

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 28

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 9, 2019

## Montague Town Meeting Debates School Police, “Slush Funds”

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague’s annual town meeting, held Saturday at Turners Falls High School, attracted a crowd of approximately 82 members, out of a potential 126. This was well over the quorum of 64, although as is often the case, the crowd had dwindled significantly by the time the meeting had ended at four o’clock.

Montague has an elected town meeting, with 21 members from each of six precincts. They are elected on a three-year rotating basis at the annual spring election. At the May 4 meeting, they passed most of the 40 articles with relatively little debate.

The notable exceptions were a strong opposition to the school resource officer – a police officer stationed at Turners Falls High School – which is embedded in the town operating budget, and a series of articles allocating lump sums of money to town departments for unspecified capital needs.

The meeting moved rapidly through the first three “housekeeping” articles, which accepted various town reports, authorized the selectboard to receive grants, and fixed the salaries of elected and

see MONTAGUE page A7

## A CLEAN SLATE



NINA ROSSI PHOTO

By REPORTER STAFF

**GILL** – Last Saturday, the trustees of the Slate Memorial Library hosted an open house to celebrate the renovation and restoration of the library. Energy efficiency has been improved, with new spray insulation for the roof and peak-end walls, energy-efficient lighting, and a new air-source heat-pump system which will keep the building cool in summer and warm in winter.

These projects were a collaboration between the trustees and the town’s energy committee, which ob-

tained grant money for the energy improvements.

Above, library director Jocelyn Castro-Santos and trustees Kim Sprankle, Barbara Watson, and Megan Bethory-Peeler pose during the open house, obviously delighted in the restoration work, which also included new furnishings, floor refinishing, and interior and exterior painting.

The Slate Library is located at 332 Main Road in Gill. Regular library hours will resume in May: Tuesdays, 2 to 6 p.m.; Wednesdays, 3 to 7 p.m.; Thursdays, 2 to 8 p.m.; and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Wendell May Soon Share Police Chief With New Salem

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The May 1 Wendell selectboard meeting began with two members of the New Salem selectboard, Wayne Hachey and Randy Gordon, attending, along with Garrett Sawyer, Doug Tanner, and Al McIntire of the Wendell finance committee. Swift River School principal Kelly Sullivan and school committee member Johanna Bartlett joined as well. The meeting was also long: because two members were away, the selectboard did not meet on April 24, so the agenda had 18 items for discussion.

Wendell and New Salem have shared responsibility for Swift River School since the early 1970s, have shared a fire chief for several years, and are in conversation about a shared police chief as part of succession planning for Wendell’s chief. All three topics were discussed before the New Salem members left.

Joe Cuneo, the fire chief shared by the towns, drives as his chief’s vehicle a Chevrolet Tahoe that was acquired for free, but like many free items took some money to become usable. It replaced an older

see WENDELL page A5

## The Week in TFHS Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week the Boston Bruins moved on, the Turners Falls boys’ tennis team earned a rest, Blue Thunder took care of business on the softball diamond, the Powertown baseball squad sandwiched two close wins around a wet loss, and the girls’ tennis players just wouldn’t give up.

The sun finally came out, and interference calls changed dynamics: last Friday, a catcher-interference call gave Turners softball a much-needed base runner and sparked a knockout rally. On Sunday, Maximum Security led the field from gate to finish but was disqualified due to interference; long-shot Country House was awarded the wreath at the Kentucky Derby, handing a select few small fortunes. And on Monday, the Bruins’ first

goal in their playoff game against the Blue Jackets was taken away – again because of interference – but it didn’t matter, as they scored another three times to advance to the Stanley Cup semis.

All season long, rain has interfered with play and practice alike.

### Baseball

TFHS 2 – Belchertown 1

Frontier 11 – TFHS 0

TFHS 4 – Hopkins 1

Much has been said in the local media about Turners Falls Baseball and the Sullivan System. Because of their level of competition, Blue would only have to win four games against D-4 opponents to make the playoffs. But Powertown wasn’t about to settle for a 4–16 season.

see SPORTS page A4

## Managing a Sandplain – and Expectations

By MIKE JACKSON

**LAKE PLEASANT** – “I’ve been working here at the Montague Plains for about twenty years now, and I never knew that you folks had a village association,” Brian Hawthorne told the 21 residents who had assembled at the bell tower just as the evening air cooled and the bugs settled in. “If I’d known before, I would have come and visited and talked long ago.”

Hawthorne, a habitat planning coordinator with the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife – MassWildlife, for those in the fast lane – was invited to address Monday’s meeting of the Lake Pleasant Village Association, over concerns about this season’s extensive logging and mowing on state land surrounding the village.

The state owns an extensive spread of land on and around the Plains, and has for years explained it is restoring habitat that will be managed by controlled burns. To explain why villagers are once again witnessing machinery logging and shredding the terrain, Hawthorne brought along

JACKSON PHOTO



MassWildlife habitat planner Brian Hawthorne met with the Lake Pleasant Village Association to discuss recent logging and shredding operations near the village.

a large colored map of Montague’s surficial geology, and started the story 14,000 years ago, when a melting glacier deposited a vast delta of sand, 100 to 300 feet deep, at the edge of prehistoric Lake Hitchcock.

When everything dried out, Hawthorne continued, the sandplain became a habitat to “plant communities that don’t grow anywhere else”

- scattered pitch pine, scrub oak, and blueberry. European arrivals complained about this “disastrous place,” but eventually considered it property, dug irrigation ditches, plowed much of the surface life into a thin layer of topsoil, and attempted to farm corn, hay, and strawberries.

That failed, and a few more see MANAGING page A6

## Rolling Hills and Fellow Travelers

By MIKE JACKSON

**WENDELL** – “This is actually my first non-Vermont event,” Rick Winston told the audience who had gathered at the old town hall on a foggy Friday night to hear him present on his recent work of history, *Red Scare in the Green Mountains: Vermont in the McCarthy Era, 1946-1960* (2018, Rootstock Publishing).

Winston was not too far afield. The potluck and talk was co-sponsored by the Wendell Free Library and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution, a local multi-issue organization that evolved out of local efforts in support of Vermont senator Bernie Sanders’ 2016 presidential campaign.

“Now, Vermont has such a reputation of being one of the most progressive states,” Winston said. But it wasn’t always that way. When he first moved to central Vermont in 1970, he said, his only conception was that

it was a “very Republican state,” even though three-term governor (and Turners Falls native) Phil Hoff had cracked the party’s monolithic rule in 1963.

Winston himself was what was once known on the Left as a “red diaper baby.” His parents were both second-generation Jewish immigrants, and schoolteachers in New York City. “Like many of their generation, coming of political age during the Depression, they were drawn into union organizing, drawn into left organizing, and, like many of their fellow teachers, drawn into the Communist Party,” he said. “The political landscape in the late ‘30s was very different.”

But American history took a sharp turn as the end of the second World War introduced a new foreign rival. “You go on marches, you sign petitions,” Winston continued, “and 15 years later, you’re called before a committee: ‘did you join this organization, did you sign

see RED SCARE page A5

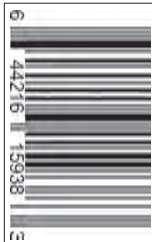


HOITT PHOTO

Power and control: Jade Tyler delivers again as Powertown tames the Pioneer Panthers with a 12-0 win at Turners Falls High School.

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# The Montague Reporter

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August 2002

## Two Years On

By MIKE JACKSON

By tradition, lead editorials in newspapers are unsigned. Since November 2014, as the *Reporter's* most full-time editor, I've written most, but not all, of them.

On September 22, 2016, I decided to sign one. "Watching conversations about the Turners Falls Indian blow up this week," I wrote, "I decided I should include my byline on this editorial, because I want to be clear about who's saying this – it's a conversation I think people should enter after acknowledging where they're coming from."

(I'm from out of town.)  
"I don't think my own opinion is that relevant: this doesn't affect me," I went on to write. "But just for the record, I don't think the mascot is a great look."

That was really about it. But ever since I first got involved at the paper, I'd thought about the likelihood the mascot issue would come up again, and dreaded covering it. When it did, by my bad luck, our school committee reporter had recently stepped down, and I was filling in on that beat myself. (I still am. Anyone interested?)

I watched as a fair number of people my own age who *were* from town and didn't feel attached to the mascot kept their mouths shut, and I didn't blame them for it. It was a conflict that allowed a deep, longstanding sense of loss to be expressed, more safely, as anger.

I don't have a family history here to help me understand its past, but I've spent countless hours reading the *Turners Falls Reporter* (1872-1922) and subsequent *Greenfield Recorder* and *Recorder-Gazette* to glean a rough sense of what's under our feet.

Turners Falls was a truly wild place when it was first built, a company town resupplied every decade with immigrant laborers of a new nationality. It was a site of brutality, celebration, and an overarching civic intensity: dozens upon dozens of clubs and societies, self-organizing and recombining, dining and voting and marching in parades, hosting raucous balls and pooling resources for mutual aid.

Very little power was ever gained on the factory floor. There were strikes, but they often lost: it was too easy for the owners to find replacement workers. By the early twentieth century, the families that had held on did so through their civic embeddedness: a growing, shared sense of Americanism; the life of churches and temperance clubs and reading groups; military service and shopkeeping and higher education; Scouting and homeownership and tinkering in garages.

Turners grew up onto the Hill, a whole little civilization, powered by

local hydroelectricity – still the jealous younger brother of Greenfield, but with real reason for pride. This was also the era of the "Indian." The two centuries that had passed between the English genocide and the establishment of the industrial village made his a conveniently remote, ethnically neutral identity, signifying a spirit of defiance, but also of belonging to the local land.

When it was suggested in 2016 that the high school should pick a more modern and appropriate team name, many defenders of the "Indians" tradition adopted the rhetoric of erasure. What ensued was a real mess, dominated by two camps of mostly white activists who accused each other of ignorance, albeit in different ways, and of overstating the right to speak for Native people. The national backdrop was Standing Rock – and then it was the Trump election, which shocked many of our local liberals. (It was no coincidence that in the course of months, an initial proposal to stage educational dialogues and then perhaps invite the public to vote was scrapped in favor of injunction in defense of civil rights.)

But what was never discussed was the local context that had birthed the "Turners Falls Indians." Two of the most important clubs in Montague, after all, were the "Samosett tribe" of the Improved Order of Red Men, headquartered at a hall in Millers Falls, and in the warmer months, the Independent Order of Scalpers, with their clubhouse at Lake Pleasant. In fact, "High Chief" Charles Bickford, who co-founded the Scalpers in 1893, was the director of the Turners Falls High School band in the 1930s.

The economic foundations of Turners Falls and Millers Falls were ripped out a generation ago, and with each passing year, there are fewer and fewer people in town with a direct connection to what this place once was. Montague's sole strategy to avoid fiscal ruin has been to gradually welcome strangers like me – thousands of us, by now – to take the place of those who have died or moved away.

When another job brought me to Turners Falls ten years ago, I was amazed at how friendly everyone was, despite everyone's differences, thrown together by circumstance amid fraying material resources.

It doesn't feel like that now. And the problem is not the genuine disagreement and political struggle, or the end to playing Indian: it's that in 2019, we lack the shared civic institutions within which we can learn to move on, to apologize, and to work anew toward a common interest.

(The schools are the closest thing we have to that, and the strain they bear is becoming obvious.)

So, *everyone*: What now?



Nick Cogswell describes the function of some of the dials and valves on the 2016 ladder truck obtained last year by the Montague Fire Department.

He has been with the department for seven years, three as a full-time firefighter and four on call. Firefighting runs in the family: both his brother and father have served.

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Town Meeting: My Two Cents

By RICHARD WIDMER

**MONTAGUE** – By the end of our seven-hour annual town meeting, I needed a drink. And I wasn't alone. With 24 million dollars on the table, there was a lot at stake. And not everyone was going to get his or her way.

I joined the finance committee two years ago, in the wake of the 2016 presidential election, to take an active role in local government, and to learn more about our town. At the time, I did not realize how special the view would be from the dais upon the annual town meeting stage.

I would like to share some highlights and gratitude.

This year's meeting began with a bang, when the police budget was challenged by a group of citizens who wanted to defund the position of school resource officer. It takes a great amount of courage for a person of color to stand up to a police department and school system and ask that their needs be met. The issue of race and institutional racism is hurting our schools. The inability of our community to stand with people of color is telling. We are afraid of the worst. We are afraid of ourselves. So the SRO officer remains in place.

Town meeting member David Detmold flagged the police budget to inquire about the purchase of a new cruiser, and seemed visibly

surprised to learn that the town had accepted the recommendation of the energy committee and decided to purchase a hybrid vehicle. Credit for this decision can be shared between the finance committee and police chief Williams.

Then it was my turn for public humiliation. I flagged the Parks & Rec budget to ask town meeting for an increase of \$4,000 for the purchase of two soccer goals. It blows my mind to realize that we don't have a single set of real soccer goals in Montague. We have pipes with tattered nets – the poorest of excuses. (It is no wonder that there is no varsity soccer at TFHS, and it is no wonder that we lose students to other school districts who value this sport.)

I was surprised when a colleague on the finance committee went out of her way to speak against my request. She criticized the appropriateness of my method and mocked my language. I had never heard anyone speak like this on the open floor. Then Mr. Detmold also spoke against this method of request at town meeting. Then the entire room voted down my request.

There was never a clearer sign that my values do not align with this place.

If we are spending \$24 million and not willing to purchase two soccer goals because the method of request might set a precedent where people would introduce new ideas

at future town meetings – I ask you whether you are a proponent of change or an obstacle.

It suggests that one of the reasons our town struggles is that we are slow to adapt.

Four other issues dominated this year's town meeting: school assessments, the oversight of discretionary funds, the purchase of electronic ballot boxes to replace our antique wooden ones, and the disarmament of Montague's nuclear arsenal.

Franklin County Technical School superintendent Richard Martin flaunted enrollment increases and new programs. Gill-Montague Regional School District superintendent Michael Sullivan glazed over the challenges facing TFHS and shared information about five new hires. One former graduate asked a series of probing questions, looking for answers about the high school's decline. With regionalization on the table, the future of our high school is in question.

Next came police, DPW, WPCF and information technology budgets, which all utilize discretionary accounts to make unplanned, capital purchases. On the finance committee, we have discussed this inside and out. A vocal group of concerned citizens wants clear oversight of these accounts.

The best discussion of the day revolved around discussion of our  
see **GUEST ED** next page

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

Just wanted to remind everybody to send your mom a Mother’s Day card. **Happy Mother’s Day** to all our readers who are moms. It’s a tough job!

Mark your Calendars: The **Turners Falls Fishway** is open! Don’t miss the annual spring migration of fish. The Fishway, located at 15 First Street, will be open this Saturday, May 11 through Sunday, June 16. Hours are Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and admission is free.

David Brule will present Archaeology and Healing at the Falls – **Indigenous Life, Loss, and Renewal at Peskeompskut** on Saturday, May 11 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at The Turners Falls Branch of Greenfield Savings Bank.

This program is an update of the National Park Service Battlefield Archaeology Study of the 1676 massacre involving the close collaboration between the four tribes and five towns. Highlights include the events that have been happening to bring people together, and the healing that is flowing from these gatherings. All are invited. History provided by David and light refreshments courtesy of GSB.

Quabbin Harvest Food Co-op in Orange will host a book-signing and author conversation on Saturday, May 11 with Jon Steinman, author of the recently-released book *Grocery Story: The Promise of Food Co-ops in the Age of Grocery Giants*. The book makes a case that locally-owned, member-controlled

food stores are crucial for building more sustainable food economies and enhancing low-income residents’ ability to access healthy food.

Steinman will be in the store between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., and will make short presentations about the book at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Quabbin Harvest is celebrating its tenth anniversary in 2019, with five years in its current location at 12 North Main Street, Orange. The co-op is open six days a week and emphasizes locally-sourced products including fruit and vegetables, milk, cheese, honey, meat, coffee, ice cream, and artisanal items. The co-op accepts SNAP/EBT. For more information, visit [www.quabbinharvest.coop](http://www.quabbinharvest.coop).

The Brick House Community Resource Center is hosting a **Kickball for Kicks** fundraiser at Unity Park this Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. Activities include kickball, field games, a barbecue, and more. There is a suggested donation of \$20, but no one will be turned away.

They are raising money for their “Kicks Fund,” providing local youth with access to new, safe shoes for all seasons. If you can’t attend but would like to donate, go to [www.mightycause.com/story/82pu7g](http://www.mightycause.com/story/82pu7g).

