

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 5

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

NOVEMBER 21, 2019

## Hopeful Bike Shop Owner Gears Up For a Steep Hill



*Nik Perry, who has announced plans to open a new bike shop next spring in downtown Greenfield, leads a workshop on simple tube repair.*

By ISABEL KOYAMA

**GREENFIELD** – “It might break, but it’s going to be okay,” Nik Perry told a handful of smiling bike enthusiasts last Saturday as they peeled tubes out of tires.

Perry, who aspires to open a bike shop in downtown Greenfield by next spring, was teaching a two-hour “Fix-a-Flat” class at a space owned by the Franklin County Co-op on Main Street. Participants in brightly colored hats sat in a semi-circle around Perry, clutching disassembled bike tire parts and following along with his step-by-step instructions.

“It’s a really fun class to teach,” reflects Perry, who hopes to hold similar classes regularly at his future store, Sadie’s Bikes. “[Fixing a tire] is an accessible thing to learn that really helps a person feel empowered on a bike... It’s also one of the first classes where I can give reference material for different types of tires.”

Perry has been a bicycle mechanic for over a decade. He says he has dreamed about having a storefront of his own for a long

time, but has only recently begun to transition from working for someone else – as a solar installer for the past three years – to working for himself.

With just one other non-specialty bike shop currently open between Amherst and Brattleboro, Perry thinks there is a market for Sadie’s Bikes. “It’s not going to be your typical bike shop,” he says decidedly – he wants his business to not only offer new bikes, used bikes, and a service counter, but also be a site where customers are encouraged to build their own skills.

Perry says that the knowledge he has gleaned from bike mechanics over the years goes beyond bicycles. He is able to diagnose and fix mechanical problems in other machines, too, including his own truck. He hopes to impart this knowledge by teaching classes twice a week at his future store.

“I want to reconnect people with the very physical and mechanical world that still exists around us all the time,” Perry says, dreaming aloud about a shop

see **BIKES** page A5

## ERVING SELECTBOARD Amid Tension, Library Furniture Budget Approved

By SARAH ROBERTSON

Frustrated by a furniture budget that came back more expensive than anticipated, the Erving selectboard and library building committee agreed Monday night that changes were necessary in order to keep costs down.

“I know how much work, and how many months, have gone into this,” selectboard member Jacob Smith said. “Then to be presented with a plan that’s not finished... I feel a little misled presently, and I feel uncomfortable voting on something that isn’t finished.”

Because the library building committee had submitted outdated price quotes for their furniture budget, the costs presented Monday night exceeded the projected budget by about \$7,000, according to town administrator Bryan Smith. Changes made to the custom furniture fabric choices, shelving, and number of tables accounted for some of the discrepancies.

“Why didn’t you advise us that we needed these changes earlier?” Jacob Smith asked the committee. “Funds don’t move without the trustees... We can act like that’s ours to work from.”

see **ERVING** page A6

## Settling In at Town Hall

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – The town of Montague has seen major staffing changes in the past two years with the hiring of a new director of public health, Daniel Wasiuk, this past spring, and a new inspector of buildings, Chris Rice, in February 2018.

Both replaced mainstays of the town hall staff: Gina McNeely at the health department, who had worked for the town for 20 years, and David Jensen, the building inspector since the 1980s.

Wasiuk and Rice arrived in a small town with evolving public policies, including major zoning bylaw revisions passed by town meeting last February, and a statewide ban on the sale of vaping products announced by Governor Baker in September.

We contacted both to ask about their first months in office, their impressions of the town and its staff, and the biggest challenges

see **OFFICIALS** page A7



*Rice (top) and Wasiuk (below).*

ANALYSIS

## Is There A Real Estate Boom?

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – I’ve been hearing casual talk around town of a real estate boom, and particularly the idea that interest in downtown properties has recently intensified. I decided to look at some data, and

see if there were any discernible trend lines. I reviewed all property transfers in Montague over the last six years.

While I turned up some interesting things, I didn’t find strong support for the idea that the market is

see **REAL ESTATE** page A5

## Compost Collaboration Encouraged

By NINA ROSSI

**TURNERS FALLS** – A coffee klatch on Monday morning hosted by Drawdown Montague and the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) aimed to inform local restaurant owners, and other businesses that produce food waste, about the options available to them for composting. The meeting was a follow-up from an event held in early November at the Brick & Feather Brewery.

Besides Billy and Tamara McKerchie, who were hosting the get-together at their recently opened Avenue A restaurant The Upper Bend, there were no local business owners in attendance. Instead, three members of Drawdown Montague, downtown resident and coop advocate Suzette Snow-Cobb, and FCSWMD program director Amy Donovan worked on plans to reach out to downtown businesses they believe could benefit from some type of composting program.

The hope is that enough restaurants or markets in Turners Falls will sign on with the Greenfield-based Compost

see **COMPOST** page A6



*The Pocumtuck Homelands Festival borrowed recycling and compost bins this year from the FCSWMD.*

## Gill-Montague Students Join Food March

By ANTHONY PETERSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – Monte’s March started in 2010 as a fundraiser for the Food Bank of Western Mass. Monte Belmonte, the DJ on The River (93.9 FM), pushes a shopping cart 43 miles from Springfield to Greenfield.

The march raised \$294,720 last year. For every dollar, the Food Bank can make three meals. People can donate to the Food Bank of Western Mass either by cash or check, or online or they can pledge to the marchers.

This year’s march starts next Monday, November 25 in Springfield, and ends Tuesday, November 26. Being the tenth march, the

see **MARCH** page A8



*Twenty students from Turners Falls High School (not all pictured here) plan to join in Monte’s March this year, up from 17 last year.*

## High School Sports Update: Countdown to Turkey Week

By MATT ROBINSON

*Mahar 22 – Mohawk 6*

Last Friday, the Mohawk Coop Warriors went to Orange to challenge the Blue and Scarlet Senators of Mahar Regional.

Mahar reconstructed their football field a few years back when they built the new school. The field is topped with a synthetic turf. It’s like standing on a pool table, and looks like the Brady Bunch backyard. This field has no uneven defects: unlike Estadio Azteca and the

fields that the Warriors have played on this year, it has no divot holes, no bare spots, and no mud puddles.

The new field also faces directly into the wind. There’s a steady air flow from one end zone to the other. This current, which the Mahar fans jokingly call their “twelfth man,” helped the Senators immensely when they were forced to punt early in the first period.

The ball landed on Mohawk’s 45, and the returner wisely didn’t try to pick it up. It took a Mahar bounce,

see **SPORTS** page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

*Warrior Jaden Whiting (center) finds an opening as teammate Cullen Brown (19) ties up Mahar’s Elias Spencer (20) at the Woodward Complex in Orange.*

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# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

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## A Week of Reflection

As has been our Thanksgiving custom since 2013, the *Montague Reporter* will skip publication, and return on December 5.

In the meantime, we hope you will enjoy these historical excerpts

from the pages of our namesake, the *Turners Falls Reporter*, 100 years ago this week.

We encourage your Letters to the Editors. None were received this week, so there is space here to fill.

November 19, 1919

November 26, 1919

**An Important New Industry For Turners Falls.**

Turners Falls is assured of another important new industry.

A large tract has been secured from the Turners Falls Power Co. by the Martin Machine Co., bounded by Avenue A on the west (opposite the McLane silk mill), by M street on the east, and southerly by Thirteenth street. Batter boards for a good sized building are up, and complete plans will be ready in a short time.

The Martin Machine company has outgrown their Greenfield factory, and Turners Falls had much better to offer in factory sites, power, light and general facilities, so that is the reason for the new industry.

**Woman's Club to Have Club House.**

At a regular meeting of the Woman's Club held yesterday afternoon in High school hall, it was voted that the club purchase the building lot on the corner of Seventh and K streets, on which, it is their hope, to erect a club house in the near future.

Following the business meeting, Miss Florence Haigis gave a very interesting and instructive talk on music, after which she delighted her listeners with selections on the piano from some of the greatest composers. Tea and wafers were served by members of the educational committee who had charge of the meeting.

**SUPERIOR COURT.**

The case of Frank Pulaski versus T. Kalinowski et als was the first case tried in the present session of the Superior court. The plaintiff became a member in a Polish benefit society known as the Society of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the principal aim of the society being to pay sick benefits to its members who became ill or incapacitated.

The plaintiff claimed that he became ill and therefore entitled to benefits. The defendants alleged that he was suffering from an incurable disease at the time he joined the society, that he concealed this fact, and that therefore they were not liable.

**Esleeck Mill Win.**

The program of sports postponed from armistice day was carried out on the Avenue, Saturday afternoon, and interested a large number of spectators. The chief feature was the tug of war, in which the Esleeck mill team, the Keith mill team, and the fireman took part.

The Esleeck team outpulled both opposing teams and won the prize.

**Special Town Meeting.**

A special town meeting is to be held at the Town hall in Turners Falls, on Monday evening, Dec. 1.

The incidental department and the overseers of poor want \$2000 more each. To build the new school house at Millers Falls, an additional sum of money is asked for, and the question of transportation of high school pupils from Millers Falls and Montague to Turners Falls calls for action.

**MONTAGUE.**

The woman's benevolent society served a supper at the chapel last evening. After the supper A.M. Moody of Northfield gave a short talk.

Ralph Morse, who has been in the naval service the past two years, has received his discharge and returned home.

Miss Mabel Stillman gave the first of a series of talks on the "physical and Moral education of children," at the schoolhouse yesterday afternoon.

**Published weekly on Thursdays.**

*Every other week in July and August.  
No paper fourth week of November,  
or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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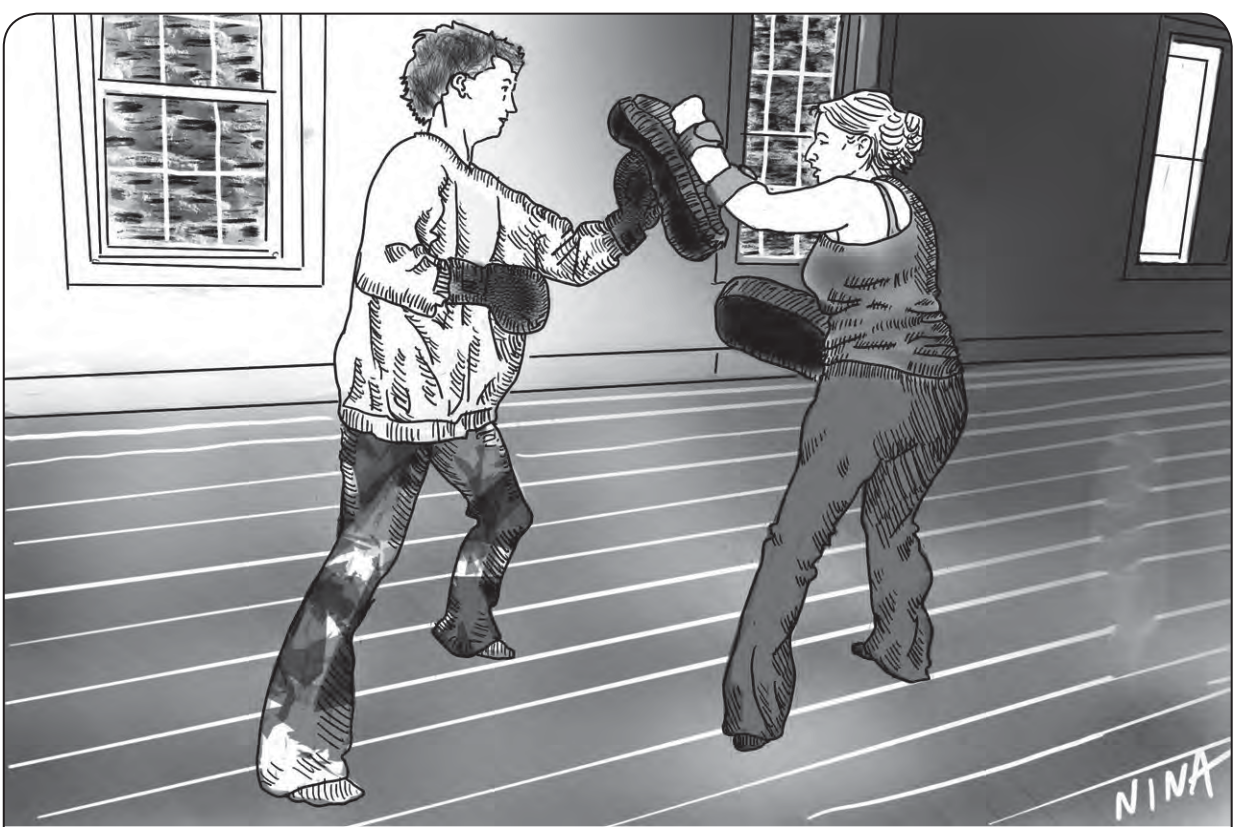
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NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



Angie boxes a round into pads held by Estelle Bonaveto at a Box Your Way Fit session at the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls on Tuesday. Estelle has offered sessions at the Brick House for almost ten years. She also books time at her studio on Main Street in Greenfield.

**WENDELL.**

We, at this writing, can see lots of traces of the recent snow storm up in this section, while no signs are in evidence below. It is thought that had the ground been frozen, the result would have been a foot of snow, while about four inches remained, which was soon mixed with soft mud in the pathways.

The roads are practically bare, and in some places they are cut up into deep ruts, which makes it difficult for trucks or other kinds of the horseless affairs to get through; as it is, they have made new tracts until there isn't room for more.

Work on the new library is at a stand still, owing to unfavorable weather. The two steam mills are running and a disagreeable time they have been having getting in their nine hours, while but scarce eight is required of the road workers.

There were 12 foxes running loose causing the farmers to keep an eye on their poultry. Earl Freeman has caught that number, and has them penned up waiting for their hair to get in first class condition before dispatching 'em.

**Local Matters.**

The new motor truck of the Turners Falls fire department has been tried out near the high school several times the past week, and proves itself to be a very powerful and effective piece of fire fighting apparatus. The motor makes a whirring noise much like that of an airplane.

Wm. J. Sprague, the well known proprietor of the Fourth street cafe, has bought out the Liberty lunch on the Avenue of Robert Allen, and will conduct the two places with the aid of his son Howard. Mr. Sprague, who recently bought a carload of potatoes in New York state, found the demand so great, that he bought another and sold the two carloads very promptly, after reserving enough of the "spuds" for his own use.

M.E. Holdsworth is able to be on the street again after an acute attack of rheumatism.

**Evening School For Americanization.**

An evening school for Americanization to teach foreigners to speak, read and write the English language, is to be started under the auspices of the school department, in the Oakman building, the opening session to begin Tuesday evening, December 2.

It is hoped there will be a general response to improve this opportunity on the part of our population speaking only a foreign language. No expense is attached.

**Boys Break Into Store.**

The store of the F.I. Webster co. was broken into Sunday night, and a quantity of goods and about \$8 in money was stolen. The thieves gained entrance through the cellar and the break was not discovered till the store was open Monday morning. Chief of Police W.J. Callahan was notified, and working upon a single clue he soon ferreted out the thieves and recovered most of the loot.

