over a year,” Hyde says of Chapman and Serna. When they first started, Hyde had to direct them more, but now, “they’ll come in here and pick up the right brush, the right charcoal.”

While the energy of the finished paintings may seem kinetic and spontaneous, the process of building layers is conscious and exacting.

Hyde explains, “In the layering, I said to them, ‘Hey, kids, when you put something on, you’re putting it on as if it’s stunningly beautiful, in each layer.’”

“Even if it’s about to get partially covered?” I ask.

“Right from the beginning,” Hyde says emphatically. “And when you get to the finished state, these have to be done really well, really beautifully. Every layer is beautiful, to come up with the finish. We’re not kidding around here.”

“I think it can be hard sometimes,” I say. “I do a little collage, and it can be hard when something’s beautiful. The impulse is to stop. I sometimes have the fear that the next layer might ruin it.”

“You can’t work on that premise,” Hyde says. “If you ruin it, it means we’ve got one working and one not working, that failed. But if

you don’t fail – ”

He interrupts himself, saying, “Look, you can’t have any successes without some failures.”

“I know,” I say. “But that’s hard.”  
“You don’t get hung up on that stuff,” Hyde insists. “Talent is nothing, inspiration is nothing; it’s all work. But it’s exciting work.”

Chapman, who began applying herself seriously to painting in her late 50s, including taking classes at GCC, says that the opportunity to work with Hyde in his studio has been remarkable.

“I get to work with an experienced artist who’s wholly committed to what he’s doing,” she says. “To be working on canvases that are so large. They have such a presence and such an impact. I couldn’t experience that in any other way.”

Chapman, too, creates paintings that fit in her vehicle, though hers is smaller: a Toyota Camry. Each time she leaves Hyde’s studio, Chapman says, she feels exhausted and grateful.

“Budge was my teacher before,” she says. “He would talk a lot about process and risk-taking and materials, so to actually be in the studio working with him on these things and see how he orchestrates all that is really good for me. I can see so much of it is about hard work. But it’s also fun.”

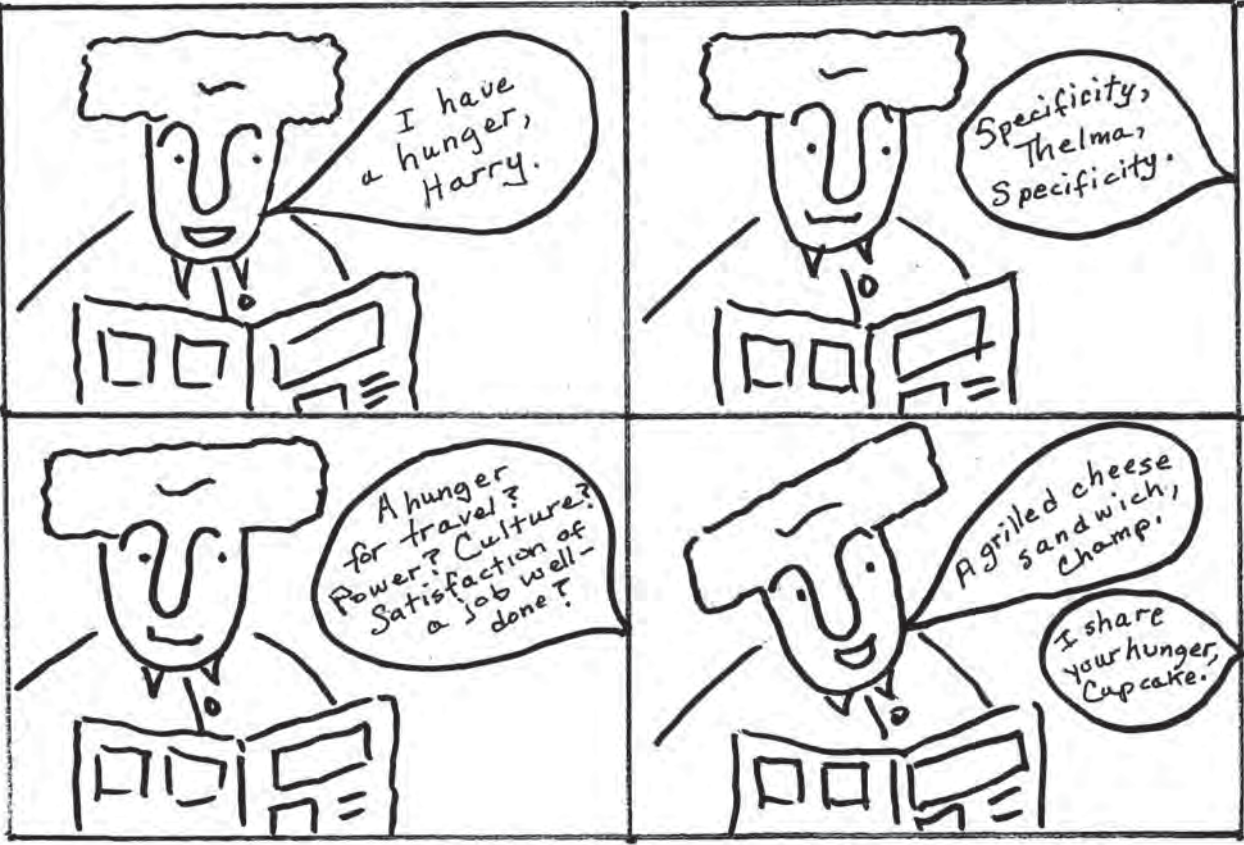
Sometimes things Budge wants to do to the canvas “seem crazy” to her, Chapman says, “but to see what happens when we do helps me to loosen up.”