On May 11 from 1 to 2 p.m., Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary presents **The Wonderful World of Birds**. Join Mass Audubon’s Naturalist Laura Beltran to learn about the wonder of birds through hands-on activities. Observe different feathers, sing like birds, and explore different species. Meet in the Great Hall at the Great Falls Discovery

Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls. For families and all ages. Sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

**Great Falls Books Through Bars** meets for our monthly volunteer day at La Mariposa, 111 Avenue A in Turners Falls, from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday. We will be reading letters and sending free donated books to prisoners all over the country. We can always use extra brown grocery bags and packing tape, or if you have any extra almanacs, thesauruses (thesauri?), or books by James Patterson we would love to take them off your hands.

Later in the evening, we will be teaming up with Western Mass Prison Abolition Network for a fundraiser at The Root Cellar, 10 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a potluck meal. Performances begin at 7 p.m. There is a suggested donation of \$5 to \$50, but no one will be turned away. For more information check [www.facebook.com/GreatFalls-BooksThroughBars/](http://www.facebook.com/GreatFalls-BooksThroughBars/).

On Wednesday, May 15 from 2 to 3 p.m. Lorraine York-Edberg, a certified SHINE counselor from LifePath, will answer questions about **retirement, Medicare, and more** at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls. There will be time for questions after Lorraine’s presentation. The program is free, and no reservations are required. Handouts and light refreshments will be available.

Beth Eisenberg, a Training Coordinator for Western MA Medicare for All and retired social worker, will be leading the workshop **Healthcare is a Human Right: Effective Advocacy for Single Payer** in Massachusetts on Thursday, May 16 from 6 to 8 p.m. This workshop meets at 170 Main Street, Greenfield.

Beth will provide an overview of single payer health care (sometimes called “Medicare for All”). The workshop will also examine

the main arguments against Single Payer, the ideology that drives that opposition, and ways to respond. Finally, participants will learn about the current Medicare for All bill proposed in Massachusetts and how to join the grassroots movement for single payer in our state. Register at [www.truthschool.org](http://www.truthschool.org).

The 19<sup>th</sup> Annual **Youth Peacemaker Awards** will be given by the Interfaith Council of Franklin County and the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice on Thursday, May 16 at 7 p.m. Help them honor the Peacemakers at Greenfield Community College, 1 College Drive, Greenfield in the Dining Commons. Refreshments will be provided.

Looking ahead...

The **Gill Cemetery Commission** is looking for volunteers to help clean up downed trees in a wooded area on Saturday, May 18. Some opportunity for wood salvage for volunteers. Contact Joan Pillsbury at (413) 863-4634 for information.

The exhibit *Vital. Vibrant. Visible: Local Indigenous Identity through Portraiture* is currently on display at the Great Falls Discovery Center through May 31. Meet curator Rhonda Anderson, Inupiaq-Athabaskan, and photographer Sara K. Lyons, who worked together to reveal contemporary Indigenous community members through portraiture, at a reception from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 18.

Stay for the **Annual Day of Remembrance: The 1676 Massacre of Natives at the Falls** from 1 to 3:30 p.m. This commemoration, sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, observes the 343rd anniversary of that tragedy. Meet in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, rain or shine. Activities include a commemorative circle and sharing. All are welcome.

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

## Saturday, May 18: Rid Yourself of Bulky Waste

The Franklin County Solid Waste District is holding a “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day on Saturday, May 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. The drop-off sites are Mohawk Trail Regional School, the Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and the Whately Transfer Station.

Residents from any District town may bring items such as tires, appliances, metal, furniture, mattresses, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, and propane tanks. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in. A complete list of prices for common items is at [www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html](http://www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/cleansweep.html), and available at the District office at 50 Miles Street in Greenfield. The list has also been provided to town halls and transfer stations.

Electronics are accepted, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their town transfer stations or the Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment free of charge. Various charities accept donations

of working electronics.

Textiles and books are accepted for free. Textiles must be contained inside a sturdy plastic bag. Acceptable items include clean and dry clothing, shoes, purses, curtains, pillows, comforters, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals.

Bulky rigid plastics will be collected at \$5 per load. Plastic larger than 2.5 gallons are too bulky to be processed with regular recycling, but some can be collected separately and recycled. Acceptable items: 5-gallon pails, lawn furniture, trash barrels, recycling bins, laundry baskets, storage totes, and milk crates. Unacceptable items include toys, hangers, shelving and kiddie pools, plant pots, Styrofoam, PVC tubing, vinyl siding, fencing, toolboxes, hoses, chemical containers, bags, and films. Items must be free of batteries, soil, rocks, and liquids.

All Franklin County residents except those in Ashfield, Greenfield, Leyden, Monroe, and Shutesbury are in the District.

For more information, contact [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org) or (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1 (800) 439-2370 (TTY/TDD).



[www.MontagueMA.net](http://www.MontagueMA.net)  
local gossip, news & business listings

### RENTAL WANTED

Hello! My name is Ivy Olcott. I grew up in Shutesbury and am interested in moving back to the area with my partner, Nate. We are looking for a single family home to rent (move-in date on or around August 1). We are both very clean and responsible young professionals! We are happy to provide rental history or anything else you may need to consider us. Neither of us smokes, and we have no pets. My email is [G.IvyOlcott@gmail.com](mailto:G.IvyOlcott@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for taking the time to help us relocate!

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### Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week

Week ending May 3:

#### Grade 6

Dante Fish

#### Grade 7

Logan Johnson

#### Grade 8

Sean Matakanski

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Aaliya Costantino

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Week of May 13  
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

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**SPORTS** from page A1

They battled in every game, and even though they got their uniforms a little muddy, currently sit at 6-4 with no thought of backing into the playoffs.

On April 30 they hosted the Belchertown Orioles, and their string of one-run decisions continued, with Turners taking this one 2-1 in eight innings. Ryan Campbell got a single in the first inning, and advanced on a Kyle Dodge 5-3 out. Jon Fritz knocked Dodge home with an RBI single, and Powertown would hold onto a slim 1-0 lead until the seventh, when a solo Oriole homer tied it up and sent the game into extra innings.

After blanking Belchertown in the top of the eighth, Turners set the table for Fritz. Jake Dodge led off with a walk, Jaden Whiting followed with a single, and Campbell walked to load the bases. Fritz hit a line drive to left, sending Jake home and securing the win for Powertown.

Whiting went 3 for 3 at the plate, and Fritz notched both RBIs. Campbell, Kyle Dodge, and Jake Labelle also got Powertown hits. Jake Dodge pitched seven innings and allowed four hits, while Kyle Dodge, who came in in the eighth and let up one hit, recorded the win.

On May 2, the Boy Thunder traveled to South Deerfield to play the Frontier Red Hawks. Someone from under an umbrella said, “April was almost the rainiest on record, twice as much rain as usual.” Someone else added, “Wait until you see today and tomorrow.” The game went on as scheduled, but the Blue Bats never got going.

The first inning was all hits and walks. Every Turners batter got a piece of the ball, but each hit shot directly to a Hawk. For the Birds, multiple walks separated by two hits led to a 6-run first inning. This formula was repeated for the next two innings, as Red scored 3 in the second and 2 in the third. And then it stopped – not the rain, but the scoring. For the rest of the game, both teams came up empty, and Frontier held onto their 11-0 lead. In this one, only Fritz and Cayden Lehtomaki managed to get hits for Blue.

The skies finally cleared on Monday as Turners hosted the 6-2 Hopkins Golden Eagles. My first thought when I saw Thea Hanscom warming up was, “Turners could sure use an athlete like her.” Hanscom has been playing varsity boys’ baseball for three years now, and she recently switched to pitcher. The Boys in Blue didn’t take it easy on her just ‘cause she’s a girl, and she certainly didn’t back down, allowing only two earned runs, both in the first inning.

In that inning, Whiting led off with a single, and stole second. Campbell reached on a single and sent him to third, then stole second, putting two men in scoring position. Kyle Dodge knocked Whiting home, Campbell scored on a Fritz sac fly, and just like that, Blue was up 2-0.

In the third, Campbell made an incredible catch to keep Gold off the scoreboard. In the fourth, Jake Dodge reached second on a two-out throwing error. Whiting got a base hit, and because there were two outs, Dodge didn’t stop, sprinting all the way home. The throw came home and Whiting took second. Then Campbell followed suit with his own RBI, reaching second as the throw came home, giving Blue a 4-0 lead.

In the fifth, Hopkins made some noise. With two outs, they hit a dinger over the right field fence. They followed with two more hits, but both runners got stranded and Hopkins had to settle for a single run.



Turners’ Aly Murphy is safe at second as Pioneer’s Hailey Pelletier goes for the tag.

The Birds went down 1-2-3 in the last two innings, and Powertown eked out the win 4-1.

Whiting and Campbell each got three hits against Hopkins, and Kyle Dodge, Lehtomaki, and Jake Dodge all had one. Jake Dodge pitched the complete seven innings.

**Softball**  
*TFHS 7 – Mahar 0*  
*TFHS 12 – Mohawk 2*  
*TFHS 12 – Pioneer 0*

The Turners softball team methodically dispatched three opponents this week outscoring their foes by a combined 29-2.

On April 29, they defeated the Mahar Senators 7-0 in Orange. There has been an ongoing discussion about the home-run capabilities of this year’s lineup. The scuttlebutt in the stands is that this could be the year that every player hits one out. I seem to remember that seven girls hit homers a few years back, but I’ve never witnessed nine.

The reason I mention home runs is because sophomore Juliana Rode knocked one out against Mahar. Rode is the sixth girl to park one this year, and two others on the team have hit home runs in the past. (Home runs are not the be-all and end-all, but they sure do help.)

The Mahar game was an antipathy of Powertown softball as their high-powered offense didn’t score a single run until the fifth inning. But the Turners D also kept the Pols off the scoreboard. Turners finally broke the goose egg in the fifth and added two more in the sixth, and the Blue Machine finally got into gear in the seventh, piling on four additional insurance runs.

Tyler tempered the slow output by holding the Senate to two hits and no runs, fanning 12 batters, and giving up three walks. At the plate, Rode went 2-4 with a home run, Cassidhe Wozniak 2-3 with a double, and Tyler also had two hits and a RBI.

The Mohawk Warriors entered the Thunderdome on May 1. Powertown scored early and often, but never managed to mercy them: they scored 10 runs in the first three innings, and added one run each in the fifth and sixth. In the sixth, the Warriors drew blood and narrowed the margin to 12-2.

Defensively, it wasn’t Blue’s best game, as they committed two errors, but Tyler struck out eight, allowed only two hits, and gave no walks. Offensively, Wozniak and Hailey Bogusz ripped doubles, Catie Reynolds blasted a home run, Olivia Whitter scored two RBIs, and Eliza Johnson got two hits.

Then last Friday there was a pitcher’s duel in the Thunderdome.

(I want to give a shoutout to Wayne Garcia. I left my glasses at the Frontier game. I went back that evening and again on Saturday, but

I couldn’t find them. Then at the Pioneer game, Wayne handed them to me. Thanks Wayne!)

The Pioneer game was a pitcher’s duel, even though the final score didn’t reflect it. The Panther pitcher was whipping the ball, and the Turners girls had trouble hitting off her. Many of the ones they hit were late-swing fouls. As a result, Pioneer was forced to pitch 10 or more balls to several batters.

When Turners did hit it fair, the ball was scorched, with Aly Murphy and Tyler clocking doubles.

The Panthers’ speed in the circle had some other unforeseen consequences. Pioneer’s catcher was crowding the plate, giving her little time to react. This resulted in several wild pitches and passed balls, and Turners scored four runs off 1-2 errors. In the third, the bat hit the Pioneer’s catcher’s mitt, and Turners got a much needed base runner. This led to three additional Blue runs, and after three complete, the Lady Thunder were ahead 11-0.

Turners scored 12 runs off 12 hits with Taylor Murphy, Lexi Lacey, Tyler and Aly Murphy getting two apiece. Tyler pitched a perfect game. But it wasn’t all her, of course: her teammates made some wonderful catches to keep the Cats off the base paths. She retired every batter and matched the Panther pitcher with seven strikeouts.

On Tuesday, May 7, Powertown was headed up to Athol, and on Thursday they travel to Greenfield to face their rivals, the Green Wave Monsters.

**Girls Tennis**  
*PVC 5 – TFHS 0*  
*St. Mary 4 – TFHS 1*

The girls’ tennis team struggled this week, dropping two matches by a combined 9-1 tally.

But don’t tell them they’re struggling. In fact, their only complaint is that it’s been so rainy that they haven’t been able to practice.

Lady Blue traveled down to Springfield last Wednesday to play the Pioneer Valley Christians. Powertown held their own in the first sets, but faded in the second ones. Haley Green and Izzy Farrick won four singles games in their first sets but dropped the second sets 6-1; Ceci Wood and Emily Dennison took three doubles in the first set and were shut out 6-0 in the second. Steph Peterson played evenly in third single, dropping her match 6-3, 6-3, and on the second doubles court, Mercedes Bailey and Maria Labelle completed the shutout, losing theirs 6-0, 6-2.

Then on Monday, the St. Mary Saints came to Turners and defeated Powertown 4-1. The first singles Saint blanked Green 6-0, 6-0. On the second court, Farrick lost 6-2, 6-4, but she was never out of it: even when she was behind 40-love, she

frequently forced deuce. The Saints swept doubles action, beating Wood/Dennison 6-3, 6-0 in firsts and Bailey/Labelle in seconds.

After all the other matches had wrapped up, Peterson was involved in a marathon battle. She split the first two sets 6-3, 2-6, and the third set was anybody’s as neither girl gave up. They both could have – the match was already decided, and everyone was ready to go home. Some of the longest rallies occurred in this set, and in the end, Peterson dug deep, and took it 6-3.

**Boys Tennis**  
*TFHS 5 – Sabis 0*  
*TFHS 3 – Westfield 2*

The undefeated Turners Falls boys’ tennis team can rest – at least until next Thursday, when they play their super-rivals, the Green Wavers of Greenfield. The two home matches they played this week were their last for 15 days. On April 30 they swept away the Sabis Bull Dogs, then outfought Westfield on May 1.

The Sabis match was so one-sided that I turned my lawn chair around and watched the middle school softball team. Brian Poirier, Will Turn, and Brody Trott dominated on the singles courts, winning by a combined score of 32-2. Doubles was a little more competitive, and the matches lasted a little longer: Joe Kochan and Michael Boyle won first 6-2, 6-1, while Corin Wisniewski and Keefe won second 6-1, 6-4.

The team faced their biggest challenge so far when they went racket to racket against the Westfield Bombers. The Bombardiers forfeited second doubles, so Blue only needed to go 2-2 to get the victory. That, however, was easier said than done.

In first singles, Brian Poirier eked out four wins in the first set, but the Top Bomber went on took the last two to win the set 6-4 and to take the lead, 1-0. The second set was all Poirier as he took it 6-1. The third was a 10-must super-tiebreaker, and neither player would cede a point.

After 18 points and numerous rallies, it was tied up at 9-9. But the Westfield player came out on top, outlasting Poirier 11-9 to score the win. According to coach Steven Toulountzis, Brian displayed some mature good sportsmanship in the final tiebreaker: sometimes, even losses have their rewards.

Third singles lasted even longer as Brody Trott was enmeshed in his own super-tiebreaker. All along, Will Turn was able to cheer on his teammates; he swept second singles 6-1, 6-0 and had time to pack his racket while the other players were still battling. Meanwhile, Trott was giving his opponent all he could handle.

The first set was a tie until Westie pulled it out and won the extended set 7-6. Brody endured a great effort from his opponent to take the second set 6-4, and the third set went to a super-tiebreaker. As on the first court, this match was as close as could be, and after 20 points it was an even 10-10. Also as in first singles, West nosed ahead, eventually winning 12-10.

But by then, it was all decided: Kochan and Gaulin had defeated their doubles opponents almost as quickly as Turn had defeated his – 6-2, 6-1 – and Powertown beat Westfield 3-2.

The win itself isn’t that important: the Boys Thunder fought a D-1 team tooth and nail, and in the process kept their sense of fair play and good sportsmanship.

Next week: Track, field – and Greenfield.



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RED SCARE from page A1

this petition, did you go on this march?” The question arose: do they want to inform on their fellow comrades?”

