

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 12

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JANUARY 23, 2020

## Village Co-op Plan: New Board Members, Borrowing, Marketing

By ISABEL KOYAMA

**LEVERETT** – “We don’t want to be back here in a year or two,” said Leverett Village Co-op board president Susan Lynton on Wednesday night, as she presented a multi-pronged plan for the store’s future to a room full of more than 60 member-owners at Leverett town hall.

Outlined in the slide show, under

the now-familiar heading “Survival Plan,” were plans to secure new loans, increase member involvement, drive up sales and revenue, and cut expenses.

The meeting began – as have most Leverett coop meetings of late – with a financial report from the board, this time promised to end within an hour. Since it was disclosed

see **COOP** page A5



Village Co-op board president Susan Lynton (center) addresses members Wednesday.

### LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Hauling Hike, Beaver Stream Probe Budget Hawks’ Resolve

By MIKE JACKSON

Leverett’s selectboard met Tuesday evening with three department heads to see how their budgets for FY’21 are shaping up. The economic climate at town hall this year is austere as Leverett seeks to keep its tax rate safely below Proposition 2½’s hard ceiling of \$25 per \$1,000 of property value. As more than half of the town’s \$6.2 million budget goes toward education, officials are keenly hawkish over costs on the other side; departments have been

asked to limit growth to 1%.

Worksheets submitted by the library, highway department, and transfer station didn’t include salary requests, since the personnel committee had not yet had its say. The finance committee was on hand, as were members of the town’s capital planning committee, before they all packed up and headed downstairs for an overlapping meeting.

Transfer station Annette Herda faces an extra challenge next year: the rising costs of hauling

see **LEVERETT** page A7

### FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT

## 25,000 Germans Say They’re “Fed Up” with Industrial Farms

By ANNA GYORGY

**BERLIN** – Last Saturday, for the tenth year in a row, German farmers on tractors joined over 25,000 colorful, banner waving supporters calling for a “U-turn” in farm and agricultural policy. Nature and animal protection groups, climate, food and justice activists, and many others rallied in central Berlin in weather warmer than in years past.

The name of the organizing alliance of 50-plus organizations, “Wir haben es Satt,” means “We’re Fed Up” or “We’ve Had Enough.” Enough of national and European Union policies, they say, that re-

ward size over quality at a time of critical need for agricultural policies supporting a balanced climate and natural world.

This outpouring happens in mid-January, when the world’s biggest international agricultural “Green Week” exposition takes place in Berlin. EU agriculture ministers also meet, and received activists’ demands.

The farmers who say they have “had enough” are not the industrial-scale ones receiving large European Union subsidies. Their smaller farms are rooted in their communities, and many farm organically.

see **GERMANS** page A5



“The agro-industry kills,” reads the slogan on this upside-down-bee balloon.

## The Shape of Things To Come: Montague’s DPW Building Emerges

By JEFF SINGLETON

Heading down Turners Falls Road this month, travelers will no doubt notice that a very large steel frame has been erected behind the public safety complex on the corner of Turnpike Road. Those familiar with Montague’s recent public facilities plans will probably know that this is the frame for the town’s new highway garage. A closer look at the structure – which this reporter and his editor were afforded on a recent frigid January morning tour – reveals an imposing space for storage, maintenance, and office functions for the town’s department of public works (DPW).

Those accustomed to the current DPW facility on Avenue A, beyond Cumberland Farms, will be even more impressed, perhaps even astonished, by the scope of this project. The older facility is well under half the size of the building under construction, which will provide



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

Building committee chair Ken Morin (left) led our reporter on a site visit.

indoor space to park virtually all the DPW’s vehicles, many of which have long been stored outdoors.

The garage will also house equipment the department has been keeping behind town hall in downtown Turners Falls, and provide staff with

more office and meeting space.

DPW building committee chair Ken Morin led our tour, joined by Ben Whittaker, assistant project superintendent of BW Construction, the general contractor. Morin, who

see **BUILDING** page A8

## Tracing Old Roads Into a Town’s History

By GEORGE BRACE



The Gill historical commission shared this 1871 map, which they received from Dave Allen at old-maps.com.

**GILL** – The night was cold and the roads were slippery, but aided by the highway department’s sanding, more than two dozen residents attended an informal discussion on the history of the roads in Gill at the town hall last Thursday. Organized by the Gill historical commission and members of the community on short notice, the event was surprisingly well-attended on such a wintry night. Those who made the trip were treated to a wide range of interesting history and anecdotes, had their questions answered, and learned of mysteries in the area that may never be resolved.

Because roads connect virtually all other structures created by people, and due to the area’s distinctive and somewhat unique history, a wide variety of subjects were touched upon in the course of the 90-minute discussion. There were mentions of moonshiners, Native American burial grounds, mad hatters, and river issues, as well as numerous references to past Gill residents. Many of these references

see **GILL** page A4

## The Week In High School Sports

By MATT ROBINSON

This week marked the midway point in the high school winter sports season. Teams throughout Massachusetts calculated their chances to make the postseason, and tried to solidify home court seedings or simply to stave off elimination. Also this week, the Regional Cheerleading competitions were announced and the MIAA is talking about reformatting the postseason.