The break was made by three Polish boys, all aged about 12 years. They evidently were trying to be moving picture heroes for the whole performance was strongly suggestive of a certain type of screen drama. When confronted with evidence, the boys confessed, and practically all the stolen articles were recovered, with the exception of one revolver which the kidlets said they threw away.

The boys took all sorts of glittering things, including three 32-calibre revolvers, two air rifles, ten packages of shot, four flash lights, volt testers, etc. The lads will be arraigned in court Saturday morning.

**Local Matters.**

At the regular meeting of the Turners Falls Board of Trade held last week, Clarence A. Flagg was elected treasurer, in place of Philip Jacobus, resigned. An advertising committee was also appointed to investigate and pass on the numerous advertising schemes in which solicitors are constantly trying to interest local manufacturers and merchants, so that the wheat may be separated from the chaff, and fraudulent or doubtful propositions may not secure victims.

It was also voted to confer with the selectmen about some of the jitneys which are not maintaining their schedules.

**SUPERIOR COURT.**

In the case of James D. Casey for breaking and entering, the jury returned a verdict of guilty and Casey was given two years in the house of correction.

Clarence Rock pleaded guilty to being a delinquent child, and was sentenced to Concord.

**GILL.**

The case of Elizabeth F. Veno against Elizabeth A. Collins was begun yesterday. This is a suit in which the plaintiff alleges that she was injured by falling on a sidewalk from which the defendant failed to clean the snow and ice.

**Local Matters.**

A game of basket ball will be played at Hibernian hall between the Young Men's Hebrew association of North Adams and Turners Falls to-morrow afternoon. The Turners Falls team is the one that will represent this town in the inter-state league.

The Esleeck Mfg. Co. has built a garage with room for several machines on Canal street near the stone crusher. The addition now being built to the mill made it necessary to build a new garage to take the place of the old one.

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**Flexible Spout.**

A new oil can has a flexible spout to reach places in machinery difficult to access without spilling.

**WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!**

*(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)*

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## LOCAL BRIEFS

Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

First, a few reminders: The **Friends of Gill will hold an Apple Pie Sale** on Saturday, November 23 at the Gill Church, 6 Center Road, Gill from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Frozen, unbaked pies sell for \$12. This sale benefits their scholarship fund for Gill high school seniors.

The **Gill-Montague Senior Center’s Christmas Bazaar** is Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Get a jump on your holiday shopping! The bazaar features food, raffles, crafts, and gifts. The senior center is located at 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls.

Handmade crafts, raffles, baked goods, and more can be had at the **Christmas Bazaar at the United Church of Bernardston**, 58 Church Street, Bernardston on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The **Little Drummer Craft Fair** boasts over 65 juried artists and craftspeople, raffles, a bake sale, and refreshments by the Culinary Arts students at Franklin County Technical School on Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

This fair benefits student scholarships at the school, which is located at 82 Industrial Boulevard in Turners Falls.

Staff Sergeant Lee R. Laster of the Montague police department will give a presentation on **“Teens and the Law!”** at Greenfield Savings Bank, 282 Avenue A, Turners Falls this Saturday, November 23 from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The event will focus on the young driver. Parents or guardians are encouraged to attend.

Some questions that Sgt. Laster will answer are: Should your young driver take a Driver’s Education

course? What are the requirements needed to obtain a driver’s license? What does a Junior Operator mean? Are there restrictions? What are the laws and penalties both parents and new drivers should be aware of?

Come and learn first-hand from a concerned community police officer before you take the leap! Light refreshments provided by GSB, and facts provided by Sgt. Laster.

A **benefit concert for the Gill Church** will feature a special performance by Pioneer Valley singer/songwriter Norman Schell at the Gill Church on Saturday, November 23 at 7 p.m. The performance will include Christian favorites as well as Schell’s own compositions.

There is a \$10 suggested donation toward the cost of a new accessible addition to the church, but no one will be turned away. For more information, call (413) 768-9543.

Here is your chance to meet with **state representative Natalie Blais** on Monday, November 25. From 1 to 6 p.m., she will be at the Montague Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, and at 6 p.m. at the Community Meal at Our Lady of Peace Church, 90 Seventh Street, Turners Falls.

Rep. Blais will also be walking in **Monte’s March** on Tuesday, November 26, a 43-mile trek from Springfield to Greenfield which benefits the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts. (See article, page A1.)

No need to skip Thanksgiving or eat alone:

The **Elks Lodge**, 1 Elks Avenue, Turners Falls will be hosting a **free Thanksgiving meal** on Thursday, November 28, from 11 to 1 p.m.

Also, the **Moore’s Corner Church**, 10 Church Hill Road, Lev-

erett will be serving a meal at 1 p.m.

The People’s Pint, 24 Federal Street in Greenfield, is hosting their 7th annual pay-what-you-can **Thanksgiving for the People** event from 1 to 5 p.m.

And Nan Riebschlaeger puts on a full **Thanksgiving potluck** at 5 p.m. at the Wendell town hall, meant for folks who would otherwise be dining alone, not for families. Bring something to share, and your own plate and utensils.

All are welcome at these events.

Shop for your Christmas gifts locally! **Great Falls Gift Mart**, a holiday pop-up shop, will be opening on the corner of Avenue A and Third Street in Turners Falls beginning Friday, November 29.

Presented by Side Gig Shop and Buckingham Rabbits Vintage, the flyer says that you can find “vintage threads, accessories, and ephemera” as well as “handmade giftables.” Keep up to date on Instagram [@greatfallsgiftmart](#).

The shop will be open Thursdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., through the New Year.

Would you rather connect with nature and local history than compete with the Black Friday shopping crowds on Friday, November 29? Then meet at the front entrance of the Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls at 1 p.m. for a **leisurely walk along the Canalside Rail Trail** in Turners Falls.

This walk is approximately three miles long, on a level paved surface making for an easy stroll appropriate for adults and children ages eight and up. Be prepared for cold weather: dress in layers, wear sturdy shoes, and bring water. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Inclement weather or icy trail conditions will cancel. Call (413) 863-3221 for more information.

The Gill-Montague Regional School District is hosting a **Resource Fair for all families** in the district on Thursday, December 5 at 5:30 pm in the cafeteria of Turners Falls High School.

Representatives from over 20 local agencies that provide supports and services for families will set up displays and be available to answer questions. Dinner will be provided.

For more information, contact Jo Ann Konieczny, Supported Learning Center at Great Falls Middle School, at 863-7239 or [jo-ann.konieczny@gmr.sd.org](#), or Stacey Langknecht, Family Engagement Coordinator, at 863-7210 or [stacey.langknecht@gmr.sd.org](#).

The **Shutesbury Holiday Shop** returns for its eighth year! Open just one weekend each year, this amazing pop-up shop is bursting with an affordable array of handcrafted work from 40 local artisans, artists,

crafters, authors, and musicians.

The Shop will be open from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, December 6; from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, December 7; and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Sunday, December 8 in the function room at the Shutesbury Athletic Club, 282 Wendell Road, Shutesbury.

Expect jewelry, quilts, ornaments, fudge, jams & jellies, maple syrup, handmade bags, tie dyes, baskets and other woodcraft, books by local authors, health and wellness products, CDs, fiber art, therapy pillows, mittens, walking sticks, gnomes, photography, fine art originals, cards and prints, stuffed animals, pottery and more.

All participating artisans and authors are all from Shutesbury or one of its bordering towns.

On Saturday, December 7 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Our Lady of Czestochowa, 84 K Street, Turners Falls, will hold its **St. Nicholas Bazaar**. The Bazaar features Christmas crafts and gifts, religious goods, a bake sale and Polish food sale, Polish items, giant raffles, a tag sale, and more.

Looking ahead...

**It’s A Wonderful Night in Turners Falls** is scheduled for Friday, December 13. Businesses will be participating in the Turners Falls Open Door Promotion. Collect stickers at the stores to enter a raffle – no purchases are required. Santa arrives at Spinner Park at 6:30 p.m.

The *Montague Reporter* office at 177 Avenue A will be open during the evening for you to stop by and wrap gifts in newspaper!

The event coincides with the first night of **Welcome Yule**, held at the Shea Theater, 71 Avenue A on Friday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 15 at 2 p.m. General admission is \$15, seniors and kids \$12, and kids four and under free. Tickets are available at Amherst Books in Amherst, Broadside Books in Northampton, and World Eye Bookshop in Greenfield.

Finally, mark your calendars for the **Gingerbread Party** at the Carnegie Library, 201 Avenue A on Saturday, December 14, from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to come make easy gingerbread houses. Candy, graham crackers, and icing will be provided for this fun, free program.

There is no *Montague Reporter* edition next Thursday – we are taking the week off, as we do every year. **Expect your next paper December 5!**

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

## Celebrating the Reporter

**GREENFIELD** – Looky Here, a gallery and workshop space at 28 Chapman Street in Greenfield, presents “Celebrating the Art of the *Montague Reporter*,” an art show of local cartoonists and illustrators featured in this paper, this Saturday, November 23 at 6 p.m.

A retrospective of the monthly Children’s Page will be on display, as well as illustrations by features


editor Nina Rossi and other cartoons. There will be readings of articles by reporter Pete Wackernagel and columnist Josh Burkett, and DJ sets by Burkett and Joel Paxton.

The event is free, but there will be a donation jar to benefit the paper, as well as art and amazing *Montague Reporter* t-shirts, designed by Emma and Charlotte Kohlmann, for sale. All are welcome.



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**Great Falls Middle School Students of the Week**  
*Week ending Nov. 15:*  
**Grade 6**  
Brody Girard  
**Grade 7**  
Anthony Prizio  
**Grade 8**  
Raygen Pendriss  
**Related Arts**  
Noah Titman

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RECYCLE

**PAPER**

Week of November 25

**BOTTLES & CANS**

Week of December 2

in Montague



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SPORTS from page A1

got caught in a gust, and kept rolling. Mahar’s punting team surrounded it and let it keep on rolling until it finally slowed and died on the 16. The Scarlet fans cheered on their “twelfth man” as the Coop fans just watched it roll.

Although both teams were also-rans in the MIAA Tournament, both wanted to win this game, and not just the teams – fans on both sides of the field cheered loudly, and bemoaned unfortunate turns.

Even the cheer squads got into it. “You got a little competition,” one of the Blue and Gold fans called out when the Scarlet cheerleaders did their routine. The Mahar cheer squad is called the Senators, because “Lady Senators” makes as much sense as “Lady Rams.” (For you AP History Students, look up Rebecca Latimer Felton and Sybil Holmes.)

The Scarlet cheer squad travels with their teams to every home and away football and basketball game, and makes their presence known. Between routines, individual girls yell “Go Sena-TORS!” in loud baritone voices. But the Blue, White, and Gold cheerleaders are pretty good themselves. They competed in Regionals for the last few years, and when they’re at the games, they lead cheers at just the right moments.

The real action was on the field. And there was a little controversy there – not a Myles Garrett-level controversy, but interesting to watch. At least three times, the coaches, players, fans, and by the end of the game even the chain crew were up in arms.

Mohawk came into the game without their starting running back Evan Shippee, and their QB Shawn Davenport was suffering an illness, so the workload had to be shared. Jaden Whiting subbed for Davenport throughout the game.

On Mahar’s opening kickoff, the ball hit the turf and knuckle balled toward the Mohawk goal line. Whiting decided to play it. He stopped the ball, picked it up, and banged back to the Gold 44. The Gold receivers made uncharacteristic easy drops, though, and Mohawk was forced to punt.

Mahar was also forced to punt after Jaden Kitchen Lipski made a third-down sack. That’s when Mahar’s “twelfth man” bounced the ball all the way to the Gold 16. It went on like this for the entire first quarter, and into the second. The Warrior defense held Mahar at bay, but their offense struggled with dropped passes.

The pendulum finally swung toward Scarlet toward the end of the first half. Mahar was stopped when Brendan Driscoll caused a fumble, and Mohawk got the ball, but a Mahar pick stopped the drive on the next play, and the Gold defense had to come back on.

Mahar took over on their own 28. The rejuvenated offense put together a series of long runs and finally broke the goose egg with 4:32 left in the half. Matthew Pollen broke through the line on the PAT, and blocked the kick attempt, keeping the score at 6-0.

The pendulum never swung back toward Mohawk. A great kick return by Cullen Brown was negated by a block in the back, and Mohawk proceeded to fumble the ball away.

Mahar took over and were stopped again on the Gold 45. They ran a keeper on fourth and 2, and the QB was hit in the backfield. He twisted free, made it back to the line of scrimmage, then broke free and outraced the entire defense to score again with 2:18 left in the half.

The Senators were up 14-0. Mohawk received



Turners Falls High School senior and Mohawk Trail Warrior Liam Driscoll scoops up a Mahar fumble during the second quarter against the Senators in Orange.

the kick, but their drive was stopped by another interception. The Gold defense wouldn’t let Mahar score again before the break; Driscoll came up with a fumble, and Mohawk’s offense came back on the field.

Two plays later, an interesting thing happened. Mohawk was driving on the 47, but after an incompletion, the clock kept running. As the half ended, the Mohawk coaching staff and their fans were baffled.

The Warrior gang stopped Mahar when Liam Driscoll sacked the QB on their first possession of the second half. Then he blocked the punt, and two plays later, scored the TD. The kick was wide, but now it was a one-score game, 14-6.

Mohawk had one last chance to tie it up in the waning minutes of regulation. Their defense stopped Mahar once again, but an unsportsman-like penalty gave the Senators a first-and-nothing on the goal line.

This did not make the visiting crowd very happy. Another thing that stuck in the craw of the Mohawk fans is that, after they scored, Mahar decided to go for 2 on the PAT, already leading by 14 with a minute 18 left in the game.

Mohawk drove down the field, using the clock fastidiously, trying to score a TD for pride. But to the dismay of the coaches, the Gold fans, and even the chain crew, the refs let the clock run out even after the Mohawk runner went out of bounds to stop it. The coaching staff protested mightily, but by then, Mahar was celebrating on the field.

On Wednesday, November 27, the Mohawk Co-op Warriors face off against the Frontier Red Hawks down in South Deerfield. They hope that this will be the year they finally beat the Frontiersmen in their annual Thanksgiving week game.

*McCann Tech 22 – FCTS 6*

Also on Friday the 15<sup>th</sup>, the McCann Tech Green Hornets came to Franklin Tech and defeated the Eagles, 22-6.

As in every other game this season, Franklin Tech was in this one until the end. The first half was a defensive battle, with the Hornets scoring the only touchdown. Their 2-PAT was stopped, and Green led 6-0 at the whistle.

But McCann scored twice in quick succession in the third quarter to go up 22-0. The Franks came back when Colby Mailloux scored. The PAT failed but Franklin was on the scoreboard 22-6 with an entire quarter to play.

The Birds put together a drive in the fourth, and almost seemed to have scored again, but a penalty brought the ball back, and Tech was unable to repeat the TD.

“Our kids battled – McCann just executed their game plan better than we executed ours,” coach Joe Gamache told me after the game. “We have had a season of being in games and just coming up short. It is a true testament to the grit and determination of our kids.”