As a teenager in the 1960s, Winston said his parents were forthcoming with him about their past, and he began to realize that many of the other adults they did business with – their plumber, their insurance agent – were old Party friends, barred from work as educators.

Later, he would come to wonder how the political purges that had changed his parents’ life had played out in his newly adopted state. Winston found like-minded researchers and helped convene a 1988 conference on “Vermont in the McCarthy Era,” and he has spent the next three decades slowly fleshing out the definitive book on the topic.

Despite the appearance of Senator Joseph McCarthy in the book’s title, Winston argued that McCarthy had only “jumped on a bandwagon that was already in motion”: a pervasive nationwide trend of red-baiting that began in 1947 with the blacklisting of the Hollywood 10, and had developed on its own before the senator kicked off his anti-Communist crusade in 1950.

In Vermont, it began as early as 1946, when incumbent US representative Charles Plumley, rumored to be embarrassing the state with drunkenness on the job, fended off a challenge from University of Vermont political science professor Andrew Nuquist by tying Nuquist to an alleged endorsement from the “Communist Party of Barre, Vermont.”

“Not to say that there weren’t Communists in Barre, because it was an old labor town,” Winston said, “but the story could never be verified, and before you know it, Nuquist was having to be on the defensive for the entire final month of his campaign.”

Vermonters who supported the “rather quixotic” 1948 Progressive Party presidential campaign of Henry Wallace also found themselves on the receiving end. “The *Burlington Free Press* and the *Burlington Daily News* really went after the people on the Wallace campaign,” Winston told the audience. “They were seriously red-baited.”

These included Luther McNair, who lost his job as dean of students at Lyndon State College after a string of editorials called for his ouster, and the illustrator Rockwell Kent, who “had a farm across Lake Champlain in upstate New York” and gave a speech for the candidate at UVM and fell under heavy attack in the press.

The Chinese revolution of 1949 heated up paranoia about Communism’s spread, and in 1950 Bethel, Vermont became the site of a strange saga. Prominent Asian studies scholar Owen Lattimore, who had come under federal scrutiny for his travels in China before the revolution, owned a farm in town, where he was ironically hoping to evacuate Mongolian friends to safety from the revolution. McCarthy targeted Lattimore as a Red in the State Department, and though the Senate Foreign Relations Committee cleared him of those charges, (partly because he was never *in* the State Department), he put his Bethel property on the market.

By a stroke of bad luck, the only prospective buyers turned out, too late, to be actual Party members – labor organizers fleeing Alabama – and a local “red hunter” named Lucille Miller ran to the papers with



Winston has been researching the red scare’s impact on the state since the 1980s.

a story that the entire sale was a Communist money-laundering plot. Investigations by the *Rutland Herald* and *White River Valley Herald* eventually determined there wasn’t anything to the scandal.

As McCarthy’s campaign dominated the national stage, Rep. Plumley and Governor Lee Emerson took it to their home state. Their most prominent victim was Alex Novikoff, a talented biology professor at UVM who had been a Party member while studying at Brooklyn College in the ‘30s, and who took the Fifth Amendment in hearings before the Senate Judiciary committee.

After one committee at the university cleared Prof. Novikoff of any wrongdoing, the governor threatened to defund the school, and a second, larger committee was formed to re-investigate and fire him. Novikoff spent the rest of his career at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, and was granted an apology and honorary degree by UVM in 1983.

Perhaps the only character in Winston’s Vermont history openly sympathetic to Communism was William Hinton, whose mother, Carmelita Hinton, founded the Putney School. William went to Cornell, and then worked in China with the US Department of War Information, and later with the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Agency, as a tractor technician in a rural village.

Hinton would later write about his experiences during the revolution in the bestseller *Fanshen: A Documentary of Revolution in a Chinese Village*, but when he actually tried to return home to Putney in 1953, officials stopped him at the Canadian border and seized over 1,000 pages of his notes. Blacklisted, he worked for years as a farmer on his family’s land.

But it was another Vermonter, the Republican senator Ralph Flanders, who spearheaded the formal 1954 censure of McCarthy that led to his fall from power.

Winston explained that the anti-Communism of the 1950s played out in different ways throughout the country, and suggested that Vermont’s rolling hills, lack of heavy industry, and Quebecois influence led to a somewhat more tempered and libertarian political strain than, say, neighboring New Hampshire.

“The focus is more on key individuals,” Anna Gyorgy of FCCPR observed of Winston’s presentation. “Some of our labor folks said they read the book, and missed discussion of labor unions, and more popular [movements].”

“I’m aware that that is a gap in the book,” Winston agreed. He reflected that a former United Electrical Workers organizer who spoke at the 1988 conference had actually

been active at a tap and die plant owned by Senator Flanders himself, and “had nothing but good things to say” about the collaborative approach Flanders took as a boss.

“One story that’s a thread in my book is the strength of small-town newspapers,” Winston told the audience. “There were all kinds of shades in the Republican Party in Vermont.” Television wasn’t introduced to the state until 1956, so most of the push and pull of the postwar red scare played out in the editorial pages.

One, the *Swanton Courier*, stood out for a number of reasons. Editor Bernard O’Shea and his wife, Winston said, were “impassioned Quakers,” and O’Shea was “the only newspaper editor who defended Professor Novikoff.”

In 1958, O’Shea became the campaign manager for William Meyer, a left-wing forester who was elected to represent Vermont for one term in the US House, the first Democrat to represent Vermont in 104 years. After a string of unsuccessful Senate runs throughout the ‘60s, Meyer co-founded the Liberty Union Party in 1970, which would in turn become the springboard for a young activist living in the Northeast Kingdom named Bernie Sanders.

“If you get Bernie in a quiet moment, and ask him who his political mentors were, he’s sure to mention Bill Meyer as one of them,” Winston told his listeners.

“To a certain extent, local newspapers are a product of the community that they’re in,” said Jonathan von Ranson.

“Some of these papers were pretty tiny,” Winston replied, citing the *White River Valley Herald* for its role in “tamping down the hysteria of the ‘50s.”

“When Senator Flanders was attacking McCarthy,” he added, “Bernard O’Shea of the *Swanton Courier* devoted an entire page to reprinting 15 editorials, from all over Vermont, all in support of Flanders.”

Winston spoke of a trip he took to the Swanton Historical Society, where he was able to spend time with the era’s entire print run of the *Courier*, donated to them by O’Shea upon his retirement.

“It looked just like any small-town newspaper,” said Winston: “4-H club met; new construction; here’s what the selectboard said; here are the sports results – except, you get to the editorial page, and here are these rip-roaring editorials, and reprints from the *Catholic Worker* and the magazine of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, quoting War Resisters League editorials: ‘Today is the sixth anniversary of the bombing of Nagasaki, and let’s hear what it’s like for some of the survivors...’ Just amazing.”



WENDELL from page A1

Crown Victoria, and now it, too, is wearing, and the New Salem board members said it will need replacement soon. It sits idling at calls with its red lights flashing. Wendell selectboard chair Dan Keller agreed that Wendell should start to think about the Tahoe’s replacement. The New Salem board members suggested a hybrid as a fuel-saving effort.

The two towns share Cuneo’s salary, and the fact that he uses the chief’s vehicle for personal trips is offset by the fact that his salary is far less than that of other Franklin County fire chiefs. Fin com member Doug Tanner said that police and fire chief responsibilities have become more complex and demanding.

Wendell’s police chief, Ed Chase, is approaching retirement, and Wendell has formed a succession committee for the process of finding his replacement. Chase has a salary, but it is low: he essentially works, and has worked for years, as a volunteer. Finding a willing successor will require Wendell to offer a larger salary, which leads to the thought of sharing a police chief. The logical town to share a police chief with Wendell is New Salem.

Keller said that recruitment for succession committee members from Wendell has been successful, and there will be a need for a grant-funded consultant, but the committee is not ready yet.

The largest single expense for both Wendell and New Salem is Swift River School. Neither fin com members nor selectboard members had criticism for the school, its budget, or the process through which that budget was set.

Principal Sullivan called Swift River “a small school with a big heart.” The towns share capital expenses evenly, and operating expenses in proportion to a rolling average of the number of students each town enrolls. Wendell’s numbers have been increasing, so its share of the budget has been, too. Swift River School gains 30 students through school choice, and receives \$5,000 a year for each of those students, but Sullivan said it costs \$12,000 to \$15,000 for each student’s education. Two students attend a charter school, at a cost of \$30,000.

Bartlett said the formula for Chapter 70 school aid favors richer communities in the east, in towns where transportation is less of an issue, and less of an expense. Tanner said he would like to have the state reimburse towns for some of the mandated special education expenses. If one special needs student costs a school system \$200,000, the state reimburses the district 70%, but if 20 special needs students each cost the district \$10,000, the state pays nothing.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) estimate for replacement of windows and exterior doors, repair of insulation, and new blinds at Swift River is \$1.26 million, instead of the \$2 million that was expected. Wendell and New Salem will pay for the work, and MSBA will repay the towns 76% of the costs. Work is scheduled to start at the end of the 2019-2020 school year, and be essentially completed before school starts in the fall of 2020.

Other Business

Robert Heller and Peter Golrick, the town’s IT consultant, met the board after the school representatives left. Golrick spoke first, saying he has had a challenging year, but is back and ready to work. “You want results, not excuses,” he said.

New email addresses for Wendell officials, dedicated for town business, will cost \$2 per month for 71 users when they are in place.

Heller reported that Chris Parker is also back in town, working on updating and improving the town website.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich relayed news that the town hall needs paint, and one of its windows is close to falling out. The estimate for painting the town hall the last time was \$11,000. Keller suggested getting Tom Chaisson to look at it and give an estimate. It might be simpler, and less expensive, to seal the window shut.

Milton Bergman has been mowing the town lawns with his own riding mower, towing a bank of regular push mowers, and has charged the town very little for the service. He has mowed as needed, not on a rigid schedule, and has worked without supervision. He will retire in June, and the selectboard is looking for someone who can replace him. They will put a request on the town’s email listserv.

Anna Gyorgy and Maggie Houghton are members of an informal group which is trying to establish a pollinator corridor through Wendell. Gyorgy suggested that mowing less often, and mowing higher, would make a big difference in the ability of native bees and other pollinators to reverse the trend of decreasing numbers. She said that the town septic mound could be allowed to grow into a wildflower meadow and be mowed once a year, or every two years, only enough to keep trees from getting established.

The person who was hired to clear paths with the town snowblower quit after two storms. It is not an easy job, requiring some shoveling as well, and the job’s schedule follows snowfalls, is irregular, but must be obeyed. No one has stepped forward to take that position.

Board members established a petty cash account for the town hall kitchen by authorizing a \$50 check to new kitchen coordinator Lori Mars.

The board of health asked for a multi-board meeting for discussion of “short term rentals,” such as AirBnB, which have been proliferating unregulated or without oversight.

Aldrich was given the task of forwarding to the highway commission, the police, and the fire department an offer by FRCOG to do traffic counts on Wendell roads. Those departments will choose where they want the counts taken.

Massachusetts Audubon offered Wendell two camperships for the summer of 2019, and the town got two essays on the importance of nature. Both applicants will receive a campership.

Court Dorsey, Jerry Barilla, and Garrett Sawyer, members of the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse, met the selectboard to see about transferring the parcel which the meetinghouse sits on to the Friends.

The selectboard had published a request for proposals (RFP) for just that purpose, but the Friends were undergoing a re-organization when the RFP came out, and did not respond. An RFP can be tailored as needed, and the town may reject any and all proposals. Wendell will re issue the RFP. Aldrich said it has to go into the central register for three weeks.

If the Friends own the building and land, they would be in a much better position to get grants, as needed to restore the building.



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MANAGING from page A1

recent accidents of history impeded development; the plowed-over sections sprouted dense stands of pitch pine. Today the Plains are “one of the largest remaining inland sand-plains left in the world,” still home to 47 species of rare, endangered, or threatened wildlife, such as the barrens buckmoth, rare reptiles, and “one bee that’s new to science.”

Pitch pine regenerates by wild-fire, a lesson Lake Pleasant learned the hard way in 1907, and again in 1955; at their increased density, the forests can roar with hundred-foot flames that jump fire breaks and scorch houses and temples alike.

The land was acquired by the state from power companies in the late 1990s. “The first plan that we did was a fire management plan,” said Hawthorne, who first got involved as a UMass student helping researchers study how the trees burn. “How far apart do the trees have to be to prevent that running ground fire?”

During the past two decades, the state has logged the tracts to thin out the pitch pine, especially toward the village, and has developed a management plan that involves reintroducing native plants, while keeping “the remnants of post-agricultural forest” in certain patches.

Hawthorne also spoke of a project to create five special “incubators” of habitat for the frosted elfin butterfly: walls of unthinned forest surrounding groves of scrub oak, blueberry, native bluestem, and lupine.

But though the long-term goal is to set fire to 100 to 200 acres of the thousand-acre terrain each year, the state did not at first have enough expert firefighters to accomplish this, Hawthorne said, and other species – white pine, red maple – are pushing up.

“There’s lots of places where white pine is a great tree, but it’s not what was naturally here,” Hawthorne continued, “and it doesn’t support those rare species.” So, he said, the state is “mowing” these small trees, shredding them in giant drums and leaving the biomass on the ground. “It’s been a 20-year process, and we have at least that long to go,” he said. “There are very few places in the world that have this kind of ecosystem, so there was no data on how you burn in scrub oak and blueberry plants.... It burns really hot, and you have to be careful.”

“There will probably be a few other places on the Plains that have grown too tall for us to use fire, where we may have to go in and mow at least one more time,” Hawthorne told the group. “But my goal is, eventually: this is a fire-maintained ecosystem.” He offered to include the Association on the department’s burn notification list, and warned that the most dangerous factor in controlled burns comes from rubbernecking drivers.

By now, Hawthorne explained, his department’s original “handful” of fire professionals has grown into a corps of 20 to 30. “Members of the local fire departments are also invited,” he added, though the Turners Falls career firefighters mostly show up in their off hours.

“I moved here 40 years ago,” Scott Nickerson told Hawthorne. “I love what you’re doing, and I think it looks great.”

Hawthorne said MassWildlife plans to initiate conversations this year with the Turners Falls Water Department, Eversource, and the town of Montague, “to ensure that any management they’re doing on their land is consistent with the

habitat needs of the rare endangered species.”

Bob Emond asked Hawthorne about the big piles of logs next to the village.

“That’s Eversource,” Hawthorne said. “We took all of ours away.... If you folks want to call Eversource and say, ‘Hey, why are you leaving this big pile of flammable pitch pine logs across from our village?’ – the more people they hear from, the more likely they are to do it.”

“I’ll send out the number to everybody,” said Village Association president Matt Atwood, to laughter.

“With this process going on, do you find you have a loss of species, of some wildlife?” another man asked. “Obviously, I don’t see deer being out there as much as there was.”

“There’s plenty of deer out there,” Hawthorne replied. “I don’t know if you hunt....”

“I do,” said Emond. “I see a lot of deer out there.”

Residents also complained of the brown, mown wasteland now facing the village across Lake Pleasant Road. “That area is going to be solid blueberry within a year,” Hawthorne promised.

“Only if you burn it,” George Shapiro argued. “It’s pretty well mulched now.”

“We’re not putting a lot of material onto the ground,” Hawthorne replied.

“It doesn’t look to me like substantial controlled burning is going to happen,” said Shapiro.

“It is, because we are now finally at the point where we have the capability of doing it – we’re finally getting to scale,” Hawthorne told Shapiro, adding that this Wednesday, the department planned to burn 35 acres, weather permitting.

“It seems to me that the habitat restoration project has wandered into mowing a fire-dependent ecosystem periodically,” Shapiro shot back.

“That’s a stopgap measure,” said Hawthorne. “Yes, that’s what is happening. If we’re not able to burn it before it gets too tall, then we have to mow it, because otherwise it’s not safe to burn.”

“Because it seems like you’ve been driven by fire management questions, you’ve actually created a larger fire management problem – all of this new growth, it’s a lot of biomass and it dries out quickly, and as you said, it burns really well.”

Hawthorne told Shapiro that five-year-old shrubs can put out 30-foot flames, “nothing compared to what we had before... We know how to fight that.”

In response to a question about timber sales, he said that when logging of larger trees goes out to bid, it puts money – “not a lot” – into state coffers, which is then being used to pay contractors to conduct mowing, at \$300 an acre.

