

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 17 – NO. 36

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 11, 2019

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Towns Will Have Input on Hydro Split

By MIKE JACKSON

The town of Gill learned last week that it – along with the towns of Northfield and Montague, the Elnu Abenaki tribe, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), the Connecticut River Conservancy, the Appalachian Mountain Club, two whitewater rafting advocacy groups, and environmental journalist Karl Meyer – have been granted official status as intervenors in FirstLight Power Resources’ application to transfer its two local hydropower licenses to two new subsidiaries.

The power company, which has asked the federal government to allow it to hold the Turners Falls dam, power canal, and Cabot Station under “FirstLight MA Hydro LLC” and the pumped-storage generator under Northfield Mountain under “Northfield Mountain LLC,” asserts that the move is simply a “corporate restructuring” and not a preparation to sell either project.

The proposed split comes during a multi-year review process of the company’s licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to operate both projects.

“[T]hese projects operate with very different operating models, costs and financial models,” regulatory director Len Greene wrote in February in response to public unease, adding that the move is “separate [from] and independent of that ongoing relicensing process.”

At its meeting Monday night, see **GILL** page A6

## MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD State and Town To Shell Out for Strathmore Mill Hazmat Cleanup

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard awarded a \$58,000 contract to the engineering firm Tighe & Bond on Monday to manage a project to abate hazardous materials – primarily asbestos – at the former Strathmore mill complex. The firm will develop the project design, implement a bidding process for a general contractor, and monitor the work performed.

The cleanup will be funded using a \$250,000 grant from the state agency MassWorks, and by borrowing approved by Montague town meeting. Town planner Walter Ramsey said that about \$315,000 remains of the town meeting appropriation of \$385,000.

Most of the borrowed money will go toward abating hazardous materials in five buildings which town officials have targeted for demolition. The state grant, on the other hand, will be spent cleaning out the four buildings in the town-owned complex that would remain standing.

One of these, Building 11, is a free-standing structure, while the other three, Buildings 1, 2, and 4 are holding up a privately owned hydroelectric plant called Turners Falls Hydro. The announcement of the grant by the governor’s office specified that “the town will use

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## BLAZE OF GLORY



JOE KOPERA PHOTO

Every year, the Montague Center fire department hosts a Third of July bonfire on the ballfield by the station. The tradition dates at least as far back as the 1950s. Joe Kopera shared this photograph of this year’s fire.

## Wendell Looks Back at Highway Battle

By ANNABEL LEVINE with NINA ROSSI

**WENDELL** – Next Thursday night, July 18 at 7 p.m., the Wendell Library is offering “The Saga of Route 2,” a presentation about the successful efforts in the 1980s to prevent the state from rerouting Route 2 through parts of the Wendell State Forest.

In the late 1970s, the state of Massachusetts tried to expand the highway into four lanes and reroute it through the northern part of the Wendell State Forest. Residents of Wendell objected, and spent the next ten years fighting for their forests.

In 1987, the state decided to drop the plan, and instead committed to safety improvements on the existing road in Irving. The state’s decision was a direct result of a well-organized combined effort by Wendell residents.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Residents at an early 1980s Full Moon Coffeehouse to raise money for Wendell Concerned Citizens, the main group opposing the Route 2 rerouting. Third from left is Jonathan von Ranson, followed by Jim Slavas, the Bear, and Anne Zak.

Thursday’s presentation is thanks to the efforts of Johanna Bartlett, a resident of Wendell who moved to the area ten years ago and became

interested in the story of how years ago, her friends were able to challenge the state and win.

see **HIGHWAY** page A4

## Taco Truck Welcomed With Open Arms

By MIKE JACKSON

**GREENFIELD** – Tito’s Taqueria opened its trailer windows at 11 a.m. on Wednesday, and by noon a line stretched across the Sunoco station’s parking lot.

Some customers, like Bill Cow-

an, were already loyal fans of Tito’s lunch truck in Brattleboro, and were thrilled to check out the new Greenfield spot. “If you haven’t tried them, try them,” said Cowan, who added that he patronizes Tito’s north of the border “quite often – at least twice a month.”

Cowan, who works for F. M. Kuzmeskus, said he usually gets a burrito, though today he had opted for a burrito bowl, and was eating it at one of the picnic tables onsite.

Others had shown up in response to fast-spreading word of mouth. “A couple guys from work already came today, and they mentioned it,” said an SWM International employee who gave his name as Josh.

Several customers were dressed in scrubs and hospital name tags, and one man standing in line with friends from work asked not to be photographed, explaining with a grin that his wife had made him a sandwich that day.

Cheyenna Woodard came to the window armed with a list of ten individualized taco orders from her coworkers at A.H. Rist Insurance in Turners Falls. Owner Tito Garza and Lynden Bunker hustled to assemble each order, wrap it in foil,

see **TACOS** page A7



JACKSON PHOTO

Tito Garza and Lynden Bunker make tacos for a growing line of customers on Wednesday.

## Tree Group Introduces Twelve-Page Tree Bylaw

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – The Montague tree advisory committee is proposing a hefty new bylaw to regulate the planting and removal of trees in the town’s five villages. “This has been about two years in coming to you, since our initial charge,” tree advisory committee chair David Detmold told the town selectboard at its July 8 meeting. He was accompanied at the front table by Michael Marcotriggiano, fellow tree committee member and former director of the Botanic Garden of Smith College.

The issue of a town tree bylaw emerged in 2016 after the electric company Eversource removed a number of historic “Klaiber trees” on Montague Street without public hearings. At that time the town administrator, the late Frank Abbonanzio, penned a tree bylaw requiring a hearing prior to the cutting of any public tree larger than 1.5 inches in diameter. The proposed bylaw was never considered by the selectboard or town meeting.

Detmold said the tree committee’s new draft, twelve pages long, was based on bylaws from Greenfield, Northampton, Amherst, and “every other town we could find.”

see **TREES** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Leverett Hires Third Cop, Hopes To Calm Traffic

By ROB SKELTON

Vacancies in the police and highway departments and on the capital planning and assessor boards were discussed at the Leverett selectboard’s one-hour July 9 meeting.

The selectboard unanimously voted to appoint Jeff Belanger to the police force, pending a successful background check. The board reported that chief Scott Minckler had presented three good candidates, but Belanger’s experience as a firefighter and EMT sealed the deal.

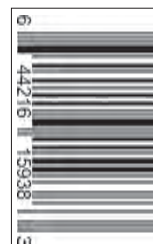
Expect to see more traffic policing, the board announced, as a fatality on Route 63 recently had a “drag-racing” component. A bicycle safety grant was received, which will fund further safety enhancements and speed traps.

Road boss David Finn has only one candidate for a position in his department; the board held off on a hire because there were “important things coming up” and in the meantime work can be outsourced.

The Coke Kiln Road bridge replacement low bid came in at \$237,000 – considerably higher than expected – from C. Davenport of Greenfield. Board chair Peter see **LEVERETT** page A3

### Items Of Possible Interest On This Edition’s Interior Pages:

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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## In The Hole

In the late 19th century, the Turners Falls Company, by digging a canal, created an island. Whatever market value was lost in the land's reduced accessibility was more than made up for in potential energy: the island was tilted; the water on one side was higher than on the other.

The company sold strips of land on the island, together with rights to use certain volumes of the falling water, to other private interests.

In the early 20th century, as the age of hydromechanical power gave way to hydroelectricity, the company extended the island, and then merged with Amherst Power into the Turners Falls Power and Electric Co. (TFPEC).

Since the company's island was progressively more tilted toward its southern end, the relative economic value of the water was higher there. The company didn't sell this land, but instead used the water there to generate power, which it sold.

The island project was passed along by merger. By the 1940s it was WMECO's machine, and by the 1960s, Northeast Utilities'. Rail

access was removed, and those chumps who'd bought upstream lots went belly up, one by one.

Landlocked inside the Turners Falls Project, which concentrates energy two miles to the south, these properties are all *negatively economically valuable*, as a direct result of a series of decisions undertaken over the last century and a half by the Project's owner.

And so, one by one, they are being assigned to the local owners of last resort: the Inhabitants of the Town of Montague.

The federal government permits the river to be transformed, topologically speaking, into a donut; its energy generates profit for the private entity that owns and controls this donut, while pollution and liability accumulate inside the donut's publicly owned hole.

Montague and Massachusetts are preparing to remove poisonous materials from that hole, in an effort to restore positive economic value to the property, so the private sector will again want to own it. *Under what system does this make sense?*

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Escape From L.A.

By HARVEY WASSERMAN

**LOS ANGELES** – We are *this close* to an unimaginable apocalyptic horror:

Had Friday's 7.1 earthquake and other ongoing seismic shocks hit less than 200 miles northwest of Ridgecrest/China Lake, ten million people in Los Angeles would now be under an apocalyptic cloud, their lives and those of the state and nation in radioactive ruin.

The likely human death toll would be in the millions. The likely property loss would be in the trillions. The forever damage to our species' food supply, ecological support systems, and longterm economy would be very far beyond any meaningful calculation. The threat to the ability of the human race to survive on this planet would be extremely significant.

The two cracked, embrittled, under-maintained, unregulated, uninsured, and un-inspected atomic reactors at Diablo Canyon, near San Luis Obispo, would be a seething radioactive ruin.

Their cores would be melting into the ground. Hydrogen explosions would be blasting the site to deadly dust. One or both melted cores would have burned into the earth and hit ground or ocean water, causing massive steam explosions with physical impacts in the range of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The huge clouds would send murderous radioactive isotopes into the atmosphere that would permanently poison the land, the oceans, the air ... and circle the globe again and again, and yet again, filling

the lungs of billions of living things with the most potent poisons humans have ever created.

In 2010, badly maintained gas pipes run by Pacific Gas & Electric blew up a neighborhood in San Bruno, killing eight people. PG&E's badly maintained power lines have helped torch much of northern California, killing 80 people and incinerating more than 10,000 structures.

Now in bankruptcy, with its third president in two years, PG&E is utterly unqualified to run two large, old, obsolete, crumbling atomic reactors which are surrounded by earthquake faults. At least a dozen faults have been identified within a small radius around the reactors. The reactor cores are less than fifty miles from the San Andreas fault, less than half the distance that Fukushima Daiichi was from the epicenter that destroyed four reactors there.

Diablo cannot withstand an earthquake of the magnitude now hitting less than 200 miles away. In 2014, the Associated Press reported that Dr. Michael Peck, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's site inspector at Diablo, had warned that the two reactors should be shut because they can't withstand a seismic shock like the one that has just hit so close. The NRC tried to bury Peck's report. They attacked his findings, then shipped him to Tennessee. He's no longer with the Commission.

All major reactor disasters have come with early warnings. A 1978 accident at Ohio's Davis-Besse reactor presaged the 1979 disaster at Three Mile Island. The realities were

hidden, and TMI spewed radiation that killed local people and animals in droves.

Soviet officials knew the emergency shutdown mechanism at Chernobyl could cause an explosion – but kept it secret. Unit Four exploded the instant the rods meant to shut it down were deployed.

Decades before disaster struck at Fukushima Daiichi, millions of Japanese citizens marched to demand atomic reactors *not* be built in a zone riddled by fault lines, washed by tsunamis.

In California, ten thousand citizens were arrested demanding the same. Diablo's owners hid the existence of the Hosgri Fault just three miles from the site. A dozen more nearby fault lines have since been found, capable in tandem of delivering shocks like the ones shaking Ridgecrest. No significant structural improvements have been made to deal with the newfound fault lines.

The truly horrifying HBO series on Chernobyl currently topping all historic viewership charts shows just a small sample of the ghastly death and destruction that can be caused by official corruption and neglect.

Like Soviet *apparatchiks*, the state of California has refused to conduct independent investigations on the physical status of the two Diablo reactors. It has refused to hold public hearings on Dr. Peck's warnings that they can't withstand seismic shocks like the ones now being experienced so dangerously nearby. If there are realistic plans to evacuate Los Angeles and other downwind areas during

reactor melt-downs/explosions, hearings on them have yet to be held.

In the wake of the 2011 explosions at Fukushima, the NRC staff compiled critical reforms for American reactors, including Diablo. But the Commission killed the proposed regulations. So nothing significant has been done to improve safety at two coastal reactors upwind of ten million people that are surrounded by earthquake faults in a tsunami zone like the one where the four Fukushima reactors have already exploded.

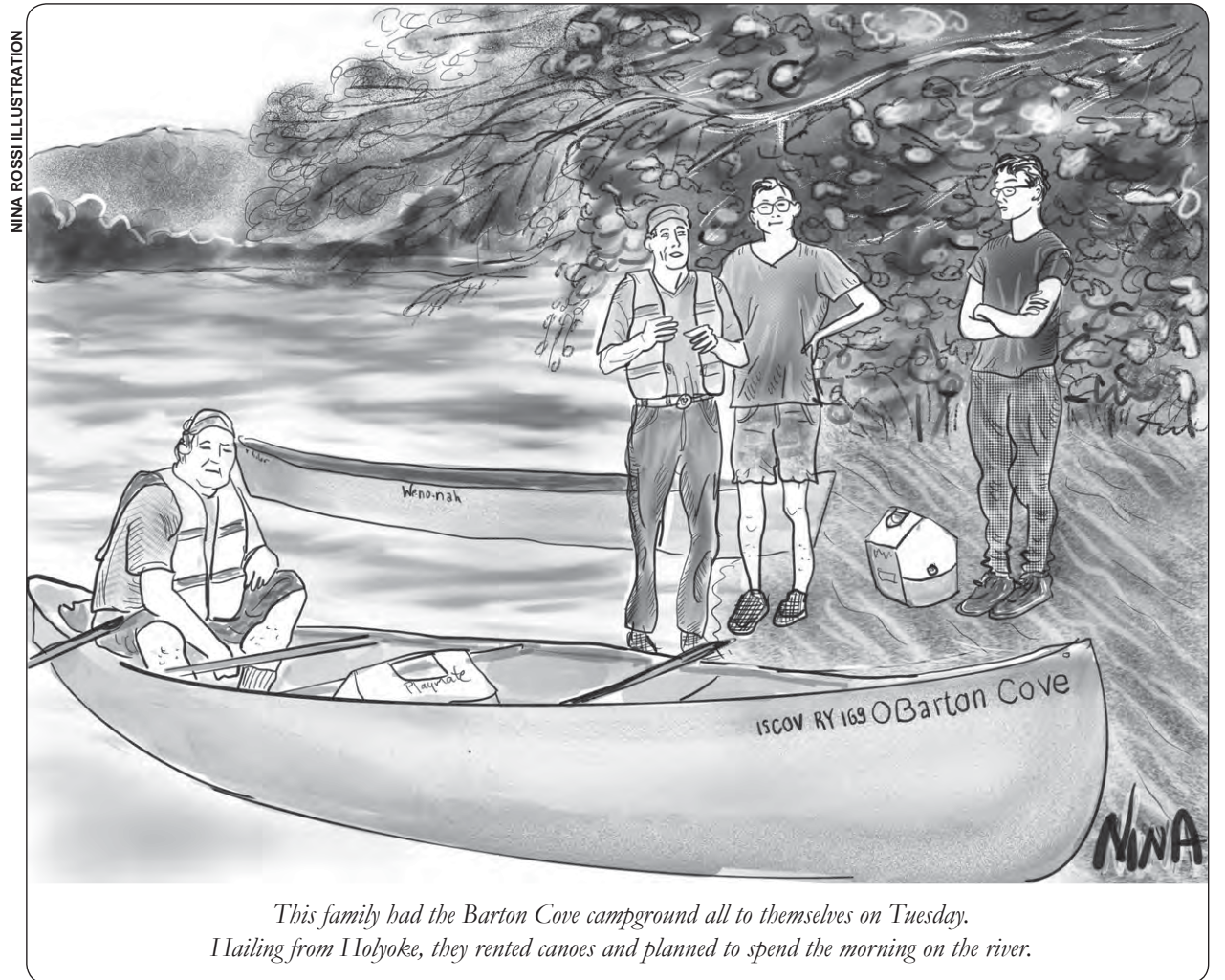
There are no excuses. These seismic shocks will never stop. Diablo is scheduled to shut in 2024 and 2025. But massive advances in wind, solar, batteries and efficiency have already rendered the nukes' power unnecessary. A petition demanding Governor Newsom and the state independently investigate Diablo's ability to operate safely is at [www.solartopia.org](http://www.solartopia.org).