### Swimming

Palmer 62 – Turners Falls 6  
Palmer 51 – Turners Falls 40

The Palmer Panthers came to town on Tuesday, and filled the pool with swimmers. It was two against the world for the Home Boys, as Cameron Bradley and Camden Bonnett took on the entire Palmer team. Bradley scored 4 points with his first-place finish in the 100 butterfly, while Bonnett took two bronzes, finishing third in the 50 freestyle and 100 freestyle for Blue’s other two points.

see **SPORTS** page A6



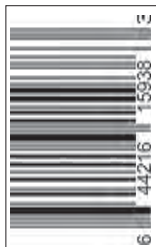
DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls’ Liam Driscoll pulls down a rebound last Friday, and looks past Smith Academy defenders Wyatt Jeffress and Aiden Pedersen. Anthony Peterson is also in the paint.

### New Wonders On Every Page

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# The Montague Reporter

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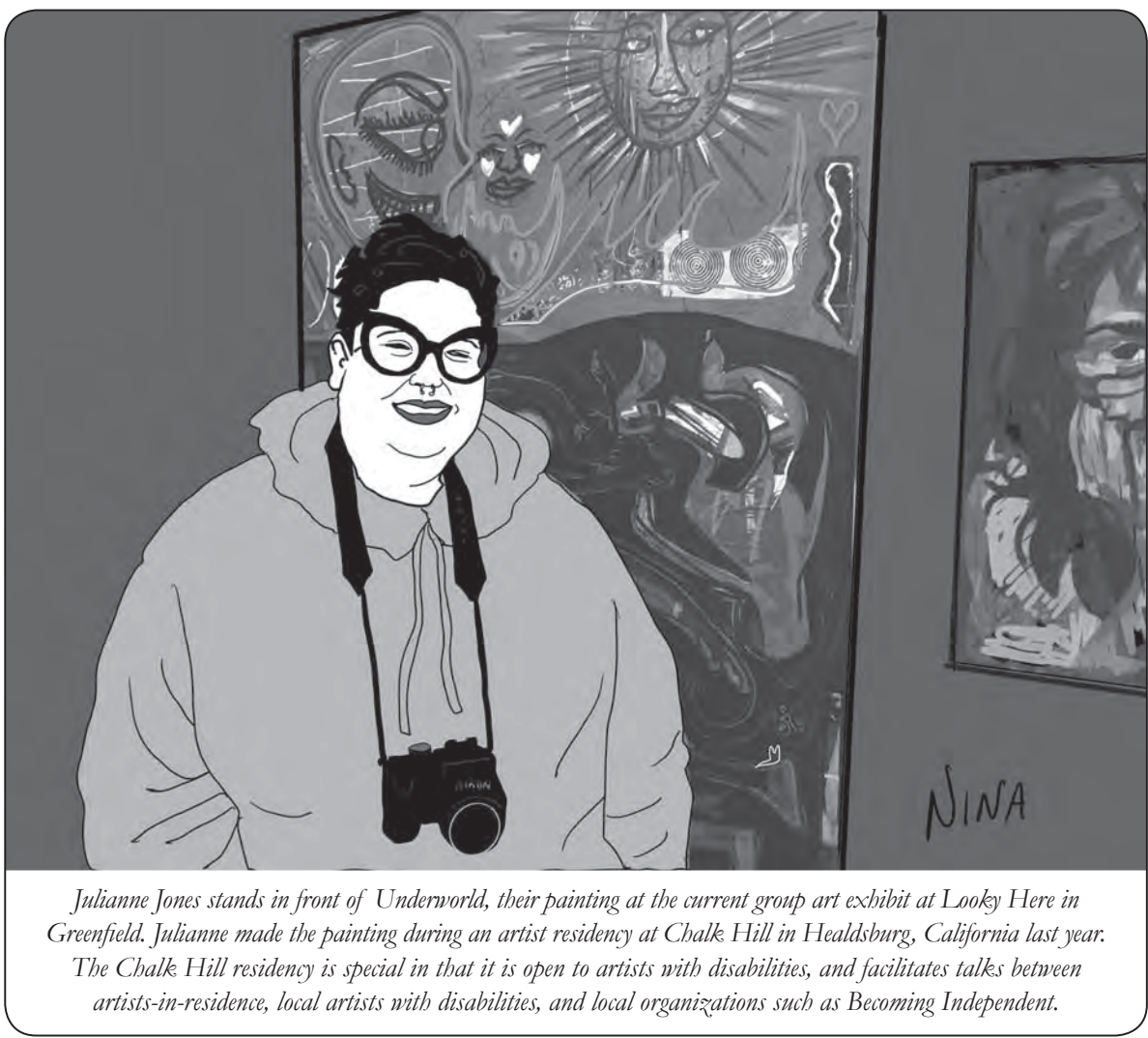
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August 2002



Julianne Jones stands in front of *Underworld*, their painting at the current group art exhibit at Looky Here in Greenfield. Julianne made the painting during an artist residency at Chalk Hill in Healdsburg, California last year. The Chalk Hill residency is special in that it is open to artists with disabilities, and facilitates talks between artists-in-residence, local artists with disabilities, and local organizations such as Becoming Independent.

## Reduce, Reuse, Repair

Malaysia’s environmental minister, Yeo Bee Yin, announced on Tuesday that his country was sending 150 shipping containers containing 4,119 tons of illegally imported plastic waste back to their countries of origin, including France, the UK, Canada, Australia, Saudi Arabia, and the United States. China, which had been receiving most of the world’s imported plastic, significantly raised its standards in 2018, and tens of thousands of tons of garbage have been rerouted to Southeast Asian countries. Now they’re standing up against toxic dumping too. Our plastic is processed at the Materials Recycling Facility in Springfield, and as an effect of plummeting commodity prices, a regional contract renewal is expected to push costs onto 74 municipalities next month. The MRF Advisory Board issued a press release last week urging us to keep recycling – reminding us it’s illegal *not* to in our state – and reassuring us its output has always gone to US manufacturers. Furthermore, the MRF points to a wave of investment in US plastics processing as evidence that “[r]ecycling markets are expected to improve over time.” That’s good, as long as the new domestic plants are sited fairly, and worker and environmental protections are enforced. But this should be a wake-up call: the First World lifestyle was always maintained at the expense of other people elsewhere, and sooner or later we were going to start paying for it.