Though no one asked, Hawthorne addressed a frequent criticism of forest management, which is that when trees can grow, die, and rot in place, they remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and in the long term store the carbon in the earth below them.

“If we try to sequester carbon in the trees,” Hawthorne said, “we would sequester it for some amount of years, and then a major wildfire would come along and burn it up and release it into the atmosphere.” But smaller prescribed burns, he said, tend to deposit more charcoal on the ground. “What we don’t know is how much of that is then stored in the soils,” he said, suggesting it would make a good research project.

“I understand that, in the process of making these changes, things temporarily may look messy,” Hawthorne said, apologetically. “When we first came in and thinned out those trees, it was loud, it was messy... Aesthetically, it wasn’t as nice, and right now, because we’ve just done that work, it’s brown, it doesn’t look like there’s anything growing there.

“But I promise you that is short-lived. Later this spring, you’re going to see all those areas greening up, you’re going to see blueberry,

and you’re going to hear birds that you haven’t heard before.”

“That’s not really true, though,” said Shapiro.

The two went back and forth again, this time with Shapiro citing a number of areas he saw as “pretty heavily mulched.”

“In areas where we had log landings,” Hawthorne conceded, “those areas are very thickly mulched... But most of the area is revegetating very nicely.” He offered to walk the land with Shapiro.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Center Sidewalk Survey, Market Move, Bee Corridor Approved

By JEFF SINGLETON

Sidewalks at a dangerous curve on Main Street in Montague Center will soon be upgraded as part of the town’s “complete streets” program. The curve, which is located between the Center’s common and the bridge which crosses the Sawmill River, has been a source of concern to local residents over the years. The sidewalk barely exists on the curve itself, there is an awkward intersection where two other streets feed into Main Street, and visibility for both pedestrians and cars is poor.

A number of residents from Montague Center attended Monday’s selectboard meeting, which included an “update” on the various Complete Streets projects on the town’s agenda. Complete Streets in Montague, primarily funded by a \$311,000 state Department of Transportation grant, consists of four “priority projects.” In addition to the Main Street project, the program will fund “transit improvements” at the intersection of Unity Street, High Street and Millers Falls Road; sidewalk improvements and a crosswalk on Avenue A and First Street; and a bike lane on Avenue A and Millers Falls Road.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said that the problem with the Main Street project, which envisions a new sidewalk on the southwest side of the street and two new crosswalks, is that there is not good land survey data of the area. “These are ancient ways that we’re dealing with,” he said. “The right of ways are unclear at best.” He said the engineers had recommended a new survey to find out “where the drainage is working, where the property lines are, what elevations we’re looking at...”

Ramsey also said the engineers, a firm called BL Companies, had recommended a trench drain where the sidewalk will pass by the state wildlife management land. However, Ramsey and department of public works (DPW) superintendent Tom Bergeron had surveyed the area and decided the town could solve the drainage problem when Main Street is repaved. Ramsey said this narrowed down the extra cost of the survey to \$8,500.

The board approved the expansion of the project’s scope to include the survey, pending Bergeron’s ability to get state approval for the use of state Chapter 90 highway funds to pay for it.

In response to a question from Montague Center resident Arthur Evans, Ramsey said the sidewalk would be designed to narrow the current road to reduce the speed of traffic. He also said an “alternate”

add-on to the project might extend the improvements on the northeast sidewalk an additional 200 or 300 feet toward the bridge.

As for the project on First Street and Avenue A, Ramsey said the engineers had proposed a pavement “connector” between the intersection of L and First streets and the bike path. He said this would be an “alternate” if funding allowed.

Regarding the project on Unity Street and Millers Falls Road, Ramsey said that a new automated crossing light would also set off a flashing light to the south at the intersection of Millers Falls Road and Turners Falls Road, where sight lines for traffic are poor. He called this unusual configuration “a challenge.”

With regard to bicycle improvements on Avenue A and Montague City Road, Ramsey said there would only be a bike lane between Seventh and Eleventh streets, with “occasional share-the-road markings” on the remainder of road from the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge to the General Pierce Bridge. Ramsey said the planners proposed to eliminate the diagonal parking in front of the library, which they feel endangers bicycles. The parallel parking was recently created at the request of the library.

Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz and Michael Nelson expressed concern that the stenciled bike share markings would quickly wash away with weather and plowing. “It will look great for three months, and then it will be gone,” said Nelson.

“I think of this as on an interim or trial basis, to see if we like it,” responded Ramsey.

Ramsey told the Reporter that the town is hoping to begin all four Complete Streets projects this fall, and complete them in the spring. The projects must be completed by June 30, 2020.

Other Business

While Ramsey was at the front table, the board renewed a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for assistance with Green Communities grants, and extended the Judd Wire Company’s lease for its parking lot, which is owned by the town.

The new manager of the Great Falls Farmers Market, Annabel Levine, came before the board to announce that the Wednesday market would be moving from its present location near the Discovery Center to Peskeompskut Park on June 5. She told the board she planned to set up the market on the

The Turners Falls Water Department semi-annual **water bills** were mailed May 1. Payment is due by June 1, 2019 to avoid a \$20 late charge. Business hours are Mondays through Fridays, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Payment can be made by mail, online at [www.turnersfallswater.com](http://www.turnersfallswater.com), or at the Water Department Office, 226 Millers Falls Road. A drop box is located to the left of the front door for payment after hours.

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**MONTAGUE** from pg A1

appointed town officials. Then came the town operating budget of \$9,828,399.

**School Police**

There was no debate over the size of the operating budget, which increased from last year by a relatively high \$422,381, or 4.5%. According to the “background” material handed to town meeting members, approximately \$259,019 of this increase is accounted for by the “initial borrowing” for the design of the new public works facility. The borrowing was approved by voters in a vote last spring when debt for the project was excluded from the Proposition 2.5 tax limit.

But Garry Earles of Precinct 4 put a “hold” on the police section of the budget for more discussion. Earles objected to the appropriation within that department’s budget for a school resource officer (SRO) at the Turners Falls High School. The resource officer has been justified by the school district as needed to improve security in the era of school shootings. But Earles argued that the position amounted to a poorly trained social worker.

Town counsel, who sits on stage next to the moderator, advised that town meeting could not eliminate the reserve officer position, but could reduce the budget by Montague’s share of the SRO. This led to a proposed amendment to reduce the police budget by \$53,822.

The hold on the police budget produced an outpouring of skepticism over the concept of the school resource officer. Mark Wisniewski of Precinct 2 argued that there was little data to prove that such officers make schools safer. Jean Hebden of Precinct 5 suggested that the money would be better spent on a community policing officer for downtown Turners Falls, and suggested that the police chief had “stonewalled” on that position.

A number of speakers argued that the resource officer did not have sufficient “diversity training” to deal with minority students fairly. Kathy Lynch of Precinct 1 said she was disturbed that town meeting members had only received a document justifying the reserve officer “this morning,” and had not had time to read it. Questions from parents about the position, she said, have been “avoided, half answered, and there’s been no accountability...”

Police chief Chris Williams responded by listing the various training sessions required of the resource officer, including in “equity,” “restorative justice,” and “cultural training.” The food service manager at the Gill-Montague district, Heather Holmes, said that the resource officer gave her staff a stronger sense of security during lunch periods, which she described as “a little overwhelming.”

School superintendent Michael Sullivan argued that there had been a great deal of discussion of the pros and cons of an SRO within the school district over the past three or four years, but perhaps less so this year. He said the main concerns about it seem to be coming “from the community,” and that the issue could be put on the school committee agenda at any time.

Sullivan sharply responded to Kathy Lynch, who had complained that she had never seen anyone “reverse all of their thinking based on a one-day [diversity] workshop.”

“I’m a little offended by you

saying his thinking needs to be reversed,” said Sullivan. “The implication is you have a stereotype about SROs...”

After some back and forth between Sullivan and Lynch, town moderator Chris Collins shut down this portion of the discussion. “Mr. Sullivan,” Collins said, “If you want to respond to the comment, you may, but I’m not going to have a back and forth between town meeting members.”

The amendment to reduce the budget to eliminate the SRO failed by a vote of 28 to 50.

**Moving the Goalposts**

Two other articles in the town budget caused some discussion. When the appropriation for a police cruiser was read, Precinct 5 representative David Detmold asked if any consideration had been given to purchasing a “hybrid,” partially electric, cruiser. Chief Williams said the appropriation, which had jumped by \$17,600 over the previous year, was for a hybrid.

Precinct 2 member Richard Widmer put a hold on the budget of the parks and recreation department because, he said, he had just realized the previous night that “there is not a single soccer goal in town.” “Last night my head exploded,” he told the meeting, and proposed an amendment to the Parks and Rec budget for an additional \$4,000 for two soccer goals.

Jen Audley of the finance committee said that while she supported the “sentiment” behind the amendment, she felt it created a “dangerous precedent,” encouraging members to propose budget additions “for things that make their head explode the night before town meeting.”

This sentiment was endorsed by Precinct 5 member David Detmold, who said he supported soccer, but that proposals like this should come from department heads and be vetted by the finance committee before a town meeting.

The proposed amendment was defeated, and the broader town operating budget passed by a strong majority.

With little debate the meeting passed the budget of the Water Pollution Control Facility, which showed a decline of 4.1%. Sewer rates have increased dramatically over the past few years, and this reduction is predicated on a smaller staff and a reduction in sludge disposal costs.

The municipal airport budget of \$53,078 also passed with a solid majority, even though a number of members questioned why a portion of the budget is still being supported by taxation.

Airport manager Bryan Camden pointed out that the publicly funded portion of the budget had been reduced from \$12,443 the previous year to \$6,094 in 2020. The budget now funds an intern, and has restored hours previously cut from the airport manager’s position.

Assessments for the Franklin County Technical School (\$1,085,007) and the Gill-Montague Regional School District (\$10,229,737) passed the meeting with little opposition. Several special articles for school district capital needs – \$35,344 for a truck; \$21,755 for columns at the front entrance to the Sheffield administration building; and \$76,670 for replacing sidewalks and curbing in front of Turners Falls High School – passed the meeting unanimously.

Two articles to fund contractors to calculate the value of properties owned by the largest taxpayer in town, FirstLight Power, passed unanimously.

**Accused Slush Funds**

This brought the meeting to Article 16, which appropriated the sum of \$20,000 “for the purpose of purchasing, equipping and making major repairs to Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) vehicles.”

Former building inspector David Jensen asked why the article was not targeted to specific purchases and placed within the budget itself.

“Good governance would put it under the jurisdiction of the finance committee,” he said.

Several speakers suggested that the appropriation, which would remain on the books after the fiscal year if unspent, resembled a “slush fund.” Precinct 1 member Ariel Elan said the phrase “slush fund” was insulting to department heads.

Finance committee member Mike Naughton said that the precedent for open-ended special articles began a few years ago with an appropriation for department of public works (DPW) vehicles, and had proliferated to other departments since then.

The appropriation for the WPCF passed by a majority, but several articles later, there appeared an appropriation of \$100,000 for “purchasing, equipping and making major repairs to DPW vehicles.” This produced a very similar discussion, led by Jensen and Naughton, about open-ended special articles that they felt should be within budgets.

Similar criticisms were made of Article 21, which appropriated \$11,000 for information technology, and Article 22, which provided \$15,000 for police equipment.

Despite these objections – Jensen called the police equipment article “the worst budgetary planning yet” – all these articles passed by clear majorities.

**Ballot Boxes Retiring**

After a lengthy discussion, the meeting approved a \$50,000 appropriation for purchasing or renting seven optical scanners to replace the town’s traditional wooden ballot boxes. A number of town meeting members expressed dismay at the retirement of the traditional ballot boxes, which operate with a hand crank, but expressed support for the appropriation.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau said the old boxes are in such bad shape they threaten the integrity of elections. “We have hit the proverbial wall,” she said. She also stressed that optical scanners would greatly speed the process of tallying the election results.

They approved \$10,000 for repairing the swinging doors at the Carnegie Library, which head librarian Linda Hickman said have been causing injuries to library users, \$22,050 for reducing mold and leakage at the Montague Center branch library, and \$20,000 for improvements at the Millers Falls branch library. \$7,500 was approved for signs at the airport, and \$8,975 to repair the awning in front of town hall.

The meeting appropriated funds to a variety of stabilization funds and a fund, called OPEB, for health insurance for future retirees.

A new three-year contract with the local access station, MCTV, was approved, as well as a ten-year

contract for recycling, with a vendor chosen by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection.

The meeting rejected one article by petition that would have renewed the local option meals tax. Town counsel said the motion was illegal because the tax is automatically renewed by statute this year.

Three other petitioned articles – to support an international treaty prohibiting nuclear weapons; to establish a commission to reconsider the state flag and seal; and to petition the state to become a “pollinator-friendly” community – were all approved by majorities of the meeting, which ended just after 4 p.m.



## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION SEEKS PART-TIME COMMUNICATIONS PERSON

The hired contracted writer will author a weekly marketing email for MCTV, promoting new TV shows about to air as well as in the production phase; occasionally produce profiles of volunteers, staff and/or board members; new equipment purchases and how they’ll be integrated and used by the station; and anything else positive and noteworthy going on at MCTV. The article will be distributed through our website and social media. This weekly task should typically take about an hour and a half to accomplish. Position currently pays \$25 per weekly article, and may expand in the future.

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

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

*Montague Community Cable, Inc., parent non-profit to MCTV, is an equal opportunity employer.*

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was May 7, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### Maple Valley School To Close in June

Wendell’s Maple Valley School will be closing as of June 30 of this year, due to declining enrollment, according to J.C. Consadine, spokesperson for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Maple Valley School, a residential treatment school established in 1988 on the corner of Mormon Hollow and Wendell Depot Road, serves a population of adolescent boys demonstrating social and emotional problems, sexualized behavior problems, and fire-setting behaviors, according to the school’s website.

Neighbors of the school have frequently complained to town officials and police about Maple Valley students going AWOL and appearing on their property at all hours, without warning from the school’s phone tree.

### Three Vie for Montague Selectboard

**Mark Fairbrother** is truly the most local of candidates running for office. He was born and raised in Montague, and attended the local schools from kindergarten until he graduated high school. He is well known in town largely because of his involvement in local government for so many years.

When asked why he was running for office, Fairbrother said he felt it was the logical next step in a life of public service.

Twenty-three-year-old **Ed Gorricks** is a self-professed jack-of-all-trades who takes pride in being

himself. His family moved from Palmer to Montague when he was about 10 years old, and within a short time was involved in the local cable television station. This provided his first introduction to local government.

Golrick decided to run for the selectboard because he is not happy with the direction the town is taking, and wants to be involved in making a change.

**Jack Nelson** has long been fascinated by Montague, and in particular the downtown area of Turners Falls. He has a lifelong passion for historic buildings, which might explain why he feels so at home living in a turn-of-the-century building in a mill town that is busy reviving its economy. Since his arrival in 2002, Nelson has been very involved in the efforts to revitalize the town through fostering a healthy creative economy.

### Bottles and Cans At Town Meeting

With approval from town meeting, Montague residents will have to start putting out recyclables on a new schedule come June, and the contractor who will handle the curbside pickup for the town will take paper and cardboard one week, bottles and cans the next.

MCTV will enjoy five more years of serving Montague, Gill, and Erving’s cable access needs.

Jordan Quinn’s plans to turn the former Ste. Anne’s French Canadian parish church and rectory into a tapas bar, bed and breakfast and 700-seat music hall for A-list jazz, blues and folk acts took another step toward realization, as Montague approved a motion to rezone those properties from neighborhood business to central business.

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# Erving Special Town Meeting: Voters Agree to Ditch Senior Center’s Geothermal System

By KATIE NOLAN

Voters at the Erving special town meeting on Wednesday, May 8 approved appropriating \$125,000 to discontinue and replace the senior and community center geothermal heating and cooling system. Approximately 70 voters attended the meeting.

According to selectboard chair Jacob Smith, the geothermal system has not performed as expected since its installation in 2011, and it is not currently operating. He said the town may need to close the building in hot weather if the cooling system is not replaced.

One voter asked, “How could they make such a giant mistake?”

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said, “You could look and find a scapegoat, or find potential solutions.”

Voters asked about whether warranties or building insurance could pay for part of the cost. Jacob Smith said that warranties had expired. The selectboard members and administrative coordinator Bryan Smith told the voters that they would pursue grants, rebates and any other source of funding to reduce the cost of the project to the town.

Board members recommended an air-sourced heat pump system to replace the geothermal system. Portions of the geothermal system, such as heating ducts and vents will be used for the new system.