As an example of something that might have seemed crazy, Chapman offers, “Let’s say we’ll be collaging with pieces of paper we had drawn on with charcoal, and these lines are very beautiful to me, very lyrical and delicate. We’ll fill the canvas with these pieces, and then Budge will say, ‘Now we’re going to make stencils.’”

Chapman chuckles a little as she continues. “And then we’ll take black house paint and we’ll stencil these things on, superimpose them onto what we had done.”

Hyde tells her and Serna to swipe paint through the stencils unevenly rather than brushing through them neatly, she says. “He’s very particular about how he wants things done, but it always comes from some kind

OVER THE HILL



T-RUMP



of wisdom. And I can see how it opens the work up and you’re forced to see it in a different way.”

“You keep going,” she adds. “And that is another big thing I’ve learned. For me, it’s really hard. For Budge, he understands that’s part of the process.”

Hyde, who also has a studio in New York City, hopes to eventually exhibit the 10 Foot Paintings at a gallery there. But for now, every Tuesday, the collaboration continues.

To learn more about Budge Hyde’s work, and see images of it, visit [art.gcc.mass.edu/budge18/big.html](http://art.gcc.mass.edu/budge18/big.html).



Langstroth Bee Fest Schedule  
Greenfield – May 31 to June 8

FRIDAY, MAY 31

**6 to 7 p.m.** “Langstroth in the Hood”: Chat with this historical figure about life on Bank Row in the 1840s as he observes changes today. *Pocket park/parking garage Bank Row entrance.*

**6 to 7 p.m.** Free honey tasting with honey from across the US. Bee art displayed. *Federal Street School.*

**6 to 8 p.m.** Opening reception for HIVE: bee-inspired installation by Exploded View artists. *Pushkin Gallery, corner of Main & Federal.*

SATURDAY, JUNE 1

*Second Congregational Church lawn:*

**9 to 11 a.m.** Kids Honey Bee Tea Party, hosted by Mary Poppins (Kay Lyons) and the Massachusetts Bee Ambassador (Ryan Duggan); children’s crafts, bee games, prizes, face-painting, photo ops. Free bee bags for the first 75 children; free bee buttons from Federal Street School; free bee-loving plants courtesy of Pioneer Garden; free Honey Pie from Magpie. Meet costumed “Sweet Bee,” with photo op for kids.

Table exhibit: Langstroth Hives, with Starhart Hollow.