## New Policy: Letters

We are generally glad to receive Letters to the Editor, and usually print as many as we can fit. We won’t run hate speech, but beyond that, we aim to provide an open forum for the community. Going forward, though, we ask our readers to limit their submissions to four a year, maximum, and two per year on any one topic. Beyond this policy, we implore letter-writers to focus on discussing the substance of issues, and to avoid *ad hominem* argumentation. That’s a Latin phrase that our local dictionary, Merriam-Webster, defines as: “1. appealing to feelings or prejudices rather than intellect; 2. marked by or being an attack on an opponent’s character rather than by an answer to the contentions made.” We’re less concerned about feelings, in this case – do go ahead and share those. But please refrain from trying to discredit someone you disagree with by citing unrelated behavior or personal qualities. If you believe a public official is corrupt, that’s news: tip us off and we’ll investigate it. Using this page to make personal accusations tends to set off back-and-forth exchanges that get away from the real topic at hand. We encourage readers to argue the points, elevate the discourse, and then step back and leave space for others to do the same. Thanks in advance for helping keep this a thoughtful, educational page that people want to read!

## Correction & Clarification

An announcement we ran last week on page B4, headlined “New ‘Hive’ Will Buzz on February 8,” contained serious errors as the result of a mix-up on our end. Though the “Pre-Valentine’s Expo” on that date will indeed be held at the Hive makerspace, 156 Main Street in Greenfield, the piece incorrectly stated that the Hive itself was organizing and sponsoring this event. As it turns out, another organization, Sacred Holistic Arts, is renting the space for the Expo. References to a previous event, at which enough funds were raised to file for non-profit status, actually pertained to Sacred Holistic Arts, not the Hive. The Hive is currently making the space available for other groups, according to Adrienne LaPierre, who is leading the project along with Rachel Katz, and is hosting “pop-up” events of its own. But the Hive is working on a longer timeframe toward incorporating as a worker cooperative. “It’s a process,” LaPierre told us. “We have a lot of work to do, and a lot of money to raise.” Earlier this month the group was awarded a \$25,000 planning grant from MassDevelopment, which it is meeting with locally raised matching funds. The planning grant is a springboard for a larger implementation grant, which will also need a local match, to renovate the storefront into a makerspace. We apologize for any confusion this may have caused, and hope this sets the record straight!

## Letters to the Editors

## Conference Call Of The Wild

In its January 8 meeting the Wendell Selectboard gave an hour and a half to the outcry over its letter opposing H.897, the bill to end commercial logging in state forests. To the passionate objections they appeared to listen, and the chair, Dan Keller, described the hearing as informative. He promised the board would take the information it received under advisement. But he subtly requested that people omit much mention of global warming, stating that the board members already know the seriousness of that problem. It seemed to me his hint had a dampening effect, discouraging heartfelt presentations. Furthermore, the idea that, at this stage of the general learning curve, the board members have fully absorbed the reality of global warming – or of managed forests or of the far broader environmental disaster – puts those three in-

dividuals in rare company! Not belaboring global warming might be justified if global warming were already being solved... or even if the selectboard has climate instability and the equilibrium of the Earth-life system in mind in everything it currently says and does. (That’s how seriously climate science says to take it.) But I feel safe in saying the selectboard doesn’t religiously address the implications of global warming and apply its best solutions, any more than the rest of us do. The truth is we all live in terrible need of each others’ help in responding effectively, and with our best human selves, to this culturally alien issue: this totally unprecedented cataclysm, and the broader environmental disaster it’s part of. Only in a social soup of extreme, collective listening, can even as supportive a community as ours realign itself to living-Earth reality. Holding

each others’ pain and fear, absorbing each others’ insights, learning each others’ solutions, and getting reports from the “front.” The front, in this case, is the wild, the loss and exploitation of which is the subject of the meeting in question. “Forest Reserves” is civilized code for wild forest and, ultimately, the wild principle – the mother, father, teacher, healer and life taker of all that live. If our civilization is to learn the power of the still highly disregarded wild, and adjust to (or try to compromise with) it, all must feel encouraged to share our discoveries, outer and inner. The wild is the deepest part of our own makeup (think about it!), and it’s at meetings like this where, potentially, we together can gain courage in recovering all that it offers.

Jonathan von Ranson  
Wendell

## Off-Topic Exchange Continues

Sean Mahoney’s recent response to my earlier personal Letter to the Editor in December reminds me of that old idiom from Shakespeare’s Hamlet: “Methinks thou doth protest too much.” Given that Mahoney works as a “Markets and Utilization Forestry Program Director” for DCR, I guess he felt compelled to defend former DCR Commissioner Leo Roy, who I referred to as “disgraced.” Mahoney claims I “manufacture the truth,” but I was merely referencing several news stories about controversies over Roy’s misuse of taxpayer funds and resources anyone can find online. Perhaps Mr. Mahoney believes the *Boston Herald*, Fox News and MassLive created that “fiction”? If so, he should take it up with them rather than accuse me in public – someone who is decidedly not getting paid by DCR, and has no interest in trying to defend the Department – of lying. Furthermore, I never wrote in my letter “the leading cause of forest loss in Massachusetts... is periodic logging,” as Mahoney suggests. Here’s what I wrote:

“Most every week we read new studies and reports of the critical need to protect and preserve existing forests (proforestation) and to plant trees in formerly disturbed lands (reforestation) to help in the struggle to confront the Climate Crisis.” Leo Roy and DCR’s leadership – and perhaps Mahoney – seem oblivious to that current science. If Leo Roy took DCR’s outdated approach to forestry to the “2009 UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen,” as others took their own questionable science, perhaps that was one of the reasons why that particular conference is universally considered a failure. In closing, it is not I who is “driving vile, inaccurate, and divisive wedges into the environmental movement,” as Mahoney claims, but rather the very agency he works for, when it tries convincing environmentalists its promotion of commercial logging on our public lands is helpful in addressing the climate emergency.