Based on the project’s cost and identification of a contractor by National Grid, the state will allow expedited procurement for system replacement. It is expected that work will be completed within four to six weeks after a contractor is selected.

# Montague: Absentee Ballots Are Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the town clerk’s office for the May 20 annual town election. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is Thursday, May 16. All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office by the close of the polls on May 20. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Town Hall hours are Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

The Town Clerk’s Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 863-3200 x. 203 or email townclerk@montague-ma.gov.

# fish ladder is opening!



JOSEPH R. PARZYCH PHOTO

~ Get ready for migration! ~  
Thanks to Joe R. Parzych for sharing this photo of a FirstLight Power Resources crew preparing, with a crane, for the annual public viewing period at the Turners Falls Fishway. The Fishway, where you can view anadromous fish on their way up past the dam to spawn, is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays from May 11 to June 16. Admission is free!

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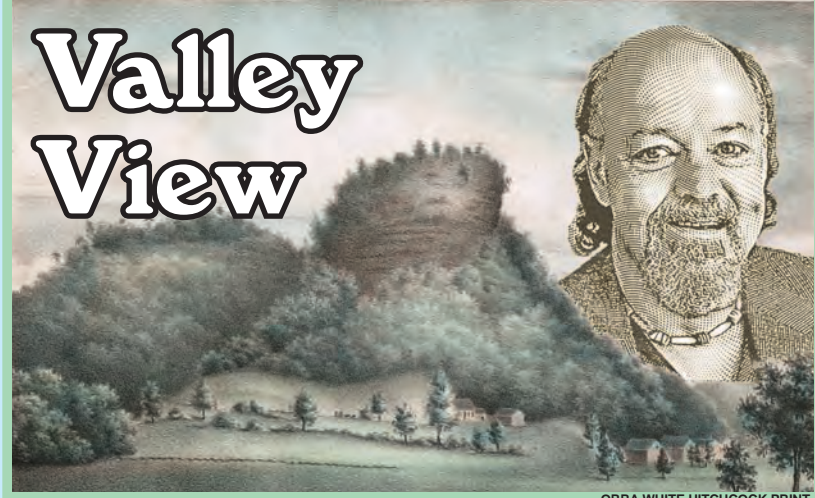
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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

MAY 9, 2019

Joe Kopera took this photograph of a Japanese magnolia blossom in his Montague yard. (Thanks, Joe!)



By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – It’s noon-time. I’ve walked the dogs, lugged in wood from the woodshed, showered, poured my last cup of coffee, and am reading on a comfortable leather recliner in the sunny south parlor. Retirement’s great. Work no longer looming.

The wireless phone rings. Cradled on a small dropleaf table between my chair and its twin, I pick up the receiver to read the caller-ID panel. A local cell phone I don’t recognize. I answer anyway, chancing an unwanted pitch from a telephone solicitor, or worse still, an annoying robocall. Don’t you hate those recorded sales pitches? This was not that. A welcome surprise. Paul Grzybowski, a trusted source I met several years ago at Turners Falls’ Discovery Center.

“Hey, Paul. What’s goin’ on?”

“Well, I have something for you. I know you share my interest in the tale of the Sugarloaf witch myth, and I’ve found something that’ll be of interest to you.”

“Wow! Great timing. Surreal, in fact. Our brain waves must have connected. Not an hour ago I sent in a Sugarloaf column to the *Montague Reporter*. Not about the witch. The caves. But it sure seems like more than a coincidence that you’d call now. Why do these things happen?”

He laughs like he’s been there and says, “Yeah, I hear you. But, honestly, I didn’t even know you wrote a *Reporter* column, just that we shared an interest in that Sugarloaf witch. So, I wanted to touch base.”

The Sugarloaf myth my friend was referring to dates back to colonial days, originating during the mid-18th century. At that time, Sugarloaf Brook crossing the mountain’s southern skirt served as the border between Hatfield and Deerfield, traveling a quarter-mile east before turning south toward its Connecticut River confluence at what’s now Herlihy Park off River Road. The Sugarloaf base then spills gently out into a fertile plain once known as the Canterbury section of Hatfield and then, after its 1771 incorporation, Whately. So, there you have it: our own little Canterbury tale.

Unsettled during the first 75 years of the contact period due to Indian dangers, the first settler to

set his stake at the foot of Sugarloaf was Abraham Parker, a Groton man who arrived in 1749, having likely spent some family time at the Fort at No. 4 in Charlestown, NH. His father, Capt. Isaac Parker of Groton, was then continuing a proud family military tradition by serving at the Connecticut Valley’s northernmost colonial frontier outpost. Abraham broke ground for his home that evolved into a big farm and gristmill over the years and still stands as the large yellow house sitting upon the fork in the road.

A few years after Parker’s arrival, brother-in-law (my sixth great-grandfather) Joseph Sanderson joined him, moving from Groton wife Ruth Parker and eight young children. Thus, the riverside village of Canterbury was born, and there the Sugarloaf witch tale was spun and respun in front of crackling fires and out in the fields, Sugarloaf always towering above. Witch tales were big in Calvinist lore, the devout Protestants always wary of the devil’s influence, especially in the howling wilderness of Indian country.

The tale, which to my knowledge was never recorded for posterity, involves a male witch who leaps from Sugarloaf’s tip to the fertile southern plain below. There he alights on a giant oak in what likely later became Sanderson’s yard, hops down and disappears into the ground below, never again to be seen or heard from. He did leave a couple of calling cards, though: 1, the large, muscular, disfigured oak limb on which he landed and, 2, the obvious ground depression into which he vanished.

The depression came to be dreaded by school kids passing it daily in their comings and goings from a one-room East Whately schoolhouse built in 1827 that no longer stands. Young, screeching school kids – including many from my own family – scooted past it in feigned fear whenever they passed it.

I first heard the tale from my spinster great-aunt Gladys Sanderson, the unofficial family historian we called “Auntie,” who was known to me from the beginning of my South Deerfield upbringing. She had learned it from her “Aunt Mattie” (Martha Almira Sanderson Field), who was born in 1876 in East Whately, attended the old

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

## LOCAL COMICS FANS ASSEMBLE FOR GREENFIELD’S FIRST COMICS CONVENTION

By GEORGE BRACE

**GREENFIELD** – Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center will be hosting the Western Massachusetts Comic Book Show, a day-long mini-comic convention, on Sunday, May 26. A first for Franklin County, the event will be an unusual opportunity for local folks to experience the fun, colorful, and unique atmosphere of a comic convention in a venue close to home. The show will feature several floors of vendors and entertainment, including over 30 comic merchants from all over the Northeast, a multitude of artists and illustrators, a cosplay contest and dance, gaming, skits, music, food, comedy, and more.

The event is being organized by local resident Kit Henry of Amazing Comics. A lifelong comics fan and long-time comics dealer, Kit has been wanting to bring a show to Greenfield for several years. He says he was inspired by comics super-fan Kevin Smith to pursue his dreams, and approached Ben

Goldsher of Hawks & Reed with the idea of hosting it. Ben loved the idea, and thought it fit well with their mission to bring a diversity of top-tier arts and cultural events to the center, and to feature and promote local performers and creators. Hawks & Reed has been actively assisting Kit with planning and expanding the event; notably, with how to best make use of their beautiful venue, and in lining up additional entertainment. Hawks & Reed consists of four floors, each with a different and compelling layout and atmosphere, and seems like a perfect fit for the event.

The show will feature an impressive line-up of guest artists who will be drawing, signing autographs, chatting with fans, and selling original art and prints. Kit was proud to say “all of our headliners are local” – emphasis his – but they are also nationally-known celebrities in the comics world. This speaks to the rich community of comics creators and

artists in western Massachusetts, and is one of the reasons it should be a notable event.

**Local Luminaries**

First on the bill is Jim Lawson, who worked as an artist and writer for the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles for over 20 years, and created the “Rat King” character in that series. Other works include *Planet Racer* with Peter Laird, and the recent graphic novel *Dragonfly*.

Franklin County Tech’s own Marcus McLaurin will also be in attendance. Another local comics luminary, McLaurin, a former editor for Marvel Comics, is known for developing and editing the influential and award-winning *Marvels* comic series. In the early ‘90s he also wrote an eighteen-issue run of *Cage* at Marvel, starring Luke Cage, the first black superhero to be featured as the title character and protagonist of a comic book. He also wrote several issues of *The Punisher*, and has a mountain of other work to his credit.

“My years at Marvel were in the heyday, when the *Infinity Gauntlet* was a major monthly storyline, and when comic cons were about talent,

see **COMICS** page B5



By LESLIE BROWN

**MONTAGUE CITY** – The house we live in was built in 1927, and had no insulation and windows that ran on ropes and pulleys. For those reasons and because the owner wanted to sell, we were offered a manageable price, and the opportunity to have our own place in a quiet neighborhood along the river.

Thus began a series of renovations and repairs largely underwritten by a generous father-in-law. After the first drafty year and a large oil bill, which allowed us to heat the greater outdoors without keeping us measurably warmer, we put insu-

**THE GARDENER’S COMPANION**

## Aging Gracefully

lation in the walls. Next, a second concrete-block chimney to allow for a wood stove in the cellar.

A couple of years or so later, we hired a couple whom we quickly named “frick and frack.” These characters professed to have between them such handy multiple skills: they could plumb, wire, build, and paint. How wonderful! How naïve we were!

After we had experienced major growing pains, they had replaced the clawfoot tub with a real one with a shower, new plumbing, a makeover kitchen with a real stainless steel sink and new wooden cabinets. We bought a new electric stove and a more efficient refrigerator. After these bumbling finally finished with their shoddy workmanship, I refused to pay for the sloppy paint job, which showed up all over the place on our beautiful original chestnut woodwork, and we sent them packing.

In recent years I have so regretted letting go of the clawfoot tub, which was the perfect length for a short person to stretch out and relax for a long soak.

We were modernized, but at what a costly, expensive learning curve.

Later on came new shingles for the roof, brick facing for the chimneys, modern replacement windows, and a new roll-up garage door. Lastly, new cedar shakes for the outside, a replacement oil burner and a larger woodstove, and we were in a new home; updated, yet still true to the original charming cape that began its life.

In the 1990s we added some luxury items with a home equity loan: a three-season sun room on the south side, a second bedroom and a

see **GARDENER’S** page B5



# Pet of the Week



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## “DOLLY”

I have lived with another cat, but I might be happiest as your one and only. The key to winning me over is my toy, a peacock feather (included), and my favorite snacks. I may forget my usual shyness with catnip. My foster dad said, “Dolly

has come a long, long way, from not responding at all, to playing and talking. With patience, she will be a good companion.”

To adopt me, contact the Dakin Pioneer Valley Humane Society at (413) 548-9898 or [info@dpvhs.org](mailto:info@dpvhs.org).

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Since this newspaper has been around for almost two decades, we’ve sometimes been guilty of assuming that our readership is thoroughly informed about local institutions such as the Brick House Community Resource Center on Third Street in Turners Falls. While helping to get the word out about a few of their upcoming fundraisers, we’re taking the opportunity to introduce the Brick House to newcomers who may not be aware of it.

The Brick House is currently located at 24 Third Street in a former fire station, diagonally across the street from the Five Eyed Fox cafe. The organization began in 1990 in response to a spike in domestic violence incidents in Montague, with the goals of providing accessible services, responding to immediate needs, and fostering community organizing efforts to prevent violence. Since its inception over 3,000 local residents have been served in one way or another.

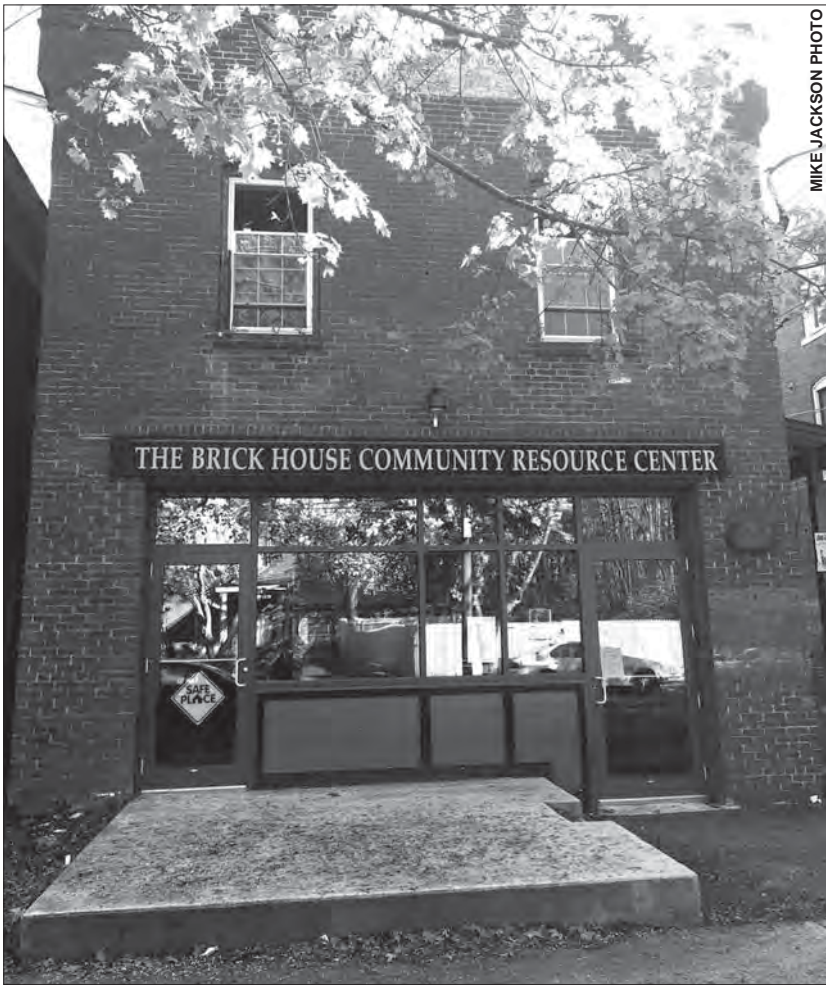
The Brick House currently hosts three core programs for youth, family, and community. According to the Brick House website, these are an **after-school drop-in center** for youth ages 11 to 18, offering programming that focuses on leadership development, creative arts, entrepreneurship, and social justice education; a **parent and family services program**, which supports local families to meet their basic needs, collaborating with other local service providers to make existing resources more accessible and efficient; and a **community center**, which hosts various events and programs supporting wellness, arts, recreation, and social change in the community.

### Kickball for Kicks!

The Brick House has been hearing from youth, their families, and school personnel that new sneakers are needed by youth in the community. Dana Mengwasser, executive director at the Brick House, says: “I have been hearing from our youth directly, and from our staff that work with the youth and families that they really need shoes. There are some kids that are walking around with the soles of their shoes flapping up and down. And we know that there are some kids who have shoes for certain times of the year – maybe they were able to get winter boots, but they don’t have anything to wear for summer – that sort of thing.”

Jane Goodale, a paraprofessional at the Great Falls Middle and High School, explains that at Turners Falls High School there is a room referred to as the Justice Center, where students go for internal suspensions and other disciplinary and non-disciplinary reasons, that has housed gently used clothing items and toiletries for students in the 2018-2019 school year.

“Staff at the school, including myself, are working with the Brick House to increase access to items like shoes that cost more money and require fundraising beyond holding occasional clothing or food drives,” says Goodale. “It’s exciting that the Brick House is finding a way to provide important



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

The Brick House is in the old firehouse at 24 Third Street in downtown Turners.

items that are beyond the scope of what the school offers.”

The discovery of the need for footwear has coincided nicely with a kickball fundraiser at the Brick House; the idea for “Kickball for Kicks!” came out of a recent planning meeting.

“We had a kickball game fundraiser last year, which became sort of a community event,” Mengwasser says. “We didn’t really raise any money – it was just sort of a fun day down at the park.”

Raising money for footwear became a way to make this year’s kickball event more meaningful, says Mengwasser, who notes that the organization’s biggest priority is to make sure folks in the community have their basic needs met.

“Shoes are a hard one for a lot of families. They are really expensive,” they elaborated. “If you get second-hand shoes, they aren’t going to last as long. And from the youths’ perspective, they don’t want second-hand shoes because they are either worried that they aren’t sanitary, or they are worried that someone’s going to see them on their feet and say, ‘Hey, those used to be mine!’”