Owen Bashaw went 5 for 14 in the game for 56 yards and a touchdown. The five completions were shared by five different receivers: Don-te Rosewarne, Ian McClure, Hunter Wozniak, Noah Fuess, and Mailloux, with Mailloux making the TD grab. Ryan Bergmann, who just returned from an injury, ran for 61 yards, followed by McClure (52) and Bashaw (10).

Defensively, Dylan Demers made 10 solo tackles, Wozniak made an interception, McClure recovered a fumble, and Mailloux blocked a kick.

Franklin Tech plays against Smith Voc down in Northampton on Turkey Day.

**Turkey Day Preview**  
*FCTS vs. Smith Voc*

Last year’s matchup against the Smith Vikings was an offensive affair, with Smith winning 24-14. But that was last year.

This year, the game was switched from Black Friday to Thanksgiving morning. The Vikings have struggled this year, and have not had a single win. The Franks, however, have been in every game against tough teams, and have blown out teams with lesser records.

I think Franklin Tech should take this one by a wide margin.

*Mohawk vs. Frontier*

Frontier has dominated Mohawk in their annual matchup. This season, Frontier made the playoffs in a higher bracket, and can explode on every cylinder.

The Co-ops are a new squad, with a mix of Turners Falls and Mohawk players. They have played well against Frontier-caliber teams; like Franklin Tech, they have been in every game this season. If the Warriors can stay healthy and can hold onto the passes, they can defeat the Hawks and reverse the lopsided series.

Next week: The holiday!



CONTEST ANNOUNCEMENT

Power Company Harvests Children’s Thoughts

**SPRINGFIELD** – Eversource invites Massachusetts students to demonstrate their energy efficiency knowledge by entering its seventh annual Eversource Challenge.

The competition promotes energy conservation, energy efficiency and sustainability and is open to kindergarten to high school students in Eversource’s Massachusetts electric service territory.

Deadline for registration is March 17, 2020. All entries must be received or postmarked by March 27, 2020.

“Year after year, our students continue to amaze us with their creativity and innovative energy efficiency ideas,” said Senior Vice President and Chief Customer Officer Penni Conner. “We are excited to kick off our seventh contest and look forward to receiving and reviewing this year’s projects.”

Students in grades K-8 are assigned grade-specific challenges and asked to submit entries in the form of a poster (Grades K-2), a limerick (Grade 3), an outdoor billboard (Grade 4), a narrative

and an image of an energy-saving super-hero (Grade 5), a letter to parents (Grade 6), a news article (Grade 7), or public service announcement (Grade 8).

Students competing in Grades 9-12 will create a persuasive image that advocates for an energy topic. Options include a short poem (125 words or less) or a cartoon strip (12 cells or less) that addresses energy efficiency, a renewable energy source, or environmental concern.

Eversource Challenge finalists in all categories and grade levels

will be honored at a special awards ceremony in early May, and winners will receive Amazon Gift Cards. All entries are judged on the use of accurate and scientific facts, creativity, readability, persuasiveness, originality, and appearance. Students’ submissions are judged against those from the same grade levels in their community.

For applications, guidelines and more information about the Eversource Challenge, visit [www.eversourceinschool.com/challenge](http://www.eversourceinschool.com/challenge).

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BIKES from page A1

where customers feel empowered to modify and customize their bikes to best suit their needs. “I want to offer a place where people can come with their curiosity and creativity.... When you put the time in to make something yours, it could be really special.”

But much like fixing bicycles, the process of opening a small business in downtown Greenfield means putting a lot of pieces together and negotiating several moving parts – and right now, Perry is in the thick of it.

“I’m looking for funding,” he says. “Getting a loan from a bank is hard.”

In order to secure a startup grant from the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, Perry explains, he first has to prove the viability and sustainability of his business: “I have to prove what I’m going to use the money for, prove that I’m joining a market that is going to pay that money back over time, and prove that I have the skills to [run a bike shop].”

Perry says he has a network of established bike shop owners who have been receptive to his “humbly asking for support.” But when it comes to securing a loan, Perry ac-

knowledges that simply pointing at other successful bike shops doesn’t guarantee that Sadie’s will be equally sustainable.

On Saturday, Perry stood in front of a white board displaying neat, color-coded drawings that distinguished between common types of bike brakes, valves, and tires. The white board was perched on a table strewn with tools, gloves and pumps of varying shapes and sizes. Other tire parts leaned precariously against walls and chairs around the room, threatening to roll away at any moment.

“It seems like it is a lot of work,” comments Maida Ives, one of the participants in Saturday’s flat-fix class, on the process of opening a business. Ives, an acquaintance of Perry, says she considers herself a “total novice” when it comes to cycling and bike mechanics.

Ives took off the training wheels at the age of 19, when she was living in New York City and riding her younger sibling’s kid-sized bike. A resident of western Massachusetts for five years, Ives now uses an appropriately sized bicycle toward both leisurely and practical ends.

Ives has nothing but positive things to say about Saturday’s fix-

a-flat class. “What I appreciate is that he wants people to not only come use a bike shop, but also learn about how their bikes work.” This transparency is what would make the shop unique – customers would be invited to learn the mechanics of their own bikes, and get their hands dirty. For those who want to keep it clean, however, Perry brings extra sets of gloves to his classes.

Perry is still many months away from being able to open Sadie’s Bikes. To raise part of his seed money, he is launching a crowdfunding page on GoFundMe.com on November 22, and will host a fundraiser on Thursday, December 12 at 10 Forward in Greenfield (formerly the Root Cellar).

Perry will teach another “fix-a-flat” class to kick off the fundraiser, which will feature at least six musical acts, a raffle, and a game of musical chairs. Admission is \$10 to \$20, sliding scale.

“I’ve been doing endless networking,” Perry recounts. “Every single day I have a meeting with a different person... The goal is to ally with as many people as possible so we can grow an interesting, fun, vibrant downtown area.”



KOYAMA PHOTO

Perry hopes classes and other events will help build excitement for his plan.

REAL ESTATE from page A1

getting more intense. While prices are generally creeping up across town, 2019’s transaction volume in most parts of town has been more or less in line with averages for the 2014 through 2018 period.

To do this research, I used the Franklin County Registry of Deeds website (*franklindeeds.com*), which links to a statewide database. I brought up every deed filed for property located in the town of Montague from January 1, 2014 through November 19, 2019, and then had to add one more while I was writing this because a house sold on X Street on Wednesday.

I ignored any deeds that changed hands for a trivial price – a dollar, say, or \$10. These are usually transfers between family members or close friends. I also cut out a few small ones that looked like undeveloped land in the range under \$20,000. This left me with 659 deeds.

Once I started looking at the data, I realized that there were a number of spikes related to giant commercial and industrial property transfers: Powertown Apartments, Hillside Plastics, 253 Pharmacy, the Salvation Army, parcels in the airport industrial park, and so on. I combed through and picked out any of the obvious offenders, though I did leave in anything that looked like a big, multi-unit apartment building.

The resulting set of 629 deeds ranged from a \$16,000 fixer-upper on X Street to a \$1.13 million property in Montague City, comprising 13 units between two buildings. A few smaller businesses (garages and restaurants) are probably still lurking in the data set, but I just wanted to get a rough sense of the value of property in town.

Next, I sorted these all by village or neighborhood. There’s no really good way to do this. “Downtown” and “the Patch” are straightforward enough, as are Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls, but from there it gets trickier.

Everything between Cumberland Farms and the wastewater treatment plant I categorized as being in Montague City, and there was a large area of town I simply

considered the Hill. I’d be curious to hear from readers on Randall Wood Drive whether it was fair to count them as being in Montague Center, but I had to draw the line somewhere!

In the end, about 39% of the deeds ended up being tagged “Hill,” and another 32% “Montague Center.” Take it for what it’s worth. Next time maybe I’ll use the line between fire districts as the cut-off.

I’ll break down my observations by neighborhood.

Montague Center

Downtown hipsters may be surprised to hear that if there’s a real estate boom underway this year, it’s happening in Montague Center. Encompassing most the town’s area, the vast majority of the pricier single-family homes also seemed to fall in this region, with the top two both being on Dry Hill Road.

Between 2014 and 2018, 24.2 homes were sold a year in Montague Center, and so far this year we have seen 32. That number could continue to climb – December appears to be an increasingly popular time to buy.

The average “consideration” reported on Montague Center deeds between 2014 to 2016 was \$222,878, and since 2017, it has been \$241,374.

The boom year for the Center seems to have been the jump from \$2.9 million in 2015 to \$7 million in 2016, a product both of more sales and climbing prices. So far in 2019, \$8.2 million has been spent on property in the southern section of town.

Lake Pleasant

About three parcels change hands a year in this tiny neighborhood, so it’s hard to generalize about recent trends.

2015 was the recent peak, and though 2019 has been a strong year, now that I squint at the data it looks like there has only been one big-money property transfer, and it was on the other side of the tracks – probably better classified in Montague Center.

Ah well. Don’t swim in the lake, folks.

The Hill

On the other hand, it’s also hard to make generalizations about this well-populated crescent stretching from Rabbit Hill to West Mineral Road, and from the public safety complex to Prospect Street’s haughty vantage. The Hill is Turners Falls’ suburban zone, and here the volume of sales is holding fairly steady, while prices inch up.

This section of town also experienced a small boom in 2016, but it was milder than in the Center: a peak of 46 sales that year, 40 before November 20. This year so far there have been 39.

A rise in prices can also be seen here, but is probably closer to the inflation rate: from \$168,809 (2014 through ‘16) to \$174,446 (2017 through this week).

Montague City

Ah, Montague City. The first cluster of dwellings in the town’s post-European settlement, it was sanctified as one of the “five villages” during the period of time when there were five post offices here, which there aren’t now. It’s gotten a bit indistinct over the years, geographically speaking, and a few months back I even heard someone venture to call it “South Turners.” (Nice try.)

The data here jumps around. 2016 was a peak in total sales (15), and 2018 had the highest average price (\$286,650), but that was heavily skewed by the \$1.13 million property I mentioned earlier.

Statistically speaking, no boom is rocking this section of town.

Millers Falls

Given the conventional wisdom that Millers Falls is coming into focus as a destination for development, I was surprised to drill down into the data and discover that the first year in the period I looked at, 2014, actually saw the most investment. Nineteen Millers properties changed hands that year, for a total of \$2.5 million.

This year? So far, it’s been five, totaling \$533,400.

Of course, this doesn’t tell the whole story – the visible rehabilitation of Main Street properties, and

welcoming new tenants to the village, won’t show up on this analysis of deed transfers.

But again, not a big year for real estate.

The Patch

Like Lake Pleasant, this is a tiny zone, and the data is not very useful. In 2014, *zero* properties gained new owners on this island between the power canal and the Connecticut River. Spreadsheets don’t enjoy dividing by zero. In 2016 there were six deed transfers: infinite growth.

**What might be contributing to a sense of a rush on property is a rise of rental investment entities.**

So far this year, there have been two sales in the Patch. The prices might be rising – \$108,490 on average from 2015 to 2017, and \$119,780 since January 1, 2018. But then again, it’s too small a data set to draw inferences.

Downtown Turners

Here we get to the meat of the matter.

In the six-year sample I studied, downtown Turners Falls did have a boom year for real estate investment, but it wasn’t this year – it was 2015, paradoxically the weakest year for the town as a whole.

The 19 properties bought that year in the town’s urban core included four on Avenue A, and five on two short blocks of Fourth Street. \$2.9 million was spent on downtown properties that year, nearly triple the prior year, and unmatched since. Investment shrank over the next three years, and has bounced back a bit this year.

So far in 2019, there have been 14 property purchases in downtown Turners for a total of \$2,111,000. That’s ahead of the overall average, but right in line with this time of year in 2016, which was 14 for a total of \$2,158,500.

What might be contributing to a sense of a rush on property is a rise of rental investment entities.

Pioneer Valley Redevelopers, managed by Bob Obear, Jr., renovated and acquired two apartment buildings through the state’s receiver-ship program: in 2016, a six-unit 100 L Street, for \$350,000, and in 2017, the 8-unit at 132 L Street, for \$699,664. (These prices are high, but they help cover Pioneer’s sunk cost of rehabilitation as the buildings’ receiver.)

Contractor Jim Martineau, meanwhile, bought three buildings in that time: 170 Avenue A (10 units, \$328,000 in 2015), 140 L (four units, \$249,000 in 2019), and 23 L Street (four units, \$125,000 last month).

Leesa Crocker is also in the business: three units at 23 Third Street for \$103,500 in 2016, followed by the seven-unit 88 L Street for \$300,000 in 2018.

And the biggest rising star seems to be “108 Properties LLC,” owned by Oliver Miller and Shaun Cooper. In 2016, the company acquired 104 to 112 Avenue A, technically 14 units with storefronts and upstairs apartments, for \$260,000.

From that fixer-upper it moved on in 2017 to 14 Third Street, a six-unit apartment building which it picked up for \$323,000, and expanded across the street last June with another four-unit building at 33 Third Street for a whopping \$400,000.

Taken all together, Obear, Martineau, Crocker, and Miller have spent \$3.1 million on downtown buildings during the six-year period I reviewed, just over a quarter of the total money spent by all buyers. They presumably anticipate being able to rent out their 66 units at a price that will bring a return on their investment.

By comparison, when the entire 82-unit Powertown Apartments projects changed hands in 2015, the price was \$3.45 million.

Powertown was originally established in the 1980s as a way to link federal subsidies to a raft of blighted properties. We don’t know what kind of price-to-rent ratios any of these owners are looking at in their business plans, but if they are operating rationally, it appears that in this decade the market has just about caught up with Turners Falls.



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COMPOST from page A1

Co-operative that the service can expand into picking up waste on this side of the river. Only five business accounts are needed to make this happen: Upper Bend and the Shea Theater are composting and would use the service, so only three more businesses are needed to start a weekly route in town.

The Compost Co-op started in 2018, and so far has diverted more than 8 tons of food scraps from commercial and residential customers in Greenfield to Martins Farm to be composted. The organization employs people recently released from jail, who pick up buckets and totes on a weekly schedule. They supply the containers, and even wash them before returning them. Residential customers pay less than \$6 a week, or \$7.50 for every other week service; commercial customers would pay less than \$25 a week for a wheeled, covered 64-gallon bin called a “toter.”

The Co-op is one potential solution. Donovan also described a collaborative compost dumpster used by several restaurants in Shelburne Falls for the past nine years. These businesses share the monthly expense and put their waste in the dumpster, located downtown by the VFW, which is then picked up for composting by Triple T Trucking out of Vermont. This service costs about \$100 a month and, according to Donovan, keeps 35 tons of organic waste a year out of the trash.

Triple T also picks up the compost from the Gill-Montague school system. The school system has been doing a great job composting, and even won a Recycler of the Year award in 2012 from the state.

Drawdown Montague members noted with satisfaction that over 4,000 cups have been successfully composted by the Shea Theater since they started using compostable drinking cups in June. A group of volunteers manages the waste stream at the theater in return for free passes to shows.

Some businesses handle their composting

in-house. Within the downtown area, which was the focus of the meeting, the Great Falls Harvest and Rendezvous donate to pig farmers or have their own compost system, and Food City has an organic waste dumpster picked up for composting by Triple T.