Don Ogden  
North Leverett

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

You just can’t beat a **double-feature movie event that costs only \$5** in the dead of winter: *good idea, Shea Theater*. The latest installment of Cinemastorm film series fun starts this Friday, January 24, at 8 p.m. Those who imbibe can visit the lobby bar for beer and wine (\$6 a glass) to enjoy while watching *The Thing* and *They Live*, two 1980s horror films that have gathered a cult following and were directed by John Carpenter.

*The Thing* is a re-make of a 1951 film of the same name and is based on a 1938 sci-fi story written by John W. Campbell, Jr. called “Who Goes There?” The story is based in Antarctica where research scientists take in a sled dog that turns into a shape-shifting killer beast. Lots of gory battles and 1980s special effects that are probably a big hoot to see with 2020 eyes!

Followed by *They Live*, where aliens conspire to destroy American society by disguising themselves as yuppies. A homeless drifter wearing special sunglasses tries to stop the invasion, which attempts to widen the gap between rich and poor. See you there!

At 10 a.m. Saturday morning, Oneida Fuentes from MassHousing will be at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls to discuss **homeownership as it relates to the MassHousing program**.

Highlights include the importance of credit, renting versus buying, and how to own a home with

little or no money down.

Got questions? Stop in to ask Ms. Fuentes in person, and take home one of the many informational handouts she will have. Light refreshments will be available courtesy of the bank.

The National Spiritual Alliance (TNSA) is holding a **Psychic Fair** this Saturday, January 25 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in Lake Pleasant.

Linda Kinney writes: “Our readers are at the top of their field and use a variety of divination modalities including Tarot cards, channeling, spirit painting, and Psychometry. Reiki healing is also available by a Reiki Master and certified spiritual healer. A 20-minute reading or healing is \$20.”

TNSA Thompson Memorial Temple is a Spiritualist church located at 2 Montague Ave. in Lake Pleasant. For more information, see [spiritualallianceusa.org](http://spiritualallianceusa.org).

If you’re busy and overwhelmed, it’s easy to forget to take care of yourself and a simple nap can sometimes feel like an unaffordable luxury. **Exploded View invites you to take a nap** in the Great Hall at the Discovery Center on Sunday, January 26, between 1 and 3 p.m. Sleep is necessary, and Americans are sleep deprived. People around the world often don’t have a safe place to rest. Let’s recharge, together. Ambient live music is provided. BYOB (bring your own blanket!)

Come back on Thursday, January 30 for **Write Here!, a noontime writing workshop** with Explod-

ed View members and Discovery Center personnel. The workshop will use the Discovery Center as a prompt; bring your brown bag lunch and stay for all or part of the time, between 12 and 1:30 p.m.

On the other hand, if you feel rested and want to get outside, consider this **Winter Wildlife Tracking event** at Northfield Mountain on the same afternoon, January 26, from 1 to 4 p.m. Learn how to decipher the clues left behind by porcupine, fox, fisher, and other predators and prey.

Ernie Hansche, an avid tracker and naturalist, will share his knowledge and lead participants off trail and into the woods. Be prepared with warm, weatherproof footwear and dress in layers. Snowshoes may be required if the center is open for skiing. Rentals are available. Pre-registration is required by calling (800) 859-2960.

Racial Justice Rising will host a **discussion about reparations for slavery** with Dr. Amilcar Shabazz, a professor of history and Africana Studies in the Department of Afro-American Studies at UMass-Amherst.

The event will be held at the First Congregational Church of Greenfield from 10:15 to 12:15 p.m. on Saturday, February 1. Admission, parking, refreshments and literature are free. For free childcare, RSVP to [email@racialjusticerising.org](mailto:email@racialjusticerising.org) with ages and number of children.

Are you interested in brainstorming around the future of Turners Falls? Want an update on what’s been done in the past few years, and what’s coming up next in improvements and changes?

**Public input is desired for “Where Do We Grow From Here?”** a February 1 event at the Great Falls Discovery Center presented by the Montague Planning and Conservation Department.

Starting with a slideshow of accomplishments at 11 a.m., there will be a recap of the 2013 Livability Plan, followed by lunch which is provided for registered attendees. Contact the planning department to register, (413) 863-3200 x207.

A panel discussion ensues at 12:20 p.m. with county housing authority director Gina Govoni, our own managing editor Mike Jackson, Nova Motorcycles proprietor Peter Chilton, and Lisa Davol of the Shea Theater board of directors. Panelists will discuss issues such as doing business downtown, affordability, community vulnerabilities, and hopes for the future.

A brainstorming session is scheduled next at 1:30, where attendees will envision development of three areas: transformation of the Canal District, a vision for the southern corridor of Avenue A, and a public art strategy for Turners Falls. Now is the time to put your two cents in the game.