Kickball for Kicks! Takes place at Unity Park this Saturday, May 11, from noon until 3 p.m. There will be a barbeque, snack foods, and potluck. Community members can stop by and play kickball and yard games like bocce and croquet.

Donations are on a sliding scale, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds, but organizers are hoping people who can will pay \$20 to be part of the event. The goal for the fundraiser is \$2,000, which would provide sneakers for approximately 35 youth, who would be able to select their footwear from two websites. Donations are also being taken online, following a link on [brickhousecommunity.org](http://brickhousecommunity.org).

### A New Coat of Paint

Next Monday and Tuesday, May 13 and 14, the center is having **two volunteer days** to get help with de-cluttering, organizing, painting, and overall beautifying. The Monday session is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.,

and Tuesday will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. To sign up, email [volunteer@brickhousecommunity.org](mailto:volunteer@brickhousecommunity.org).

The Brick House currently has 15 to 20 youth who show up every afternoon to use the resources of the teen center; over 300 come through during the year. It is open every afternoon from 2:30 to 6 p.m.

“Some youth have been coming to the space for five years,” says Mengwasser. “Some were little kids in the neighborhood who helped with the mural in the alleyway when they were 5 years old, and now they are teenagers at 16 years old and they are there.”

At the center, youth can hang out, listen to music, watch movies projected on a big screen, and take advantage of art, music, and dance studios, with structured art and music classes on Wednesday afternoons. There are couches and a big long table for them to hang out at. The space is very well-used, and, as a consequence, in need of a little help.

### Road Race

New kicks for youth will mean some of them will be able to take part in the annual **Brick House 5K Race** on Saturday, June 15. This is a gentle loop around the bike path, starting from the gravel parking lot at Unity Park. “It’s fast, flat, and fun,” says Mengwasser, who adds, “It’s very family-friendly. There are lots of strollers, and you can choose to walk a one-mile route. There will be kids on bikes and trikes, and youth can run for free. Last year’s event drew about 75 people.”

Pre-register on the Brick House website for \$20, or just show up early and register that morning for \$25. A parent or guardian will have to sign the registration form for youth if they are under 18. There is also a sliding scale, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds. The race starts at 10 a.m., and there will be prizes awarded, including for costumes and spirit.

In the case of rain on the day of any of these events, check the Brick House website and Facebook page for updates.

## Senior Center Activities MAY 13 THROUGH 17

### 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 5/13

8 a.m. Foot Clinic (by appt.)

10:30 a.m. Book Lady

1 p.m. Knitting Group

#### Tuesday 5/14

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cooking For One class

3:30 p.m. Meditation (pre-reg)

#### Wednesday 5/15

9 a.m. Veterans’ Outreach

12:30 p.m. Bingo

1:30-2:30 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry

#### Thursday 5/16

9 a.m. Tai Chi

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

4 p.m. Mat Yoga

#### Friday 5/17

12 p.m. Breakfast at Noon

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 Better, 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 5/13

8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt

10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance

11:30 a.m. Breakfast Brunch

12:30 p.m. Pitch card games

#### Tuesday 5/14

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

10 a.m. Stretch & Balance

12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich

1 p.m. Options for Medicare

#### Wednesday 5/15

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

12:30 p.m. Bingo

#### Thursday 5/16

8:45 a.m. Aerobics

10 a.m. Healthy Bones

12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

6:30 p.m. Long-Term Planning

#### Friday 5/17

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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THE SPIRIT SHOPPE



# Mount Grace Celebrates Memorial Day at Alderbrook Meadows

**NORTHFIELD** – On Saturday, May 25, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Mount Grace will host a celebration of veterans at Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary in Northfield. Veterans, their families, and the whole community is invited to enjoy the wheelchair-accessible Gunnery Sergeant Jeffrey S. Ames Nature Trail that meanders along a wooded path and loops around to an accessible wildlife viewing platform over a beaver pond.

Bill and Nancy Ames donated the property to Mount Grace and had the accessible trail named in their son’s honor after he became disabled from his military service.

The day will start with a welcome from Mount Grace, the Ames Family, and the Northfield Park Committee, followed by a demonstration of a Freedom Chair – a wheelchair designed to handle many trail conditions – by Bobby Curly of the North Quabbin Trail Association.

Then the group will make its way down the trail for a guided nature tour, taking time to take in the beautiful property, and read the in-

terpretive signage highlighting the historical and cultural importance of the site.

At the waterside viewing platform, Joe Stacy, chair of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Northfield Post, will address attendees, followed by a moment of silence and a flag ceremony in recognition of Memorial Day. A free lunch and refreshments will be available for attendees after the walk.

Mount Grace is encouraging people with mobility challenges, veterans, families, and community members to join us and be part of this day recognizing a special property, its accessibility, and veterans who have served our country.

Alderbrook Meadows Wildlife Sanctuary is located along Route 63 in Northfield. Parking at the trailhead is available for accessible vans. Other cars are encouraged to drop off passengers with mobility challenges at the trailhead and park along the shoulder of Route 63. For more information about this event, please contact Cami Duquet at [duquet@mountgrace.org](mailto:duquet@mountgrace.org) or (978) 248-2055 x. 13.

## REVUE REVIEW

# Karl and Mr. Drag’s Valentine’s Day Show

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – I have seen Karl and Mr. Drag perform several times. They were, in fact, one of my two favorite performances when I first saw people involved with Eggtooth Productions perform. It was a Christmas show with Karl and Mr. Drag front and center, and I enjoyed it very much.

The “Phallic Times Valentine’s Day” one was the second time I have seen a show with them at the center. It was on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February at the Shea Theater. Mr. Drag and Karl stepped onto the stage from off to the side, and Mr. Drag began to reminisce like the place was in need of repair, and that they had performed here long ago.

We heard Mr. Karl’s singing voice again, and he had various other people walking around. All of that turned into a dance number. Mr. Drag introduced these various characters who would be a part of the show. I believe some people were supposed to be playing a dance group. It was supposed to be some sort of Valentine’s special, like I thought it would be.

One segment was an individual wearing a bike helmet passing around poetry for people in the audience to read. Another was the Duchess of something, who played a keyboard, sang, and had a bass player backing her up, and three other individuals as back singers. She sang a broken heart song, and the whole thing was meant to be funny but I didn’t get the humor. The backup singers seemed to be the ones who were trying to do that with the song, and people seemed to particularly enjoy that.

After her, Miss Maybell Rose sang. She was wearing a coat at

first – I guessed for a reason, and I was right. Under that she was wearing a fancy dress like you would see in a nightclub. She walked around the audience while she sang. In fact, she got up very close to me at one point. I enjoyed her voice better than the previous individual’s.

Karl did a dance number that some might call sexy with two individuals. Karl added a little humor to it with some of his moves.

Mr. Drag and an individual who was supposed to be some elderly singer interacted like they were doing a comedy bit. I didn’t get the humor there. The two did a duet together, and then they did a raffle for a lap dance for people to participate in.

Karl was a part of another performance, this time with a singer accompanied by a keyboard player. He did silent, mime-like movements to the singing and the music. Two individuals in pink did like a funny striptease with balloons. Mr. Drag did a number where she sang while a man did the same thing. The song was “I Wanna Dance With Somebody.” Karl did some more mime-like movements behind the scenes with this performance, and somebody moved around as the song was being sung.

I liked the format of the show, and I liked seeing Mr. Drag and Karl performing again. But, truth be told, I liked it better when it was done for the Christmas show. I couldn’t really connect with much of it, except the parts when Mr. Drag and Karl were part of it, the singer who was up close to me, and the comical strip tease with balloons. I think the audience is supposed to be able to do that, and the audience was able to. The raffle winners had the performers do dances for them, while Mr. Drag sang.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Trespassers at Southworth; Bear On The Hill; Foiled Break-In On High Street; Loud Engines

**Sunday, 4/28**  
6:41 p.m. Greenfield Road caller states that a white pickup keeps doing burnouts outside of her home. Could not get a plate number. Advised to call next time it happens.  
10:09 p.m. Greenfield Road caller states that two pickup trucks, one white and one green, showed up at her home and the occupants were threatening her and her son. She believes they are all minors and that they were intoxicated. Pickup stopped on Third Street and left there for the night.  
11:23 p.m. Caller reports disabled red SUV on Fifth Street with fluids leaking. Byrnes towed.  
**Monday, 4/29**  
8:19 a.m. Alarm button pushed in Colle Building elevator. Person stated she pushed wrong button. Confirmed accidental button push.  
9:09 a.m. Officer attempting to serve a warrant on Canal Street; suspect fled on foot into wooded area on J Street behind Food City, wearing a blue sweatshirt and black pants. K9 Artie located suspect, officer transported to courthouse.  
10:45 a.m. Turners Falls fire chief requesting a police officer to respond after finding several broken windows and doors forced at Southworth Paper Mill.  
7:01 p.m. Report of drainage or manhole cover in the roadway and open near General Pierce bridge in Montague City. Not able to locate.  
7:08 p.m. Report of a physical altercation at Unity Skatepark that was broken up. One involved heading towards gas station. Male with red hair, red shirt, possibly red pants. Made mention of coming back and “spraying up the place,” unknown what this intention is. Investigated.  
**Tuesday, 4/30**  
6:48 a.m. Montague DPW reports loose cows in area of Senn Excavating on Wendell Road. Property/farm resident advised. No cows located.  
8:05 a.m. Disabled vehicle on the Eleventh Street bridge. Not driveable, owner has AAA tow coming.  
8:12 a.m. Home health aide reporting someone tried to or may have broken into a client’s garage on L Street. Investigated; does not appear to be foul play. Something the matter with the doors.  
1:03 p.m. Turners Falls High School reports runaway from campus. Student located and returned by school resource officer.  
1:33 p.m. Report of a man in a white SUV, claiming to be a private investigator, asking questions about a neighboring property on Old Greenfield Road. Area checked, nothing found.  
3:34 p.m. Report of a traffic hazard in the road before the General Pierce Bridge, a water valve sticking up 3 or 4 inches. Officer placed cone over the cap and notified DPW.  
4:43 p.m. Party on Newton Street reports his grill was thrown 50 feet into the woods two nights ago. Party plans to file an insurance claim, and insurance company needs a police report. Grill is still in the woods, and is valued at \$400 to \$500. Officer observed grill over banking with lid broken off and several dents.  
5:03 p.m. Safety hazard reported at Montague Catholic Social Ministries: several small decorative rocks on a wall outside in the vicinity of the women’s resource center and daycare. Caller concerned children will put rocks in their mouths or use them as projectiles. Officer advised.  
6:15 p.m. Officer flagged down by passersby on Prospect Street about kids hanging off the Prospect Street bridge. Officer advised children regarding the behavior.  
6:38 p.m. Report of a bear lying in the backyard at a High Street home. Caller does not believe anyone home at that location. Officer spoke to residents in the area, advised to stay away or inside. Caller stated bear came down tree, sighted heading down Crocker Avenue towards Scotty’s Convenience store. Officer advised.  
11:03 p.m. Bear reported on Central Street 20 minutes ago, caller believes it is headed towards Scotty’s.  
**Wednesday, 5/1**  
8:17 a.m. Caller on Crocker Avenue reports bear may have taken down their feeders. No bear in yard now. Advised. Will remove feeders.  
11:03 a.m. Caller on Avenue C reporting a bird feeder is broken and a pole is bent, they believe by a

bear. No bear in yard now.  
2:20 p.m. Party came in to report hitting a deer yesterday, on Route 63 just before Gunn Road. Officer advised it will be on record because of time delay.  
3:07 p.m. Greenfield PD asking for assistance on their side of Turners Falls Road. Two people picking up trash in a blind spot where vehicles cannot see them. Unable to locate.  
7:14 p.m. Motor vehicle stop on Turnpike Road. Both parties out of the vehicle due to passenger’s 94C [controlled substances] history, and violent history against law enforcement. K9 alerted. Search complete; negative findings.  
**Thursday, 5/2**  
8:38 a.m. 911 misdial from town hall elevator. Caller advised they hit the emergency button by accident.  
9:51 a.m. Report of general disturbance on Millers Falls Road. Two males appear to be harassing a female, last seen walking from Scotty’s toward Partridge-Zschau Insurance Agency. Two men in late 20s or early 30s, one appeared to have kicked or tried to kick female, another appeared to get in female’s face. Female appeared to be in her 50s. Female and another male located at Chestnut and Unity Street, 25-year-old female arrested on a straight warrant.  
10:44 a.m. Mountain Road (Gill) caller inquiring if white and brown pit bull dog they are missing has been found in our area.  
1:44 p.m. 911 misdial from the Franklin Technical High School cafeteria.  
4:54 p.m. Caller reports his son’s bike was stolen from their Montague City Road address sometime in the last 24 hours. Blue bike with bright red tires.  
5:20 p.m. Larceny of tools and toolbox reported on Oak Street. Caller believes this may have occurred in August or September 2018, but they just discovered it.  
11:20 p.m. High Street caller reports one or two people

in the back of her house trying to get in through the back door; they set off an alarm placed there after someone tried breaking in last week. They saw someone run up their driveway towards the back of the house and the alarm went off. A male in dark clothing then ran around the yard with a flashlight shining. Officer placed one 33-year-old male under arrest at this location; charged with trespass, disturbing the peace, and attempt to commit crime.

*[There were no entries for Friday, 5/3 and only four for Saturday, 5/4 in the log MPD produced upon our request. Of those four, two were redacted. The others were a 911 misdial and a motor vehicle stop. – Eds.]*

**Sunday, 5/5**  
12:13 a.m. Call from male party inquiring how late bars can play music, referring to music stated as being outside Between the Uprights on Avenue A until a short time ago. Caller disconnected or hung up while on hold.  
2:20 a.m. Officer made contact with suspicious male in area of Pipione’s Sport Shop. Cleared.  
6:57 a.m. Caller reports damage to his fence and light post by motor vehicle on Old Greenfield Road, probably sometime during the night. Officer to view damage and report.  
4:42 p.m. Toyota Tacoma failed to stop at Country Club Lane and Oakman Street. Vehicle stopped, Rau’s to tow.  
5:36 p.m. Caller reporting the resident a few houses down on Federal Street is revving engines again for over 20 minutes. Officer spoke with resident about the complaint, advised reporting party of his options.  
7:52 p.m. Suspicious auto reported parked behind the ATM at Greenfield Savings Bank on Avenue A. One male occupant on drivers side. Determined to be the janitor for the building.

# MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

# MA’Y O WEED YEDA

# EX ULUEDZ ANOA ETSZ

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VALLEY VIEW from B1

school and passed the local folklore down to her niece.

I remember Aunt Mattie as a 100-something-year-old widow living on her Field Farm in Bradstreet. There, in the late 1970s, she was still taking care of herself and held Hatfield’s gold cane as the town’s oldest resident. She’s buried in the Bradstreet Cemetery with her husband and stepson, Bob Field, less than five miles south of the old East Whately schoolhouse, which stood along the northern perimeter of her family home.

The witch’s depression was between the school and her home. That home was built by my fourth-great-grandfather John Chapman Sanderson in the mid-19th century on family land just north of the original family homestead. Neither house was standing when the witch supposedly touched down. The original homestead was built about 1760 and burned to the ground on July 3, 1882, when Aunt Mattie was 6. Most likely the tale originated during my ancestors’ first eight or so years at the base of Sugarloaf, when the family lived in a temporary shelter close to the Parker farm for protection from Indian attack.

The new information Grzybowski was eager to share was gleaned from the type of Internet research most of us have tinkered with during rainy days or idle moments. Googling keyword combinations that included “Sugarloaf” and “witch,” he stumbled upon the medieval English Legends of John O’Kent, a fictional wizard also known as Jack o’ Kent or

Jacky Kent from the days of Robin Hood and Friar Tuck. This character from the Welsh/English border was associated with a famous stone castle and known for outwitting the devil. Because he first appears in print in 1590, he would have definitely been familiar to Pilgrims and Puritans settling New England in the 1630s. In one of many tales, Jacky Kent is a giant, and he leaps from the top of Sugarloaf Mountain in Wales. He lands in the Skirrid, where to this day his heel marks remain as a reminder. Sugar Loaf is the southernmost peak of Wales’ Black Mountains range.