That petition began circulating *before* these latest quakes. The continued operation of these two reactors has now gone to a whole new level of apocalyptic insanity.

Be afraid. Be *very* afraid.

Harvey "Sluggo" Wasserman helped found the Montague Farm in 1968, and invented the slogan "No Nukes" in 1973. He lives in California.

This editorial, which was submitted by a Montague Reporter reader and contributor, was originally published at LA Progressive ([laprogressive.com](http://laprogressive.com)) as "The Quake to Make Los Angeles a Radioactive Dead Zone."



This family had the Barton Cove campground all to themselves on Tuesday. Hailing from Holyoke, they rented canoes and planned to spend the morning on the river.

## Letter to the Editors Road to Perdition

There is a very high incidence of Our Lady of Peace churchgoers who drive the wrong way on T Street, which is clearly marked as one-way. They do this, apparently, to save themselves a minute or two of driving time.

T Street is one-way specifically because of traffic entering and exiting the church parking lot, and this is instituted for the safety of pedes-

trians in the area.

If these people can't be bothered to acknowledge the primary premise of decent behavior for its sake alone, they should consider that what they are doing is illegal. Moreover, God is very unhappy about it.

Kevin J. Smith  
Turners Falls

## CORRECTIONS

Two errors were made in "One Image is Worth Many Thousand Words: Peter Monroe's Photography at the Greenfield Gallery" (June 27, Page B1):

- The oldest image in the show was not "Cadillac Sixty Special," but "Youth at Seven Corners" (1977);

- Monroe's first camera was not the Minox his father gave him when he was 11. He writes: "[M]y first camera was a Kodak "Starlight" Brownie at age 8 and I took a lot of great pictures with it.... The Kodak was written about at length in the artist statement for *35mm Black & White Tri-X Negatives of the '70s*, coming out in book form end of the year. The series was shown at Nina's Nook in 2014."

Thanks! Sorry!

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# LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

You know that summer is really here when it's time again for the **Green River Music Festival**. The event, happening at Greenfield Community College July 12 through 14, features music, local food, beer, and wine, handmade crafts, and lots of games and activities for families. For more information and tickets, see [www.greenriverfestival.com](http://www.greenriverfestival.com).

The **Kidleidoscope program** continues through the summer at the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A in Turners Falls on Friday mornings from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Learn about our wildlife neighbors who share our home in the Connecticut River Watershed.

Each program includes a story, interactive games, and a craft to introduce young children to wildlife along the river. Meet in the Great Hall. For ages three to six, accompanied by an adult. Siblings and friends welcome.

The theme for Friday, July 12 is **Coyotes**. **Dragonflies** are on July 19, and **Skunks** on July 26.

On Friday, July 12 from 6 to 9:30 p.m., come to Peskeomskut Park on 7th Street off Avenue A for family-friendly activities, including crafts, food, live music, and the classic family movie: **Finding Dory**. Bring a folding chair or blanket.

All are invited to **create a personalized, unique collage** with Nila Patterson at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls on Saturday, July 13 from 9:15 to 11:45 a.m. While some supplies will be available, you can personalize your collage by bringing materials

such as old calendars, magazines, family photographs, wallpaper patterns, and other papers.

The workshop is offered free, for ages ten and up. GSB will provide light refreshments. Participants should park in the Food City parking lot. For more information, contact Nila Patterson at (978) 544-2974. The program will be offered again on August 10.

Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center's **interpretive river cruises** on the Heritage Riverboat have begun for the season! The French King Gorge is one of the most scenic stretches of the Connecticut River in Massachusetts. Climb aboard the Heritage Riverboat and enjoy a relaxing and informative journey down New England's great river.

This 12-mile narrated cruise takes 1½ hours. The boat runs Thursday through Sunday at 11 a.m., 1:15 and 3 p.m. until mid-October. Tickets for cruises are sold online at [www.bookeo.com/northfield](http://www.bookeo.com/northfield) or by calling (800) 859-2960.

As a bonus, popular Greenfield Community College Professor Emeritus Richard Little will be guiding the 1:15 and 3 p.m. tours this Saturday, July 13. The focus of those cruises will be **the geological history of the valley**.

The First Congregational Church of Montague is offering a mouth-watering **Strawberry Shortcake Supper** in the Fellowship Hall at 4 North Street, Montague Center. Peg tells me that the menu includes ham with pineapple salsa, potato salad, pickled beets, crudité with ranch dressing, assorted breads, beverages, and of course, strawberry shortcake!

With the passing of Beth Adams, the board was tasked with appointing a new Leverett rep to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. It didn't take long for them to choose Pat Duffy, whose dispassionate but direct reasoning served her and the town well during negotiations around the "plume" emanating from the closed landfill.

The historical commission's Susan Mareneck wrote the selectboard about the historic "Miller's" bridge off Shutesbury Road, asking for special consideration when the state department of transportation redesigns the bridge in the near future, since it is a structure of historical importance.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford, on crutches with a broken leg at the May 27 meeting, was in a wheelchair at Tuesday's meeting, following a mishap involving two Labrador retrievers.

Thanks to some research by Scott Merzbach of the *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, it was revealed that deceased Leverett resident John van Steenberg, who willed \$90,000 each to the library, conservation commission, and church, was hounded out of the CIA in Stockholm, Sweden in 1953 during the McCarthyite homosexual purge known as the "lavender scare," resulting in his long academic career at UMass.



Supper will be served at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 13. The cost is \$12 for adults, and \$7 for children. Call (413) 367-2652 for reservations.

This Sunday, July 14, from 9 a.m. to noon, Danny Botkin will be teaching a workshop on Guerrilla Gardening Tactics at Laughing Dog Farm, 398 Main Road, Gill.

With more than 20 years of organic gardening experience, Danny will teach any inspired food grower, chef, foodie or wannabe how to reliably produce food on small backyard plots, on rooftops, in containers, or in passive solar hoop houses. A greenhouse tour and snacks are included.

Call to register as space is limited: (413) 863-8696. There is a suggested donation of \$25 to \$35, but no one will be turned away.

On Sunday, July 14 from 1 to 2 p.m. in the Great Hall of the Great Falls Discovery Center, The Creature Teachers present **The Nature of My Backyard**. Meet your wildlife neighbors! This popular program explores the lives of the creatures living in our own backyards.

Meet some of the common animals that we encounter every day, such as porcupine, gray fox, woodchuck, flying squirrel, snapping turtle, milk snake, and more. Sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

The **Montague Community Band** will play at Peskeomskut Park on Monday, July 15 from 7 to 8 p.m. The theme of the concert is "Best of 2019." Be sure to bring something to sit on.

The Western MA and Southern VT **Parkinson's Support Group** meets Thursday, July 18 from 2 to 4 p.m. at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, 164 High Street, Greenfield. At this month's meeting Caitlin Bernhard, N.P., will be speaking about CBD, a component of cannabis used for medical purposes. This free program is open to all. Contact: Garry Earles for more information at (413) 863-4128 or [gle1@comcast.net](mailto:gle1@comcast.net).

Pre-1980s autos, trucks, rat rods, street rods, customs and motorcycles will be on display at the **Riverside Cruise-In** next Thursday, July 18 at the Schuetzen Verein club at Barton Cove, Route 2 in Riverside, Gill.

The show is free for spectators and vehicle owners alike. There will be a cash bar and food available, and a 50/50 raffle – no outside alcoholic beverages or dogs, please – and the hours are 4 p.m. until closing.

The Cruise-In is held every third Thursday, so if you miss it this month, come back August 15 or September 19. Contact "Chu-wee" at Riverside Radiator, (413) 863-4049, for more information.

Saturday, July 20 is a busy day at the Great Falls Discovery Center. From 10:30 a.m. to noon, in the Great Hall, the second in a series of **water-themed summer programs** featuring stories and art takes place.

The storybook pages from *Agua, Agua / Water, Little Water* (Spanish/English/Nahuatl) are on display in the Great Hall. Try your hand at making decorative papers, then use them to make a colorful collage inspired by the adventures of a little drop of water. For ages 6 and up, accompanied by an adult. Teens and adults are welcome too!

Then from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Great Hall, naturalist John Root will talk about **edible perennial**

**gardening and landscaping**. In this presentation, find out how to establish and maintain a variety of perennials, including trees, shrubs, vines, canes, and herbaceous plants, for harvests of fruits, nuts, and vegetables. Participants learn how to establish and care for these plants using organic methods of cultivation. Nutritional and medicinal benefits of the plants are discussed as well. Sponsored by the Friends of the Great Falls Discovery Center.

Also on Saturday, July 20 at 10:30, Staff Sergeant Lee Laster of the Montague Police Department will present a **program on Gun Safety** at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls. This is a great opportunity to learn from a gun safety expert the proper care, handling and storage of weapons.

With summer vacation underway, children in homes with firearms need to learn proper respect along with an understanding of how guns work. Staff Sergeant Laster is a veteran officer on the MPD, and fully licensed to conduct such an educational experience. Feel free to bring the entire family to witness firsthand the safety tips that will be presented and discussed. Light refreshments will be provided courtesy of GSB.

Reminder: the Millers Falls Community Improvement Association is sponsoring an **Ice Cream Social** on Saturday, July 20 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Meet your neighbors, stroll through the village, check out local businesses, and have a free ice cream at the Millers Falls Library, 23 Bridge Street, Millers Falls.

Looking ahead...

The PROJECT Trio – upright bass, cello, and beatboxing flute – will give a **free performance and interactive workshop** at the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls at 4 p.m. on Friday, June 26. This family-friendly event is open to all ages.

The trio, which boasts over 85 million views on YouTube, is also performing the following day at Antenna Cloud Farm in Gill.

**Montague Center Old Home Days** is coming up on August 17 and 18. If I may editorialize here, I think this annual celebration is the sweetest, most family-friendly and down-home event I've ever experienced.

If you have ever wanted to be in a parade, this is your chance! The Montague Old Home Days Parade is Saturday, August 17 at 12:30 p.m. Any walking groups, muscle cars, antique cars/trucks, horses, etc. are all welcome. For information, please contact Linda Ackerman at (413) 775-8261.

The organizers are also looking for vendors. If you are interested in vending, please call Peg Bridges at (413) 367-2061.

The 39th annual **Mug Race** is also happening Saturday, August 17. The race is 5.5 miles – it feels like uphill the whole way, according to one veteran runner – and begins at 8:30 a.m. There is also a 2-mile Mini Mug Race.


Baked goods and fresh fruit are offered after the race and a raffle of local goodies from race sponsors. Proceeds benefit the Montague Center Fire Department. Register online at [www.runreg.com/8810](http://www.runreg.com/8810).

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

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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Fire Chief Warns Against Loss of Pond

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The agenda for the Wendell selectboard's June 26 meeting was long, but the meeting itself lasted just over an hour. The day's light was beginning its slide into darkness as the two board members who came left the office building. Christine Heard was absent.

Ruth Flor met the selectboard in a continuation from the June 12 selectboard meeting with her and Peter Waters. At that meeting, they had complained about the use and abuse by a large truck on Old Egypt Road where it abuts their property. The truck's tires reportedly left ruts making the road unsuitable for walking or bicycle use. No one objects to that light use.

Old Egypt Road was posted, "No Trespassing," where it meets West Street as a T-intersection. Charlie Bennett owns both sides of the road, and therefore the road itself. Flor and Waters own the north side of the road further in from West Street.

The sign at West Street was rewritten to "No vehicles beyond this point." The truck driver has access to his property through the state forest via Hemingway Road, but for that, he will need a key from the state.

**Pendants and Sunshine**

Energy committee member Don Stone gave the selectboard a description of a proposal to change

the old fluorescent tubes in the town hall with more efficient LED school pendant lights from Love It Lighting. The lights are expensive, and their installation will require structural work overhead. They are guaranteed to last 50,000 hours.

The entire proposal includes replacing fixtures of bulbs in the entryway, the kitchen, the restrooms and the mechanical room, and would cost \$19,278. Stone said the finance committee supports paying the town's share of the cost with \$16,658 of the town's rehab loan payback funds, and the rest of the money would come from National Grid incentives and Green Community grant funds.

The proposal needs town meeting approval, likely at a fall special town meeting. It would not affect the tax rate.

Stone started and pursued development of a community solar farm that would use just over an acre of the town-owned property at 97 Wendell Depot Road. That project was stopped, and then merely stalled, while National Grid increases the capacity of the Wendell Depot substation. It will be a small part of the lineup of solar projects when the substation upgrade is complete.

The property at 97 Wendell Depot Road has enough acreage and frontage to subdivide the house lot from the proposed community solar project, but the distance between

the solar project and house lot is less than zoning regulations allow.