Donovan discussed the importance of planning for organic waste at events. The Franklin County fair, she said, put out 30 compost bins this year, and collected 1.6 tons of food scrap and compostables from 25,000 people over four days.

The state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has had a food waste ban since 2014: any organization or business producing over one ton of commercial organic waste per week *must* compost. According to the DEP, one quarter of all waste produced in the state is food waste. The agency is considering lowering the ban in 2020 to a limit of half a ton per week, which will affect considerably more sites than the 1,700 required to comply with the 2014 ban.

There are a variety of strategies to handle organic waste besides composting, which follow what the EPA calls the “hierarchy of food waste”: reducing its source; feeding hungry people; feeding animals; using it in industry or to produce energy; and finally, producing compost.

At the same time that food waste is a problem, food shortages exist. The Springfield organization Rachel’s Table picks up food donations from all Pride convenience stores, among other donors, and funnels them to agencies in that area serving over 13,000 meals a week. Stop and Shop grocery stores send their organic waste to an anaerobic digester in Freetown, MA, where the methane generated is used to power the facility. (Stop and Shop is also the largest donor to the Boston Food Bank.)

Source reduction has been used by some institutions affected by the ban: by reducing serving sizes to individuals, they have cut



Volunteers have been collecting the compost at the Shea Theater in exchange for free passes to shows. The theater is seeking other businesses to support a Compost Co-operative pickup route in Turners.

waste significantly. And since the ban went into effect, it is estimated that food donations have increased 22% statewide.

Unlike backyard composters, commercial organic waste recyclers will accept pet waste, meat, bones, paper, pizza boxes, dairy products, and other items typically kept out of the bin. The town of Montague does not offer composting at its transfer station at this time, although it is well established in other Franklin County towns.

Now that the Chicopee landfill has been closed, garbage from Montague is fed into a giant trash-to-energy incinerator in Springfield owned by Covanta. In fact, no landfills remain open anywhere in western Massachusetts. Trash is hauled to Pennsylvania and Canada or burned. The Springfield incinerator produces energy for 5,000 homes, but there is still something going up that big

smokestack.

Donovan said she was excited about the possibility of lowering the costs of compostable dinnerware and cutlery for area businesses through a collaborative purchasing opportunity being organized by the River Valley Coop. At a visit to the Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield that I attended last year, visitors were encouraged to think ahead and bring our own reusable to-go containers to restaurants to bring leftovers home, and to bring our own dinnerware to events. Greenfield has already banned styrofoam to-go food containers.

Though Monday’s informal coffee klatch attracted no new businesses seeking information, attendees took the opportunity to strategize about outreach. Interested businesses may attend another workshop, planned in conjunction with the Greater Quabbin Food Alliance, at Red Apple Farm in Phillipston on Wednesday, December 4 at 5:30 p.m.

The focus there will be more on event venues, festivals, and holiday-themed events and parties, but will also cover food waste source reduction strategies, food donation logistics, commercial composting, and compostable tableware. The workshop will include a light dinner from Nalini’s Kitchen (a \$10 donation to benefit Mount Grace Land Trust is suggested), and beverages will be available for free and to purchase. Space is limited; search on Facebook for “Food Waste Solutions for Businesses” to RSVP.

I asked Donovan what our readers might be able to do to encourage local businesses to start composting.

“Politely inquire if your favorite restaurant composts or throws food waste in the trash,” she wrote, “and if you don’t like the answer, then politely encourage them to set up a compost system like so many other restaurants are doing! They can get all the food waste out of their trash, and reduce trash costs and noisy dumpster pickups.”



ERVING from page A1

Library director Barbara Friedman argued that, with the new library being an ambitious and unique opportunity for Erving, the town should make investments with its longevity in mind, and that it would be best not to “nickel and dime” the project.

“We want it to last and we want it to look good,” Friedman said. “We are doing this carefully, and we are doing this for a reason.”

When completed, the library will have cost about \$5.5 million, up from the \$4.9 million originally projected, funded by a sizeable state grant, municipal taxes, and fundraising efforts. The building is still under construction, with a projected opening date of early March. Initial planning and feasibility studies began in 2010, and the bulk of the construction should be completed by January, according to the committee.

Not everyone on the building committee agreed with the extra spending.

“We are at the point where our budget is busted,” said Deb Smith, the committee’s recording clerk for the library. “We do have to worry about nickels and dimes.”

She and several other members present said they were frustrated by apparent changes made to the furniture budget that were not voted on or approved by the committee. Under the current budget, Deb Smith said there is only \$938 left for contingencies.

In addition to shelves full of books, the library will have new furniture, high-quality computers and laptops, a children’s room, study rooms, a silent business area with computers, and five televisions.

“This is not your grandma’s library,” said Friedman. She explained that she hopes the budget

will include Alienware laptops, made by Dell, for children and teens to play computer games, and foster a social environment at the library. “It will really dramatically change the experience for teens playing games, and everyone else,” she said.

After some discussion, the library building committee agreed to make cuts to the furniture budget to stay within the projected \$40,000 to \$45,000 range. The selectboard voted in favor of sticking to the original budget, which the building committee said they will resolve during a meeting this Thursday.

Friedman said that she had helped to secure the \$2.7 million grant from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners awarded in 2018, and expressed confidence that she could find extra support to cover the extraneous costs, or else easily rework the budget to meet their needs.

But other members of the library building committee expressed concern as to whether all the new furniture would fit into the new building.

After declining a project engineer’s suggestion to make \$5,200 worth of changes to the exterior lights, the building committee and selectboard also discussed and approved the library’s technology budget at \$35,500. The fund will cover the installation of eight wi-fi hotspots, some new computers, televisions, cable installation and other items. As a cost saving measure, the committee decided to buy, rather than rent, some essential IT equipment.

“We save some money in the long run, but the upfront costs will be large,” Friedman said.

Later, Friedman urged the planners to purchase some of the big ticket technology items during the holiday season. “I think it might be

a good investment during the season of buying,” she said.

**Fiber-optic Connections**

The selectboard also voted Monday night to move forward on a three-year deal with Comcast that would provide three town buildings with fiber-optic internet. The new library, town hall, and the senior/community center will be getting new fiber-optic internet services.

“The idea is that in the future we’re going to have a full internet throughout all our town buildings,” Bryan Smith said. Next, the town will be looking at providing the fire department, police station and public works department with fiber-optic internet.

It will cost each building about \$385 per month to run Comcast’s fiber-optic service, according to the selectboard. They discussed the possibility of the library paying a discounted “E-rate” available to public libraries in order to save money. Friedman said she would consult the 10 other rural libraries in the area to see if their rates were comparable to what Erving expects to pay.

Ensuring each building has a sufficient firewall to keep out hackers and other malicious online actors was a top priority discussed at the meeting. As the selectboard considers expanding fiber-optic access townwide, cyber security will remain a concern.

“We still have three more facilities to go,” Bryan Smith said, of plans to extend the service to the police station, fire department, and department of public works. “The idea is that, in the future, we’re going to have a full internet throughout our town buildings.”

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 2.



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**OFFICIALS** from page A1  
they have faced so far.

Wasiuk told the *Reporter* that the transition from Northampton, where he had been a health inspector but not a department head for eight years, was relatively smooth, thanks to strong support from town hall staff. He called his fellow town employees “great and supportive.”

As at Northampton, much of Wasiuk’s time is devoted to inspecting commercial kitchens, septic systems, and swimming pools. But in Montague he is responsible for “all facets of the department,” including preparing its annual budget and providing support for its three-member board of health (BOH).

This leads to a broader job description than one might expect. Issues that have recently come before the BOH range from protocols for dealing with biting dogs to the regulation of fats, oil, and grease generated by restaurant kitchens, to a college-level “skin course” required of professional tattoo artists. (According to BOH minutes, those engaged in body piercing are also required to take college-level courses in anatomy and physiology, with “no exceptions.”)

Last month Anne Stuart, who had previously split her time between the health and planning departments, became a full-time health clerk following ongoing conversations about the department’s needs. The town website currently lists the position of town health inspector as “vacant,” and that of town nurse as “unfunded.”

Wasiuk says that one of his most labor-intensive challenges has been responding to nuisance complaints involving garbage and rubbish – including items left in “free” piles – between sidewalks and curbs. On the other hand, he said that the Governor’s vaping ban has had little impact on his work, because all the businesses that sell such products in Montague complied immediately. Building inspector Chris Rice is at least as upbeat

about his time in Montague as Wasiuk. “I absolutely love the town,” he said. “It has something for everyone. I’m a country guy and would like to live here, but if you want to walk out the door and buy a pizza, you can live in Turners Falls.”

Prior to arriving to Montague, Rice was the building inspector in Ware, Massachusetts, a former factory town of just under 10,000 south of the Quabbin Reservoir.

“Ware is like Montague was 20 years ago,” said Rice. He noted the abandoned factories, but also the large number of abandoned residential buildings and storefronts where he used to work. “Somebody figured out how to fix up many of the brick buildings around here,” he said.

Rice called town planner Walter Ramsey a “miracle guy” for his ability to obtain grants to address the town’s development issues, and called Wasiuk, whose office is next door to his, “very level-headed.” Rice noted that the building department has not been heavily involved in efforts to address the decaying Strathmore complex, or even the collapsed Railroad Salvage building in Turners Falls. “The Turners Falls Fire Department has taken a lot of that over,” he explained.

When asked what the most difficult part of his current job has been, Rice stated, without hesitation, “complaints about zoning violations.” These complaints from residents about their neighbors’ use of their property often come before the zoning board of appeals, to which Rice provides administrative support.

“That’s the ugly side of every building inspector’s job,” he said. “Most of us leave the job because of that. There are plenty of bad neighbors, but if it’s not criminal, I can’t fix it.”

Rice also said there is a serious shortage of building inspectors statewide, and many are about to retire. “I just came back from a building inspectors’ meeting,” he told the *Reporter*. “There was a lot of gray hair in the room!”



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

# Millers Sewer Rehab Back on Budget

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard, at its Monday meeting, announced that the Millers Falls sewer rehabilitation project is back on track to be completed this winter. The project is designed to reduce the infiltration of water into the village’s sewage system that last winter overwhelmed the Erving treatment plant where Millers sewage is processed.

The town hoped to complete the project by early this winter, but a single recent bid in the initial round came in approximately \$50,000 over the \$75,000 appropriated for the project by town meeting. After the project’s scope was reduced, a new bid from Diversified Infrastructure Services, Inc. (DIS) came in only \$46.34 over the appropriation.

Selectboard member Mike Nelson, acting as chair in the absence of Rich Kuklewicz, noted that DIS is from Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

“That’s where their office is, anyway,” said selectboard member Chris Boutwell, as the board approved the contract.

The meeting began with the board receiving gifts of colorful holiday ornaments made from recycled cans. The ornaments were from a group of students who participate in a program at the Montague Catholic Social Ministries (MCSM) funded by the town’s Community Development Block Grant. “We’d like to thank you for all your support, because without it, we couldn’t run this program,” said one student.

“We made these with our own hands,” said another.

MCSM staff member Jimena de Pareja, who accompanied the students to the board meeting, told the *Reporter* that the students were part of an evening program that helps them with their school homework. Many of the ornaments had pictures of activities at the social agency.

“You might also want to thank

Brian,” said Nelson, referring to Brian McHugh of the Franklin Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), which administers the grant program for the town.

Perhaps not coincidentally, McHugh then approached the front table to request that the board execute contracts for four social service programs funded under 2019 Block Grants. In addition to the MCSM, funds have been awarded to a “meals on wheels” program for seniors (LifePath), a youth leadership program (the Brick House), and a program organized by the Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community.

The board approved the requests.

The board also signed a \$129,087 contract with the housing authority to administer the FY’19 block grants, and, at the request of McHugh, an \$11,000 contract with Berkshire Design to oversee bidding for the Spinner Park restoration project in Turners Falls.

The board approved a request by Turners Falls Municipal Airport manager Bryan Camden to allow the use of the airport truck to pick up wreaths in Maine for a program called “Wreaths Across America.” The program places wreaths on the graves of veterans across the country during the holiday season.

Camden said that some transportation companies had “backed out of their role” distributing the wreaths, so the airport wanted to “pick up some of the locations around here.” Selectboard member Chris Boutwell said the use of the truck would be “at no cost to the town,” because it would not pay for gasoline.

Nelson expressed surprise when Camden told him that the number of wreaths to be distributed would be “a little shy of 6,000.” He said he had a “miniscule amount of concern about so much mileage on a new truck,” but he supported the program.

“That’s why we’re here tonight,”

said Camden. “It’s definitely outside the normal operating procedure for the airport.” He said the airport commission had approved the use of the truck, but wanted Camden to go before the selectboard as well.

Town planner Walter Ramsey followed Camden to request that the board approve a \$7,400 contract with BL Companies for rebidding projects under the state-funded Complete Streets program, which includes a safety upgrade on Main Street in Montague Center long sought by residents.

The original bids for the projects came in higher than the state grant. Ramsey said the company will find “cost savings” to reduce potential bids, and that the state has granted the town a sixth-month extension on the grant deadline.

The plan, said Ramsey, is to put the project back out to bid in January, when “we should get better prices in,” and complete it by December 31, 2020. He said any changes in the projects would be small, and “not have any impact on people.”

While at the front table Ramsey also requested, and the board approved, a state reimbursement of \$500 to the town’s cultural council for a portion of the expense of last month’s Great Falls Word Festival.

Ramsey also asked the board to execute a grant agreement with the state Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development, details of which will be publicly announced on December 17. “We need to hit the road running with this,” he said, “because there is a very short time frame.” The board approved the request.

After Ramsey left the front table, the board executed a \$25,000 agreement with the state Executive Office for Administration and Finance for the state’s portion of the Unity Park fieldhouse roof restoration project.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be on November 25.

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TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
**FY20 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT**  
Request for Proposals for Social Service Programs

The Town of Montague requests proposals for public social service programs that will meet the needs of Montague residents for possible inclusion in its FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application. All proposed programs must address needs identified by the Town’s Community Based Planning Documents and the MA Department of Community Development.

The Town will accept and open all proposals received at Montague Town Hall (1 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA) on Thursday, December 5, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. Postmarks will not be considered. Proposals submitted by fax or email will not be considered. Five (5) copies of the proposal are required from each agency. The envelope containing the proposal shall be marked “TOWN OF MONTAGUE – FY2020 PUBLIC SOCIAL SERVICE PROPOSAL”.

For a copy of the RFP, please contact Sharon Pleasant, HRA, by phone at (413) 863-9781 x 156 or by email: [spleasant@fcrhra.org](mailto:spleasant@fcrhra.org). For additional information, please contact Steven Ellis, Town Administrator, at (413) 863-3200 x 110 or by email: [townadmin@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townadmin@montague-ma.gov).

**Town of Montague Selectboard**

# LOOKING BACK 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was November 19, 2009: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

## Beaver Pond A Problem

Trapped and hunted to near extinction in the nineteenth century, beavers have been making a comeback in Franklin County – and not everyone is happy about it.