Bee ware: bee basket raffles, silent auction, gifts & cards. *Proceeds shared with Just Roots Farm and the Western Mass Food Bank.*

Beehive observation: Find the queen bee!

**10:45 a.m.** Karen’s Dance Studio: performance with children.

**11 a.m.** Pollinators Parade, led by Expandable Brass Band. Through the Farmers’ Market and around the common.

**11:15 a.m.** Break the Bee Pinata!

**11:30 a.m.** Bee games.

**11:45 a.m.** Langstroth’s 209<sup>th</sup> birthday cake.

**12 p.m.** Bee sculpture unveiling,

with bagpipe and drum roll.  
**12:15 p.m.** Bee basket drawings.

*In the Second Church sanctuary:*

**10 to 11:45 a.m.** *Flight of the Bumblebee*, Leea Snape, piano; meet Lorenzo Langstroth, played by actor Marc Hoffman, interviewed by Linda McNerney and Dan Conlon; Bee Space Garden Awards, Franklin County Beekeepers’ Association and MA Rep. Natalie Blais; bee health, with UMass bee researcher Dr. Lynn Adler; bee sculpture project and background, with sculptor Rachael Katz.

*Around town:*

**8 a.m. to 12 p.m.** Brass Buckle Honeybee Brunch at Hawks & Reed; Greenfield Farmers’ Market on the town common.

**10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** Historical Society of Greenfield: explore exhibits, learn more about local history. *43 Church Street.*

**11 a.m. to 4 p.m.** HIVE: bee-inspired art show by Exploded View artists. Suggested donation \$5 to \$10 but no one will be turned away. *Pushkin Gallery.*

**All day:** Bee-line to local restaurants featuring honey items on their menus; look for the Langstroth Bee Fest logo in their windows.

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

**6:30 p.m.** Spelling Bee at Hawks & Reed. *Organized by the Friends of the Greenfield Public Library.*

JUNE 1 to JUNE 8

Bee sculpture scavenger hunt: Spot the small models in stores around town for a preview of this public art installation. *Organized by the Greenfield Gallery and the Greenfield Business Association.*



Joe Serna and Karen Chapman work on one of Budge Hyde’s 10 Foot Paintings at his studio in Greenfield.

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# The Week in Turners Falls Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – This week the Turners Falls softball team hit their stride as they outscored their opponents 51-2 in four games, and the boys’ tennis team came back from a two-match skid while the girls got back on the winning track.

Also this week, local track teams competed in the Western Mass D2 Invitational Meet, and the Turners Falls baseball team came up empty.

**Girls Tennis**

*TFHS 3 – Mohawk 2*

The Turners Falls girls’ tennis team keeps plugging along. They probably won’t make the playoffs, but that’s okay. They’re having fun.

On Wednesday, May 15, they defeated Mohawk on their home court. Izzy Farrick scored a win on the second singles court, winning in straight sets 6-2, 6-2. Cece Wood and Maria LaBelle also swept in first doubles 6-1, 6-3, while Mercedes Bailey and Emily Dennison completed the trifecta winning 6-1, 6-4 on the second doubles court.

In first singles, Haleigh Greene lost the first set tie breaker 6-7 (4-7) and then tied it up, winning the second set 6-2. The third set went to a super-tiebreaker and Mohawk won it 10-6. Mohawk’s second point came in third singles as Steph Peterson lost her match 6-0, 6-2.

**Boys Tennis**

*Greenfield 3 – TFHS 2*  
*TFHS 5 – Saint Mary 1*

On Thursday, May 16, the Blue Boys of Turners traveled to Greenfield for bragging rights and a piece of the league title. MassLive dubbed the match “the Connecticut River Derby.” To me that title sounds like something held at the Turners Falls Rod and Gun Club – “or at the track at the Franklin County Fair,” Brian Poirier’s dad said at the next match. It certainly was a spectacle. The Greenfield coach was dressed in a kilt, and his knee socks were the

only non-green clothing he wore.