So, take it to the bank. Grzybowski is on the right track. The Jack o’Kent legend must be the source of our Sugarloaf witch tale. It wasn’t a reworked Indian tale of a bear or panther leaping from Sugarloaf, but rather an English tale that crossed the Atlantic with New England’s first European settlers. Our tale was probably crafted by my Parker and Sanderson relatives, the first two families to settle the Canterbury section of Hatfield, now River Road, Whately. Who knows when it stopped being told? It was probably already on its way out by the dawning of the 20th century.

It never hurts to dust off and bring back into the light such tidbits of old valley folklore. Thanks to Paul Grzybowski for the noontime call. I’m glad I answered it. If you want more, take a Google adventure. And if you want to go even deeper, explore the Demon Wittum. That Mount Toby myth just may be from the same bolt of cloth.

Then again, maybe not.



## Bank Leads Food Drive to Benefit Community College Food Pantry

**GREENFIELD** – Greenfield Savings Bank has begun a food drive to help donate food to Greenfield Community College’s (GCC) Food Pantry. As part of the drive, Greenfield Savings Bank is collecting non-perishable food at each of its branch locations. Donations may be placed in boxes which are located in all of the branch lobbies.

According to a national survey, 35% of GCC students experience some form of food insecurity. Given the inherent struggles of being a student while holding down a job and/or raising a family, all GCC students and staff, who could use a

little help making ends meet, are invited to stop by the GCC Food Pantry to learn more about immediate and long-term food resources in the community.

In 2018, the GCC Food Pantry provided 67% of their clients with meals that they would have otherwise skipped. The on-campus Food Pantry was the first of its kind on the east coast, and is an official site of Franklin County Community Meals, Inc. The Food Pantry is accessible to members of the GCC community Mondays through Thursdays, with “grab & go” bags available around campus.

“On behalf of GCC, we’d like to

extend a heartfelt ‘thank you’ to Greenfield Savings Bank for collecting donations to the Food Pantry, said Judy Raper, associate dean of student development. “Through the generosity of Greenfield Savings Bank, we know that more members of the GCC community will have access to quality food when they would otherwise go hungry.”

Items being collected include canned goods, personal care items, baby wipes, pasta, and reusable bags.

For more information about GCC, contact Stacy Metzger, chief communications and marketing officer, at (413) 775-1364 or [metzgers@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:metzgers@gcc.mass.edu).

## Saturday at the Root Cellar: Abolition Fest Fundraiser

From combined sources.

**GREENFIELD** – A benefit show at Ten Forward, as the Root Cellar is now being called, seeks to raise funds for Great Falls Books Through Bars and the Abolition Network. The event at the 10 Fiske Avenue venue this Saturday, May 11 kicks off with a potluck at 6:30 p.m. Give what you can at the door, from \$5 to \$50, and take part in an evening of entertainment while learning about the two causes.

**Great Falls Books Through Bars** is described by organizers as an anti-prison and prisoner solidarity collective that hosts monthly volunteer days to respond to letters from incarcerated people; sending books, zines, information, and letters to maintain human connections with folks behind bars. In 2018, they sent over 1,500 books through the bars.

Now in their third year, they are seeing a huge jump in the number of letters they receive, from around 30 a month to over 100. They operate on a shoestring, but need money for postage. Other efforts by the group involve organizing film screening events, fundraising and letter-writing for political prisoners, and ongoing collaboration with other groups like the Abolition Network.

The **Abolition Network** supports incarcerated and formerly-incarcerated people in Massachusetts, and seeks to build relationships with other organizations working on prison abolition and strategic reforms. Their fundraising allows them to post bail, up to \$500, for over twenty people a month, and they run a “court watch” project to observe courtroom practices in

Springfield. They are presently in the process of generating resources to establish a program to give backpacks full of resources such as toiletries, resource lists, gift cards, food, and water to members of the community post-release.

Entertainment for the evening includes **Doonya**, described as a Bollywood dance fitness group.

Greenfield-based instructor Aisha Russell will lead a small group demonstration of this dance-based, high-intensity fitness program set to the powerful drum beats of South Asia. Doonya fuses regional dance from throughout India, belly dance, hip-hop, and more, and the demonstration will be followed by a short audience-participation dance lesson.

This will be followed by **Yellowfront** at 8 p.m., described as “a twirly, swirly shower of heart-rock heroics from Brattleboro, Vermont,” and then **Kobi**, a guitar-drums duo, performs with “some heaviness, jazziness, and some groove.”

The evening continues on with five more acts: **Domo B**, hip-hop from Springfield with “witty and compelling stories, deep lyrical content, and real life substance;” Hadley indie-pop band **Stoner Will & the Narks**; the **Lonetown Rattlers**; **Mik3-Anthony aka Rone**, local hip-hop; and **Odi-osa**: “curator of *zonas de liberacion* using cumbia, reggeaton, *y mas*, to create a dance party.”

Organizers encourage people to come for as long or short as they want. They hope to raise awareness and money for the bail fund, and postage to send letters and packages to prisoners, and more post-release backpacks. Find out more at [greatfallsbooksthroughbars.org](http://greatfallsbooksthroughbars.org).

**MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS**

## This Week at MCTV

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

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

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

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

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

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GARDENER’S from B1

half-bath above the garage — all handsomely crafted by a fine carpenter who hired the necessary plumber and electrician.

I have lived here now for forty-two years in a comfortable and beautiful spot. I have no plans to move any time soon. We are the happy owners of the last of six companion cats, and are aging gently in place. The house has changed and so have we. It didn’t happen overnight, but in a gradual way.

One of our wonderful cat sitters recently commented to the feline that she was aging gracefully. Apparently offended, the cat jumped off her lap and began an energetic game of “chase the tail around the table leg.”

We like to think of ourselves as gracefully aging as well. Sure, we can put in a session of hauling and stacking cordwood with the best of them, but as we slid into our mid-seventies, I’m not so sure how graceful we were about it all. It seems like all of a sudden we feel older. My balance is definitely not what it used to be, and my knees tend to complain after a day’s work.

I am grateful for the railings Ken

has installed on the porch steps, and on the steep stair to the cellar. Our final bathroom renovation will be a step-in shower with a couple of grab bars. I wear orthotics for my wider feet and shoes, read with cheaters in dim light, and look forward to breaks in the work sessions, when I used to put in a full day’s activity and rest afterwards.

But we are grateful for being alive, for still keeping a garden, and for being able to tend the place on our own; grateful for the energy for trips to the Y and walks in and around the neighborhood and beyond. We are still traveling, although tending to stay closer to home. Yet there is so much of our own country we haven’t yet explored, so that is no hardship.

We’ll consider the cat as our mentor. Maybe we won’t play a game of “chase the tail around the table leg,” but we’re still up for a game of badminton, a swim at the lake, or a paddle in the kayaks. We’ll hold off evaluating the gracefulness in these days but think positively about what’s to come.

And, as the Brits say, “keep on keeping on.”



Organizer Kit Henry and his wife Kristin staff their booth at a comic book show.

COMICS from page B1

fans, and a love of comics, not media properties and movie stars,” McLaurin writes. “I’m hoping that is what I will experience at the Hawks and Reed show!”

Another headlining guest is *Transformers* artist Casey Collier. Along with his work on the *Transformers* comic, Collier has done art for *Robots In Disguise*, *More Than Meets the Eye*, and *Optimus Prime*.

Additional guests will include London Roman of Organ Donor Studios, and Turners Falls High School graduates Jordan Newton-Gaines and Justin Prokovich. Newton-Gaines is an illustrator and graduate of the Kubert School, a distinguished cartooning and graphic arts school. Prokovich is one of two current instructors at Kubert who will be at the show, the other being Sian Mandrake. Other alumni of the school will also be present, including Gary Smith and Douglas Arthur. Rounding out the slate of guest artists are Gary Henderson, Warren Onufer, Jim Taylor, John MacLeod and Casey Kruk.

Another main attraction will be over 30 comic vendors from around the northeast, selling everything from 50-cent readers to key books, covering a span from the early golden age of comics to the present day. Kind of a cross between a comics flea market and an art show, there will be a lot to see and a lot to buy. Prices vary among vendors at comic shows, but are generally cheaper than on the internet, and there will definitely be



Jim Lawson, one of the artists attending the Comic Convention, spent 25 years with Mirage Studios as a writer/artist on *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*. His self-published works since then include *Dragonfly*, *Paleo: Tales of the Late Cretaceous*, and *Jim Lawson’s Dinosaurs Coloring Book*.

bargains to be had. It will also be a good opportunity to find unusual, obscure, and hard-to-find items, or come across something new.

Vendors have their own tastes and specialties, and Kit says he has a great mix lined up. He also noted that there will be some serious collectors coming, and he has been encouraging vendors to make sure to bring their best and rarest stuff.

Most of us don’t have the money to plunk down multiple hundreds or thousands of dollars on a comic book, but it’s nice to be able to see rare and classic comic books in person. In addition, comic vendors are universally serious comic fans themselves, and some of the most knowledgeable people on the subject you are going to run into. They enjoy comics, enjoy their business, and enjoy talking with fellow fans.

Cosplay Opportunity

Along with artists, performers, and vendors, comic shows and conventions owe their success to the attendees; they are social and participatory events with a unique and positive atmosphere. One of the ways this manifests is in the popularity of cosplay, in which fans dress up as their favorite characters from comics or related genres. This particular show will include both a cosplay contest with prizes, and an end-of-event cosplay dance party hosted by local musician John Trudeau.

The cosplay contest will be hosted and judged by “The Angry Geeks,” in the Wheelhouse, the basement club area of Hawks & Reed. In talking with the judges, the geek part is pretty obvious, but the angry part seems like a bit of a misnomer. They are three exuberant, entertaining, and friendly folks who do a podcast for the Earplug Podcast Network, and have a show on Greenfield Public Access Television. Lewis Perry and Jeremy “Jar-Jar” Courtney live in western Massachusetts; Jaime “That Wonder Woman” Dolan lives a couple of hours away.

The Angry Geeks have appeared at a lot of conventions, and are an engaging bunch. For those wondering what to wear, the Geeks said some of the costumes they haven’t seen at conventions — but would like to — are Thanos, Swamp Thing, and the Banana Splits.

Along with running the cosplay contest they will be broadcasting live, interviewing artists and fans, and emceeing a variety of acts, in-

cluding music, comedy, and skits. They listed their favorite parts of comic shows as talking with fans and artists, and “shenanigans” — though, uncharacteristically, they did not elaborate on the latter.

And There’s More...

The event will be focused on comics, but there is a lot of cross-over among comic, gaming, science fiction, and related genres, and some of these will be represented as well. An entire floor will be devoted to gaming, highlighted by a Super Smash Brothers tournament. There will also be food available, with the comic-and-good-food-loving people from Greenfield’s former Brass Buckle restaurant slinging tacos — and selling comics produced by their band, Rebel Base.

In speaking with Kit Henry and many of the other people involved in the event, a couple of things stuck out. While seeming like a pretty diverse and individualistic group, the shared passion for comics came through loud and clear, and their energy and positive spirit were striking. Likewise, their advocacy of reading and the benefits comics provide to young readers came up again and again.

Tonye Barrineau of Holeymokeys, a new comic shop in Shelburne that will be setting up at the show, also mentioned that he was in favor of a little less screen time for children and adults alike, and that the world of comics was one good alternative. He became animated in describing the feeling of holding a comic book in your hands versus staring into a screen.

Another common thread was the sentiment, expressed by the Angry Geeks, that the recent popularity of comic movies is awesome, but there is a huge world behind them, and people who like the movies might want to check it out. A bit more of that world is about to find its way to Greenfield.

The Western Massachusetts Comic Book Show takes place Sunday, May 26, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield. Admission is \$5; children under 10 get in for free. The first 100 guests will receive a free comic, and there will be hourly raffles sponsored by Amazing Comics, Holeymokeys, Nishon Morgan, Hawks & Reed, the Eric Carle Museum, and others.



# Silverthorne’s Theater Thursdays Presents The Restoration Room

**AMHERST** – *The Restoration Room*, the third in Silverthorne Theater’s “Theater Thursdays New Play Reading Series,” features two academics played by Melenie Freedom Flynn and Jay Sefton who struggle to resist the power of their mutual intellectual and physical attraction. The reading, which is free and open to the public, is directed by Chris Rohman, and playwright Harley Erdman will be on hand to discuss the play afterward.

The purpose of the readings series is to give a platform for new work to be heard, and when possible, to give playwrights direct audience feedback. It also gives Silverthorne a look at plays they might consider fully producing in future seasons. The reading takes place at 7 p.m. on Thursday, May 23 at the UMass-Amherst Fine Arts Center, Room 204.

Harley Erdman is a professor in the UMass theater department. His recent dramatic writing projects include *Wild Thing* (2019), a translation of Véléz de Guevara’s 17<sup>th</sup> century Spanish play about a gender-bending protagonist; the opera librettos *The Scarlet Professor* (2017) and *The Garden of Martyrs* (2013), both with com-

poser Eric Sawyer; and the screwball comedy *Nobody’s Girl*, which debuted at the Northampton Academy of Music in 2014.

With Gina Kaufmann and composer Aaron Jones, Erdman is adapting the Don Juan legend into a musical set on a college campus. His cabaret *My Evil Twin*, created with Eric Sawyer, will be shown at the Ko Festival of Performance this summer. He is also the author or editor of six books, including *Women Playwrights of Early Modern Spain* (2016), which features his translations of ten plays, and won the Josephine Roberts Award.

For events in the Fine Arts Center building, free and secure parking is available on Massachusetts Avenue in University Lots 32, 34, and 71 after 5 p.m. and all day on weekends. Accessible parking is available in the South Entrance Lot in front of the Fine Arts Center building when the appropriate license plate or placard is displayed. (The Visitors Center parking lot and all meters near the Fine Arts Center are pay-to-park from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Contact Silverthorne Theater Company for more information: [silverthornetheater@gmail.com](mailto:silverthornetheater@gmail.com) or (413) 768-7514.

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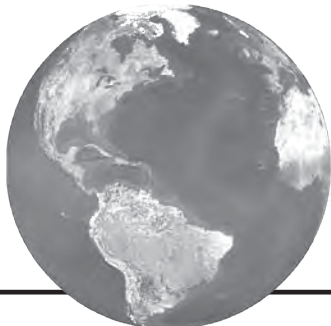
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# Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página en español del periódico **The Montague Reporter**. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: [spanish@montaguereporter.org](mailto:spanish@montaguereporter.org). Esperamos su participación.



## Tablón de anuncios

• Representantes de **Salvar Nuestras Escuelas** estarán en la Brick House en el 24 de 3rd Street en Great Falls, el martes 14 de mayo de 6 a 8 p.m. para hablar sobre la militarización de las escuelas indígenas basadas en la comunidad en Mindanao, Filipinas. Los Lumad, o los pueblos indígenas de Mindanao, están enfrentando ataques intensos debido a su defensa de sus tierras ancestrales, que se asientan en más de \$ 840 mil millones de recursos minerales. Habrá trabajos de abalorios y otros artículos a la venta, e información sobre cómo participar directamente en el grupo. Todos los ingresos van directamente a las comunidades Lumad y sus escuelas.

• **Food Bank de Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo comida gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. La próxima distribución de comida será el miércoles 15 de mayo de 1:30 a 2:30 p.m.. Por favor asegúrense de traer sus

propias bolsas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA Si tienen preguntas, contacten con the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts en el teléfono (413) 247-9738.

• **TEDxEasthamptonWomen** está buscando oradoras para un evento TEDx organizado de forma independiente y planeado para el 7 de diciembre de 2019. Con el tema “Audaz + Atrevido,” el evento de este año presentará a mujeres de todo el mundo que se atreven a salir de la norma y llevar la innovación a su campo, y a la sociedad en general, y hacerlo sin pedir disculpas. **TEDxEasthamptonWomen** es un espacio para que las mujeres que se identifican a sí mismas y las queer de género realicen cambios transformadores e implementen ideas innovadoras para compartir su pasión con otras personas en todo el valle y más allá. Si está interesada en hablar, envíe su propuesta a más tardar el 31 de mayo a: Emily Beebe, TEDxEasthampton-Women Curator [www.tedxeasthamptonwomen.com](http://www.tedxeasthamptonwomen.com).

## Sticky Fingers; Naranjeando, una exposición en La Mariposa



Jackie Padilla delante de una de sus obras.

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

**TURNERS FALLS** – Jackie Padilla de la Rosa nació en Florida de padres colombianos. Creció en una casa donde se hablaba español y el arte era parte de la vida cotidiana donde convivían la música de su padre tocando el acordeón y el amor por la cocina de su madre. No podía ser de otra manera que Jackie eligiera ser artista, desde adolescente sabía que quería dedicarse el arte.