In the Chestnut Hill area, straddling the town line between Montague and Leverett, the intrepid semi-aquatic rodents have busily transformed approximately 20 acres of former farmland into a large shallow lake and bordering wetlands. Over the past three or four decades they have swamped the midpoint of Richardson Road, now impassable between the two communities.

This new habitat has been attracting a variety of species such as blue heron, mink, river otter, and American bittern – an endangered species. At the same time, however, the new wetland has attracted the attention of Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo), which has a permanent easement to maintain the towering double-poled wooden pylons that carry power lines across the middle of the beavers’ new lake. The bases of four of those pylons now lay submerged in water, creating maintenance and repair problems for the power company.

There is also a problem of public safety, Leverett conservation chair David Powicki noted. The ponds contain thousands of gallons of water at an elevated level, threatening a flood should the dams be accidentally breached.

### Montague in the Running for Solar Site

The selectboard voted on Monday to include town-owned land off Turnpike Road, including the town’s former capped landfill and 34 adjoining acres in a utility survey of possible solar electricity

generation sites.

Though the 34 adjoining acres have been permitted by the state for developing a new landfill, the town’s landfill committee has opted to explore the potential for renewable energy generation at the site instead.

Meanwhile, Western Massachusetts Electric Company has been surveying communities in its service area to determine suitable sites for photovoltaic generation.

“The process has begun,” said town administrator Frank Abbondanzio. “It’s competitive, but it’s important to get our site into the running.”

### Wendell Approves Simple Living Resolution

Over 40 Wendell citizens attended a special town meeting yesterday and approved every article on the warrant, all but one unanimously.

Although it called for no specific action, Article 9 generated the most discussion and gained the only dissenting votes, two. The resolution recognized the right of its citizens to live using little or no manufactured fuels or electricity.

The article derived from an effort by Jonathan and Susan von Ranson to build a non-electric apartment for themselves as part of a renovated barn on their property, and to make it legal for others in town to pursue similar approaches to reducing their environmental impact.

Board of health member Martha Senn asked if the intent of the resolution was to have board members disregard laws they are elected to uphold. Jonathan von Ranson said town boards have a lot of authority to work within the law, and he mentioned a similar situation in Leyden where the board of health tried to stop a man from using an outhouse and living without hot water, before finally allowing him to use a compostable toilet and live without electricity, heating his own water as needed.

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MARCH from page A1

goal this year is to raise \$333,333.33, which is equivalent to one million meals.

Along with Monte, Congressman Jim McGovern has walked in the march the last couple of years. Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of the Food Bank, has marched in the past also.

For the second year, Turners Falls

High School (TFHS) and Great Falls Middle School (GMFS) will bus students down to Amherst. The students can choose between an eight-mile or four-mile part of the walk. Last year, Turners students raised \$2,800, and their goal for this year is \$3,000.

Ms. Vachula-Curtis, a special education and English teacher at TFHS, and Ms. Luciano, a 7th grade social studies teacher at GFMS,

brought the march to the schools. Last year, 17 high schoolers and nine middle schoolers participated.

The students walked eight miles through the snow and sleet last year, and it was still a blast. (I would know – I walked in it last year.) Ms. V said that she was always excited about the march in the past, and would go down to meet the marchers at Richardson’s Candy Kitchen with her daughters and donate money.

“I thought for several years how much I wanted to be a part of it,” said Ms. Vachula-Curtis, “and every year I would think about it and it would be too late to get the group organized.”

Last year, she and Ms. Luciano started in September to get the ball rolling. “I have worked in this district for 14 years, and I see kids who don’t get enough food at home,” said Ms. Luciano, whose social studies class has an Actions Civics component. “I know it’s a district that has a lot of needs and that there are a lot of kids and families that struggle. I just think it’s an important cause. One year for the service learning projects we had Monte Belmonte come and speak to the kids.”

In terms of getting this opportunity going at TFHS and GFMS, the biggest challenge was transporting the kids down and back. Last year Tina Cote, administrator at Franklin County Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), donated a bus for the TFHS/GFMS marchers to go down in. This year 20 students are expected to go from the high school, and GFMS will also have 20 students march. FRTA will donate a bus again.

Last year when I marched it was



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an experience. I will never forget a big group of people marching down Route 116 in the snow and sleet and cold. The walk did feel long, but it was a very fun time – it was great exercise, and it was for a great cause.

“It was nice. I like walking,” said student Lorie Wood, who walked in the March last year and will walk again this year. “It was just really cold and my feet got wet,” she said, about the March’s only downside.

Hunger is an important issue in our community and for our students. In addition to participating in Monte’s March, for the past year TFHS students have been volunteering at the Mobile Food Bank at the Senior Center on Fifth Street in Turners every third Wednesday of the month.


Students march for various reasons. When asked, Jayden Hosmer, a TFHS student participating in Monte’s March this year, said he is marching “to make sure people got something to eat. I think it’s going to be a lot of fun!” Jayden has been one of the best high school fundraisers so far!

If readers are interested in donating, they can write checks to the Food Bank of Western Mass, or pledge support online at the Food Bank’s website. Also, if you see the marchers on Monday or Tuesday, you can give a check or cash directly.

Anthony Peterson is a senior at Turners Falls High School.



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WEST ALONG THE RIVER  
RUMINATIONS ON THE  
“FIRST THANKSGIVING”

By DAVID BRULE

**TURNERS FALLS** – An interest in history, and the way it is interpreted and used, has always been a fascinating subject for many of us. For some, it may not always be easy to put a finger on why or when that interest began.

For those of us schooled in Turners Falls, that would likely have been in the classroom of one George Bush.

I’ve been a quiet observer of American history ever since having been introduced to the subject more than 50 years ago when I had the good fortune to wind up in a freshman history class taught by Mr. Bush. Always a demanding teacher, both in the classroom and on the playing field, George still keeps a sharp eye on what’s going on in town and in Turners Falls High School sports.

We got our first taste of historical inquiry in that classroom. Of course, in the ‘50s and ‘60s, the typical profile of history lesson plans involved a lot of memorizing of dates, copying maps, maintaining notebooks, and doing reports. For some of us, those days in Mr. Bush’s classroom laid the foundations for a lifelong curiosity about history, the way it is transmitted, how it is reinforced, and what purpose it serves. As for myself, I kept at it for most of my lifetime, through college and grad school, dividing my interests between political science and history.

With the arrival on the scene of the internet and deep research by scholars into many of the foundational concepts taught in the classroom, we’ve learned that what we studied back in the old days could now be enriched by a variety of sources and multiple perspectives on events and interpretations taken as absolute truths back then.

People like me, who have maintained a lifetime of interest in history thanks to the teachers we had, can now explore those differing perspectives on solid foundations.

Our local Falls site has become the core area of a revival in local interest in Colonial and Indigenous

contact and conflict, thanks to the National Park Service grants, the archaeology and healing flowing from the “battlefield” probes, regular meetings of area historians and tribal historians, and events at the Discovery Center sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project featuring Indigenous experts. Many of us are following new leads in the continual evolution in our understanding, and revisiting long-held fundamental beliefs.

Along about this time of year, the curmudgeon rises in me, and I have the urge to pop the balloon that some of our misty-eyed compatriots believe about the nonsense surrounding the pious Pilgrims, the Plymouth Rock, and other myths. With the fateful 1620-2020 observances and the marketing of Pilgrim hoopla down in Plymouth just around the corner, ruminations this chill morning have led me to have another look at Thanksgiving.

As one of the basic foundations of the American origin myth, and in no small way, those stereotypical renditions of Pilgrims and Natives sitting down to a thanksgiving feast have locked into our national consciousness some very misleading images.

How did the Pilgrims wind up in Plymouth, anyway?

Years ago, we had learned that they may well have wound up there by accident, supposedly heading to Virginia, but blown off course. Research is showing a different story, or at least a different perspective. A storm would not likely have been the cause, since sailors at the time would have known how to find their bearings after one blew over. It certainly was not a navigational error, since mariners were expert at finding their way by the stars.

We are told there was plenty of food and beer (!) on the Mayflower, so they could have resumed their voyage to Virginia. It’s lucky for them that they did not, since Jamestown ended in a disaster. Not so lucky for the Wampanoags, Narragansett, Nipmuck, Abenaki.

Some say there could have been see **WEST ALONG** page B4



A postcard received by the author’s grandfather in 1914.

BOOK REVIEW

Not Just Words: Three New Works  
by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno

By RICHARD ANDERSEN

**MONTAGUE** – Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno wears many hats and does many things – all of them well. Most readers of the *Montague Reporter* know him as the judicious editor of the monthly poetry page.

Others, depending on whom you talk to, will tell you he’s a brilliant architect; an acclaimed scholar; a prolific poet; an insightful biographer; an astute critic of art and culture; an entertaining memoirist; a knowledgeable historian; an indefatigable raconteur; an engaging opera librettist; an inspiring teacher; a devoted Modernist; an elegant contributor to *belles lettres*; an exacting recorder of *bon mots*; a serious *bon vivant*; the trusted confidant of many famous writers; and the forever-grieving-through-joy husband of the late great poet Patricia Pruitt, who once served for several years as our town’s august selectperson.

Two Translations

Now, in 2019, direct from Toronto and Paris, comes a new book of Christopher’s poems as well as two collections of poetry that expand his already acclaimed stature as a translator of French, one of several languages in which he is fluent.

*Repetitions* is a collection of poetry by the French modernist Paul

Éluard, whose aesthetic and sensual sensibilities are “repeated” in paintings and drawings by the German expressionist Max Ernst. Karl Orend, Christopher’s editor and the publisher of Alysamps Press, couldn’t have chosen a better-suited translator. Beginning as far back as 1974, when he was working on his doctoral dissertation at Brandeis University, Christopher has been exploring, analyzing, and articulating some of the many connections between poetry and painting.

Paul Éluard and Max Ernst were

*shows her breasts which red insects kill* (From “Max Ernst”)

The poems that follow touch on a range of subjects, but most seem to contain allusions to and meditations on the incestuous relationship involving Éluard, Ernst, and Gala. The collection ends on an aggressively melancholy note that may well have been foreshadowed in the stanza quoted above:

*The mouth of a low seductress plays and falls / And we thrust out the chin which spins like a top.* (From “It Isn’t Poetry That...”)

Ernst’s paintings and drawings are more difficult to interpret because they often exist beyond words. They can be approached by reason but, in the end, cannot be appreciated by reason alone. Their statements make sense in their own rights. Death,

nothingness, pain, rejection, and more all have roles to play, but the overall connection between the artworks and the poetry seems to be an attempt by both Ernst and Éluard to introduce viewers and readers to new ways of seeing and thinking about the creative possibilities inherent in art, literature, and life.

Published under the pseudonym Zoltan Lizot-Picon (a story in itself), Christopher’s exploration into the sexually charged continues with *1929*, a collection of erotic works created by see **BOOK REVIEW** page B4



The three books were published this year in limited runs by Alysamps Press.

friends whose shared interest in poetry and art included a deeper connection on a more intimate level with Éluard’s wife Gala, who later became the celebrated muse and mistress of Salvador Dalí.

Modernism, expressionism, surrealism, even some early signs of dadaism appear in Éluard’s poetry and Ernst’s art, but in organizing the sequence of poems in the *Repetitions* collection, Lauçanno gets right to the point of what most readers are most likely to want to know most about:

*In the glow of youth / Of lamps lighted very late / The first one*

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By MOLLY “MOON” MOONEY

**TURNERS FALLS** – It’s early November, and true to New England’s climate, we have already had temperatures dipping into the teens. After a glorious, seemingly-everlasting autumn, we enter into late fall, with winter fast approaching.

To live seasonally is to pay attention to these transitions-within-transitions. When one has done this for many years, it becomes second nature to live in the rhythm of the seasons, noticing the change in the light each day; the progression of the leaves on the trees; and which plants wither in the first light frost, which hold on until a true, hard frost, and which remain throughout the winter.

It is now time for potatoes and see **APPLE CORPS** page B8



The Unity Park community gardens are all tucked in for the winter, as is this toad in his bed of leaf mulch.



# Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY  
CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

## “STARBURST”

Hi, I’m Starburst and I think I got that name because I’m sweet. I came here as a stray, so there isn’t a great deal known about me.

The nice person who brought me here said that I’m friendly, a child could pet me and I love other cats.

I am FIV+ but that doesn’t interfere with my being a great companion! I will have to be in indoor cat.

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

## TV REVIEW

### Apple TV’s *For All Mankind*

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – *For All Mankind* is one of many TV series that premiered on this new streaming service called AppleTV. This is the one I desired to review. The plot is a “what-if” scenario: what if US space exploration hadn’t ever ended? The show will also feature the personal and professional lives of these people, including NASA astronauts and their families.

Ronald D. Moore is the producer of this show. He was behind the remake of the TV show *Battlestar Galactica*, which I enjoyed very much. Given how well that show did, this is a good sign that people who haven’t seen *For All Mankind* might like it.

Another thing I learned from the trailer of *For All Mankind* is that it will include female astronauts in the mix, so that should give people an interesting storyline to watch.

The original history consists of Neil Armstrong being the first man on the moon in 1969. The first episode, called “Red Moon,” starts with the “what-if” I mentioned. It has a Russian being the first man on the

moon. That man turned out to be named Leonov.

What I liked about the timing in this episode was watching Kennedy’s historic speech about space exploration, and competing at the episode’s opening with the Soviets, as they were called then, to get to the moon, and Leonov’s moon landing being shown on TV. The timing of those two things that way was just perfect.

That event was the only thing that made it not like a historical drama TV show, because the rest of it was definitely like one. A famous German scientist named Von Braun, who I know was involved in the Space Race in the real-life history, was still present, along with Buzz Aldrin, Neil Armstrong, and John Glenn as part of the group of astronauts that were doing this.

I won’t say if Apollo 11 still happens in this series’s timeline, but I believe that in some of the coming episodes, we might see the rest of the Apollo missions going up. The series certainly showed the ordeal of these men’s families.

I will tell you that the competition with the Soviets doesn’t end.



That is when the other non-historically-accurate element comes into play. The US decides to have female astronauts, because the Soviets put a female on the moon.

One storyline that comes into play in the first episode involves a Mexican immigrant crossing the border with his daughter as this is all going on. I wonder how on Earth they are going to connect this man to the Space Race, but it will certainly be something to watch the next couple of episodes in order to find out.

People might be wondering where on Earth this show is going, since the writers made up a new story to tell about the Space Race that is completely different from the real history. That thought might be why people should watch the rest of this season, and the already-renewed second season.

## Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 25 TO DECEMBER 6

**GILL and MONTAGUE**

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

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

**M, W, F:** 10 a.m. Aerobics; 10:45 a.m. Chair Exercise

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

**Monday 11/25**  
12 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 11/26**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Movie: “As Good As It Gets”

**Wednesday 11/27**  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 11/28**  
*Closed – Happy Thanksgiving*

**Friday 11/29**  
1 p.m. NO Writing Group

**Monday 12/2**  
11 a.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 12/3**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

**Wednesday 12/4**  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 12/5**  
9 a.m. NO Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. NO Chair Yoga  
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Brown Bag  
4 p.m. Gentle Yoga

**Friday 12/6**  
12 p.m. Pizza Party  
1 p.m. Writing Group

**ERVING**

Erving Senior Center, 1 Care Drive, Erving, is open Monday

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

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

**Monday 11/25**  
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

**Tuesday 11/26**  
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
1 p.m. Blanket Making

**Wednesday 11/27**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. M3 Class  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

**Thursday 11/28 & Friday 11/29**  
*Closed – Happy Thanksgiving*

**Monday 12/2**  
8:45 a.m. Step & Sculpt  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

**Tuesday 12/3**  
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch

**Wednesday 12/4**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. M3 Class  
12 p.m. Homemade Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

**Thursday 12/5**  
8:15 a.m. Foot Clinic  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch  
12:30 p.m. Brown Bag Pick-Up



By MISHEL IXCHEL

**TURNERS FALLS** – I’ve never been a fan of the holiday season. So if the holidays are your absolute favorite thing, perhaps it’s wise to skip this column. I’m not exactly a holiday grinch, either, and often get swept away by being in the presence of those who love this time of the year. But I do feel somewhat out of the loop, as though something has always felt “off.”

When I think about it, it’s likely because I spent most of my winters living in a big city, where mass con-

## Reclaiming the Holidays

sumption is the order of the day, and no sooner is a holiday over that we’re already force-fed the next one in line. It felt as though all the sanctity had been sucked dry from these celebrations, and replaced with marketing-laden smoke-and-mirrors, hard-bent on sucking up our attention spans and our dollars.

Up until now, it’s been relatively easy navigating the holidays with my son, staying under the radar. Halloween, for instance, is in the bag. Last year, as I was nervously racking my brain trying to figure out how I would chuck out all the candy he got, I came across the brilliance that is the Switch Witch.

For those of you reading who have no clue who this fancy lady is, the Switch Witch comes in the middle of the night after a long evening of trick-or-treating, takes all the candy, and leaves a toy in its place. I allow him to keep one piece of candy, and he is more than willing to give up the rest. We talk a little bit about how sugar is bad for our bodies, thereby curbing the need to over-consume. But mostly, I love to emphasize this ritual as a generous act of letting go and offering up.

Then November rolls around. I’ve never been a fan of Thanksgiving, at the very least because it feels disrespectful to feast on a day that’s been romanticized for the collective American psyche. This time of year affords us so much abundance, and there’s so much to be grateful for, though in my experience this holiday adds up to one thing: a day when gluttony is encouraged and normalized.

I haven’t yet figured out how to reclaim this holiday with integrity; but I’m slowly working on reclaiming the menu so that it’s mostly plant-based. Is it not insane that we continue celebrating this holiday in the “same old way” during a time when our planet is in crisis, and animal-product over-consumption is a

huge cause of this imbalance?

As for discussing the history of the people who walked these lands long before Europeans set foot, that’s a conversation I will have with him when he’s older. And perhaps even partake in a ritual to honor them and their descendants.

And, of course, there’s the motherlode, my absolute least favorite of them all: Christmas. Sigh.

I get shivers when I think about walking the streets of Manhattan around this time of the year, where every storefront beckons in every way, and rivers of people on every city block seem to be hauling bags upon bags of stuff. The noise, the over-consumption, the non-stop Christmas music, the loudness of it all. It was unavoidable, and all I wanted to do was hide under a rock, curl into a ball, and wait until it was all over. This is soon followed by the New Year’s celebration, where the over-consumption of alcohol is also encouraged and normalized.

Living in Western Mass has afforded me the space to rethink what this holiday means. The delight I feel at not having all that stuff shoved down my throat is exhilarating. I’ve also connected with people who host Yule and Winter Solstice celebrations, which capture the spirit of gathering and feasting, without all the commercial noise. And I’m left thinking: there’s got to be a way to come back to the essence of these celebrations, to strip away all the layers of unnecessary gunk.

I’m still figuring it out, finding my alignment, reclaiming what the holiday season means to me, and finding ways to share it with my kid.

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

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MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# Veterans’ Day Ceremony

By MICHAEL SMITH

Available now on *montaguetelevision.org* we have video from the Great Falls Harvest Festival, the Veterans’ Day Ceremony held at the Montague Elks Club, and Rebecca Daniels’s presentation on her book *Keeping the Lights on for Ike*. All these and more are available right now in our “latest videos” section. For updates about MCTV,

check out our Facebook page. Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200, *info@montaguetelevision@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!

# Bud’s War, Part 3

By JERRY “JINX” COLLINS

**TURNERS FALLS** – *Jerry Collins shares the experiences he and his brothers had during active duty in the armed services in these excerpts from his latest memoir, still in progress, “Transition: A Journey From Youth to Manhood.”* We continue with his description of civilian life in Turners Falls while his brother Bud served as a radio operator on a Navy destroyer in the Pacific during WWII.

Hoing and weeding the small garden next to the tool shed in the rear of “The Castle,” which is what we affectionately called the small, Cape Cod-style house that Dad built up on the hill, did not excite me. Known as Victory Gardens, most households planted one to help ensure that our troops would have more of the commercially grown produce. As each type of vegetable became ready to pick, Mom would harvest them and, using her magic touch, she would prepare our meals and can some for the long frigid winter. My mood changed when the lush lettuce, plump tomatoes, orange carrots, yellow string beans, summer squash, and sweet peas, which beautifully garnished the plate, made it to the table and delighted the palate.

Dad also built an arbor that included two benches inside. The Concord grape vines he planted grew to cover the sides and top of the structure, creating a lovely shaded place to sit. I sure enjoyed sampling those ripening grapes hanging from their vines before Mom gleaned them to make yummy jam. On warm summer afternoons and evenings I can still picture Mom and Dad sitting side by side on one of the benches. In that Norman Rockwell-like moment, I envision them talking and worrying about my brother Bud.

## Hometown War Efforts

In the early part of the war, the Japanese had invaded and conquered most of Southeast Asia, and in so doing, cut off vital raw materials required in the manufacture of strategic military equipment. Silk, used in making parachutes, fell under enemy control and necessitated

research to find a replacement. I recall, when in fifth grade, Miss – now it would be Ms. – Conway announced, “Class, today we’re going out in the woods and fields to collect milkweed pods. The government thinks that the silk-like strands inside each pod might be used in making parachutes.” Though it did not work as a substitute, it made us feel we were a part of the war effort. In desperate need of funds to finance the huge war expense, the government pushed the sale of US bonds – which we knew as “War Bonds” – and developed an innovative new way through the school systems where, for as little as ten cents, students could purchase “Savings Stamps.” Each week we young children would eagerly bring in our dimes, receive our stamps, and ceremonially glue them into our individual booklet. When one hundred seventy-five (\$17.50) had been accumulated, the student would be called to the front of the class and awarded a twenty-five-dollar War Bond; how proud and patriotic that felt.

## Bud’s Letters

From spring of 1944 until the Japanese surrender on the USS *Missouri*, contact with my brother was by his occasional, tissue-thin, censored V-Mail letters. There’d be no way of knowing exactly where he would be at any given moment, but we suspected it to be somewhere in the Pacific. I think that Bud had a secret code hidden in those letters that let Mom know his approximate location.

Every evening I’d excitedly rush into the living room and peruse the pages of the *Greenfield Recorder*, seeking out the maps that depicted where the battle lines stood in Europe and the Pacific. In my wild imagination I pictured my hero brother’s ship in battle at one island or another, and could hear the big guns’ deafening roar as they pummeled the beachhead, or envision flaming Kamikazes plummeting from flak-filled skies.

I would not really know how much of this happened, in my brother’s case, until many, many, years later.

# Celebrating the Reporter

**GREENFIELD** – Looky Here, a gallery and workshop space at 28 Chapman Street in Greenfield, presents “Celebrating the Art of the *Montague Reporter*,” an art show of local cartoonists and illustrators featured in this paper, this Saturday, November 23 at 6 p.m. A retrospective of the monthly Children’s Page will be on display, as well as illustrations by features

editor Nina Rossi and other cartoons. There will be readings of articles by reporter Pete Wackernagel and columnist Josh Burkett, and DJ sets by Burkett and Joel Paxton. The event is free, but there will be a donation jar to benefit the paper, as well as art and amazing *Montague Reporter* t-shirts, designed by Emma and Charlotte Kohlmann, for sale. All are welcome.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Mean And Vulgar Things Said; No-Sitting Chair Sat Upon; Landlord Will Obtain Info Illegally From Court Employee

## Sunday, 11/10

10:37 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer re: female who is making threats that the State Police will be coming to his house soon to charge him with theft. Caller states he bought a truck (for parts) from this woman a few nights ago and has the NH title in hand. Caller advises that the woman wants a push bar off the front of the truck. Caller stated no, that he legally owns the truck now, but she is continuing to make threats. Advised of options; civil matter.

3:40 p.m. Caller from K Street reports she is outside her house and can hear screaming going on at the house across the street. Caller too afraid to go over there herself; not sure if it’s a fight or just people playing around. Officers responding to scene. Clear; unfounded.

6 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reporting that she just had a verbal altercation with her neighbor and he said some pretty mean and vulgar things. Advised of options. Other involved party called reporting that he had a verbal altercation with his neighbor a few minutes ago; advises he is leaving his house right now but an officer can call him on his cell if needed.

6:37 p.m. A 46-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant. 7:33 p.m. Family Dollar employee reporting that a male party is sitting in a chair that is not supposed to be sat in out in front of the store. When caller asked him to please get out of the chair, he swore at her then ignored her. Employee called back to state that the party has left; no police needed at this time. 8:41 p.m. Two calls reporting fireworks going off in area of Park Street. Unfounded.

## Monday, 11/11

6:30 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that her neighbors keep partying late into the night and having people over who sit on the shared front porch right outside of the caller’s window and are loud. Advised to call next time this happens and to alert the property manager. 6:35 a.m. Caller from previous call stating that two male parties are currently standing in front of this location yelling for the people on the third floor to come outside. Officer spoke with involved parties and advised them of the complaint. 9:48 a.m. Vehicle vs. deer near Cumberland Farms. No injuries/smoke/fluids. Deer ran off and did not appear injured. Report taken. 10:09 a.m. Party into station to report illegal

dumping (tires, mattresses, etc.) on their property on Millers Falls Road. Advised of options. 4:16 p.m. Caller states that three or four teenagers are bullying other kids at the skatepark; one of them punched another kid in the face. The kid who was hit left, but the kids who did it are still there. Area checked; spoke to several people; no one saw anything. 4:23 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states that his neighbor is creating a safety hazard by blowing leaves from his yard out into the street. Area checked; no leaves in road.

## Tuesday, 11/12

2:34 p.m. Snowblower reported stolen from Oakman Street. **Wednesday, 11/13** 8:09 a.m. School resource officer advising of minor motor vehicle accident in parking lot at Franklin County Technical School. Verbal warning issued for failure to use care in turning.

8:53 a.m. Caller states that her dog passed away at an Elm Street address overnight and the homeowners buried it and won’t let her come get the dog so she can cremate it. Officer out at address following up. 1:46 p.m. Message left reporting a small, dead animal in the road at end of caller’s driveway on Federal Street; caller would like it removed. Message left for DPW; however, road is maintained by MassDOT. MassDOT responding. 1:58 p.m. Caller from Hillside Road states that her neighbor’s dog is always loose and just chased after her while she was in her own yard. Homeowner notified about dog getting loose. 3:20 p.m. Landlord of Avenue A property states that his tenants believe that heroin is being dealt out of a vehicle that has been in the parking lot of his property. Caller wanted to obtain info on owner

of the vehicle; when told that dispatch could not provide that info, caller became agitated, laughed, and said that he will find out anyway through his friend at court. Copy of call left for officer. 7:58 p.m. Report that a male party came in to Family Dollar tonight upset about a pricing issue on an item. Male reportedly yelled at employee, called names, etc. Male left store, possibly in a dark vehicle with a female passenger. Another customer who was in the store during the incident called the store a few minutes later and stated that she was just run off the road by what she believes was the same party from the incident. Officer spoke to caller and reviewed footage; advised no crime occurred, but the store will be trespassing the party if he returns. 8:01 p.m. Spoke with party from previous call who had reported being run off road by customer involved in Family Dollar incident. Party reports that a dark colored sedan with two occupants swerved toward her near Our Lady of Peace Church, causing her to drive off the road and strike an object, damaging her vehicle. Caller stated she was scared and left the area and went to her son’s home on Millers Falls Road. Officer checked Seventh Street where incident may have occurred; back out at Family Dollar to stand by while they close. **Thursday, 11/14** 8:17 p.m. Report of illegal dumping on Newton Street; bags of trash left beside dumpster at a rental property that the caller oversees. Requesting officer view surveillance footage to see if subjects can be identified. Caller also reports that one of the subjects was seen urinating on the property. Officer advised. **Friday, 11/15** 12:31 p.m. Caller on behalf of patron at Food

City reporting that patron dropped an envelope containing a large sum of money and a woman picked it up and left in a vehicle. Officer assisted parties looking for their money. Money was located in their vehicle; was not stolen. 5:19 p.m. Report of erratic driving behavior; vehicle cut off a line of cars, jumped a curb, and circled the neighborhood of Madison Avenue and surrounding streets. Officer has vehicle stopped on Central Street. Operator shows no signs of impairment; advises she is not used to driving at night. Operator released with no further action. 6:09 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting vehicle into utility pole on Federal Street; vehicle then went off road and into the woods. Operator reportedly tried to leave the scene. AMR, Shelburne Control, and MPD units advised. Update: two poles involved: one sheared from the accident, other has wires touching a vehicle in a driveway area of Red Fire North. Eversource advised and en route. Road closed between South Street and Route 47 crossover. A 47-year-old Montague woman was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor; negligent operation of a motor vehicle; and leaving the scene of property damage. **Saturday, 11/16** 2:36 a.m. Vehicle vs. pole with airbag deployment on Meadow Road. Pole down. No injuries reported. MCFD and AMR requested and en route. Eversource will be responding. Original caller advises that operator reportedly fell asleep, came to, and did not realize he had struck a pole; continued toward his parents’ residence 1/4 mile up the road, then stopped. Citation issued.

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**BOOK REVIEW** from B1

the poets Benjamin Péret and Louis Aragon, and the photographer Man Ray.

Unfortunately for the eminent translator, there's not much eroticism in any of the poems. They are as blunt and as flat and as heavy-handed as they can be. When coupled with a relentless but limited range of four-letter words and photos more appropriate for a sex manual, the effect is not so much eroticism, as substandard pornography.

Despite this seemingly insurmountable challenge, Christopher is able to create images in his translation of the poems that are often humorous, and his ability to create rhyme schemes out of so many words containing the same few fricatives, underscores his genuine talent for poetry as well as translation.

*Repetitions* was originally published in 1922, and 1929 in the same year as its title. Alyscamps' reincarnations of these volumes are printed in limited editions on finely crafted paper, with covers that feel good to touch and hold.

A highlight in each book is an album of photos, posters, program covers, and more relating to the poets, artists, and celebrities that populated Éluard, Ernst, and Gala's social circle. A bonus in *Repetitions*

is the inclusion of two commemorative postage stamps – not reproductions – on the final page.