It started out amicably enough. Second singles concluded first with Brian Poirier sweeping 6-0, 6-0, and he gave up his court to second doubles. The respite gave Brian and his family time to encourage his fellow netters. Brody Trott’s third singles matchup finished next, with Brody winning 6-3, 6-3.

The first singles match was very competitive, with Will Turn losing the second set 7-6 (8-6). And while first doubles dragged on, second doubles commenced and then ended with Mike Boyle and Miles Keefe dropping their match 6-1, 6-2.

So with the match tied 2-2, it all came down to first doubles. Everyone else had finished by then, and players and spectators lined the fence to cheer on their teams. The first duos had played even up to that time, with Joseph Kochan and Josh Gaulin dropping a close first set 7-5 and winning an even closer second set 7-6 (7-3). In the grueling third contest, Green outlasted Turners to win the game, set and match.

Turners still has a piece of the league title, but Green put their foot in the door with Thursday’s win. But Turners didn’t cry over their loss. They celebrated their effort with an impromptu pizza party courtesy of the Poirier family.

Then on Monday, they hosted the Saint Mary Green Saints. With a few holes in their lineup, Turners had to move their players around. Poirier moved up to first singles and won 6-2, 6-1; Trott conducted a clinic on the second singles court and easily defeated his opponent 6-1, 6-0. Joseph Kochan completed the singles sweep by winning third 6-4, 6-2, and Mike Boyle and Corrin Wisnewski teamed up for second doubles and won 6-0, 6-1. The Saints’ lone point came at first doubles, defeating Miles Keefe and Rayne Bonfiglio 6-0, 6-1.

The win stops Powertown’s two-match skid. They travel to Holyoke on Wednesday, and then host Chicopee on Thursday.



Franklin Tech’s Lucas Upham (right) passes the baton to Cam Gauthier (left) during the 4x100 relay, as Franklin Tech hosts Greenfield at the Bourdeau Fields Complex at Turners Falls high School.

**Track and Field**

Last Friday, Mohawk High School hosted the PVIAC Western Mass D2 championships. From the Franklin Tech/Turners Falls boys’ team, Donte Rosewarne finished the 100 in 12.26, and placed 25 in the 200 (25.2).

Zack Conway finished 10th in the 110m hurdles with a time of 18.49, and he completed the 400 hurdles in 62.29 for 7th place. Right behind him in the 400 hurdles, Lucas Upham finished in 62.89 which gave him an 8th-place finish.

**Baseball**

*Frontier 17 – TFHS 0*  
*Hopkins 6 – TFHS 0*

Turners Falls Baseball can’t buy a run. They haven’t scored one since May 6, and in the field, they continue to commit unforced errors. This would spell doom for many teams,

but Powertown is still sitting pretty at 6-7. The next couple of weeks will tell whether the Boys Thunder can make a substantial playoff run.

On Thursday, May 16, while the softball team was decimating the Frontier girls on the baseball diamond, the Frontier boys were handing it to the Powertown nine. Kyle Dodge came in to pitch in the second inning with the score already 17-0. He managed to shut them down, but the damage was done, and the Red Birds floated to a 17-0 victory. Turners did manage to get five hits, but weren’t able to translate them into runs, and Blue suffered their third consecutive shutout loss.

Then on Monday, Powertown was blanked by Hopkins Academy, 6-0. Turners did better in the field against the Academy, but their bats remained quiet, with Dom Carme getting Powertown’s only two hits.

Turners hopes to reverse their fortunes as they take on Franklin Tech on Tuesday and arch rivals Greenfield on Wednesday.

**Softball**

*TFHS 13 – Mahar 0*  
*TFHS 12 – Frontier 0*  
*TFHS 23 – Mohawk 4*  
*TFHS 3 – Greenfield 0*

How can you beat a team that gets three home runs from three different batters in one game? A team that smacks 16 hits in just four innings, or a team that has a pitcher with a 0.80 ERA? A team whose top six batters are all batting over .400, with their bottom three hitting at least .341?

This is the state of Turners Falls Softball. They haven’t won any titles yet, and they have plenty of hard games left, but at this point in the season, Lady Thunder is just hitting their stride.