February 1 is also the date for the kick-off of a year-long series of related events called River Stories 2020: Recovering the Indigenous Voices of the Connecticut River Valley.

The Nolumbeka Project is sponsoring a **Native American Social Dance and Stomp Dance** at Greenfield Community College, 1 to 4 p.m. as the first event in this series. Participants will learn and participate in Northeastern Woodlands Native social dances, led by Annawon Weeden, Mashpee Wampanoag, Congressional award honoree as culture-bearer for the Northeast, and James Moreis, Aquinnah Wampanoag, father and culture bearer. Opening words will be given by Chief Roger Longtoe Sheehan, Elnu Abenaki. The single-file, call-and-response dances will be taught.

A press release says that “Social dances are done for fun, for socializing, and to express the joy of having been given the gift of life. It is made up of easy to learn steps, done by people of all genders and ages, in order to create a sense of friendship and community. Bring rattles and shake out the cabin fever!” The event is suitable for all ages and is free of charge. Snow date, Sunday February 2.

For fans of South Indian street food and of the Brattleboro-based Dosa Kitchen food truck, there is good news from the north: Dosa Kitchen announces the grand opening of a **brick and mortar location** at 34 Elliot Street in downtown Brattleboro. On February 1 from 12 to 3 p.m., enjoy their popular GMO- and gluten-free menu choices.

Dosa’s are crepe-like pancakes of fermented lentils and rice. Owners Nash Patel and Leda Scheintaub put out a press release that says “to taste a dosa is to fall in love with its seductively sour, tangy flavor and airy, crisp texture.” Worth a trip!

I must say, the number of events scheduled for February 1 is somewhat staggering, so I am spreading them out over two issues. Please send items for briefs to *editor@montaguereporter.org*.

Anyone interested in compiling these tidbits for Briefs once a week is also welcome to come on board; please write us at the same email address.

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

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of the Week

Week ending Jan. 17:

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Michael Waite

Grade 7

Zachary Zilinski

Grade 8

Fiona Hutchison

Related Arts

Fiona Hutchison

Another Letter to the Editors

Local Budgets: A How-To Guide

I want to let readers know that the Montague finance committee, selectboard, and town staff have begun working on developing next year’s annual operating budget. If you want to know more about how the budget that will be presented for approval at Annual Town Meeting in May is created, here are some ways you can follow along:

1) Use the Town of Montague’s website – [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov). Navigate to the Finance Committee page to find materials related to the budget we’re working on now (FY’21, which will begin on July 1, 2020) as well as information about how the town funds public education. There is also a link to a budget schedule that presents all of the deadlines and steps on one page in calendar format.

If you have questions or are looking for something in particular, please ask!

2) Watch or attend meetings and hearings. The finance committee and members of the selectboard are meeting just about every week on Wednesday nights starting at 6 p.m. in the upstairs meeting room at Town Hall. You can get a preview of what we’ll be talking about each week by looking at our meeting agendas, which are officially posted on the bulletin board at the rear entrance to Town Hall, and also available from the town’s website.

You are welcome to attend, or you can watch from home. Our meetings are usually broadcast on Channel 17 and the recordings are archived on Montague Community Television’s Vimeo channel: [www.vimeo.com/mctvchannel17](http://www.vimeo.com/mctvchannel17).

3) The budgets for the regional and technical school districts are overseen by their school committees. If you are interested in following the budget development process for the Gill-Montague Regional School District ([gmrtd.org](http://gmrtd.org)) or the Franklin County Technical School ([fcts.us](http://fcts.us)), some dates to keep in mind are the GMRSD’s FY’21 budget hearing on February 11, during the school committee’s meeting at Turners Falls High School, and the FCTS FY’21 budget hearing during their school committee meeting on February 12.

These are the official times when the public is invited to weigh in, but you can send comments or talk with people on the two school committees before then. You can also request information about what is being proposed from the superintendent’s office, or from anyone on the school committee.

The process of creating our town’s annual operating budget is complicated and interesting, and I have enjoyed learning about it in more detail these last few years. Having lived elsewhere in my youth, I am still excited about how possible it is for people in our part of Massachusetts to see inside and get involved in local government.

If you are interested in learning more or doing more this year, I hope you will go for it!

Jen Audley  
Turners Falls

Jen Audley is the chair of the finance committee in Montague, and a town meeting member for Precinct 4.

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**GILL** from page A1

were only a sentence or two, made in passing as a discussion of where a particular road once led moved along. But they served to generate curiosity, or as reminders of history and the connections between things.

There was no rigid structure for the discussion, but thanks to the preparation of the organizers and the participation of attendees, it took on a form which seemed natural.

Police chief Christopher Redmond got things started with a brief presentation of maps and pictures providing an overview of changes in the town’s roadways beginning in 1795, three years after Gill split off from Greenfield.

Maps and pictures from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries followed, with the chief pointing out items of interest and sharing some of his knowledge of them. As an example, he noted that a map from 1858 was the latest he was able to find which identified locations by who lived there, rather than street numbers.