Anna Seeger, a town assessor and also a builder, has proposed renovating the house into two low-income rental units, while keeping as much of the historical nature of the house intact.

**Draining and Filling**

Fire chief Joe Cuneo came to address the state Office of Dam Safety's placing removal of the Bowens Pond dam on its "high priority" list.

Bowens Pond has the most central of Wendell's three dry hydrants. (A dry hydrant allows a fire department to get water from a pond whose surface has frozen over, and is an important water source for fighting fires year round.) The Office of Dam Safety representative said that the fire department could find other sources for water.

Cuneo admitted that the fire department would have to find other water sources if Bowens Pond were drained, but said that no other source is as good. As well as being the most central of Wendell's three dry hydrants, he said, the Bowens Pond dry hydrant is the only one that allows a circular route to and from a fire scene, and is near Wendell center. A tanker can get filled, return to a fire scene, dump water, and return to be refilled on a different road so it will not interfere with a full tanker returning to the fire.

Additionally, he said, Bowens Pond is the only fill site that is off the road, which gives firefighters a safer working area.

**Mowing and Growing**

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported two responses to replace Milton Bergman mowing town lawns. The advertisement was bro-

ken into two sections, one for the general mowing, and one for the town building septic mound, which would be mowed higher and only once a year in mid-May or late October to encourage plants that support native pollinators.

The original plan of the pollinator corridor working group would have had the septic mound divided into two or preferably three sections, each of which would be mowed once a year on a rotating basis. But town engineer Jim Slavas said the whole mound had to be mowed every year to keep roots from reaching down and plugging the drain pipes. He also said that there can be no plantings on the mound, for the same reason.

Wendell resident Tom Wetherby offered to mow the septic mound annually using his walk-behind tractor for \$75 per year. The other bid was \$375 per mowing for the other town properties, which do not require a machine as light as Wetherby's walk behind tractor.

Keller suggested putting an advertisement in a local paper.

July 1 is the scheduled time to change the septic system from one leach field to the other. Keller and former selectboard member Ted Lewis have done that every year, but Keller suggested that someone else learn the procedure.

**Other Biz**

Board of health chair Barbara Craddock came to inform the selectboard about board of health participation with Greenfield in the Massachusetts Virtual Epidemial Network (MAVEN). Information about communicable diseases will be shared.

The board agreed to carry forward several accounts into FY'20 including the audit account, asses-

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sors' revaluation account, website training account, IT capital purchase account, town hall crawl-space repair account, and broadband pole survey and network design accounts.

Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse submitted the only response to the town's request for proposals (RFP) for the meetinghouse property. Aldrich was given the task of writing up a purchase and sale agreement for \$100, with design work included. The property has already been surveyed and separated from the cemetery, which will stay as town property.

As of June 30, Dennis Hudson has retired as town custodian. Michelle Wilder has been cleaning, and will start taking trash to the WRATS. With his resignation, Hudson may do other work for the town.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

# Heating, Cooling, Cleaning, Policing

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, highway foreman Glenn McCrory told the Erving selectboard that the new compressor-based heating and cooling system was being installed at the town's senior and community center. "By the end of the week, we can fire it up!" he said.

The building's geothermal heating and cooling system, after years of problems and repairs, stopped working this spring. For the last several weeks, the building has been cooled by the state Department of Fire Services mobile HVAC unit.

The board reviewed a draft job description for a combined building and grounds maintenance position for both the senior and community center and the new library building. The current senior center custodian, who works 19 hours per week, will be leaving at the end of July. The new library, projected to open in February, will need to be cleaned and maintained.

McCrory initially suggested hiring a person for 25 to 30 hours per week until the new library building opens, then increasing them to 40.

Selectboard chair Scott Bastarache recommended starting the position at 40 hours, and having the employee cross-train with the custodian for the other seven town buildings and the grounds maintenance worker, and also work on special projects.

The board will consider a revised job description at their July 15 meeting. They appointed McCrory, senior center director Paula Betters, library director Barbara Friedman, selectboard member William Bembury, and town building custodian Rebecca Walsh to the hiring committee.

The board appointed Amanda Flower and Christopher Miner as patrol officers with the Erving Police Department. The appointments are contingent on passing psychological and drug tests, and both Flower and Miner will attend the state police academy.

Bembury, a member of the search committee, said that six candidates had been interviewed.

Bastarache reported that Daniel Pallotta, the owner's project manager for the library building project, said he felt that the \$325,000 bid for installation of a ground-mounted solar array at the new library was too high. According to Bastarache, Pallotta will contact contractors over this week to get estimates and provide the information before the July 15 meeting, so the board can decide whether to fail the current bid and go out to bid again.

The board declared various items, including a mower, diesel generator, and trailer, as surplus property. The items will be listed in the "Around Town" newsletter, and in the state's bidding newsletter.

# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was July 9, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

**Board Approves Biomass Permit**

After a contentious meeting on June 25, the Greenfield Zoning Board of Appeals approved a special permit for the construction of the biomass-burning power plant in the I-91 industrial park.

The meeting was a continuation of the ZBA hearing of June 15, which had lasted over four hours and at which 75 residents had spoken against the plan. The purpose of the continuation was to allow those who had been left out to have a chance to speak.

With exactly one resident in favor of the plan, those in attendance on June 25 spoke overwhelmingly against the construction of the plant. Terms such as "environmentally regressive" and "reckless" set the tone.

Although clearly rattled by the vehemence of the opposition, Matt Wolfe, the developer behind the project, answered questions which included queries about noise levels, acid rain impact, and the quality of

the wood to be used for burning.

The ZBA first decided to vote on the proposal on June 26, and then rescheduled for Monday, June 29. At about five minutes past nine, with no dissenting votes, the board approved the permit. The decision was jeered by a crowd of more than 100 residents who had gathered to witness the vote.

**New Montague Police Station**

Construction and commissioning of the Montague police department's future quarters, including a state-of-the-art geothermal heating and cooling system, continues to be ahead of schedule and under budget, according to those involved with the project.

Building committee members predict the job will be finished approximately \$700,000 under the \$5.6 million budget originally agreed to by voters at a town meeting in May 2007, and ratified by a 66% plurality of voters in a town-wide referendum.

Pamela Hanold, chairwoman of the building committee, says the decision to invest in a geothermal system was part of the overall pack-

age approved by voters, at a time when rising oil prices made the upfront costs of installing geothermal wells and controls look like a good deal over the long term.

The building committee used the ballpark estimate of ten years for paying off the initial \$150,000 added cost.

**New Greenfield Savings Branch**

The Greenfield Savings Bank formally broke ground on Tuesday on a \$2 million construction project for the bank's new branch office in Turners Falls, between Miskinis TV and Food City.

The nearly two-acre lot, purchased by the bank from the Mackin family, was the former location of the so-called Romper Factory, where baby clothes were manufactured once upon a time.

Denise Coyne, project manager, said the new bank branch would be finished by the end of December, despite getting off to a late start.

The delay was caused by the discovery of four species of dragonfly that use the rear of the lot toward the canal side bike path as favored habitat.

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## TACOS from page A1

mark it with a different name, and pack it into a paper bag.

As the first day of business wound down, Garza reported that it had been a good day.

"We sold out today, and then we had reserve food come in," he said. "It could be a lot of hype, because Facebook gave us a lot of marketing power, but we're hoping – in small towns, our experience is people talk a lot, and there's better word of mouth."

Tito's Taqueria has over 2,600 Facebook followers, and the business has grown rapidly.

"I rolled out a cooler on the side of the road three years ago this month in Brattleboro, and I sold breakfast tacos – my grandmother's recipe. The first day, I sold two out of 30," he said. "With the encouragement of my wife, I went out there the next day, and I sold out that week. Fast forward six months to a year to get my first taco cart, and then my first taco trailer..."

At this point, Garza owns a commercial kitchen where the food is prepped, and employs a "team" of between 20 and 25 staffers. The main truck sits in front of the kitchen, open six days a week lunch through dinner, and the business caters weddings and other events and vends on the festival circuit, though Garza says festivals are "more to build the brand" than to make money at this point.

The core menu is simple: chipotle lime pork; grilled chicken; veggie; or steak; tacos or burritos. The beef, non-GMO corn tortillas,



Tito's Taqueria opened its Greenfield spot Wednesday in the parking lot of the Sunoco station on the corner of Federal and Silver streets.

cheese, and (in season) tomatoes are locally sourced. "We do a locally smoked Grafton cheddar queso, which is pretty popular," Garza said. Customers can also place advance orders online for the Vermont location.

"It's all at titosVT.com," Garza said. "I guess we're going to have to update that, now that we're interstate!"

The Greenfield location – at the corner of Federal and Silver streets – will operate Mondays through Fridays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"We're going to try to do this permanently this summer, see what the demand is, and play it from there," said Garza.

"I drove around Greenfield for a while looking at locations – this was my first choice," he explained. "It was a pretty hard 'no' at first. But by offering different things, explaining what our plan was long term and what our experience has been at another gas station in Brattleboro, they came around."

Garza hinted, too, that the long-term plan for Greenfield could in-

clude a brick and mortar location: "There are some buildings and locations here that stand out... It gets cold in the trailer, in the winter."

Garza, whose background is in sales rather than food service, credited his business's burgeoning success to the encouragement and help of his wife, Dakota – she was the one who resupplied the trailer with ingredients mid-shift on Wednesday – as well support from customers and fans.

"The community in Brattleboro has been pretty cool, and I felt that

vibe today in Greenfield," he said.

"I was big into sales, and I enjoyed people, but I always felt like there was this ulterior motive when I was speaking to another human when I was selling something," he continued.

"I guess you could still say I'm in sales, but I don't really go out and try to sell anybody – I just try to be present, and enjoy people as they come. Man, I got a cool job... No one gets upset that you're selling them tacos!"

JACKSON PHOTO



## GILL from page A1

the Gill selectboard discussed their surprise that FERC had recognized the towns' right to weigh in on the matter.

"I was actually kind of shocked," town administrator Ray Purington said. "And then, when I saw the complete list that they granted it to, I was more shocked." Purington said he wondered whether FERC might have granted all interested parties intervenor status because the outcome had already been determined.

"Because the rubber stamp is ready," selectboard chair John Ward summarized. "Or – they're getting away from their reputation as a rubber-stamp organization."

The board agreed, in any case, that they were unsure how or why Gill, now recognized as an intervenor, should intervene. Purington recommended contacting FRCOG and the Connecticut River Conservancy for advice.

"To allow us to have a voice in the process," said board member Greg Snedeker. "Once we get a handle on it."

Purington also wondered aloud whether FirstLight would be willing to convene a regional information meeting, so all the interested parties could "get the explanation that ideally we should have received sometime last fall.... Maybe it is as simple and benign as FirstLight has said that it is."

"They filed right before the federal government was shut down," said Snedeker, describing the company's subsequent public communication as a "subtle reprimand: 'How dare you even ask?'"

Selectboard member Randy Crochier said that he wished the company's pending FERC applications were discussed on the floor

of town meeting. "We never ever mention things like FERC... [it's] just one more of the many things that impacts this town hard, if we don't do anything."

"Right," said Snedeker. "Potentially. We don't know."

### What Is Renewable?

The separation of FirstLight's licenses was not the only energy-related matter on the selectboard's agenda Monday. Gill energy commissioner Claire Chang asked the board to sign on to a letter to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER), criticizing a number of proposed changes to the state's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS).

The Massachusetts legislature has mandated that the proportion of energy used in the state increase by 2% each year. Subsequently, DOER has proposed loosening the standards by which biomass-burning power plants would qualify as "renewable," and increasing the amount of energy purchased from trash-burning plants.

It would also waive a requirement that "low-impact" hydropower plants – which include six dams on the Deerfield River and two on the Millers – be periodically recertified. The rules would also change for a past solar incentive program called SREC-I in a way that would cause arrays built between 2009 and 2013 to become ineligible to earn credits sooner than their owners and investors were led to believe they would.

The letter Chang presented argued that all of these changes "will weaken the RPS," which it called "an essential driver of the development of clean renewable energy resources."

Chang and the selectboard focused especially on the loosening of

biomass regulations. "I can't agree with anything that has biomass as a renewable energy," Crochier said. "I think it's a horrendous way to make energy – you might as well go out and put outdoor wood boilers up everywhere and call it renewable."

Chang said DOER's proposed rules would recognize biomass plants as renewable even if they burned mostly green wood, only requiring 5% waste wood. "Green wood is a lot less efficient to burn than seasoned wood – you actually use part of your heat to dry the wood out," she argued.

"People are counting on the SREC system that they bought into," said Snedeker. "I'm not really fond of them changing rules in the middle of a 15-year program." He made a motion to sign the letter, which Crochier seconded.

"We're not saying no biomass," Ward said. "We're not saying no hydropower. What this letter is saying is 'we respectfully request that changes proposed that would weaken the RPS be withdrawn.'" The selectboard unanimously voted to endorse the statement.

### Fire Chief Extension

Last month the town's board of fire engineers voted to ask the state for a waiver of a rule that fire chiefs must retire at age 65. Gill's chief, Gene Beaubien, came to the Monday meeting to discuss the process, which turns out to be more complicated than previously understood. For the town to ask the state legislature to grant that permission, a vote must be taken by town meeting, not simply the selectboard.

"It could have been done at the annual [town meeting], if we had known," Purington said. Though the legislature is not in session in August, the board agreed the town

should get the ball rolling on the request "soon."

Beaubien explained that, "without divulging any personal information" concerning his 65<sup>th</sup> birthday, it is scheduled to occur in 2020. "I'm still good for now," he said.

The board and Purington discussed scheduling a special town meeting. No other matter requiring town meeting approval is as pressing, so they decided the board would approve a single warrant article at its July 22 meeting, with the aim of scheduling a single-article special town meeting for Monday, August 12.

Chang asked whether a minimum number of residents were required to make a town meeting quorum. "You could have the town clerk and one other person," Purington answered. "That's all it takes."

The selectboard also unanimously approved a number of annual purchase orders for the fire department. These included maintenance and service on high-pressure systems, software, trucks, pumps, ladders, air packs, and the Jaws of Life, three new sets of turnout gear, and contracts with FRCOG and the county radio system. The expenses totaled \$20,525.

### Highway Boss Replacement

Purington gave an update on the hiring process to replace Mickey LaClaire, who has announced his retirement as highway superintendent. An updated job description was not yet ready for the board's approval.

Purington recommended forming a screening committee, reasoning that if all applications were reviewed by the selectboard, they would be on the public record, which might dissuade applicants who didn't want their current em-

ployers to know they are looking for other jobs.