In the Mahar game played on Wednesday, May 15 in the Thunderdome, Jade Tyler, Cassidhe Wozniak, and Alyson Murphy all hit balls over the fence, and every other girl who came to bat got at least one hit. When Mahar finally managed to get a base runner, a shoestring catch by Wozniak and a bullet to first for the double play sat

the Senators down.

Then on May 16, the Frontier Red Hawks came to town. Frontier is a pretty good softball team, and has been over the years, but on Thursday it was all Blue. In this game Wozniak and Tyler hit homers, while Aly Murphy (3), Juliana Rode (2), and Hailey Bogusz drove in additional runs. In the circle, Tyler struck out eight, gave up two hits, and allowed three bases on balls.

Then on Friday, May 17, the Ladies traveled up the Trail and defeated Mohawk 23-4. Wozniak, who came a triple short of hitting for the cycle against Mahar, did just that against the Mohawks. Tyler followed suit, hitting a double, a single, and another home run, while four other girls – Taylor Murphy, Bogusz, Rode, and Lexi Lacey – helped out with two hits each. In the circle, Tyler K’d nine, and Rode came in relief and nailed the door shut.

Then on Monday, the Green Wave entered the Thunderdome. This was a grudge match for the Green Ladies because they wanted to right last week’s 14-1 loss. It was a pitcher’s duel until the bottom of the fifth, when Wozniak cracked a single though the second-base gap, setting the table for Aly Murphy.

Murphy worked the count and even checked her swing on a curve, preventing a third strike. Then she rocketed the ball over the fence and out toward the baseball field, giving Powertown a 2-0 lead. In the sixth inning, Rode scored an insurance run off a Green error to give Turners the 3-0 win.

Although Turners only scored three runs in this one, five different batters got hits for Blue – Wozniak, Taylor Murphy, Alt Murphy, Whit-tier, and Bogusz – with Bogusz clocking a triple. In the circle, Tyler fanned six batters and gave no walks.

The road gets tougher for Big Blue, as they face Pioneer, Wachusett, and Minnechaug in the coming days.

Next week: Turners Softball plays two of the best teams in Massachusetts.



The Hit... the game... the title! Aly Murphy slams a two-run homer, her 100th career hit, over the left outfield fence to put Turners on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fifth inning during Monday’s game against the Green Wave. Thunder earned sole possession of the Franklin County League Title with the 3-0 win.

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It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the *Montague Reporter* at: 177 Avenue A  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
or to: [poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)

# Memorial Day Poetry Page

## Featured Poets: Al Miller and Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

To commemorate Memorial Day  
we are running one poem: a collaboration  
between Montague Center poet Al Miller and  
Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno, the Poetry Page editor.

Al, a Vietnam veteran, wrote the section in italics;  
Chris wrote the other lines. The subject is a  
remembrance of Patrick Downey, a classmate of  
Chris' in El Paso, Texas who later served with Al in Vietnam.

Al's poetry often focuses on his Vietnam experiences.  
He is a long-time contributor to the Poetry Page.  
Two of his recent poems were published in  
*War and Moral Injury: A Reader*, edited by Robert  
Emmet Meagher and Douglas A. Pryer  
(Cascade Books, 2018).

Chris is the author of  
several books of poems, most recently  
*Dix méditations sur quelques mots d'Antonin Artaud*,  
translated by Patricia Pruitt (Paris: Alyscamps, 2018).

## Sergeant Downey

I was sprawled out on the steel fire escape stairs.  
Patrick stood at the bottom.  
We were both 16.  
He was big, tall, black curly hair, a bit of a dude.  
His yellow polyester print shirt was tucked into his black pants.  
I was short and skinny.  
My jeans were torn from crashing onto the steps.  
It was March. It was El Paso. It was 1965.  
“You broke my arm,” I said to him.  
My wrist was killing me, and already swelling.  
I couldn’t move a couple of fingers.  
I had been whistling some Cholo song  
he hated, over and over,  
and refused to stop when he told me to shut up.  
He chased me. I fell.  
“Don’t move,” he said. “I’ll get you down.”  
And then his big arms reached  
around me and he gently helped me up.  
“Fuck,” I said.