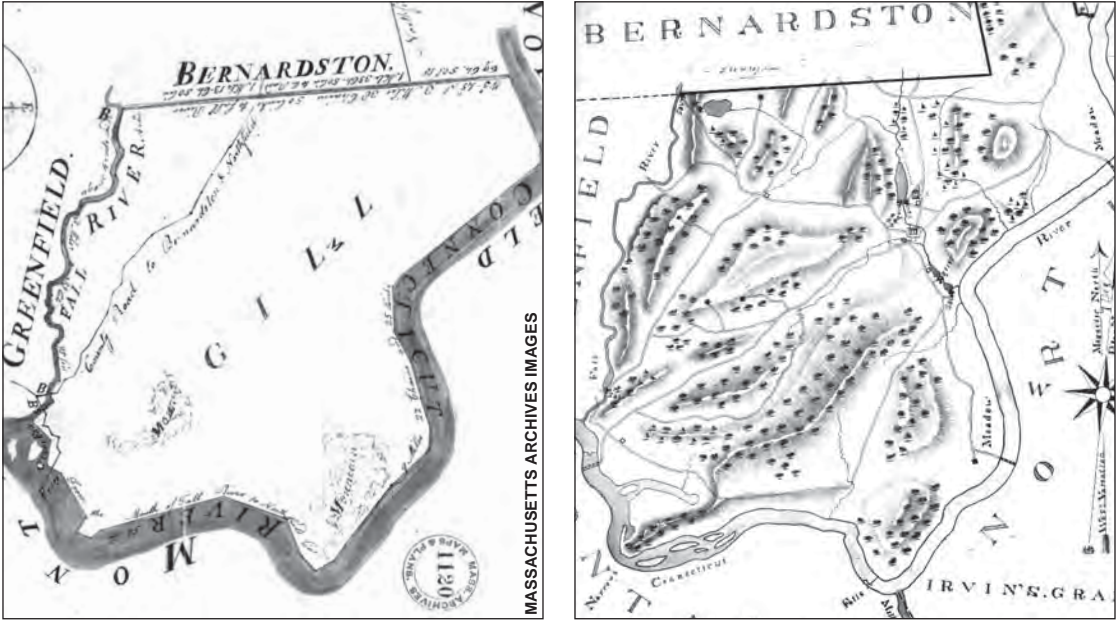
In a nod to a New England stereotype, however, the former system was still in use by many present, and there was an unending stream of “where such-and-such used to be” or “where so-and-so used to live” in the course of piecing together answers to what had gone where, and when.

The chief’s introduction got things off to a good start, and the event transitioned smoothly to various residents leading and contributing to short discussions in response to questions, or bringing up subjects they themselves thought were interesting. Several residents brought their own books and maps, which were helpful, but the depth of historical and personal knowledge on display was one of the more striking elements of the talk.

While many people contributed, longtime residents Robert Perry, Fred Chase II, and former highway superintendent Ernie Hastings were notable for taking the lead in subjects they had particular knowledge of.

During a discussion on the moving of Main Road to line up with the Turners Falls-Gill bridge, Fred Chase II commented on an area nearby which, many decades ago, one of “the Stoughton brothers” had told him held a Native American burial ground. “Day after day, I got lectured on all this history,” Chase recalled. “He put my foot on the ground and said, ‘Don’t ever dig here’.”

Chase added that there had been disagreements in the past as to the weight this recollection carried, but said it was interesting either way. Other Native American sites were also referenced throughout the evening, such as where current roads still followed Native pathways.



The 1794 plan of Gill (left), made by Seba Allen, and the 1830 plan by Josiah Gould (right).

Questions about bridges, dams, ferries, and the changes in river crossing points over the years were explored, with Robert Perry providing a wealth of information and interesting anecdotes on the subject.

One story took place during Prohibition. Perry said he’d heard that FBI-type agents from Boston had camped out on the other side of the river to surveil maple sugar houses on the Gill side. The agents were curious as to why the sugar houses were making maple syrup in the summer. “We got good trees,” came an answer from the audience.

Moonshine also came up: in one of many passing mentions of businesses long gone, someone referred to a location as the “Polish Dance Hall and Moonshine Palace.”

Perry pointed out an ironic bit of history. At one time the Fall River was dammed to collect water, which was piped across the Connecticut to a paper mill in Turners Falls that needed to use extremely clean water in processing paper.

Moving on, a picture from the 19<sup>th</sup> century was displayed, showing a great deal of deforested land. Someone commented on how bare the landscape looked, to which someone else replied that by that time, Massachusetts had lost 80% of its trees to logging, charcoal manufacture, farming, and other uses.

Both these anecdotes seemed topical, providing a different and valuable background for looking at current issues concerning the environment.

Another wealth of knowledge was provided by former highway superintendent Ernie Hastings. Hastings answered questions throughout the discussions, providing authoritative answers about

which roads were actually “county roads” and which were not. He spoke about the process of declaring roads abandoned, and about how even concrete boundary markers had a way of “walking,” which contributed to confusion over where exactly certain property lines belonged.

As the meeting drew to a close, resident Ray Steele, one of the organizers, commented that it was amazing how much has disappeared, and that despite the vast amount of ground covered in the discussions, he felt they did not touch on half of it. The comment wasn’t a criticism, but more like an expression of excitement over how much remains to be discovered.

Perry also commented on the future, mentioning a pet project he’d like to see happen: the mapping of Gill’s stone walls. He noted that in old deeds they were often used as boundary markers, and did a better job than other markers from the past he’s seen, such as “the yellow Pine stump.”

“How are we going to capture this history?” someone asked.

“Maybe someone from another generation can follow through,” Perry replied.

At the meeting’s close, several people, including members of the historical commission, mentioned their desire to see more people, and especially younger generations, take an interest in local history. The face-to-face community involvement represented at the meeting was praised.

One answer that comes to mind in recommending both, which also explains why so many people were hanging around the Gill town hall on such a cold winter night:

They got good stories.

NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD

Tax Rate Down One Cent; Bridge Project May Affect Gill

By GEORGE BRACE

Among other business at their January 21 meeting, Gill’s selectboard approved property tax rates for FY’20, accepted a grant for financial software, and discussed priorities for Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) local assistance project requests. Board member John Ward was unable to attend the meeting.

The board of assessors held a tax rate classification hearing as part of the meeting. They recommended a “single rate” of \$17.25 per \$1,000 of property value for FY’20 taxes, which the board approved. The rate was down \$0.01 from last year.

Upon questioning from the selectboard, the assessors explained that a “single rate” means all businesses and residents pay the same rate, as opposed to a “split rate” with separate tax rates for residents and businesses. Due to the small number of businesses in town, the board and the assessors felt it didn’t make sense to use two rates.

Records showed property values increased a bit over 3% last year, so the board noted that residents should not be surprised by a slightly higher tax bill, despite the slightly lower rate.

The town remained \$186,408 under the Proposition 2½ levy limit, down roughly \$1,000 from the previous year. That limit caps the amount of property taxes a town can collect without a special override vote.

The board received notice of the approval of a Community Compact Information Technology grant award to the town of \$25,124, earmarked for tax collection software and implementation. The new software will increase the efficiency and security of the town’s financial and tax collection software.

**Grant Priorities**

Town administrator Ray Purington presented recommendations for FRCOG District Local Technical Assistance proposals, selecting three as likely candidates for designation as top priorities.

The first of these involved an update to the town’s Open Space and Recreation Plan, which Purington said was started a couple of years ago, and might be finished by June if the proposal goes through.

Second was continued funding for assistance with large-scale utility projects. Purington said this would keep FRCOG involved in the FirstLight relicensing process. Asked whether he had heard any

news on the status of that process, he replied that it seemed to be in a holding pattern until all the studies required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission had been completed. He said he’d asked around, and that no one is even throwing out guesses as to when that might be.

The third choice of projects for likely prioritization was one to implement the recommendations of a sewer and water forum held last November, specifically creating a capital plan for the Riverside district, and an inflow and outflow study.

**Waste Streams**

Purington reported that the deadline for the new Massachusetts Recycling Facility (MRF) contract has been extended to February 28. He thanked Jan Ameen of the Franklin County Solid Waste District for her continuing work on the issue.

Board member Greg Snedeker also thanked Gill’s state representatives for being “hands on,” and very good about communicating on the subject.

The board, acting as sewer commissioners, approved a sewer commitment of \$44,428.42, which Purington said was in line with previous years.

**Other Business**

The selectboard also approved placing property FY’20 tax liens of \$11,670, approximately \$2,000 lower than last year.

Aaron Budine was appointed as a firefighter.

The board commented on an email from resident Steve Damon, whose son is looking for guidance in developing a project to clean streams in Gill this spring and summer. Board members said that it sounded like a great idea, and that they had some good ideas of people to talk with, which they would pass along.

The meeting closed with public service announcements.

The Massachusetts Department of Transportation will hold a “design public hearing” for the General Pierce Bridge rehabilitation at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, February 4 at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. Purington said he expected there would also be some discussion about modifications to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge area to account for increased traffic while that bridge is closed.

Bids close February 2 for the fire department’s surplus Fire Engine 3, being auctioned online at [www.auctionsinternational.com](http://www.auctionsinternational.com).

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**GERMANS** from page A1

They are threatened by the cheap food produced by cost-cutting industrialized agriculture and increased chemical use.

The demonstrators also reached out to new allies this year, inviting the Fridays for the Future student climate strike movement, and working for dialogue with a new farmers’ movement that, although more limited and conservative in its initial program, has brought many farmers to the streets in recent months in support of regional agriculture.

**First the Farms, Then the Villages**

Over the last 30 years, three-quarters of Germany’s insect population has disappeared, and many small farms have, too.

The two losses are related. As in the US, biodiversity suffers when prices and subsidies reward plowing every inch of ground for crops, destroying hedges and wild areas

crucial to insects, birds and small animals. But ecological farmers are not compensated for contributing to sustainability.

“First the farms die, then the villages,” reads a sign on one demonstrator’s tractor.

In the EU, the more land a producer has under cultivation, the greater the subsidy they receive. “We’ve Had Enough” demands a different agricultural policy: one supporting biodiversity and production of healthy food grown with fewer or no chemicals, less harmful fertilizers, and species-appropriate animal farming. It’s called the “Agrarwende,” or agricultural transition.

“In the past 10 years, arable land ownership has concentrated in the hands of few but larger agro-industries, causing the closure of over 100,000 farms in Germany,” reads the coalition’s Call to Action. “Enough! Public subsidies should

only be used to support farmers that protect the environment, climate and animal welfare.”

They are for fair global trade, global farmers’ rights, and rainforest protection, and against the proposed EU-Mercosur trade agreement (more on that below).

For years these groups have kept up strong and successful opposition to genetic engineering and the patenting of seeds. They also oppose the routine use of pesticides and artificial fertilizers, arguing that they contribute to the climate crisis and increase hunger.

**The Next Decade**

Several international speakers emphasized connections between agriculture and climate change. “We want to prevent the climate catastrophe,” said Polish activist Maria Staniszewska of the EU-wide Good Food Good Farming movement. “It affects the farmer first, then the consumer. We need a completely new agriculture... to save the planet. We must stop the death of small farms.”

“We are a movement of diversity against the industry that kills,” declared Indian writer and activist Vandana Shiva. She traced the agrochemical industry to IG Farben, which used chemicals to experiment on German concentration camp inmates.