The selectboard agreed. Crochier said he would be willing to sit on the committee, and suggested it could also be a good opportunity to review the department's overall structure and work schedule.

Crochier and Snedeker said it seemed that there were some spots in the town's roads that could use patching this summer, though there will only be two highway department employees on duty. "I don't like it when I see grass growing in the cracks," Crochier said.

"They're in better shape than a lot of towns," he added.

### Other Business

The selectboard authorized incoming town clerk Doreen Steven's appointment of her recently retired predecessor, Lynda Hodsdon Mayo, as an assistant clerk.

"Does she have any experience?" Ward joked.

Purington reported that a number of past Schedule As, town financial reports to the state, would soon be uploaded to the "Annual Reports" section of the town website. Gill is lagging many years behind its legal commitment to make annual reports publicly available.

The board unanimously approved a commitment of \$43,305.22 for the Riverside sewer district. "The numbers all look normal," Purington said, of the volume of wastewater pumped under the river to Montague for treatment.

The board also approved the use of public property on August 25 for the annual "Wheeling for Healing" bike ride, a fundraiser for cancer care at Baystate Franklin. The safety complex parking lot will host a water station and port-a-potty.



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**MONTAGUE** from pg A1

grant funds for the abatement of hazardous materials in four buildings of the former Strathmore mill that have a future as an adaptively re-used mixed-use property.”

However, it has not been determined whether Buildings 1, 2, and 4 are viable for redevelopment. A December memo from Tighe & Bond, used to support the town’s grant application, reported that:

*According to the Strathmore Mill Feasibility Study, all of the project site buildings were found to be in ‘poor’ or ‘fair’ condition in 2007. Conditions have deteriorated since the 2007 study, and all buildings would now likely be considered ‘poor.’ Because of these conditions, access to some asbestos/hazardous materials abatement locations may require temporary shoring.*

The grant application focused on a proposal to rehabilitate Building 11 with 20 “living units” and 10,000 square feet of commercial space. It went on to state that the successful development of this building “will spur further interest and development of other parts of the complex into mixed-use projects that will support up to 50 more housing units and 55,000 square feet of commercial space. The economic activity will revive the neighborhood, invigorate the local economy...”

The MassWorks grant is called a “recoverable grant,” because revenue from the sale of the building or rental income could be used to repay the \$250,000, according to the award document.

**Highway Facility**

The big news at the selectboard’s previous meeting on July 1 was the award of a \$7.6 million contract for the construction of a new department of public works facility to BW Construction of Spencer, MA. The news was announced by Ken Morin, the chair of the project’s building committee. “They were the low bidder,” said Morin. “They came in where we would have loved to see them come in.”

The committee’s original estimate for the project’s overall construction cost, including four “alternates” which could be dispensed with, was approximately \$8.5 million.

Town administrator Steve Ellis, in response to a question from selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, said the company had worked on the Moltenbrey Apartments in downtown Turners Falls. The committee, he said, “engaged” the state division of capital assets management, which “keeps project performance files as part of its work, and all of the [company’s] references checked out.”

Morin said the final cost of the project – which includes so-called soft costs such as “contingencies,” engineering, and retaining an owner’s project manager (OPM) – could approach the amount appropriated by town meeting, \$11.146 million.

“Is it fair to say we’re under budget, but we won’t know what

that is until we’re done?” asked Kuklewicz.

Ellis said that at this point, the project is \$1.8 million under budget, but “that said, we can expect some changes.”

While Morin was at the front table, the board approved a request to authorize the building committee to “enter into agreements” with the construction company for change orders of up to \$50,000. “There may be some change that would be massive in its significance,” said Ellis, saying that in such a situation, an emergency selectboard meeting could be called, but that the committee did not want to hold up the project waiting for the board to approve smaller changes.

**One-Lane Bridge**

There was a good deal of discussion at the July 1 meeting about the state Department of Transportation’s (MassDOT) decision to limit use of the General Pierce Bridge to one lane of traffic. The state has installed traffic signals to allow vehicles to alternate.

Ellis explained the decision to have one lane in the center of the bridge was a response to deterioration of the sides of the bridge’s deck. Ellis read from a MassDOT statement that said the reduction in bridge traffic “will insure the bridge is able to maintain the legal load levels of 20, 25, and 36 tons for 2-, 3- and 5-axle vehicles.”

**MassDOT’s statement also said that the state is “continuing to design an upcoming project which will allow the [General Pierce] bridge to be restored to full use.” Ellis noted that this suggested the state plans to repair, not replace, the bridge.**

The statement also said that the state is “continuing to design an upcoming project which will allow the bridge to be restored to full use.” Ellis noted that this suggested the state plans to repair, not replace, the bridge. The statement said the bridge would be “advertised for construction bids in 2020.”

Ellis said he wanted to “inform the public that we do our best to communicate once we actually have firm information.”

**A Change in Heart**

In an unusual move, the board at the same meeting decided to revisit the appointments made to the Airport Commission on June 24. It voted to rescind its appointment of long-term commissioner Brian Carroll in favor of a new applicant, Seth Rutherford.

Rutherford is one of the partners

of 253 Farmacy, a cannabis production and sales facility opening next to the airport.

Selectboard member Michael Nelson, who placed the issue on the agenda and made the motion, said that his change of heart did not reflect any dissatisfaction with Carroll, but a desire to produce more diversity on the board. “Right now we have three aeronautics people, two residents, and no business owners,” he said.

Kuklewicz responded by emphasizing that “it occurred to me that having someone who is local, who is a business owner.... who has business acumen, would be a good change, a breath of fresh air for the board.”

“It has nothing to do with either of the folks who were appointed last week,” said Nelson. “It has to do with what’s best for the airport.”

Ellis said he had checked with the town clerk about whether the board could rescind an appointment. “It is within your authority to do this,” he reported.

**Junkyard Over the Aquifer**

Communication between the town and Mark Johnson of Mark’s Auto appears to have improved considerably since a discussion on June 3 about his application for a Class 2 license to sell cars. That meeting ended in confusion over how many cars Johnson would be allowed to keep at his new shop on Federal Street.

Johnson was seeking a license for car sales, but also wanted to keep a certain number of “junkers” for parts. Johnson and town officials appeared far apart on the number of cars to be kept “out back,” and whether several buses, which have been on the property for years, would be counted among the stored vehicles.

Johnson met with Ellis and executive assistant Wendy Bogusz, and resolved the key issues by the July 8 selectboard meeting. Mark’s Auto will be allowed to keep a maximum of 35 cars on the property: 15 in front of the building, and 20 behind it. Any buses remaining on the lot will be counted among the 35, although Johnson vowed to remove them as soon as possible.

He also agreed to an annual inspection by the Turners Falls Water Department, since the business sits on top of an aquifer.

The board unanimously approved the license. “We think his taking ownership of the property is probably remedying some other problems that were on it,” said Ellis.

**Other Business**

The board approved a change order of \$2,662 for work by Renaissance Builders on the Colle Building, and a disbursement of \$33,319.98 to M.E. O’Brien and Sons for installing playground equipment at Rutters Park.

David Detmold and Michael Marcotrigiano of the tree advisory committee presented a new public tree bylaw developed by the com-



**Millers Falls Village Strategic Plan  
Request for Community Input  
Thursday, July 18, 6-8pm  
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The Town of Montague is creating a community-based plan to determine short, medium and long term goals for the Millers Falls Village Center in addition to potential projects and activities to achieve these goals.

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mittee, and discussed tree plantings in Millers Falls and Montague Center. (See article on page A1.)

Both the July 1 and July 8 meetings dealt with upcoming public summer events and cultural activities. The board granted River’s Edge Cycling the use of public property for its fourth annual Ice Cream Ride on July 27. The ride, which includes tours of different lengths through the Pioneer Valley, begins at Unity Park in Turners Falls.

The board also approved the use of Spinner Park for the construction of fairy houses, and the use of Peskeomskut Park for a “garden party” with a butterfly release, music, and dancing. These events, which are sponsored by RiverCul-

ture, will take place August 17.

The board approved a letter to the government of Trinidad and Tobago establishing a “twinning program” for cultural exchanges between Montague and a district on the larger island. “Nothing formal,” said Ramsey, “kind of an informal connection that we would have.” The idea originated with Richie Richardson, who owns the shop FAB on Second Street and comes from Trinidad.

“What’s the difference between ‘twinning’ and sister cities?” Nelson asked.

“Twinning is a little less formal,” responded Ramsey. The board approved the letter.

The selectboard’s next meeting will be on July 22.



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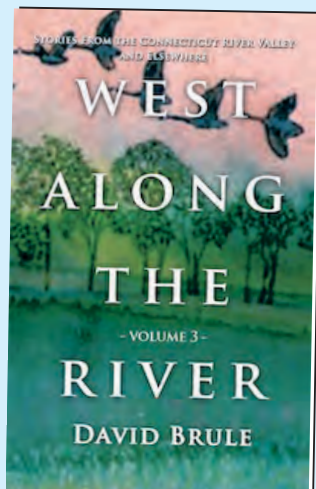


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### TREES from page A1

He said the committee viewed the document as a preliminary "working draft" that would be discussed at public hearings in each of the town's five villages. The committee hopes to bring the bylaw, "in finished form," to town meeting next spring.

The draft defines the roles of the tree warden and the tree advisory committee, and incorporates the regulations of the Massachusetts public shade tree law. It also establishes guidelines for the town to plant trees on private property, and for private landowners to request that trees be planted in public rights of way.

The bylaw would prohibit the tree warden from removing a tree more than 1.5 inches in diameter without a public hearing, except in emergencies, and establish a process for dealing with private trees that have become a public hazard. One appendix sets a schedule of "fines, fees and co-share payments," and another lists "suitable trees for the town of Montague."

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said that an issue "we really need to be tight on" is the planting of public trees on private property. He said he found the draft bylaw "a bit confusing" concerning who would be responsible for removing such a tree, if it becomes necessary. Kuklewicz said he felt it should be clear the town was "gifting" such a tree to the property owner, and that it would

then be their responsibility.

Town planner Walter Ramsey responded that the city of Greenfield requires property owners to sign contracts, which the city then puts on file. "Of course, it could still get lost," he said.

Detmold said that Amherst gives trees to property owners immediately, while Northampton considers them "public trees," and records them as such in the landowner's deeds. Marcotrigiano said that he had talked to tree wardens in both towns, and came to the conclusion that the Northampton policy was "too risky, because if there is an accident, we would be responsible."

The tree bylaw presentation was preceded by a lengthy discussion of "tree belt planting" in Montague Center and Millers Falls. Detmold and Marcotrigiano expressed concern that the lack of public parking in Montague Center endangered the new trees that had been planted there. Cars tend to park on the tree belt – the area between a sidewalk and street where public trees are planted – and compress the soil.

"It's sort of a free-for-all system in Montague Center, with regards to parking," said Marcotrigiano. "There's cars everywhere." He suggested that the town look at instituting "slant-in parking" in the wide "breakdown lane" opposite the Montague Village Store.

Kuklewicz suggested there should be a discussion with the po-

lice department and the department of public works about parking in Montague Center.

Addressing the tree situation in Millers Falls, Detmold said the project to plant 32 trees in that village, with the help of the Franklin County Technical School, was nearly complete. However, he complained that an estimated 10 to 15 percent of the tree belts in that village had been paved over during the past half century.

"Other villages have not paved over their tree belts the way Millers Falls has," he said.

"I wouldn't say Millers Falls has paved them over," said Kuklewicz. "I don't know any residents who have gone in there and paved them."

"Well, we've allowed them to be paved over," Detmold responded.

Detmold also proposed that a section of the tree belt on the corner of Newton and Franklin streets be "unpaved, as a demonstration."

Malcolm Clark, speaking from the audience, said he was the owner of property at 15 Franklin Street "that people are interested in taking, essentially." He said the area had been a parking lot "forever," and that the town would "be eliminating access to the parking lot" if it planted trees there.

Resident Robert Sojka, whose property is next to Clark's, said he supports the basic idea of more trees in Millers Falls, but raised concerns about blocked sightlines

for drivers if trees were planted on his corner.

Detmold suggested that the tree committee get together with the town planner and local residents to discuss the broader problem of paved tree belts in Millers Falls.

Ramsey said the issue could be put on the agenda of upcoming community planning meetings in the village. "I have no objection to that," said Detmold.

The selectboard approved ac-

cepting a state grant to buy a wood splitter that the tree committee will use for its wood bank program, which provides firewood for low-income residents.

Kuklewicz asked who would be responsible for the wood splitter when it was not being used. Detmold indicated that that would be the job of the department of public works. The tree warden, though elected, is a staff member of that department.



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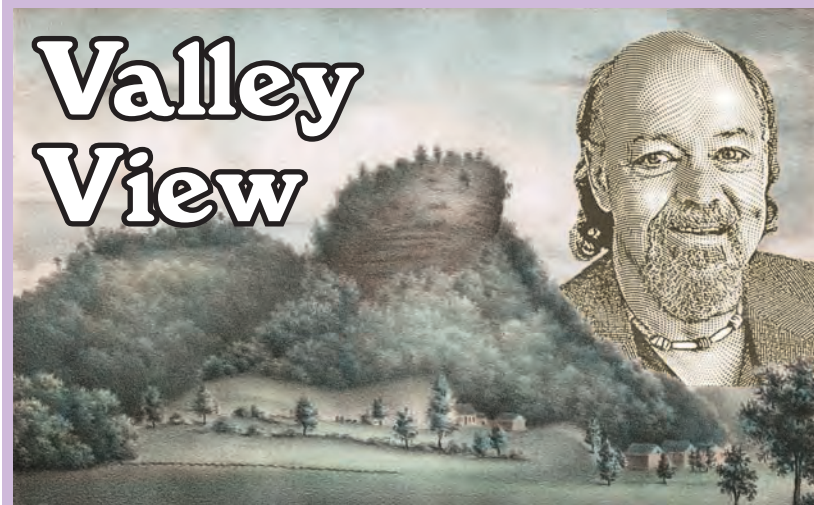
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## Valley View



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By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Discovery. It's enticing. A mission. A search. A chase. An addictive game. Connecting can be euphoric. Especially when an answer comes out of nowhere. Totally unexpected. Slaps you upside the head like a branch in the woods.

Which brings us to a peculiar, 8½-inch, black, pointed, ground-stone object (pictured below) I purchased years ago among a collection of 19<sup>th</sup>-century powder horns, bullet molds, wedges, and powder flasks and pouches handed down as family relics to the late Lucius Nims of Greenfield. He said the miscellaneous items could be traced back to his great grandfather Hull Nims, a Revolutionary War veteran and prosperous Greenfield Meadows farmer.