*Downey is on the trail moving up, placing his feet over tread marks  
from our boots. His face rises to examine the scene we circled in.  
Gandy my first pressure dressing over the hole in his chest. “Hang man  
Medevac’s on its way.” The RTO lying at a weird angle like there’s an  
ice pick in his back. I step over a downed log reach for his radio. “I’m going  
to lift the weight off, slip your arms out.” A major dent near the  
bottom of the radio. He moans a long thread. Whatever dented  
his radio would have torn through his left lung. I’m going to lift  
the bottom of your shirt I’ll take it slow. He stiffened. A single tear  
of blood from a pen hole, lower back, right side, no threat  
of bleeding out from this. I couldn’t see his collapsed lung, told him he  
could walk when the Medevac arrived. Downey moved up on my left  
“Who’s hurt?” I list them, their wounds. When I’m finished, he waits.  
I’m not sure what he wants. He looks down between us, “Who is this?”  
I try to think what he is thinking about, the lump, debris thrown over it.  
“It’s just a rotting log ma. Leave it alone.” “No, it’s not. Look.”  
I grab his collar with a rage that doesn’t surprise me, “Leave  
it alone, it’s just a rotting log.” “No its not man, you gotta look.”  
My eyes fall with a grudge. The muzzle of his M-60 next to the black  
waves of the hair next to my boot. My butt hits the ground “It’s my fault.”  
Downey’s fingers and thumbs are around my collar. He takes hold of me and lifts.  
His nose next to mine, black eyes burning, spittle raining on my face.  
“You’re not God man, you can’t take it on. You won’t make it outta here.  
You’re not God man, you’re not God.” Daniel’s soft dark curls next to my boot.*

Patrick wasn’t Sergeant Downey then,  
just a half-Mexican, half-Irish kid  
from a kind of rough neighborhood.  
He liked to talk about how he’d have  
his own business one day.  
“I’ll be the boss. The Boss.  
I don’t want nobody bossing me.”

He already had a car and a girl  
and a part-time job on a used car lot.  
His dad was a mean son-of-a-bitch,  
his mom shrill but kind.  
She used to make us quesadillas  
and always had a pot of beans  
simmering on the stove.  
We’d have to take off our hats  
when we sat at the formica table.

Old Man Ward sold us liquor  
at his store up the hill.  
On Friday nights we’d drive down  
to the levee and drink a couple quarts.  
Patrick smoked. I didn’t.  
The sky was always kind of violet along the river.  
It was quiet. It was real.

And then it got really real when his sister  
Called me one black November night and  
told me Patrick was coming home from Vietnam.

In a box.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, MAY 23

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jim Eagan, Charlie Conant, Joe Graveline and Nina Gross.* Coop Concerts series. 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Take On Chris.* Folk pop jams in the Perch. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Vicious Rumors, Voodoo Terror Tribe, Ice Giant, Virus of Ideas.* \$. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Chris Wardlaw, Wishbone Zoe, Dari Bay.* Experimental rock, shredding, songwriting. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Inneraction.* 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MAY 24

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Johnny A.* Genre-transcending original guitar music. \$. 7 p.m.

Millers Pub, Millers Falls: *Little House Blues.* Traditional blues with an edge of rock. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Your Diary, Tiffy, Tuft.* Post-pop punk. \$. 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.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *V as in Victor, Ramshakle.* 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, MAY 25

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Meteor! Student Choreography to Light up your Afternoon.* Awesome Art in Motion children's dance company, 15 dancers between the ages of 6 and 12, presents this special show. Donation. 2 p.m.