**Original Poetry**

*Just Words: Homage to Roman Jakobson*, a collection of Christopher's original poetry, is in its own way and for different reasons, also a kind of translation.

Roman Jakobson is the father of structural linguistics. Many famous thinkers – Jacques Lacan, Michel Foucault, and Jacques Derrida among them – and many of the famous movements in the trajectory of Postmodernism are indebted to him. Most of Postmodernist discourse, unfortunately, is unintelligible for the uninitiated, which is what makes Christopher's poetic contribution to the era nothing less than truly amazing.

Christopher met Jakobson in 1974 when he was a graduate student and the learned scholar was in his final decade as a professor at MIT. Christopher had for years admired the learned theorist's inventive ways of thinking about language and poetry, and told him so after Jakobson delivered a lecture at Boston University. The two became friends, and Christopher recorded and saved the notes he made after their many conversations.



Max Ernst's 1926 painting 'The Virgin Spanking the Christ Child before Three Witnesses: André Breton, Paul Éluard, and the Painter (left) includes an image of his friend Éluard, who had collaborated with him on the 1922 volume *Repetitions*. It is included in Sanyer-Lauçanno's translation, along with Ernst's 1923 work *Au premier mot limpide* (right).

Fast forward to 2018: Christopher's niece Imogene, also a poet and scholar, is helping him organize his papers and memorabilia for the special collections library at the University of California at Santa Barbara when she discovers her uncle's long-since-forgotten notes.

Christopher may forget a thing or two over the years, but his genius never fails to rise to the verbal occasion. He decides, in honor of his friend and mentor, to write a series of poems expressing some of the linguistic theories for which Jakobson became so well known.

Philosophy as poetry. Whoever heard of such a thing? Especially with concepts so complicated and in words so intimidating that few people even try to make sense of them. When was the last time you heard "paradigmatic," "diachronic," and "metonymy" escape anyone's lips?

In *Just Words*, Christopher doesn't just translate Postmodernist language into poetry, he channels

Jakobson himself. That Christopher can do this and still be Christopher is truly remarkable:

*The failure of inconsistency / to be consistent / often results in insightful / or incisive misunderstandings.*

The resulting misunderstandings, needless to say, are a source for new ways of understanding, appreciating, and improving for the better our worlds and ourselves.

Here's another example of Christopher's ability to "translate":

*... if silence is a structural property / then inner speech is also speech.*

Picture this one on a bumper sticker:

*Parsing particulars is as useless / as asking a cow to moo on cue.*

Like *Repetitions* and 1929, *Just Words: Homage to Roman Jakobson* contains an album that includes copies of some of the notes Christopher made after his conversations with Jakobson, as well as photos and reproductions of memorabilia pertinent to the linguist's work and life.

The commemorative postage stamps on the final page and the cover, which is made from beautifully colored and textured paper, are an added homage to the author's enormous talent as a poet, and a treasured member of our diverse community.



Roman Jakobson in Prague, 1923. From Sanyer-Lauçanno's *Just Words: Homage to Roman Jakobson*.



The photographer Man Ray collaborated with poets Benjamin Péret and Louis Aragon to publish 1929, now available in Sanyer-Lauçanno's English translation.

**WEST ALONG** from page B1

a mutiny on the Mayflower! Sources tell us that out of the whole passenger contingent, only 35 people were actually "Pilgrims," while the other 102, comprising the majority, were settlers interested in mild climate and fertile land. Consider that one explanation was that the Mayflower was in danger of being hijacked by the Pilgrim minority, not necessarily seeking rich farm land, but rather to be as far away from Anglican Church influence as possible. But that reality would mess up our origin myth, turning the Pilgrims into felons and less than honorable.

Somehow, things on the ship got smoothed over. Apparently the document which was crafted aboard the ship following the rumors of mutiny, the Mayflower Compact, issued a call for every male on board to join in the creation of a civil body politic. That seemed to mollify the majority who really wanted to go to Virginia.

Official historians often have touted the Compact as an example of American exceptionalism, citing John Adams, who called that document "the only instance in human history of that positive, original social compact." That claim ignores,

among others, the Republic of Iceland, formed in AD 930, and the Iroquois Confederacy, many precepts of which were woven into our Constitution by Ben Franklin, etc.

And what of Plymouth Rock?

Apparently around 1880, some enterprising residents decided in a marketing move to transport the rock that was split into two pieces to the waterfront and to erect an imitation Greek temple around it. Historian James Loewen writes: "The temple became a shrine, the Mayflower Compact became our sacred text..."

Squanto and Massasoit play an

important role in the Thanksgiving story.

It should be noted that Massasoit did help the Pilgrims at Plymouth survive their first winters, though his son Metacomet, dubbed King Philip, would do his best to drive the English back into the sea during the devastating King Philip's War, which was played out here in the central Connecticut River Valley, and at the Falls.

Squanto himself was captured and enslaved in 1614 by an English slave trader. He learned English during his captivity, escaped from enslavement in Spain, made his way to England,

then to Newfoundland, and walked the rest of the way to Patuxet, which was the future Plymouth.

Arriving home, he found that he was the only survivor of his village. The entire village had died of the plague two years before. We now know that up to 95% of coastal Indigenous populations were wiped out. This was a fact that the Pilgrims and their successors were actually thankful for! It made their colonizing task much easier.

So as we sit down at the Thanksgiving table, being careful to not discuss the current political mess we are in, we should remember that the victuals available at that First Thanksgiving, and which we still consume today, were provided by the Indigenous people of the Massachusetts and Wampanoag Tribes: pumpkins, corn, turkey, squash, cranberries, venison.

We should also remember that Thanksgiving as a national observation is a fairly recent development. Our national celebration dates back to the dark years of the Civil War, not 1620, when Abraham Lincoln felt we needed a patriotic focus. Apparently, the Pilgrims were not even integrated into the ritual until the 1890s!

In giving thanks, we should remember that for millennia before

contact with Europeans, it was a custom of Northeastern tribes to give thanks for the autumn harvest. They invited the Pilgrims to *their* harvest feast, not the other way around!

In 1970, Wampanoag leader Frank James had written a speech for the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival in the homeland of the Wampanoag:

*"Today is a time of celebrating for you...but it is not a time of celebrating for me. It is with heavy heart that I look back upon what happened to my People..."*

Those were only the beginning words of the speech that the Massachusetts Department of Commerce censored, and finally refused to allow him to deliver.

On this day, when friends and family come home from far and near, we do not have to feel guilty, necessarily. But we should pause in our giving of thanks to remember and thank the Indigenous Peoples whose land we occupy and benefit from.

And I will give thanks and a toast to our old teachers who decades ago set us off on a constant journey of learning and critical inquiry, and honor the Native Peoples who are re-introducing themselves to this beautiful homeland we now share at the Falls.



Another postcard from the Brules' family collection.

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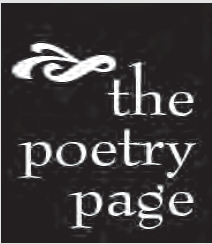
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It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

- William Carlos Williams

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

# November Poetry Page

## Goodbye Grandmother Porcupine

Some people may not have much love for porcupines.  
And I understand why. We have experienced the frustration of  
Erethizon dorsatum (“the animal with the irritating back”) attacking our fruit trees.  
Even so, I felt sad seeing a ‘grandmother’ porcupine run over on the road in front of our house.

I say grandmother because I knew her.  
I say grandmother because she was so big and her face was grizzled with white and gray whiskers.  
I say grandmother because I admire how she survived for so many years.  
I say grandmother because I’ve had a relationship with her ever since we moved to our land in 2012.

I call her grandmother because I know where she lives, lived.  
I have visited her home many times and showed it to countless guests over the years.  
It’s very impressive, nestled at the base of a hollowed out Hemlock, the scat pile in front at least 3 feet high.

I call her grandmother out of respect because she was here first, living in these parts at least as long as we have, if not longer.  
Because she was so large when we first met her we like to imagine that she was one of the many that Marion Herrick fed.  
(We found evidence of them living under the old summer-kitchen floor.)

I call her grandmother out of respect because even after Marion was gone she continued to make her way up from the forest year after year, on spring and summer evenings, to nibble on grass and clover behind our house.

I say grandmother because over the years several different small ones have followed her to this field of clover, and even this year small ones follow in her footsteps.

I say grandmother because I miss her, she was my relative in the sense of “all my relations,” and it has been a mutual relationship.  
She has respected (or ignored) the fruit trees after we put up fences, even though she could’ve easily climbed over them. I appreciate that.

I say grandmother because I find myself grieving and to me that means she found her way into my heart.  
I’m very sad that she came to that kind of end.

Goodbye Grandmother Porcupine. I’ve followed your tracks in the snow, over logs across streams, up to the Hemlocks.  
This spring I saw you hanging out in the old snag that finally fell down, enabling you to reach the tops of the young saplings that you love.

Goodbye Grandmother Porcupine. I expect that for the next few weeks your body will feed other creatures. I expect that eventually if not already, one of your offspring will move into your home and continue your line.

Thank you for bringing me lots of feelings and experiences over the past six and a half years, and for the connection we had with you.  
Thank you for the insights you brought us and the glimpses into the world of our wild neighbors with whom we share this land.

As one grandmother, now, to another, good-bye.

- Judy Hall  
Wendell

## Contributors’ Notes:

Judy Hall lives on a dirt road in Wendell where she tends her orchard and keeps an eye out for nature’s wonders.

Enis Batur is one of the leading figures in contemporary Turkish literature, with more than a hundred published books. Clifford Endres & Selhan Savcigil-Endres are Kadir Has University professors emeriti. These poems are excerpted from a new collection-in-progress of poems that Talisman House is scheduled to publish next year.

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

## First Night

Shy of twenty birth dates  
he lit cigarettes from the one he was finishing,  
sitting on a stack of hundred-pound sacks of rice  
that put him half higher than others in the terminal  
at Long Binh.

A black horse patch on his shoulder,  
red dust in his hair; green faded fatigues tailored  
like they had belonged to another, like skins from other wars  
his eyes into the formless night his mind recalling red tracers  
transecting the dark space to his track,

refusing looks that asked to know how it felt. Unlike  
the colonel with black eagles on his collar, empty pockets  
beneath his eyes, the young lieutenant the weight  
of a single silver bar on his shoulder the back and forth  
all the turns accumulated still unsure of commitment.

The Black Horse Cavalryman evolved comfort in his silence,  
remember those caught in the wire  
to look for the what’s held in their eyes.

- Al Miller  
Montague Center

## Red

The country’s on fire. I spent my life among those never-ending flames. My soul is branded, my mind’s wreathed in smoke. I tried turning away, to no avail: no matter where I go, I can’t escape the stink of soot in my nostrils. If only I knew the reason why: I sought, but did not find it. The haze has stunted the saplings I planted, my water-barrel’s gone up in steam, each year the soil I till grows more weary, I’m a man, yes, but yet I brought forth a child, Icarus, regret’s killing me. I was young, better times would come, I made myself believe. Right would wear the crown; instead, the wrong grew red-hot. The causes would one by one come to light; instead, the effects stole the show. At first I blazed a trail across the void before me: patiently, stubbornly, year after year I picked my way through the flames -- exhausted now, and terrified more than ever, I sink sluggishly down and down into my own pit.

Will the day ever come  
when this forest of flames will burn itself out?  
I don’t know. I know that I won’t see it.  
With a wild bird’s sharp glance I rake the world from the window of my attic retreat: macabre, nothing but the macabre – as in that canvas hanging on a wall of the Prado, belching forth the same savage pain that weighs on us. In one figure’s features there’s my own hapless face. How is it we deserve an inferno like this?  
What monstrous sins, what irretrievable crimes have brought us here, on the opposite pan of that merciless scale? Were this a nightmare I’d be startled awake, my sweat drying. Were it hallucination, or delirium tremens, I’d endure the thirst. But it’s none of these, none: the mirror before me is spitting raw, rude reality back at me: in a widening lake of crimson and brown, we’re sinking to the bottom.

- Enis Batur  
Istanbul  
Translated by Clifford Endres & Selhan Savcigil-Endres

CHARLOTTE KOHLMANN PHOTO


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#13: Human d'Scent (Mia Friedman)

Interview by J. BURKETT

**TURNERS FALLS** – Mia Friedman lives in Westfield and is very active in the local music community, playing at places like 10 Forward in Greenfield. Her main instrument is banjo, but she does all sorts of other stuff – her Human d'Scent project is all vocals!

She plays out regularly, and some of her other projects include Hollow Deck and Holy Basil. She also performs solo under her own name. (Human d'Scent is a recording project only.) She is playing the Looky Here art space in Greenfield on Sunday, December 1 with Tomatoverse (Arkm Foam and me) and Cold Rain (Alto Jeffro and Cruudeuces).

She is super talented, so... listen to Human d'Scent, and go check her out ASAP!

**MMM:** Hi Mia! When did you start recording at home?

**MF:** I started recording at my house in 2015 without really knowing what I was planning on doing. I opened up a journal and started improvising melodies and sounds using certain words that stuck out to me, and realized this was a fun way to generate lyrics.

**MMM:** How many releases have you done as “Human d'Scent”?

**MF:** I've done two releases so far. *Between Two Elk* came out as a cassette on Friendship Tapes in 2017, and *She Also Had to Live with Strangers* came out as a CD on Mystra Records in 2019.

**MMM:** How did the project start, and where is the name from?

**MF:** This project started very organically at my house in 2015. I was sitting at my desk with a microphone, opened up my journal from a 2014 cross-country trip, and started singing. I picked a sentence from the journal, improvised a vocal melody, and then improvised many layers on top sometimes including extended vocal technique, mouth sounds, etc.

I decided to make a whole album like this. It turned into a strange travelogue of my seven-week road trip with my partner Andy. My next release was done very similarly, but with a journal of poetry from when I was 10.

The name “Human d'Scent” popped into my head completely

randomly about five years ago. I don't know where it came from!

**MMM:** Are you working on a new release?

**MF:** Slowly, yes. Lately I've been focusing on a song cycle I'm writing for a trio with Cale Israel and Andy Allen. The ensemble will consist of trombone, bass clarinet, voice, and violin and will play at Looky Here in Greenfield on December 1.

**MMM:** What inspires these recordings? Does it relate to your other music projects, or does it have to do with any other music or writings, by you or others?

**MF:** These recordings have become a space for me to sing without overthinking. My process is to open my mouth and sing, and keep singing until it feels done. It is for the most part unfiltered, and I am not really using my logical mind to do it, and this feels good!

I'll often have a moment before I sing to conjure a specific vibe/style/influence. For instance, “Earliest Tent Set Up to Date” is inspired by shape-note singing and a bit from my limited experience singing Balkan music.

When I recorded “Mystical Canyon” I had Charles Ives' piece “Serenity” in mind, and when I recorded “Our Portable Phone,” I was thinking about Laurie Anderson.

Human d'Scent feels different than any other musical project I'm a part of right now. It's the only project that has never performed, and it lives solely in my office behind a closed door.

Other than the folks and styles I already mentioned, this project is very inspired by Meredith Monk, Caroline Shaw, Id M Theft Able, and Bern Porter.