The stone's peculiarity arose from the fact that it didn't seem to fit with the rest of the collection. Like that lonely little petunia in an onion patch, it stuck out. Didn't belong. Looked like a Stone-Age, Native American artifact. Perhaps a hide-scraper. Maybe a woodworking gouger, knife or chisel. Possibly even some sort of a stabbing, bludgeoning weapon for hand-to-hand combat, although I had never seen anything that compared in reference books. It looked and felt more like some sort of tool.

During my innkeeping days, I had on many occasions shown the interesting object to whoever I thought would possibly be interested and may even be able to identify it. Tucked away in the bottom drawer of an 18<sup>th</sup>-century,

tiger maple, Chippendale blanket chest with a Hampshire hills provenance and likely Northampton origin, I'd fetch it as a post-breakfast table conversation piece. I showed it to many without giving my thoughts and the unanimous opinion was that it was a Native American artifact. Likely, someone from the Nims family turned it up from their rich Meadows acreage – today Butynski Farm – with one of those old, two-handled, V-shaped, walk-behind cultivators pulled by horses.

Enter veteran anthropologist/archaeologist Mike Gramly, who, though I didn't know it at the time, is a card-carrying Indian-artifact appraiser. I met him in September 2013, when he was leading a week-long archaeological excavation of the "Sugarloaf (or DEDIC) Site" along the Deerfield-Whately border – one of North America's richest Paleoindian treasure troves. Finding myself in the company of many lithic scholars with decades of experience uncovering and identifying artifacts, I brought my worked-stone curiosity to the site for inspection. If it was of Native American origin, these folks would know.

With the crew tidying up the site down the stretch during Saturday-afternoon cleanup, I retrieved the shiny, pointed, black stone from my truck and passed it around among four or five experts. They examined and handled it, and their consensus was that they were not familiar with the form, but suspected it was not an Indian artifact.

"Show it to Mike," said one of see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4



SANDERSON PHOTO

The author acquired these two archaic objects at the same time.

## FIFTY YEARS IN OUTERSPACE

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – "We have two general contractors in the band. We have a retired schoolteacher, we have a landscaper, we have a retired gas station attendant, and a semi-retired sound guy."

Franklin County's most notorious semi-retired sound guy, John "Klondike" Koehler, sits in the kitchen of his ranch on the Hill, looking back on the stretch of years when playing bass in the Outerspace Band was a full-time job.

Four or five nights a week for the better part of the 1970s, Outerspace would range all over the Northeast, playing in bar rooms and ski resorts, rec halls and college quads, bringing a deep and eclectic repertoire and jamming out on it, getting people on their feet and dancing. And when they were done, they would pack it all up into an International Harvester – guitars, cabs, PA, piano – pile into the van, and drive on home to Wendell.

"We had a twenty-room former inn that we were renting," Koehler recounts. "Seven musicians, two managers, two sound guys."

The Outerspace Band is 50 years old now, and still going, though not like that. Every summer, the musicians get together and play a handful of shows, usually including a "world tour" of Maine, where they have a drummer and something of a fan base.

And next Friday, July 19, they'll play an official "50th Anniversary" show at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield – two 75-minute sets, as if they were still that vanful of ambitious young hippies, just waiting for that elusive record deal to finally land.



EDWARD JUDICE PHOTO



CE MORSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Above, the Outerspace Band at Wendell Old Home Day in 1981. From left to right: John Moses, Compton Maddux, Eliot Osborn, Dave Robinson, and Klondike Koehler.

Below, in Rockland, Maine on this year's World Tour, from left to right: Osborn, Michael Wisotzkey, Maddux, Robinson, Koehler, and Moses.

"We've found other ways to eat," Koehler says. "This is really an incredible source of joy for us – the fact that we can rekindle this college fraternity that's lasted all these years."

When Koehler says "college," he means it literally – "fraternity," too. He formed the band in the fall of 1968 with fellow fresh-

men (and one sophomore) at the not-quite-yet-coed Trinity College in Connecticut. The band's first name was Gasoline, and most of Outerspace's current lineup dates back to that inception.

A 1970 review in the *Trinity Tripod* described Gasoline, on the see **OUTERSPACE** page B8

## ArtBeat by Trish Crapo

### Drawing I: Starting From Scratch

By TRISH CRAPO

**LEYDEN** – This past fall, as I was about to turn 60, I signed up for drawing classes at Greenfield Community College. This is not at all unusual at GCC. I was one of three older women in the class, and I may have been the youngest of the three – the rest of the students probably ranged from 18 years old to their early twenties.

I already knew the instructor, Jen Simms, which was great in that I felt comfortable around her, but awkward in that it might be more humiliating to fail in front of someone I knew. That I would fail seemed a pretty good possibility, which was probably not the best way to start.

Why did I want to draw? A lot of my friends asked me this. I asked myself.

Well, there was my sister, Susan. That November marked ten years



TOM ASHLEY PHOTO

Trish Crapo works on a landscape assignment for her GCC drawing class in the greenhouse at her farm in Leyden.

since my sister had died of breast cancer, just days before her 53rd birthday. Susan used to say that our mother forcing her to take drawing

classes when she was a teenager had saved her life. Drawing had lifted her out of a stultifying sadness. see **DRAWING** page B2



# Pet of the Week



## “KENI”

Hi! I'm Keni! My previous home said I am a pretty chill dude who loves people of all ages. I haven't shared my home with any furry roommates though, so slow introductions are encouraged.

I like to hang out by the window and take a cat nap in an afternoon sunbeam.

Overall, I am a pretty laid back kind of cat. If you are looking for a buddy to binge watch television with, I am your guy!

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## DRAWING from B1

And she drew right up until her final days at Buckley HealthCare Center, begging the aides not to take away the bouquets of flowers too soon, before they started to wilt and get interesting. Susan drew even after she had started to see sparks caused by uveal metastasis of her cancer. She peered through the sparks and drew flowers.

I knew that one drawing course would never make me as good at drawing as Susan, who had studied it seriously for close to forty years. But I think I did hope it might reconnect me to her in some way. At the very least, barring some otherworldly phenomenon – which I would have welcomed – I figured I might gain some new understanding of her.

And it's true that my drawings were better when I envisioned the way Susan's hand moved when she drew. Her hand moved more frequently, and in more varied ways than mine tended to. Her hand moved even when she wasn't looking at her drawing, when she was looking, instead, at the thing she was drawing.

Susan sometimes laughed when she drew. I was hoping I might, too. But I struggled at drawing.

For one thing, the charcoal we were using was hilariously messy compared to the kinds of materials I was used to. I'm a hand bookbinder, a paper collage maker: my hands tend to be clean. In contrast, I left



Some of the drawing tools and charcoals Crapo used in the foundation drawing course she took at GCC.

drawing class with fingernails and cuticles, the creases of my knuckles, stained black no matter how long I scrubbed them. Sometimes, hours later, I discovered streaks of charcoal on my face from pushing back my hair.

Don't get me wrong – I loved the charcoal, in all its various forms. My favorite were the thin, wobbly twigs of willow. I loved the smooth, ethereal marks they made, even though they sometimes fell away into the bottom crease of my portfolio on the way to school. The jumbo vine, about 1/2 inch in diameter, always felt like picking up a slim cigar, and thus instilled in me some confidence. The charcoal pencils of various hardness and the conté crayons felt familiar enough to not be too intimidating. But the rectangles of compressed charcoal were downright scary. They yielded the truest black, and the marks they made were hard to erase or come back from.

During an early critique, Simms stood before my two large “autobiographical still life” drawings without saying a word.

“I'm doing my adolescent drawings,” I said quickly. Probably too quickly. I'm sure Simms was just gathering her thoughts, not struck dumb by my ineptitude, as I feared.

But thinking of the drawings as the adolescent drawings I had never taken the time to make was the only way I could look at them and not feel embarrassed. I could see that my rendering of the mandarin oranges was too flat. The dimensions of the open poetry book were slightly off. I had a tendency to draw the outline of a thing, rather than use a looser, wider stroke to try to capture its three-dimensional shape. My lines tended to be of similar tone and weight. The drawings seemed to me failures. The only good thing about them was that they were behind me now, and the next ones might be better.

But after consideration, Simms pointed out some areas of my drawings that were successful, where the marks had some intuitive life. She pointed out that my sense of composition was strong. Then she left me with a cryptic comment that became a koan to me: “Do less.”

“Some people I'm telling to do more,” she said, “but you, try doing less.”

Do less. It was true I snuffed the life out of my drawings with too many worrying lines. The mug in one of those still lifes looked blocky and overworked. An artist friend had looked at some screen shots of these drawings in progress and texted back that the items in my still life felt: “...disconnected and far away, and objectified. Maybe you need to

walk among them as though they are the architecture of a dream of your life.”

Yes. That's exactly what I needed to do.

And I needed to use the compressed charcoal. I knew I avoided it because I was afraid of making mistakes. Which, of course, I would. Why wouldn't I? Mistakes are part of the process. I've made – and corrected – scads of them while writing this article. Why was I so afraid to make them when I drew? The fear itself was holding me back. It was part of what was making my drawing wooden.

When I interviewed GCC art instructor Budge Hyde for another article for this paper, I told him a little about my frustrations with drawing class. He said he'd known he wanted to be an artist when he was a kid. Was there anything like that for me, he wanted to know?

“Writing,” I said. “I wanted to be a writer when I was eight years old.”

So maybe drawing wasn't my calling. Maybe it wasn't my thing, Hyde said. He did not seem perturbed by this idea and I knew he didn't mean for me to be, either. I knew I could write. Why did I need to draw?

Well, I think now that it's as much about the process of learning as the act of drawing. As hard and humiliating as it can be, I actually like to be shoved back to that place in myself where I don't know a thing. It's a little bit like traveling to a difficult country like Cuba, or India. Not speaking the language, not knowing your way around, being afraid of the compressed charcoal: faced with unfamiliar challenges, I have to start from scratch, and I experience myself differently. My accomplishments – assuming I have them, and I did finally make a few drawings that weren't so bad – are forged from new strengths, not born of easy fluidity.

The other thing about drawing is it makes you really look at things. Drawing a papaya tree in the greenhouse at school one morning, I became enthralled with the puckers and bulges of the trunk's bark where it encircled the site of a protruding branch. Trying to replicate each of these individual marks instead of thinking “trunk,” “branch,” yielded a much better drawing than when I had been looking at the overall tree.

Paying attention to detail. Admitting you don't know everything. Picking up the unfamiliar tool or material and trying again. It could be good if we all did this.

And yes, I signed up for Drawing II.



## Senior Center Activities

JULY 15 THROUGH 26

### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

**M, W, F:** 10:10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:50 a.m. Chair Exercise  
**T, W, Th:** 12 p.m. Lunch  
**Monday 7/15**

8 to 9:15 a.m. Foot Clinic by appt.  
12 p.m. Pot Luck & Bingo  
**Tuesday 7/16**

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Senior Farm Share Pick Up  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle  
**Wednesday 7/17**

9 to 11 a.m. Veterans' Outreach  
12:45 p.m. Bingo  
1:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mobile Food Pantry

### Thursday 7/18

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Friday 7/19

12 p.m. Breakfast at Noon  
**Monday 7/22**

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

### Tuesday 7/23

10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Senior Farm Share Pick Up

### Wednesday 7/24

12:30 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday 7/25

9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Friday 7/26: Open

### ERVING

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

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

### Monday 7/15

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 7/16

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance  
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich  
12:30 p.m. Friends Meeting  
1 p.m. Bazaar Brainstorming

### Wednesday 7/17

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday 7/18

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

### Friday 7/19

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

### Monday 7/22

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 7/23

8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretch & Balance  
12 p.m. Soup & Sandwich  
1 p.m. Bazaar Brainstorming

### Wednesday 7/24

8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

### Thursday 7/25

8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Muscles  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch  
1 to 6 p.m. Blood Drive

### Friday 7/26

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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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# This Week On MCTV

By MIKE SMITH

This week on MCTV we have a new performance from the Montague Community Band! Filmed live at Peskeomskut Park, check out our website at [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org) for the full video.

Also featured on our Vimeo page is "One Earth: Stories, Songs, and Music with John Porcino." John performed at the Great Falls Discovery Center on June 29, mixing stories with songs about human partnership with the earth in a family-friendly environment.

In case you haven't heard, MCTV is hosting a 120 Second Film Festival! Create your own story and enter the contest to see your work screened at the Shea Theater

as well as cash prizes! Check out [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org) for more details, rules, and to register! Don't delay, registration is July 28.

The mission here at MCTV is to bring to life our vibrant, interesting community. If you know of an event taking place that's worth capturing, let us know! We would love to come record any moment of interest. Also, if you have an idea for a show, but just don't know how to get started, reach out to us! We're here and waiting to teach you how to operate a camera, edit your content, and get it out to the public.

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

## CONCERT REVIEW

# A Big Surf Dance

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Homeward Vets is "a local non-profit organization providing free home furnishings for those veterans in need throughout Massachusetts, helping nearly 600 veterans to date since 2012." That is what I got off their website, [homewardvets.org](http://homewardvets.org), when I looked up what they do.

Homeward Vets decided to do some fundraising through an all-day music fest at Hawks and Reed Performance Arts Center on March 9. They called it the Big Surf Dance. There were three floors of continuous music for people to listen to.

The first band I heard when I entered the center was The Freqs. They were so loud I could barely hear myself talk! The guitar playing was all right, but heavy metal has never been my thing. I believe that was what they were playing: the way they sang sounded to me like someone doing heavy metal. It was the same with the way the drummer played.

The Perch was the next floor, where I heard another band. That band was called Larry Dulong and Random Sighting. I asked a band member what kind of music they played, and he said they did folk rock music.

To me, one of the three guitarists' singing sounded like a country music singer. He wasn't a bad voice to hear. I thought his guitar playing sounded like country music, too. The other two guitarists and the drummer were all right. A saxophone player joined the band during a song, then switched to a flute in the next moment. That being played, combined with the other instruments in the band, made for some unique sounds.

The third place which I entered is

called the Wheelhouse. There was a man called Norman Scheu playing guitar and singing. The guitar was okay, but his singing didn't really amaze me. I ended up asking him, when he paused, what he was playing. He said "folk music." If I had to describe it, I would say he sounded like he was doing a country music ballad at one point.