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

Brick House, Turners Falls: *Kath Bloom, Anthony Pasquarosa, Frozen Corn.* Cult singer-songwriter, special appearance. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Kyle Passen, Jazer Giles, Vic Rawlings,* and more. Audio-visual experiments, jazz, poetry. 8 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Memorial Day Party: The Roots All Stars, Wendell Warriors,* and *New*

*Feudals.* \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Slum Village.* \$. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nico Rivers, Snughouse.* 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MAY 26

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Western Mass Comic Book Show.* With many guest artists in attendance, a first-ever Franklin County comic book



*The Great Falls Discovery Center exhibit “#rightupmyalley” features photographs shot in and around Turners Falls alleys by Edite Cunha. The exhibit will include alley poetry and music. Check it out at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls from June 2 through 30. Reception with the artist from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 9.*

event. \$. Kids free. 10 a.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Literary Rendezvous.* Featured poet *Tommy Twilite*, plus open mic hosted by *Candace Curran* and *Beth Filson.* 2:30 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Melissa Weikart, Mammiferes, Kevin Wynd.* Songwriting, experimental pop. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke.* 8 p.m.

### MONDAY, MAY 27

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Scotty K's Open Mic.* 9 p.m.

### TUESDAY, MAY 28

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Speck, First Children, Rebel Base, Golden Slugs.* Punk from LA and Mass. \$. 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

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

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Unknown Sound Collective: Mourning Dove, Vomitbitch, Geffan, Federico Balducci, Jack Lynch.* Noise and experimental \$. 8 p.m.

### THURSDAY, MAY 30

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Katie Clarke and Larry LeBlanc, Sue Kranz, Roland LaPierre Band.* Coop Concert Series. 6 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *Chasms, Wendy Eisenberg Band, Jake Klar Band.* \$. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Fred-die McGregor* with *Rhythm, Inc.* Reggae, funk, hip-hop. \$. 9 p.m.

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

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

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

### SATURDAY, JUNE 1

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *HIVE: An Installation.* Visit an immersive intermedia installation by *Exploded View*, part of the Tenth Annual Langstroth Bee Festival in downtown Greenfield. With paintings by *Susan Valentine* and *Alison Williams.* Artists talk with *Exploded View* at 1 p.m. Donation. \$. 11 a.m.

Montague Center: *Good Music Makes Good Neighbors.* A porchfest event featuring multiple locations near the Montague Center common. Seventeen regional bands play in seven private homes: jazz, classical, Arabic, pop, country, banjar, rock, and more. Snacks, sliding scale fee. \$. 12 p.m.

Wendell Library: Movie screening, *Mothra.* Giant moth worshipped by islanders as a deity saves two one-foot-tall women abducted into vaudeville side-show. Part of the SciFi/Horror/Fantasy series. 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Klezperanto, The Feldons, Peace and Rhythm.* Klezmer and Mediterranean melodies; garage rock; DJ crew with Latin psych, cambia, salsa, punk, dub, and more. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar, Greenfield: *The Mollie, Shana, Falana, Bunnies, Deep Red.* \$. 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JUNE 2

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke.* 8 p.m.

### MONDAY, JUNE 3

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo.* 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JUNE 4

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

## EXHIBITS

Artspace Gallery, Greenfield: *Paintings by Karen Axtell,* through May.

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

DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Spring Member Show.* Artists in various

media. Through May.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Portraits of Native Peoples of the Valley.* Photographs by *Sara K. Lyons*, curated by *Rhonda Anderson.* Through May 31. *#Rightupmyalley:* Photographs by *Edite Cunha* shot in and around alleyways of Turners Falls, including alley music and poetry. June 2 through 30. Reception Sunday, June 9, 1 p.m.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Origins,* by *Melissa Rudder.* "The point or place where something begins, arises, or is derived." Melissa's work is a query of identity and origin that explores the experience of being human in a spiritual world: how

we anchor ourselves and find meaning, metaphor, and connection. Using multiple mediums, Melissa asks the question, "where are we from?" Through June 9. Reception Friday, May 17, 6 p.m.

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

Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Leah Burke: Heritage Sites* and *John Rathbun: Wild Creatures & Winter Flowers.* Through May.