**MMM:** Is there anywhere to order this online?

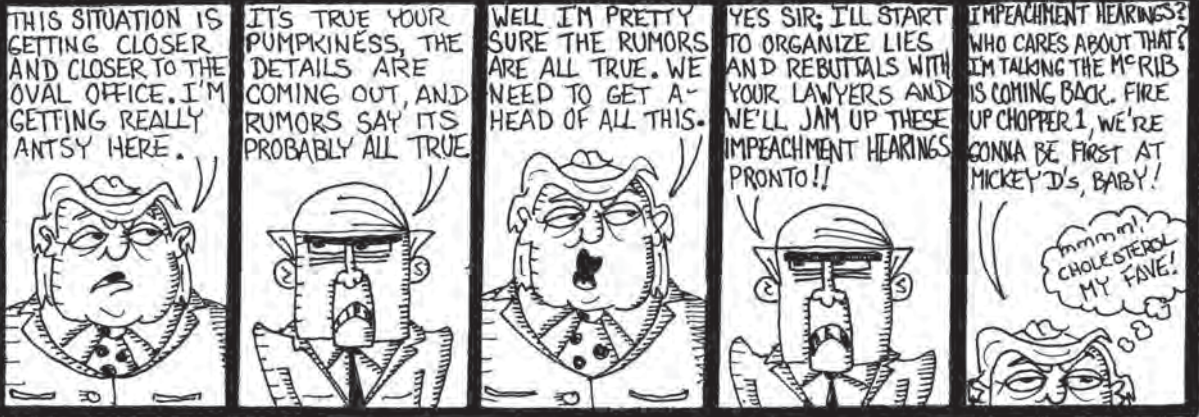
**MF:** You can find my first release *Between Two Elk* on the Friendship Tapes bandcamp page ([friendshiptapes.bandcamp.com/album/human-dscent-between-two-elk](https://friendshiptapes.bandcamp.com/album/human-dscent-between-two-elk)). Check out the other incredible releases there too.

*She Also Had to Live with Strangers* isn't available online yet, but go to Mystery Train Records in Amherst and pick up a copy, and also peruse their amazing collection!

COMICS

by denis f. bordeaux

T-RUMP



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



THREE DEGREES OF WARMING  
by JANICE ROWAN



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Good Acoustics For A Good Cause

**GREENFIELD** – The Greenfield High School Student Council is hosting a benefit concert this Saturday, November 23, in the Greenfield High School Auditorium (21 Barr Ave). Attendees will hear the renowned band Good Acoustics perform their spot-on tributes to the iconic Simon and Garfunkel and James Taylor. The concert will begin at 8 p.m. and will end at approximately 10 p.m. Doors will open at 7:15. Please use the rear event entrance.

Good Acoustics, who primarily play in the Springfield area, is a three-member band comprised of Pioneer Valley educators. They perform every Thursday night in the summer to sold-out audiences at the Pizzeria Uno at the Basket-

ball Hame of Fame.

Franklin County residents might recognize drummer and vocalist Bill DeSanty, an alum of Mohawk Trail High School and the Bands Arabus, Paris, and Passport. Bill states, “This is one of our favorite shows to play, and I’m so happy we can come to Greenfield and help the kids.”

Tickets cost \$20, and the proceeds will be evenly divided between Student Council and the Special Olympics. The Student Council will use the proceeds to offset costs for students to attend leadership conferences. Greenfield sends students to regional and state conferences each year and the cost is \$350 per student.

For the past six years, the GHS

Student Council has also participated in the Special Olympics Polar Plunge. Students travel to Hyannis in March, dress in costumes, and jump in the ocean to raise funds and awareness for Special Olympics.

“Last year we raised \$400 for Special Olympics,” said advisor Angela Mass, “and we are hoping to top that this year with the help of this concert.”

The music is appropriate for all ages, and concessions will be sold. If you are interested in purchasing a ticket in advance, please contact Mass or a student council member. Cash or checks accepted (checks should be made out to “WMASC”). If you have any questions, feel free to contact Mass at (413) 522-0316.

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21**  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *GCC Music Department Concert*. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Eamon Fogarty, Brian Gillig, Jake Klar Band*. \$. 8 p.m.  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Half Shaved Jazz*. 8 p.m.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22**  
Artspace, Greenfield: *Jam Session*. Kevin Dee leads monthly session, all ages and skill levels welcome. Suggested donation. \$. 12 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Joe Belmont, Wanda Houston*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Millers Pub, Millers Falls: *Little House Blues*. Chicago-style, harmonica-driven blues quartet. 7:30 p.m.  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *GCC Dance Department*. \$. 7:30 p.m.  
10 Forward, Greenfield: *David Louis Zuckerman, Yek Koo, Jake Meginsky, and Bromptreb*. \$. 8 p.m.  
Majestic Saloon, Northampton: *Loone, Home Body, DJ m0mmy1ssues*. \$. 8 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9:30 p.m.  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Robert Tobias, A Former Friend*. 9:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hip Hop Bash*. Thanksgiving hip hop in the Wheelhouse. \$. 9:30 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23**  
Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*. Classic musical set in 1930s New York City, with cast of over 70 members ages 7 and up. \$. 6 p.m.  
Looky Here, Greenfield: *Celebrating the Montague Reporter Newspaper*. Enjoy art and articles from our weekly newspaper. Enjoy a unique photo op with Mike Jackson *in absentia*. 6 p.m.  
St. James Church, Greenfield: *Freedom & Struggle Song Swap*. Singalong and potluck. Donation. \$. 5 p.m. Followed by *Dance Spree*: freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Trailer Park*. \$. 7:30 p.m.  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls:

*Moving Day, Sick Byrd*. 9:30 pm.  
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Loculus Collective, Glynnis Eldridge, The Millers, Ten Gallon Hat, DJ Quillz*. \$. 8 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24**  
Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie*. Classic musical set in 1930s New York City, with cast of over 70 members ages 7 and up. \$. 2 p.m.  
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Fireslide Chat*. Night of unrepentant slideshows. \$. 8 p.m.  
*and the Valley Revival*. \$. 8 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday*. With McCoy and DJ Roger Jr. \$. 8 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 29**  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Black Friday Showdown*. Music and arm wrestling to benefit the Trans Asylum Seeker Network, working to get transgender asylum seekers out of ICE detention. \$. 7 p.m.  
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Luxe, Colby Nathan, Lucy*. \$. 8 p.m.



"Suspended in Time," from the Out of the Ashes collection by Robert DuGrenier, Townsband, VT. Part of a group exhibit at the Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls featuring the Vermont Glass Guild artisans. Join the artists at a reception on December 7, with improvisational music from saxophonist Loren Feinstein, from 3 to 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *TNT Karaoke*. 9 p.m.  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25**  
10 Forward, Greenfield: *10 Forward Karaoke*. \$. 8 p.m.  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic*. 9 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26**  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Children's music series with professional musician and educator Marcy Gregoire and movement specialist Hilary Lake, movement specialist. Puppets, costumes, musical instruments. 10 a.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**  
North River Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *Lakeside Drive*. \$. 8 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tracy*

then regular dance spree program of "freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules." \$. 7:30 p.m.  
Wendell Free Library: *Movie, The Thing*. Humans are taken over by an alien life form found at a Norwegian research station in the Arctic. Part of the monthly Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Horror series. 7:30 p.m.  
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Movies, Pee-Wee's Big Adventure and Planes, Trains, and Automobiles*. Fun double feature from Cinemastorm, curated by the mysterious Professor Robert J. McGuffin with a focus on fun, fantastic, and forgotten films (at an affordable price). \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *No Lens*. 9:30 p.m.  
North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *The Equalites*. \$. 10 p.m.  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1**

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Holiday Concert*. Montague Community Band performs. \$. 2 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sprague, Jaffe, Ennis Trio*. \$. 7 p.m.  
Looky Here, Greenfield: *Tomatoverse, Mia Friedman, The Cold Rain Band*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 2**  
Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bingo*. 8 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3**  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. (See November 26 listing.) 10 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4**  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Bash: Tapas Fundraiser*. Benefit for the People's Medicine Project, a health justice organization and free clinic. \$. 6 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *One Drop Reggae Party*. Party with local reggae bands; reduced admission if you bring a toy for the United Way Toy Drive. \$. 8 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Salsa Wednesday*. With McCoy and DJ Roger Jr. \$. 8 p.m.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Creacion Latin Big Band Jam*. On the fourth floor. 8 p.m.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8**  
10 Forward, Greenfield: *Palberta, Leaf Peepers, Human Host*. \$. 8 p.m.

## CALLS FOR ART

Nina's Nook in Turners Falls invites artists to submit erotic art for Triple SSS 2020: Sensual, Sexual, Smut. Submit up to three jpegs to [eroticart2020@gmail.com](mailto:eroticart2020@gmail.com) by January 15 for the February show. A \$10 participation fee is asked at drop off to help with expenses relating to the reception.  
Where do you live? Where are you from? Who gets to make the map, and what gets left out? Exploded View announces a call for art on the theme of "You Are Here." Open to all media; send three jpegs along with descriptions and dimensions of the work and name, address, phone number to [explodedview-ma@gmail.com](mailto:explodedview-ma@gmail.com) by December 15 to be juried into the show, scheduled at the *Great Falls Discovery Center during January and February 2020*.  
Artspace in Greenfield welcomes artists and art instructors with ideas for exhibits and programming at the center. If you have an idea for a class, a musical project, a gallery exhibit, or what have you, please contact the office at (413) 772-6811 or email [info@artspace-greenfield.com](mailto:info@artspace-greenfield.com).



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**FRI 11/29 9:30 pm  
Bluegrass & Beyond**

**SAT 11/30 9:30 pm  
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## EXHIBITS

Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts & Arts Center: *Oh Beautiful Glass*, an eclectic group exhibit by glass artists, plus Julie Lapping Rivera's woodblock prints in the hallway gallery. Through November.  
Brattleboro Museum & Art Center: Exhibits include *Fafnir Adamites: Interfere (with); Doug Trump: By Rail; Maria Elena Gonzalez: Tree Talk; Gordon Meinhard: The Lives of Tables; and Thelma Appel: Observed/Abstract*. Through February.  
DVAA Gallery, Northfield: *Season of Light*. Member holiday show. Through December.  
Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Junior Duck Stamps*: Students from kinder-

garten through high school submit artwork for a statewide contest. Come see the top entries for the 2019 Junior Duck Stamp competition. Through December 22.  
Greenfield Gallery: *Paul Hoffman, Paintings and Illustrations*. Poetic dreamscapes informed by a lifetime of world travel. Through January 18.  
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Catherine Lee, Landscape Photography*. An artistic study of the changing effects of light on scenes throughout the Valley. Through November. Closing reception Monday, November 25, at 5 p.m.  
Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *[not necessarily] By the Book*: Altered books by Trish Crapo. Through December 21.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne Falls: *Glacial Potholes*, photographs by Geoff Bluh. Through November.  
Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls: *Michael Tillyer and the Anchor House Artists*. A curated show of work by artists who have been members of the Anchor House, a studio and workspace for artists who live with mental illness. Also on display, works by the Vermont Glass Guild artisans. Reception Saturday, December 7, at 3 p.m. with saxophone music by Loren Feinstein. Through December 31.  
Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *All Creatures Great and Small*, group show, through November 25.

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**APPLE CORPS** from page B1  
root vegetables, leeks, and dark greens turned sweet from the cold. Time to take out your collection of wool sweaters from their storage bin and greet them like old friends who help get you through each cold season.

Winter can be a difficult time for many, and not only for the lack of light. For folks like me who have a lot of trouble keeping warm, the constant chill takes a toll not only on the body but also mind and soul. Living in harmony with the seasons has been a theme for me for many years, but this year more than previous years, I have been thinking about ways to make winter a little easier, more comfortable, and happier.

As I've written about previously, the earth provides us with what we need each season. There is a reason that we store dense, starchy vegetables like turnips, parsnips, carrots, and potatoes along with winter squashes and onions to eat in the late fall and winter. These foods have a nourishing sweetness, along with a mild spiciness in some. These foods' richness helps keep us full and fueled for longer, giving us a little more energy to stay warm.

I like to think of them as having stored up the summer's sun and warmth to give to us during the winter. I personally enjoy roasting them, which not only helps bring out their sweetness, but that way I receive the added warmth of the oven being on for an hour or so.

Pungent foods and spices, such as ginger, cinnamon, cloves, cayenne, and all of the common cook-

ing herbs like thyme and rosemary are warming to the body by increasing circulation and stimulating digestive fire. Keeping the digestive system fired up is important in the colder seasons, when we might not be as physically active and are consuming more dense foods. And who doesn't love a nice ginger tea or masala chai on a chilly day?

Apart from the foods we eat, there are many other habits that can keep us feeling warm and well throughout the winter. Some that come to mind are hot baths or foot baths (especially with herbs and oils!), oil massage, and brisk walks to soak up sunny days. Getting enough vitamin D is important not only for our physical immune system but also our mental health. You can keep your brain fed in the cold, low-light season by getting enough healthy fats and minerals.

Another important habit is making sure we spend time with friends and socializing. Winter can be an isolating time, so although it may take a little more effort to get together with folks, I've found it can make all the difference. It helps to have a steady plan – say, once a week, or even once a month – to gather with friends over a relaxing activity such as sharing a meal, board and card games, trivia night at the bar, or some Apple Corps members' favorite: collaging!

**Spotlight:**  
**Gardening and Wildcrafting**

Apple Corps members spent a beautiful morning in the Unity Park Community garden a couple weekends ago, cleaning up and tucking

in the garden beds for their winter rest. Although we have had a few frosts, the hardier of the herbs were still going strong. Thyme, rosemary, and sage were still harvestable.

We did some weeding, some pulling up of annuals and cutting back of perennials, and we covered several beds with leaves or hay. Mulching with leaf litter or hay not only helps insulate perennial plants' roots, it adds nutrients to the soil as the material breaks down and gets it ready for next year's growing.

The late fall is the perfect time for harvesting wild edible and medicinal roots and barks. When the tops of perennial plants die back, all of their energy and nutrients go deep into their roots to keep the plants alive until the next growing season.

We can take advantage of this by digging up the roots this time of year to use as food or medicine. A few common edible wild roots in this area are dandelion, burdock, chicory, horseradish, marshmallow, and yellow dock.

It is a similar process in trees: as their leaves die and fall, the tree stores its vitality in its trunk, roots, and bark. This makes fall through very early spring the ideal time to harvest medicinal barks such as sweet birch and wild cherry.

So, although it may seem like all the plants are dying off, there is still a lot to harvest!

Make sure to follow Great Falls Apple Corps on Facebook and Instagram, @greatfallsapplecorps. Email us at greatfalls-applecorps@gmail.com.



**Thanksgiving 2019**  
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In olden days, Valley Residents took pause within "these dark days of autumn rain (as beautiful as days can be)." \* to celebrate the bounty of our surrounding lands. Squashes, potatoes, roots of all types, apples, nuts, seeds, maple syrup and herbs were cooked into traditional, simple dishes bursting with the flavor of the fields and shared with family and friends.

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"From 'My November Guest' by Robert Frost

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