The next band in the Ballroom was called Reverend Dan and Dirty Catechism. Three out of four were dressed in suits and ties, and the fourth had on a bowtie and hat. This group had a keyboard player in it, and they played rock music that I didn't dislike nearly as much as the Freqs. They made me think of a rock group that was popular in the '90s, Blues Traveler, when I first heard them.

Dirty Catechism's singer was very good. He mentioned he came from a long list of people who served, and was happy to help Homeward Vets out.

John Canalini was who I saw next, in the Wheelhouse. He was another man with a guitar, only it was electric. His voice sounded smooth to me, and it sounded like he was playing blues on the guitar.

The next one I heard in the Perch was Acou Sticca. For starters, they had five guitarists and a drummer. The guitars sounded really nice together. One man's voice was particularly enjoyable. His name was Paul Sticca.

The festival turned out to be a very long event, and given whom it was to benefit, it made sense to hear the national anthem being sung by Oliva Boa. This festival had a lot of hit and miss to it, for me. If you are interested in helping Homeward Vets, you can contact them at [dfelty@homewardvets.org](mailto:dfelty@homewardvets.org).

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Snapping Turtles; Bobcat; Graveyard Snake; Stolen Bikes; Drunk Driver And Telephone Pole; Raccoon Seizure; Water Department Fireworks Allegedly Start Brush Fire

### Monday, 6/24

12:10 a.m. 911 caller reporting some type of disturbance at Bridge and West Main streets across from the new tattoo place in Millers Falls. Second 911 call transferred from Shelburne Control reporting same; verbal turning into physical. Requesting Erving PD mutual aid as both MPD units were on a disturbance in Turners Falls. Shelburne Control advising that a female may be injured; another caller advises female is refusing medical attention, and people have cleared out. Officer advises situation under control. A 32-year-old Gill man was arrested and charged with possession of a Class E drug.

3:56 p.m. Caller requesting information on how to have animal carcasses removed from their property. Stated they are small animals; one is a possum, and the other may be a groundhog. Caller will contact ACO and leave a message to have them removed.

7:09 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting that three or four kids are trespassing and being rude. Kids moved along.

### Tuesday, 6/25

4:23 p.m. Caller requesting DPW for a plugged catch basin on Millers Falls Road. DPW called back advising that the water had receded prior to their arrival.

4:36 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reporting fire in saw mill; diesel power unit; caller stated that they have fire out. Contacted Shelburne Control; Montague Center Fire will be responding. Officer later advised fire is out and all units are clear.

7:54 p.m. Officer conducting vehicle stop on Fourth Street. Requesting female officer to scene. Greenfield PD has no female officer until 11 p.m. Contacted Shelburne Control; Deerfield PD has a female officer on and will be responding. One party detained. Citation issued. Officers clear.

### Wednesday, 6/26

8:53 a.m. A 47-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

9:12 a.m. Water flow and sprinkler flow reported at 253 Pharmacy. TFFD determined cause of alarm

was hydrant flushing.

11:04 a.m. Report of three kids on bikes that blocked a vehicle near Highland Apartments and yelled at/flipped off the driver. Last seen riding down West Main Street toward downtown Millers. Description of one rider was male, shirtless, missing several teeth. Area checked; unable to locate.

5 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street states that her son's two bicycles were stolen and a window screen was broken. Investigated.

### Thursday, 6/27

8:49 a.m. Caller requesting assistance with a raccoon in a dumpster. ACO off today; officer responding.

12:30 p.m. Walk-in reporting elderly female changing a tire on an older-model blue car on the side of Turners Falls Road; female has a child with her. Officer checked area and located party matching description in someone's driveway on Unity Street, with another party assisting.

2:02 p.m. Caller from Canal Street reporting snapping turtle in road. While still on the line, caller advised someone just came and removed the turtle from the road.

9:48 p.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reporting that there may be a fire in her neighbor's living room; she is looking from across the street and can see what looks like flames. TFFD advised. Copied via radio and confirmed outdoor cooking fire in front of house; TFFD is dealing with it now.

### Friday, 6/28

12:10 a.m. 911 caller from Central Street reporting loud party in driveway of neighbor's house; kids playing and being loud in street. Caller advises she has asked them to be quiet multiple times. Officer advises two female parties are playing with a child. Noise and activity within reason. Advised of complaint.

9:08 a.m. Caller reporting that some people are not obeying the new traffic lights installed on the General Pierce Bridge. Officer advised.

11:39 a.m. Caller stating that his ex-girlfriend stole his scooter yesterday. Caller advised to come in to station to file a report.

11:46 a.m. Party into station to report that her grandson, who lives above her garage, has a service dog and that they have never had any issues with anyone over the span of 30 years. However, today she found a note on her door from an unknown party complaining of the dog barking and threatening to call the ACO and

have the dog removed. Advised of options.

12:53 p.m. Scam robot call to 911.

3:02 p.m. Cumberland Farms clerk reporting bobcat in area of DPW. Referred to an officer.

6:05 p.m. Caller from Unity Park reporting a group of teenagers throwing a water bottle and using abusive language. Officer spoke with all parties and everything is fine now.

6:28 p.m. Caller reporting turtle in road on Fifth Street between J and Canal; concerned someone might hit it. Units clear; turtle moved to the canal.

7:16 p.m. Caller believes that a male party on a bike near the band shell at Peskeomskut Park may be intoxicated; concerned due to presence of children. Officer advises party was intoxicated. Courtesy transport provided; party now off with a friend.

9:51 p.m. TFFD requesting officer to respond to Federal Street for cooking fire; TFFD received call from neighbor stating subjects are burning a ton of stuff. Officer advises parties were burning wood; fire not extremely big. Parties advised to keep it down and let fire burn down.

10:16 p.m. Caller reporting that a truck went flying by on Main Street and hit a telephone pole. Caller states that there is a family in the vehicle and can see people moving around. Second caller stating no one is hurt. MCFD and AMR responding. Officer requesting phone call to mother of involved children; call went straight to voicemail. Rau's on scene; AMR transporting two parties. A 49-year-old Montague man was arrested and charged with a marked lanes violation; operating under the influence of liquor (third offense); operating to endanger; speeding; operating a motor vehicle with a license suspended/revoked for OUI; two counts of child endangerment while under the influence; and wanton destruction of property over \$1,200. Children's mother located and en route to hospital.

### Saturday, 6/29

4:25 a.m. A 60-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

6:20 a.m. Caller reporting large group of all-black cows in middle of Meadow Road. Officer en route. Small herd located. Cows are now in a field grazing. Clear.

1:14 p.m. Caller from Center Street states that there is a rabid or sick raccoon having a seizure on their back porch. Officer advises that two shots were

fired and the animal has been dispatched.

10:05 p.m. Call transferred from Shelburne Control; report of unruly people running around behind Millers Falls Rod & Gun. Officer advises everyone is gone; clear.

### Sunday, 6/30

9:12 p.m. Call transferred from Shelburne Control; report of group of six kids running near Mystic Pinball screaming and yelling. Caller does not know what they are screaming and yelling about. Area checked; nothing found.

9:44 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports that their daughter and friend just came home; they were walking along Avenue A and a male party in a red convertible was following them around. The two females stated they felt like the male was going to grab them. Officer spoke with involved parties. Unable to locate vehicle; will be on lookout.

### Monday, 7/1

11:33 a.m. Report of injured bunny that was just struck by a vehicle on Prospect Street and is suffering. ACO advised. Caller called back advising the bunny is no longer alive. ACO advised.

4:12 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street advising they found a deceased dog on their property. Officer advises they will be taking care of this.

5:06 p.m. Caller reporting traffic jam on Canal/Fifth Street Bridge. Officer checked area; clear.

### Tuesday, 7/2

12:38 p.m. Report of what appears to be a man's coat on the side of the road by the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge with what may be a pair of shoes nearby and vultures coming and going from the area. Officer drove across bridge; nothing observed; will check on foot down by the bike path. Unable to locate.

### Wednesday, 7/3

10:48 p.m. 911 caller reporting some kind of disturbance in progress on G Street. Officer advises not a domestic, but just kids horseplaying.

### Thursday, 7/4

3:08 p.m. 911 caller reporting there is a possible cobra snake on their grandmother's grave site in Millers Falls Cemetery. Caller is concerned and doesn't want anyone to get bit. Caller reports that snake has a flat head. Officer advises snake has been moved along.

7:27 p.m. Caller reports being bitten on the leg by a dog by the railroad tracks on Broadway near the Bridge of Names. AMR responding. Officer

see MPD page B4

## MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

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**MPD** from page B3 advises dog will be quarantined for ten days.  
8:45 p.m. First of several reports of fireworks: close to houses on Third Street; Vladish Avenue, where caller is concerned fireworks may end up in their pool; Federal Street near the gravel pit; Federal Street again, scaring caller's horses; Third/Fourth Street alley, upsetting caller's son; Bridge Street; and Turners Falls Road, where the horses are running crazy. Referred to officers.  
**Friday, 7/5**  
11:15 a.m. Blue Mon-goose mountain bike reported stolen from Avenue A within past 30 minutes. Report taken.  
2:47 p.m. Multiple calls received about lights not working properly on the General Pierce Bridge. MassDOT

checking lights. Adjustments made.  
6:07 p.m. TFFD reporting receiving direct call for brush fire on Green Pond Road; second fire in area this week. 15- by 30-foot area burning. TFFD extinguishing. Officer advises fire was started by fireworks in middle of road by Water Department.  
10:27 p.m. 911 caller from Peske Park reporting that someone just stole his license and \$65. Report taken.  
**Saturday, 7/6**  
12:16 p.m. First of two reports of people swimming in Lake Pleasant. Environmental Police contacted and responding.  
8:40 p.m. 911 caller from Seventh Street reporting someone smashed out their windshield with bricks. Received several phone calls; second caller stated that it was a road rage incident. Two

summons issued.  
**Sunday, 7/7**  
12:35 a.m. Caller reports that his vehicle was broken into near Second Street and Avenue A; items are missing. Report taken.  
4:42 p.m. Caller calling on behalf of party whose purse was just stolen at the Third Street Laundry. Investigated.  
8:19 p.m. Caller reporting that their neighbor is teasing them; they would like their neighbor to stop talking to them and leave them alone. Referred to an officer.  
8:24 p.m. Report of a vehicle with young kids in it doing donuts in the middle of the road by the railroad tracks in Lake Pleasant. Officer advises he was in area earlier and saw the pickup truck; they weren't doing what was reported.



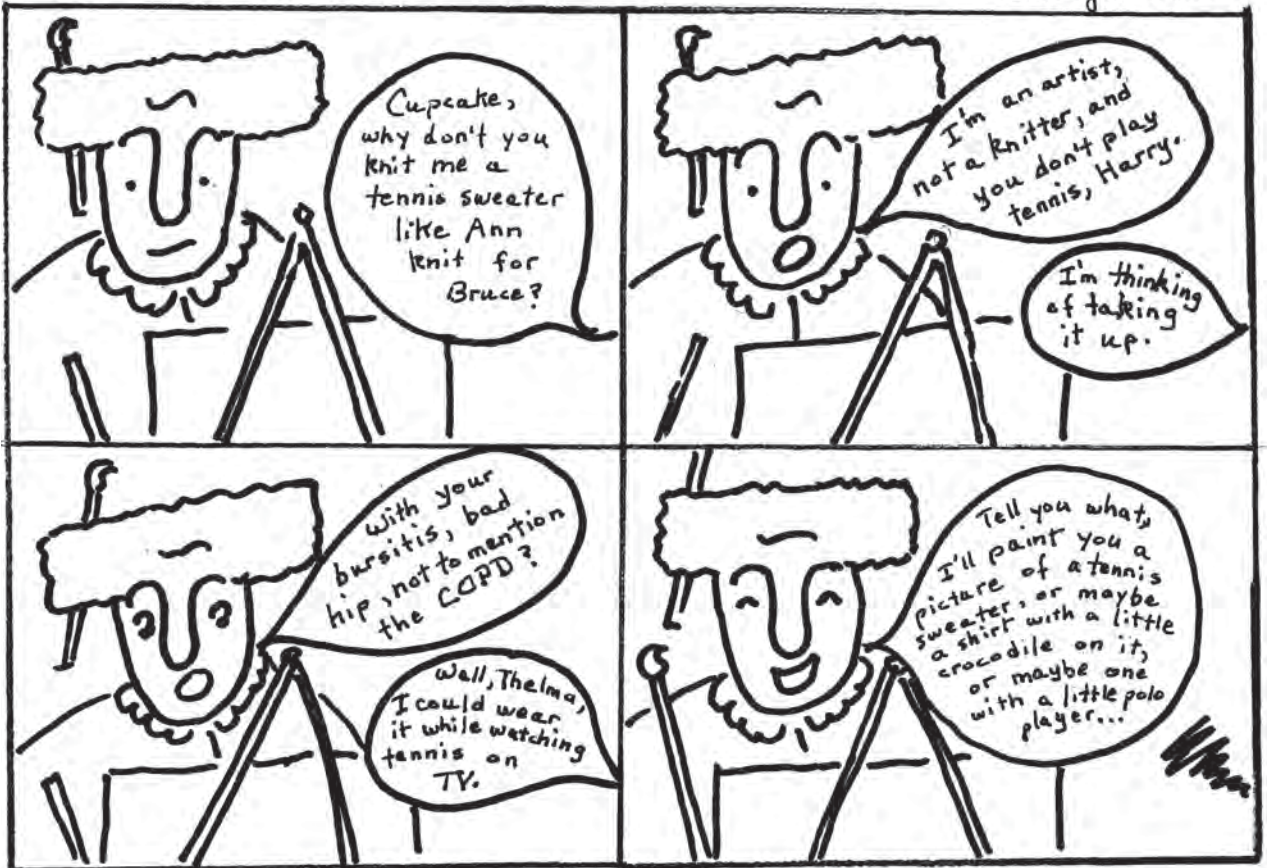
**T-RUMP**

by **denis f. bordeaux**



**OVER THE HILL**

Carolyn Clark



**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1

them. "He's good at this stuff."

Overhearing the conversation from nearby, Gramly soon joined us. The man holding the stone object handed it to him for examination. He held it up to the sun, pondered the shape, the edges, the point and the round handle and said, "What you have here is not an Indian artifact. It's a scythe-sharpening tool, and a pretty rare find at that. Even rarer are the cattle-horn holsters farmers carried them in. Hard to come by these days."