Leverett Library: *Macaylla Silver.* Large-scale paintings of birds. Through June.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Spontaneous Combustion: Improvisatory Art* by *Adam Bosse.* Improvisations in color, paint,

and ink, with a soundtrack from Bosse's musical projects. Through May. *Gathering My Wits*, fantastic pen and ink drawings by *Linda Baker-Cimini*, June 6 through July 10.

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. Through May.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Garden Structures and Ornaments:* works by *Piper Glass & Steel.* Structures providing visual interest and functional support in the garden. *Waterside: Man-Made Structures in Natural Landscapes* paintings by *Paul*



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**FRI 5/24 9:30 pm**  
**V as in Victor Ramshakle**

**SAT 5/25 9:30 pm**  
**Nico Rivers Snughouse**

**SUN 5/26 2:30 pm**  
**Strawdog Literary Rendezvous**

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### 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).

*Hoffman.* Each painting establishes a unique sense of place. Through June. Reception with classical guitar music by *Chris Eriquezzo* on June 1, 3 p.m.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Fabrications*, a fiber art exhibit by member artists in May. *Albyn Davis*, photographs, May 28 through July 1. Architecture, street scenes, details that can become abstractions in black and white and color.

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**GARDENER’S** from page

is awakened by bright moonlight and incessant coughing.

This dead of night is not the time for good thoughts and instead brings on brooding about aging and mortality. I give it up and go downstairs to the couch, where I try to calm my breathing and distract myself with the gift of a recent book by Ursula K. Le Guin called *No Time to Spare: Thinking About What Matters*.

One of the earliest essays describes her reaction to a survey of Harvard graduates, all now in their eighties, asking among other things for answers to the question “In your spare time, what do you do?” with check-boxes of various sports, hobbies, and other occupations. After some thought, she says “the key words are spare time.” She gives this matter a great deal of thought and then lists the many things that fill her time, such as walking, reading, writing, thinking, talking to her husband, sitting with the cat, and traveling.

“None of this is spare time,” she says. “What is Harvard thinking of? I am going to be eighty-one next week. I have no time to spare.”

One of the things I have most enjoyed is that my retirement is allowing time for reading, writing, and reflecting without the busyness of the work-a-day world. Also, I and several friends whose life work involved providing for the needs of others express the pleasure found in spending time with our own selves, and tending to our own needs and wants. Many of us have discovered new talents and interests.

The diversionary thought has

worked, and I am ready to sleep for a few quiet hours before the cat and the birds bring me back around four a.m., or if I am lucky, maybe even a bit later.

Of course, despite lofty thinking, some mundane chores remain. Much as it seems out of sync, it is timely to order cordwood and to stack it for the next winter-y season which we hope will be a while off. The lawn needs mowing, and the new shed needs a coat of paint or wood preservative, whichever we choose.

Also, we are painting the ceiling in the bathroom preparatory to the installation of the new step-in shower come July. This has been a bit tedious, as it required scraping and patching as well as two coats of ceiling paint.

We need to put up shelves in the new shed so that between the two buildings things can be organized for camping supplies, gardening tools, materials etc. Imagine being able to walk in (already knowing which shed you want) and see the item you need!

But how do we define “spare time”?

We type-A personalities need to learn to set some things aside, as there is only so much time and energy in order to find spare time. For me this means selecting some chore to set aside. Since I hate cleaning but agree that some is necessary, I won’t want to designate one day for this despised activity. Rather, I will do one cleaning chore at a time: a room, for instance, or all of the dusting on one day, and another day for the mop.

Promise yourself to make some

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spare time in every day to do that which fulfills you. Put it on the top of your bucket list. In the human life-span there really is no “spare time” except where we make it. And I will choose only to do this chore when it is too rainy for being outside.

In this spectacular, short-lived season, you need to take a few minutes every day to stop and sit or walk and look and listen. See how in the early morning or evening dusk the yellow magnolia flowers glow like holiday lights. Admire the brightness of the scarlet tanager against the brilliant spring blue of the sky.

And so forth – because if you miss it, the moment will be gone.

Make your own spare time and enjoy every minute. If you can, save it in a poem or some prose, or a photograph, or some music or a painting, or share it with a loved one.

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