Después de terminar la secundaria decidió que quería explorar otras zonas de Estados Unidos, conocer otras estaciones y ver la nieve, así que se mudó a Massachusetts donde empezó a estudiar arte en UMass-Amherst.

La exposición de escultura es parte de su proyecto de fin de carrera en Bellas Artes. Sus esculturas están hechas de diferentes materiales como yeso, lana, metales, cerámica, papel y otros materiales de nuestra vida cotidiana.

Además de esculturas, Jackie también pinta. Le encanta inspirarse en las vetas de la madera para seguir las líneas naturales y completarlas con sus diseños llenos de color.

La comida y la música latina son fuentes de inspiración para ella y últimamente trabaja mucho con la música de la cantante española Rosalía. El colectivo La Mariposa es su casa en este momento y no piensa en volver a Florida en un futuro próximo.

La exposición que se exhibe en este momento en La Mariposa se titula **Sticky Fingers; Naranjeando** y en ella podemos completar unas grandes manos con enormes dedos de colores llamativos en yeso pintado. Los dedos se extienden tratando de llegar hacia un cerebro.

Otra de las obras expuestas representa un telar en el que el público puede intentar tejer. Está realizado en madera, cuerda y lana. Piel de naranjas y naranjas enteras están distribuidas por sus obras aportando color y el calor de su estado de nacimiento.

En cuanto a la pintura, sus cuadros realizados sobre madera pintada están llenos de color y vida, mostrando la personalidad efervescente de Jackie. Si quieren ustedes pueden visitar la exposición que estará en La Mariposa, 111 Avenue A en Turners hasta finales de este mes.

## Una experiencia en Town Meeting

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

**MONTAGUE** – El año pasado fui elegida como representante del precinto cinco en *Town Meeting*<sup>1</sup> de Montague. Fue uno de mis primeros derechos en ejercer al convertirme en estadounidense además de votar en las diferentes elecciones. Este sábado pasado la reunión empezó a las 8.30 en punto y se esperaba larga por el gran número de artículos a discutir. Lo primero que me llamó la atención es el escaso número de integrantes que no sean hombres blancos. Supongo que representa la demografía de Montague, y espero que en los próximos años esto vaya cambiando. El *Select Board* está compuesto exclusivamente por tres hombres blancos y hay una única mujer en el comité de finanzas. En cambio, el comité está formado por una mayoría de mujeres y algunas de ellas son personas de color.

La mayoría de artículos estaban dedicados a discutir si los miembros de Town Meeting votaban a favor de o en contra de distribuir diferentes cantidades de dinero que previamente habían sido discutidas por el comité financiero.

La única de las disposiciones que realmente motivó una acalorada discusión fue la relativa al oficial de policía para las escuelas públicas de Gill-Montague. La decisión de tener un agente de policía en la escuela había sido aprobada previamente por el comité escolar, así que la discusión en *Town Meeting* no incluía ese punto, sino la provisión de dinero de la ciudad destinada a ello o no. Algunos representantes de varios

precintos mostraron su oposición a la presencia de un oficial de policía en la escuela, y otros miembros apoyaron esta medida con diferentes argumentos. Un miembro del comité escolar presente también en *Town Meeting* explicó que había sido una decisión adoptada por dicho comité y que si existía una oposición debía ser llevada ante este además de añadir que actualmente hay posiciones libres si alguien quiere participar en el comité escolar.

Me gustó mucho ver como las tres provisiones de dinero destinadas a las tres bibliotecas públicas de Montague obtuvieron una votación positiva sin ningún tipo de problema o argumentos en contra.

Al final de la sesión hubo tres propuestas muy interesantes que pasaron con una adecuada mayoría. La primera fue la de pasar una ley contra la proliferación de armas nucleares, la segunda fue la prohibición de usar compuestos químicos que ataquen a los insectos polinizadores y por último una resolución que ya ha sido adoptada por diferentes comunidades de Massachusetts como Amherst, Greenfield o Gill y que afecta a la imagen que aparece en la bandera del estado de Massachusetts considerada racista por movimientos nativo americanos.

Si desea ayudar a obtener más información sobre este último asunto, comuníquese con [daviddetmold@gmail.com](mailto:daviddetmold@gmail.com) o (413) 863-9296 para obtener más información.

Usted también puede visitar la siguiente página web para conocer más sobre ello: [maindigenousagenda.org](http://maindigenousagenda.org).

1. Se utilizan los términos en inglés cuando no existe una traducción exactamente igual en español.

## Conducir sin miedo: Licencias de manejar para todos

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

Desde el 26 de marzo de 2018, la oficina de registro de vehículos de Massachusetts pide nuevos requisitos para conseguir o renovar su licencia de conducir. La oficina ahora exige que cuando presente su documentación usted tendrá que demostrar que es ciudadano de los Estados Unidos o que es residente en el mismo.

Esta nueva licencia de manejar que se llama Real ID va a llevar una estrella en la parte superior de la derecha y será obligatoria a partir de octubre de 2020. Solamente se podrá utilizar este tipo de documentación o un pasaporte para poder subir a un avión.

Ante esta situación, la organización Movimiento Cosecha junto con el Centro de Trabajadores del Pioneer Valley marcharon duraron cuatro días hacia Boston con grupo de unos 100 inmigrantes y sus familias el último fin de semana de abril para pedir que inmigrantes indocumentados puedan conseguir licencias de manejar. En este momento muchos inmigrantes en este país están conduciendo sin licencia con todas las consecuencias que ello conlleva, desde el miedo de los propios conductores hasta posibles problemas con la compañía aseguradora.

El Movimiento Cosecha ha llamado a esta campaña **#Conducir sin Miedo** y se puede seguir a través de Twitter. Estas mismas marchas se

han llevado a cabo en otros estados al mismo tiempo.

Algunos senadores de otras partes del estado de Massachusetts ya han abogado por una ley relativa a la movilidad familiar y al transporte en el trabajo que permitiría que todas las personas que residen en el estado, sin importar su status migratorio, pudieran obtener una licencia de manejar tipo estándar, no las que se conocen como Real ID.

Este proyecto de ley también requeriría una citación u orden judicial

para que los agentes federales de inmigración accedan a los registros de un conductor con licencia. Y el proyecto de ley dice que tampoco permitiría que las licencias se consideraran la base para el procesamiento. El gobernador Baker no está a favor de este proyecto de ley y no piensa firmarla.

Como hemos ya declarado en otra ocasión en esta misma página hay doce estados en el país, entre ellos nuestro vecino Vermont, que permiten la obtención de esta licencia.

## Rectificación



Por causas ajenas a nuestra voluntad en nuestra sección de abril apareció una imagen con un pie de foto que no le correspondía. La foto que ilustraba la primera página no correspondía al texto que aparecía debajo. Esta es la foto con el texto correcto:

*“Pequeños integrantes del grupo Folclore latino con la bandera de Guatemala.”*

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, MAY 9

DVAA, Northfield: *Open Studio Night*. Bring art materials, instruments, poetry, to share with fellow artists. There will be a setup to draw from. 6 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *John Lentz Trio*. 8 p.m.

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

### FRIDAY, MAY 10

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Uncle Hal's Crabgrass Band*. 6:30 p.m.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *m & e duo*. Great Falls Coffeehouse Series presents classical and folk guitar and voice with *m & e duo*. Spanning the ages with songs from diverse composers including John Dowland, Franz Schubert, Joni Mitchel, and the Indigo Girls. Proceeds benefit programs at the Center. Refreshments. Donation. 7 p.m.

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

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

Cold Spring Hollow, Belcher-town: *Male Patterns, Eye Witness, Recital, Gay Mayor*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

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

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 11

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Traditional Music Open Session-Contra, Irish, Old Time Etc*. Open jam session. 3 p.m.

Abandon Dream, K St., Turners Falls: *Headroom, Storks, Cycles Inside*. 6 p.m.

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

Greenfield High School, Green-

field: *Call to Peace*. Pioneer Valley Symphony and Chorus hold the final concert of the season featuring all PVS members and members of the surrounding music community in performing Beethoven's Symphony #9 in D minor, and other works. \$. 7:30 p.m.

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

SUBMITTED IMAGE



*Malgorzata Lach of Erring and Eileen Ruby of Greenfield are m & e duo. They will perform classical and folk music at the Great Falls Discovery Center this Friday, May 10, as part of the Coffeehouse Series of concerts to benefit programs at the Center. Their repertoire spans the ages, with songs in English, French and Spanish, by composers as diverse as John Dowland, Franz Schubert, Manuel de Falla, Joni Mitchell, Cat Stevens, and the Indigo Girls. Concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Suggested donation: \$6 to 12. Refreshments available; museum open during intermission.*

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic #34*. With featured artist *Diana Allen*. A beautiful space and a friendly audience in a small town. Donation. 7:30 p.m.

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Abolition Fest: Prison Abolition Fundraiser*. Featuring *Doonya, Yellowfront, Kobi, Stoner Will & the Narks*, and more. Funds for Books Through Bars and the Abolition Network. Donation. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Julian Marley & Uprising*. Son of Bob Marley and Lucy Pounder, Julian grew up in Jamaica and was mentored by Aston Barrett and other reggae legends. Julian continues the roots reggae tradition, and is a devout Rastafarian whose spirituality informs his music. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Deep C Divers*. Funky alt pop rock and reggae originals. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Heath Lewis*. 9:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MAY 12

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mother's Day Country Music Dance*. With the *Nite Caps*. \$. 2 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quebecois Music Session*. 3 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lila Wiles*. Americana. \$. 7 p.m.

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Joey Agresta, The Cradle, Holy People, Holy Basil*.

### THURSDAY, MAY 16

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

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Model Home, M. Sayyid, V. Vecker, Jake Megin-sky*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, MAY 17

Element Brewing Co, Millers Falls: *Brule's Irish Band*. 6 p.m.

L7, Turners Falls: *Hung Trucker, Huevos II, Human Ignorance, New Parents, Tuft, Psychotica, Animal Piss*. Last show. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Comedy Night*. Greenfield Police Association presents a night of comedy. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Host, Wam Dust, J.J. Beck, Jen Gelineau*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lonesome Brothers, Dez Roy*. Americana and country. \$. 8 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance*. *Cammy Kaynor* with *Al MacIntyre, Susan Conger*, and the *Back Row Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sunny Lowdown Americana Jam*. Roots and Americana jam with open mic. 9 p.m.

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

### SATURDAY, MAY 18

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *The Lied To's, Austin & Elliot*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Mt. Toby Friends Meeting, Lev-erett: *Maria Dunn*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Patti's Party Palooza*. Multiple bands on the outdoor stage. \$. 8 p.m.

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Arthur Brooks Ensemble*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lobsterz from Mars*. Grateful Dead cover band. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Acid Dad, Receivers, Phenomena 256, Hot Flakes*. Indie rock in the Perch. \$. 8:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, MAY 19

Root Cellar: *Low Frequency Sound Exploration*. 3 p.m.

\$. 8 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, MAY 13

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

### TUESDAY, MAY 14

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Ned Collette, State Champion, Nick Bisceglia*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Comedy with Jon Ross*. In the Wheelhouse. 8 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, MAY 15

Root Cellar (Ten Forward), Greenfield: *Underwear, Will Roan, Head of Wantastiquet, Botanica Wilde*. Experimental R&B, electronics, audio visual performance. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band Jam*. On the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sal-sa Wednesday*. With McCoy and DJ Roger Jr. \$. 8 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* (Rathbun reception Sunday, May 19, 2 p.m.) Through May.

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.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague: *Roads and Rails: Trucks, Trains, and Cars with a Twist*. Paintings by Louise Minks featuring

her favorite steam engine trains and old cars and trucks. May 1 through May 31. Reception Saturday, May 11, 1 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Garden Structures and Ornaments*: works by *Piper Glass & Steel*. Structures providing visual interest and functional support in the garden. *Water-side: Man-Made Structures in Natural Landscapes* paintings by *Paul Hoffman*. Each painting establishes a unique sense of place. Through June 30. Reception with classical guitar music by *Chris Eriquezzo* on June 1, 3 p.m.

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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).

burne Falls: *Fabrications*, a fiber art exhibit by member artists in May.

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

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By MISHEL IXCHEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – I believe in tiny revolutions. I believe in our ability to change ourselves, and in the process, create high-vibrational ripples in our corners of the world. Whatever our situation, whatever our challenges. And so, as I navigate the challenging day-to-day of single parenthood, I remind myself of the words a wise woman once proclaimed: “Turn your mess into your message.”

Single motherhood has been all kinds of messy. While part of me often yearns for the stability that a two-income household seems to provide, I feel like this experience is whipping me into financial shape. It’s bitter medicine, and yet, I feel like it’s healing some deep ancestral

out of it, and suddenly found ourselves navigating the muddy waters of a breakup a mere three months after the baby was born.

Ultimately, what snapped me out of my broken-hearted stupor was the realization that we were given a blank canvas: we were now free to create a healthy co-parenting relationship. I began to focus on the love that exists between my child and his father; I began to fall in love with their love for one another.

There is a scene from the movie *Frida*, starring Salma Hayek, that rubbed off on my soul: that of the two separate houses, one belonging to her and the other to her husband, connected by a bridge. The bridge was meant to symbolize their love. After our separation, we moved out of the house we were sharing, and

# Turn Your Mess Into Your Message

wounds. Thing is, even though I’m still month-to-month-ing it, I get to revel in the sweet taste of freedom that comes with resourcefulness and self-sufficiency.

My co-parenting experience also started off as a gigantic mess. Ours was a brief, yet powerful, love affair that resulted in the birth of our incredible son. Just as quickly as we fell in love, we fell

magically found a living situation that allows us to live a stone’s throw away from one another, our love-child the metaphorical bridge that keeps us connected.

In the most radical of ways, we are a living, breathing, tiny revolution: we have redefined for ourselves what it means to raise a child in such close proximity, while maintaining completely separate lives. Thriving in our separate ways.

And this tiny revolution is continuing to evolve.

Since redefining the relationship, giving room for individual growth, and in essence, creating separate yet intertwined lives, we are now gifting our child with what I believe to be a rare and powerful experience. Our little one is now witnessing us as we pursue what we feel most called to do. He’s watching his dada run kitchens, cater events, and cook intentional food, and he’s watching me launch myself into the one thing I’ve devoted a good chunk of my life to: hot yoga.

Backtrack to 2006: I was Japan-bound after graduating from Queens College and receiving a fellowship from Princeton-in-Asia. Things took a turn, though, as they often do. A family friend came back into my life, and invited me to come out to London. Convinced me, actually: “Japan? No, come to Britain!” So I did. Without any

agenda other than to keep an open mind, I bought a one-way, and took up residence in Fulham.

About two weeks into my new adventure, I sprained my ankle and became bedridden. I kid you not. There I was, with my foot propped up on a mountain of pillows, watching the gorgeous summer days roll by my window, reading *Crime and Punishment*, wondering if I’d made the right decision to move there, and overall being clueless as to what to do next with my life.

It was around this time that I decided to google a local yoga studio, and Hot Yoga Bikram Fulham popped up first on the search list. Their website beckoned: *New students! 10 pounds for 10 days!* I hobbled my way over, paid the 10 quid, completely unaware that by doing so, my life would take a definitive turn.

I ended up getting my £10’s worth. I showed up every day for ten days. My ankle healed quickly, and even better, I began to feel like I’ve never felt before. The ten days turned into a 30-day challenge. By the end of the 30-day challenge, I was hooked, I was curious, I was hungry, and I wanted to know more. So I took the plunge and enrolled in teacher training.

Since then, I’ve been chasing hot yoga around the world, meeting incredible people, and deepening my

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understanding of the practice. This wild, hot practice has shown me that it’s possible to age with a healthy spine, body, and mind, surrounded by a loving community. And now, having finally found a place to set down roots – and firmly believing in tiny revolutions – I have set into motion the creation of a hot yoga studio. In all honesty, it feels like I am pregnant all over again.

But if motherhood has taught me anything, it is to love the messes and figure out how to reframe them into my message. A message of power, hope, love, magic, and tiny revolutions that I can weave into bedtime stories for my little one.

*Ecuadorian-born and New York City bred, Mishel Ixchel is mama to a toddler, and currently resides in Turners Falls where she practices and teaches the art of sacred self-care. You can find her on Instagram @rootsandembers.*

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