How about that? It just so happened there was just such a cattle horn in the Nims collection. Though I hadn't associated it with the stone tool, it came with it, and did indeed fit when tested. With a piece chipped from the rim, I had surmised without giving it much thought that maybe it was an incomplete powder-horn blank that had been broken and kept for future reduction. But, no, it belonged with the stone sharpening tool used to keep grass-cutting scythes sharp for the hayfields.

Back then, hay was not baled; it was cut with scythes, piled in thatched ricks for drying, stored loose in barn hay pits and lofts, and pitchforked into stables and stalls. Nowadays, you only see hayricks in oil paintings, photos and films depicting earlier times. How nice to have this relic from a neighborhood with an agricultural legacy.

But the story doesn't end there. Nope. It gets better.

Fast forward five or six years from the Gramly ID and, quite by chance, I discovered the old name for scythe-sharpening stones. They were called *rifles*. Try Googling that and finding it, even when you know what you're looking for. I don't believe you'll find it. The only place I didn't check was the Oxford Dictionary. It could be there, but I have my doubts. The word was probably colloquial and/or vernacular. Perhaps of New England origin. Definitely obsolete. How did I find it? By reading. Better still, following a scholarly footnote. Let me explain.

Reading "A Walk to Wachusett" in *Henry D. Thoreau Essays: A Fully Annotated Edition*, edited by Jeffrey S. Cramer, Yale University

Press (2013), there it was on Page 49. Thoreau and companion Richard Fuller (Margaret Fuller's brother) were walking through Acton and Stow at daybreak during their famed four-day walk from Concord to the top of Mount Wachusett in early July of 1842. Breaking into a settled clearing from the cool Acton woods, Thoreau captures the essence by describing fenced meadows, tree lines, and dimly lit houses and outbuildings.

Of the tranquil, bucolic, dawn scene he writes: "It was solitude with light, which is better than darkness. But, anon, the sound of the mower's rifle was heard in the fields, and this, too, mingled with the herd of days."

Fortunately, Editor Cramer uses footnotes to clear up a couple of obsolete words that could cause confusion among even sophisticated contemporary readers. No. 1, the "mower's rifle" is not a long gun used for hunting and protection but rather, "An instrument used after the manner of a whetstone for sharpening scythes"; and No. 2, the final word "days" does not refer to days of the week but instead is a "Variant of *deys*: dairymaids or milkmaids." So there. Has anyone ever told you it's wise to follow footnotes? Well, here's a perfect example, a luxury indeed when reading dated prose.

And so, the search continues. You can't understate the importance of reading and conversing when chasing information and solving vexing unknowns. If there's a moral to this example of exciting intellectual discovery, it is this: Never ignore cumbersome footnotes, even if you have to chase them all the way to the back of the book. That was not necessary in this case. Cramer's footnotes were listed in the right margin of each page, a convenience that surpasses even placement at the page bottom.

Had I been lazy that day while reading something I had read before in an earlier publishing, I'd probably think that farmer fired his rifle at a woodchuck, whose hayfield holes were capable of breaking horses' legs. Not so. Just sharpening his scythe in daybreak still.



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**SECOND HONORS**  
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**SECOND HONORS**  
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**SECOND HONORS**  
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**Grade 12**

**FIRST HONORS**  
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**SECOND HONORS**  
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**THIRD HONORS**  
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THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

# Time Out of Mind

By **LESLIE BROWN**

**MONTAGUE CITY** – An extended illness puts one in a peculiar twilight zone.

The troubles began with the start of the allergy season in early April. My GP was on vacation, so I was seen by another doctor in the practice. She suggested a change of allergy medication, noted a slight wheeze in my chest, and asked to see me again in two weeks. She also gave me a prescription for an albuterol inhaler, something I'd never been given before.

When I returned, I was feeling better, had not tried the inhaler, and thanked her for getting me back on the path.

But in a matter of weeks I was back to see my GP with a stubborn

chesty cough and tight sinuses. He mentioned the possibility of asthma and perhaps COPD, which scared the heck out of me, as my husband had died of complications of the same. However, he sent me off with a seven-day prescription for amoxicillin on the chance that I might have a sinus infection. Subsequently he prescribed Singulair, used in the treatment of asthma, and told me that he was leaving the practice in mid-August. He had been my doctor for under a year.

I took the Singulair for three days, and was challenged by the jittery side effects. Because the package emphasized not coming off this medication without a doctor's order, I called a nurse to inquire.

By the end of the day I had the okay to cease and desist, but felt no better afterwards.

The word on the street was that this was a particularly bad pollen allergy season, and folks just need to wait it out. So that's what I did.

I took my antihistamine, stayed indoors, wore a mask when outside, shut the windows, and waited.

By late June I was extremely short of breath, had a nasty cough which would not quit, could not sleep, and felt miserable. I must have been miserable to live with as well. I hadn't been so sick since I last had bronchitis. I am historically a very healthy woman, but this year – my seventy-fourth – my health had taken a nosedive.

I finally called the allergy specialist I had hoped to see to begin allergy shots, and begged them to see me regarding my current symptoms. I was seen that morning, and my life took a huge turn for the better. Ken and I spent an hour and a half in that office. I was given breathing tests and a history was taken.

Then I heard the doctor say: "I don't like your lungs, but we're going to fix you up."

Best news ever. We left their office with a prescription cortisone inhaler, a nasal allergy treatment, a supply of samples good for three weeks, and an appointment for two and a half weeks ahead. Thus I began getting my life back.

My breathing and lung capacity have improved, and we have opened the house up again. I have minor allergy symptoms only, and I am beginning to enjoy life and independent activity again. I look forward to my next appointment and to what the doctor will suggest next. I am no longer afraid I will spend my life as an invalid, dependent on the help of others.

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*Rides for Health was a 2018 n/a Aging Achievement Award recipient. Drivers receive mileage reimbursement.*

ground late. Ken's potatoes have purplish blossoms; squash, pumpkin, and cucumber vines are green and lush. The corn is about four feet tall. We have been enjoying kale and lettuce for weeks.

Unhappily, the scourge of Japanese beetles has begun. We pick them by hand and drop them into soapy water to drown. A couple of these voracious eaters can decimate one beautiful rose blossom within a day or less.

The day lilies are starting to bloom already, and I am keenly aware of how much I have missed this year. I have lost roughly two months of my life! I plan to do much better next year. I am grateful that I am well again for these much anticipated journeys.

Happy days and good health to all. Enjoy the month of July!

It's been a ride, but one which will end well as we regain our lives and move forward. We'll be getting together and catching up with friends and family, and digging into the garden and our lives with renewed joy and vigor. We look forward to two upcoming vacations at the ocean, and to our annual Brown family reunion. We plan to go to Rhode Island to visit Ken's family for a couple of days, and when we return home we will have two weeks before our annual vacation at Wells Beach.

Because of my illness, I have lost most of the months of April and June – but of course, the garden has grown apace without me.

The tomatoes are big and strong although they don't have blossoms yet, since I got everything in the

## MONTAGUE-REPORTER



Longtime reporter Ellen Blanchette reads the Montague Reporter with her brother, Gordon Cohen, outside his home in the Roxbury section of Philadelphia. (His wife, Lynda Payne Cohen, took the picture.)

ON THE ROAD

Send photos to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## FACES & PLACES



*Reader Peg Wolff of Leverett writes:*  
"On Friday, June 14, Representative Natalie Blais met with ten members of the Leverett Climate Action (LCA) Group of the Leverett Alliance. The Leverett Climate Action group is committed to addressing the climate crisis both locally in Western Massachusetts and across the Commonwealth. Specifically, the group has been meeting to discuss climate-related issues currently being considered by the Massachusetts Legislature. The group brought up seven bills to Rep. Blais in the following categories: 100% renewable energy; carbon pricing; environmental justice; and, forest management. The discussion with Rep. Blais focused on her support of the bills and her strategies to get the bills passed. She suggested to the group which specific actions would be most effective in moving the bills along. The LCA group agreed to meet with Rep. Blais on a regular basis."

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# NatureCulture: The Science Page

WARREN ONDRAS PHOTO



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

— Lisa McLoughlin, editor

## Tuberculosis: It Still Exists!

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

**NORTHFIELD** — Casually reading the October 2018 edition of *Science News*, I came across an article outlining a new tuberculosis (TB) vaccine that reduces outbreaks in people with a latent infection by 50%. I had thought TB was eliminated, but according to the World Health Organization (WHO), not only does a quarter of the world's population have latent TB, it's still one of the top ten causes of death worldwide, killing 1.6 million people in 2017, 230,000 of them were children.

The new vaccine is important because multidrug-resistant TB has developed over time and is a growing problem, with 82% of new TB cases being multidrug-resistant. This month's science page also features an article mentioning that soil found in Northern Ireland has a bacteria that kills four of the top six drug-resistant superbugs. But while they're working on isolating the soil bacteria, drug-resistant TB remains a problem.

Tuberculosis is caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* that most often affect the lungs. Tuberculosis is curable and preventable, but also very contagious; it is spread from person to person through germs in the air riding on coughs and sneezes.

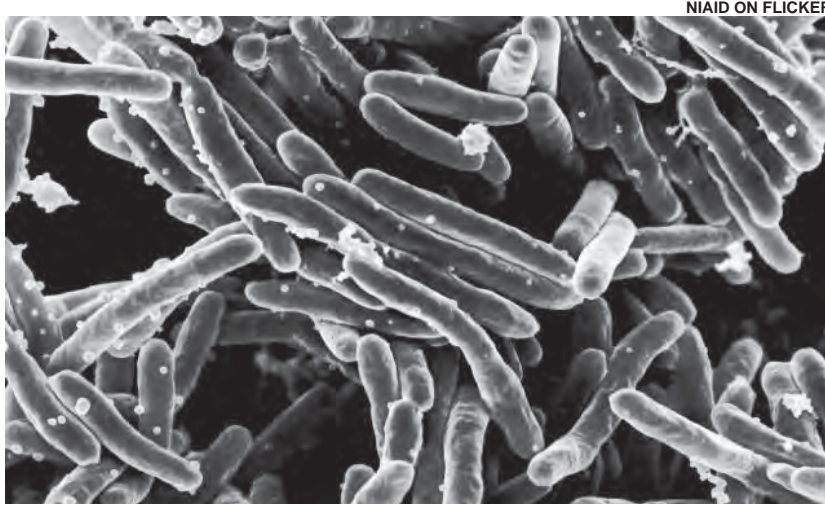
TB occurs in every part of the world. Apparently, reducing new cases has been difficult, with global incidences falling by only about 2% per year. The WHO states that this needs to accelerate to a 4 to 5% annual decline to reach the 2020 milestones of the End TB Strategy, which seeks to eliminate TB by 2030.

### Symptoms and Diagnosis

Common symptoms of active lung TB are cough with sputum and blood at times, chest pains, weakness, weight loss, fever, and night sweats. People dying of TB have their lungs slowly become liquid, and they eventually cannot get enough oxygen. Excessive coughing means they have a high likelihood of infecting other people.

Many countries still rely on a long-used method called sputum smear microscopy to diagnose TB. Trained laboratory technicians look at sputum samples under a microscope to see if the bacteria are present. Microscopy detects only half the number of TB cases, and cannot detect drug resistance.

It also can't tell the difference between Bovine TB and the other kinds. About 10% of TB cases world-wide are caused by a different bacteria, *M. bovis*, that people catch from coughing cattle or by drinking raw milk from affected animals. Many animals other than cattle can get bovine TB including llamas, sheep, pigs, seals, elephants, raccoons, and deer. Bovine TB is found throughout the world, including in the Americas, with "significant pockets of infection" remaining — especially among wildlife — in



Close up image of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

Canada and the US, according to [tbfacts.org](http://tbfacts.org).

Diagnosing multi-drug resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB, as well as HIV-associated TB, can be complex and expensive, but is important because TB is a treatable and curable disease. Active, drug-susceptible TB disease is treated with a standard six month course of four antimicrobial drugs. Patients are provided with information, supervision, and support by a health worker or trained volunteer. Without such support, treatment adherence can be difficult and the disease can spread. The vast majority of TB cases can be cured when medicines are provided and taken properly.

Ending the TB epidemic by 2030 is among the health targets of the WHO's newly adopted Sustainable Development Goals. WHO has gone one step further and set a 2035 target of a 95% reduction in deaths and a 90% decline in TB incidence, similar to current levels in low TB incidence countries today.

The US is one of those low-incident countries. According to the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in 1953 we had 52.6 cases per 100,000 people, which has declined to 2.8 cases per 100,000 people in 2017. The current rate in Massachusetts is greater than the national average, with 3.1 cases per 100,000 people.

### More About Superbugs

Only some strains of TB are drug-resistant superbugs caused by mutations that allow the bacteria to evolve in response to incomplete treatment, but superbugs are a growing global problem. Taking all medication in a regimen reduces the likelihood that superbugs will develop, as does taking the proper medication for what you have.

For example, you don't take antibiotics for a cold; colds are viruses, and antibiotics treat bacteria. It also helps to not take antibiotics if you aren't sick. Unfortunately, the meat industry didn't get this message. They continue to pump cattle full of antibiotics, as a preventative measure and to help them grow faster. They can buy feed with antibiotics pre-mixed into it. They have been pre-treating healthy cattle since about 1950, and still the US has not figured out how to regulate it.

Eighty percent of all antibiotics

in the US are used by the agricultural industry. While doctors are being much more careful about handing out prescriptions to humans, the meat industry continues to give them to healthy cattle and other animals to prevent infections and grow them more quickly.

Some consumer movements asking for antibiotic-free meat have been effective. McDonalds eliminated antibiotic-fed chickens from its supply chain, and when given a choice, consumers say they would rather have meat without antibiotics, and sales are increasing of that kind of meat among those who can afford it.

Knowing what's in your meat: another good reason to eat locally-sourced food. Luckily, we're in an area where it's easy to find organic meat. Find local farms at [www.localharvest.org](http://www.localharvest.org).

*Note: Most of the information for this article came from the World Health Organization website, [who.org](http://who.org).*

## Ethnopharmacology and Seed Banks: Saving the World?

By LISA MCLOUGHLIN

**FERMANAGH, NORTHERN IRELAND** — Soil from an area populated by Druids and Neolithic people has recently been tested and found effective against four modern superbugs, including methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). Superbugs are bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. They get this way by being exposed to antibiotics but not destroyed, which is why it's really important to finish your antibiotics as prescribed. Another way they proliferate is through the meat industry: cattle are given antibiotics to spur growth even if they are not sick, and the resulting resistant bacterial strains can move between animals and people.

Superbugs are expected to kill up to 1.3 million people in Europe alone by 2050; they are a spreading global problem that affects life in every country on Earth.

The team of ethnopharmacology researchers from Swansea University Medical School making this discovery includes Dr. Gerry Quinn, who is from the area of the find in Northern Ireland and was aware of the traditional uses of the medicinal soil, which is wrapped in a cloth and applied to wounds, and used to treat everything from toothaches to infections. They are now working to discern which component of the bacteria is effective.

Professor Paul Dyson, also of Swansea University Medical School, was quoted in a December, 2018 ar-

ticle at [phys.org](http://phys.org) as saying, "Our results show that folklore and traditional medicines are worth investigating in the search for new antibiotics. Scientists, historians and archaeologists can all have something to contribute to this task. It seems that part of the answer to this very modern problem might lie in the wisdom of the past."

In general, ethnopharmacology is controversial because of issues around intellectual property. Big pharma companies, sometimes accused of being "pirates," patent indigenous medicines and prevent indigenous people from benefiting from sharing their knowledge. This is related to industrial attempts to control seed availability and regeneration.

Together, these issues raise major questions about the commodification and sale of Nature. Vandana Shiva, a PhD physicist who grew up in the forests of India and became a global activist, is on the forefront of fighting these injustices. For more information about this and related issues, read any of her books or watch the documentary "The Seeds of Vandana Shiva" ([vandanashivamovie.com](http://vandanashivamovie.com)).

While huge conglomerates try to patent seeds, weed killers, and fertilizers, the traditional knowledge that has grown food sustainably is disappearing in the face of globalization. Seed banks store plant seeds in cool, dry conditions in an attempt to keep them from extinction. The Kew Royal Botanical Garden is the most famous and largest seed bank, which makes sense because the English have been pirating seeds through colonization and exploration for a very long time; see Londa Sheibinger's fascinating study of this colonial bioprospecting, *Plants and Empire* (Harvard University Press, 2004).

Currently, 60,000 to 100,000 plant species are threatened with extinction, which is a 100- to 1,000-fold higher rate than the recent past, and amounts to roughly 20% of all plants. The threats are from humans: habitat destruction, much of it via global climate change, but also land use change, and overexploitation.

Seed banks tend to focus either by geographical area or plant type such as agricultural species. Seeds from the bank are used to test for medicine, to plant and repopulate, and for other scientific studies. There is some question if the seeds in a seed bank will regrow successfully when put back in the wild, because they have not had a chance to adapt to new threats such as predators and diseases.

Not much is known about how long it takes seeds to adapt to their growing conditions and change their genetic makeup. But since we are failing to protect our environment, a last ditch-effort to keep some of it alive, even in isolation, seems better than nothing.

## July-August 2019 Moon Calendar

First Quarter  
Tuesday, July 9

First Quarter  
Wednesday, August 7

Full Moon  
Tuesday, July 16

Full Moon  
Thursday, August 15

Last Quarter  
Wednesday, July 24

Last Quarter  
Friday, August 23

New Moon  
Wednesday, July 31

New Moon  
Friday, August 30

NASA/ARC/MIT IMAGE

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, JULY 11

Leverett Library, Leverett: *Music on the Patio*. Beth Logan Raffeld jazz trio. Bring a lawn chair. In the event of rain, concert moves inside. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Windborne*. Folksongs and harmony. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Deerhoof*, "noise, sugary melodies, experimental spirit"; *Blank Spell*, "Italian maniac hardcore punk"; *Carinae*, psych rock; *Hot Dirt*, "clashing rhythms and angular transitions"; *Tundrastomper*, "noise punk with heavy breakdowns." Green River Festival kickoff party. \$ 8 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Ralph White, Tongue Oven, Beverly Ketch, Jake Klar Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 12

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Immortal Jellyfish*, and *Dory* film. Performance by jam band *Immortal Jellyfish* will be followed by a screening of the classic Disney film *Dory*. Kids' crafts. Bring a picnic and folding chairs. (Rain date August 23.) 6 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Spirits Having Fun, Editrix, Loone*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Left-over Crack*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

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

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bridge of Flowers, Hung Trucker, Elan Gregory*. 9:30 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 13

Deja Brew, Wendell: *Wendell Reggae Fest*. Reggae music, Caribbean food, bonfire, full bar, vendors. With *Naia Kete & Sayreal, Simon White & Rhythm Inc, Rebelle, Live! & Friends, Dave Noonan's Green Island, Roots All Stars, Headband*, and more. 2 p.m. \$

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

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Most Wuthering Heights Day Ever*. Wear red. 4:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Scott Ainslie*. Acoustic blues

slide guitar. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Vet Crush, Huevos II, DJ Hula Bomb*. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Sedagive*. 9:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$ 10:30 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JULY 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quebecois music session*. 3 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *John Hanifin*. Cello. \$ 4 p.m.

SUBMITTED PHOTO



*Danse Café performs traditional dance music from France and Brittany. The group includes Cynthia Thomas on the fiddle, Dong Feeny on the guitar and banjo, Peter Stolley on the accordion, and Thomas Gajewski on the clarinet and mandolin. They performs on Sunday, July 14 at the South Deerfield Polish American Club at 5:30 (by donation), and on Saturday, July 20 at the Porter-Phelps Huntington Museum in Hadley for their Afternoon Teas at 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. (\$12 admission).*

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Underwear, Close Body Talent, Loculus Collective*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, JULY 15

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Montague Community Band*. Bring something to sit on for this free concert in the park! 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Quiz Night*. 8 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JULY 16

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Song, movement, laughter for young children and their caregivers. Marcy Gregoire and Hilary Lake with puppets, costumes, instruments. \$ 10:30 a.m.

Brattleboro Museum, Brattleboro, VT: *Dona McAdams Art-*

*ist Talk*. Photographer McAdams will discuss her life and work. Her photography now on view at the Museum features avant-garde performers, pioneers of queer liberation, portraits of people living with mental illness, cloistered nuns, race track workers, and horses, oxen and goats. 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JULY 17

Gill Tavern, Gill: *Jazz Night*. 6 p.m.

Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum, Hadley: *Pan Morigan*. Multi-instrumentalist with songs

moves inside. 7 p.m.

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

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Mal Devisa, God's Wisdom*, more tba. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Charles Fox: Home From Col lege*. Hip hop in the Wheelhouse. \$ 8:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JULY 19

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Outerspace Band*. (See article, page B1.) \$ 8 p.m.

Guiding Star Grange, Greenfield: *Contra Dance*. Contra dance with Steve Howland, Annika Amstutz, and the Back Row Band. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Austin Fair*. \$ 10 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JULY 20

Porter-Phelps Huntington Museum, Hadley: *A Perfect Spot of Tea*. Traditional tea with lively music from *Danse Cafe* performing dance music from France and Brittany. Two seatings, one at 2:30 and 3:30. \$

Montague Bookmill, Montague Center: *Dylan Connor, Benjamin Cartel*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mad Agnes with Pete Nelson*. Witty and wildly innovative folksong. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *River Rhapsody*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Throwaway, Jay Weingarten, Dream Surgery*. \$ 8 p.m.

### SUNDAY, JULY 21

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Peter Blanchette*. Archguitar with 11 strings. \$ 4 p.m.

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

Pushkin Gallery, Greenfield: *Eli Caitlin, Izzy Heltai*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Ten Forward, Greenfield: *Bernice, Ruth Garbus, Nick Bisceglia*. Managing editor's pick. \$ 8 p.m.

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

## EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery. Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Sister Art*. *Elisabeth Lachance* and *Becca Wheeler* display their polymer clay sculpture and painted furniture. Through July.

Brattleboro Museum & Art Center, Brattleboro: New exhibits for the summer include beach scenes, activist photography by *Dona McAdams*, immersive installations, steel sculpture, and more.

DVAA Center for the Arts, Northfield: *Beauties, Bugs, and Beas-ties*. An animal-themed exhibit by invited New England artists, celebrating creatures real and imagined. Beautiful paintings

and whimsical folk art and sculpture. This show will be complemented by several animal visits, book readings, activities for children, and food collections for local animal rescue organizations. Exhibit runs to July 28.

Flourish with Grit, Turners Falls: *James Willette: Crepuscular Skies*. Photographic works by New Hampshire artist. Through July 28.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: Art display by youngsters in the Montague Parks and Rec Summer Camp who interpret Raptors, our magnificent birds of prey. Through July 28.

Greenfield Gallery, Greenfield: *Signs [Volume I, 1977 to 2015]*.

New and vintage photographic prints on the theme of signage by Peter Monroe, curated by Kate Hunter. Through August 10.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Paintings by *Peter Ruhf*. Mystical works of realist landscapes inspired by the psychedelic art of the 1960s and '70s. Through July.

Leverett Library: *Maxim Chekan*. Oil paintings of still life and landscapes. Through August.

Nina's Nook, Turners Falls: *Gathering My Wits*, pen and ink drawings by *Linda Baker-Cimini*, through July 20. Followed by *Cute Little Human Monsters* by Donna Horn, with reception on Saturday, July 27 at 3 p.m.

Salmon Falls Gallery, Shel-

burne Falls: *Chris Hill: Nocturnal Landscapes*. Surreal botanical paintings depicting farmland and fallow fields "as they should be," combining painting, permaculture, organic gardening and a plea to repair the earth one garden at a time. *Sarah Holbrook: Driving Home*, photographs of the winding back roads of southern Vermont and western Massachusetts. Through September 1.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *A Taste for Art* group show on a food theme by member artists. Reception July 20, 4 p.m.

Smith College Museum of Art, Northampton: *Plastic Entanglements: Ecology, Aesthetics, Materials*. The story of plastic

Silverthorne Theater's Short & Sweet Festival of New (tiny) Plays is looking for original, unpublished works for the stage in any style. No more than 20 minutes long, four actors or less, and simple production values. Not a workshop; plays must be ready for production. Festival to be held in Spring 2020. Deadline August 1. Details: [silverthornetheater.org](http://silverthornetheater.org) or email [stcliterarymanager@gmail.com](mailto:stcliterarymanager@gmail.com).

in 60 works by 30 contemporary artists, exploring our entangled love affair with this miraculous and malevolent material. Through July.

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**OUTERSPACE** from B1  
occasion of an auditorium gig opening for B.B. King, this way: "It is music that is distantly related to the blues, but which has been changed and remodeled into the gospel music of the young white middle class in America. It is louder, both bassy and treble, and the beat is really loud."

Gasoline morphed into the Outerspace Band, and their sound stretched out and began absorbing more country and folk elements. They built a reputation on the college circuit, and decided to stay together after graduation, with the goal of making it pro.

"After college, we lived in tents off Interstate 84 at an abandoned day camp," Koehler tells me. "We were only there two or three nights a week anyway – we were doing a lot of bar work back then."

From there, they moved into an abandoned potting shed on the property of the Music Inn in Lenox, but it was a long commute to Cambridge. The band wanted to relocate somewhere centrally located between cities, colleges, ski slopes, and seacoast party towns. The place on the map where Routes 2 and 91 crossed looked enticing, and they found themselves talking with an Amherst realtor named Fred Boyajian, who had recently

bought up several properties in an obscure little town up in the hills.

And so it was that the Outerspace Band Partnership became Wendell's newest big business.

"All the money we earned for that five-year stretch went into one big bank account," Koehler explains, "which paid for recording studio time, guitar strings, food, rent, utilities, gas, repairs for the trucks and the cars..." Besides Koehler's sound-engineering sideline, the band soon picked up an affiliated lighting business and a bonafide juggling roadie.

"At one point, there were at least 50 people in Wendell who made their living entirely playing music," he says: the Wendell Rangers; the Magic Music Band; Jes'Dandy; Sundance; Fairchild; Youth Well Spent; and Road Hog, who would go on to become Loose Caboose.

There was no regular venue in town, so the only Outerspace home shows were at Old Home Days. The band ranged from Sugarloaf to Nantucket, colleges with big Deadhead contingents, New York clubs like CBGBs and Max's Kansas City, the White House...

(The reporter Koehler is speaking with stops him there, demanding further explanation. "Man," he says. "I'm surprised you didn't know

all about this." The story requires a drink of water – and it's a very good one, rural freaks suddenly recruited through former prep-school lives to play Susan Ford's prom after she failed to land the Beach Boys; curious readers can search for a comprehensive 2015 *Vanity Fair* piece about the incident. At the White House, Outerspace played their signature revved-up arrangement of Cab Calloway's "The Reeper Man," also the A side of the lone 45 the band ever had pressed. The reporter gets to hear this later on and it is also, besides being about cannabis, very good-sounding.)

... and, closer to home, the Warwick Inn, 70 or 80 times.

"We had a seriously regular crowd there," Koehler recalls, "even in the middle of winter. The windows would all be open and there would be people climbing in and out of them, the dance floor would be full, there were motorcycle gangs, there were kids running around on the dance floor bumming quarters from their parents to play the pinball machines, there were spinners with bottles of Ballantine Ale out on the dancefloor. It was a really wild scene!"

Koehler says the band managed to get along well enough with Wendell's established residents.

"What really helped us over the hump as far as acceptance was concerned," he says, "was that all the blue-collar folks that worked down at Starrett Tool or Union Twist Drill, or Rodney Hunt, in Orange and Athol – whenever they were going down the hill at quarter of seven in the morning to work, we'd be coming up the hill in a Chevy Suburban full of sleepy musicians. And they basically said, 'you know, these guys are hard-working people just like we are. They're just doing the graveyard shift!'"

Eventually, however, the machine began to run out of steam. Koehler explains it several different ways: Disco's rise undermined the demand for seven-member jam bands in the nation's dancehalls. For some, family life beckoned. And despite its best efforts, the band never scored a record deal, since A&R execs of the era preferred artists who would pick a genre and stick to it.

"Now, we would fit perfectly in an 'Americana' bin," Koehler muses. "We were a little ahead of our time, in that sense."

In 1977, the Outerspace Band Partnership was formally dissolved, the managers and technicians given pink slips. The band continued to tour, but on a dramatically reduced schedule. People moved and took on

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JACKSON PHOTO

Outerspace Band bassist John "Klondike" Koehler looks across fifty years of time.

regular jobs, and their former full-time life became a shared hobby.

One member has passed away – "Uncle" Al Sheeran, the trombonist and fiddle player who joined in 1974 – and the band switched drummers in the early '90s, but most of the band has been together all along. "We've never missed a summer,"

Koehler says, sifting through ephemera. "It's been amazing that we've been able to hold onto it this long."

*The Outerspace Band plays at Hawks & Reed in Greenfield next Friday, July 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door.*



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