As for the climate, Shiva said, “50 percent of greenhouse gases can be attributed to the agricultural industry and global trade in bad foods that are killing us.”

“The next decade will decide the future of humanity on this planet,” she continued. “The next great lie is having industrial food without farms. But we grow food with the living earth, and so we reverse species extinction and climate and environmental extinction... We must make every farm, every plate, and every body free of the poisons that kill us. Join the movement for a poison free planet by 2030! We give notice to the agro industry that billions of species and billions of people are stronger than a cartel of four

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
PROJECT FILE NO. 601186

A Design Public Hearing will be held by MassDOT to discuss the proposed **Greenfield-Montague - Bridge Rehabilitation, Br. G-12-020=M-28-001, Montague City Road over Connecticut River** project in Greenfield-Montague, MA.

**WHERE:** Shea Theater Arts Center, 71 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376  
**WHEN:** Tuesday, February 4th, 2020 @ 6:00 PM  
(Snow date: Thursday Feb. 6th, 2020 at 6PM at TFHS, 222 Turnpike Rd, Montague, MA 01351)

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed **Greenfield-Montague Br. G-12-020=M-28-001 - General Pierce Bridge Rehabilitation** project. All views and comments made at the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The purpose of this project is to rehabilitate the existing structurally deficient bridge and improve the condition for service and public safety. The proposed project consists of the rehabilitation of the General Pierce Bridge carrying Montague City Road over the Connecticut River between Greenfield and Montague, MA. The project consists primarily of deck replacement, various steel member replacements, isolated steel repairs, and utility additions. The proposed roadway alignment and profile will be similar to the existing conditions. The intersection in Gill of Route 2, Main Road, and Avenue A will be modified to better handle additional traffic when the bridge will be closed during construction and detour will be in place. No right-of-way is necessary for this project.

Written views received by MassDOT subsequent to the date of this notice and up to five (5) days prior to the date of the hearing shall be displayed for public inspection and copying at the time and date listed above. Plans will be on display one-half hour before the hearing begins, with an engineer in attendance to answer questions regarding this project. A project handout will be made available on the MassDOT website listed below. Written statements and other exhibits in place of, or in addition to, oral statements made at the Public Hearing regarding the proposed undertaking are to be submitted to Patricia A. Leavenworth, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Bridge Project Management**, Project File No. 601186. Such submissions will also be accepted at the hearing. Mailed statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be postmarked no later than ten (10) business days after this Public Hearing. Project inquiries may be emailed to [dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us](mailto:dot.feedback.highway@state.ma.us)

This location is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (including but not limited to interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, open or closed captioning for videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats, such as audio tapes, Braille and large print), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT’s Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), fax (857-368-0602), TTD/TTY (857-368-0603) or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten (10) business days before the meeting.

In case of inclement weather, hearing cancellation/delay announcements will be posted on the internet at <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>

**JONATHAN GULLIVER**  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

**PATRICIA A. LEAVENWORTH, P.E.**  
CHIEF ENGINEER



*This 1957 tractor was the oldest in the demonstration.*

**COOP** from page A1

last fall that the coop was more than \$200,000 in debt, donations to the store have mostly gone toward paying credit cards, vendor invoices, and payroll taxes. As of Wednesday evening, an online fundraiser has reached half of its \$25,000 goal.

“The payroll tax was a huge hit,” explained current board member Julie Shively during the financial report. “The problem is that we haven’t been able to stock the shelves, and that’s obviously the biggest thing that needs to be done.”

Shively, one of the coop’s founding members, is on the ballot for reelection this week along with two other current board members, Sam Lovejoy and Tim McNerney, and seven new nominees. Eight seats are available for the ten candidates.

**Bridging The Gap**

The board held a string of open meetings last October and November to discuss finances, brainstorm fundraising ideas, and solicit member feedback.

However, tensions emerged over how decisions were being made. Coop members Tom Wolff, Danielle Barshak, and Ann Ferguson brought their concerns to the board on November 19 in the form of a letter petitioning for a special member meeting. On December 3, coop members proposed and voted on ideas for the coop to prioritize moving forward.

On Wednesday night, a group led by Ferguson, Ellen Edge, and Kari Ridge distributed the first issue of a newsletter, “Co-operative Voices,” featuring member perspectives.

It included an open letter from board member Jono Neiger criticizing a proposal to sell the coop’s assets to a holding company. “I am concerned that this would amount to a dissolution of the business as a co-op,” he wrote.

But that proposal was not discussed on Wednesday. Instead, the board leadership focused on plans to borrow money, with the aim of securing a USDA-backed loan within the next 18 months.

The store also plans to switch to a new electric supplier in February and save on utility costs by turning off old refrigerators. Store manager Ann Walsh said a survey would be sent out to coop members soon, polling their shopping preferences in order to restock the shelves based on customers’ needs – “everything from seaweed to cigarettes,” read an old tagline shown on one slide.

“Marketing is the key to our future success,” said Lynton. Restocking the shelves is estimated to cost \$40,000.

Neiger suggested appointing a task force of outside experts to improve operations, explaining that he felt the coop suffered from “a lack of transparency and accountability in a clear plan.”

“This is a proposal to bring in some real expertise,” he said.

**Stump Speeches**

Following the financial report, candidates for the board gave short speeches addressing their motivations and qualifications for a leadership spot. Of the seven current members of the board, only Lynton, Pat Fiero, and Neiger’s terms will continue through 2020.

First to speak at Wednesday’s meeting were the members up for re-nomination, beginning with Tim McNerney, who has done repair work for the coop and volunteers two days a week so that store manager Ann Walsh can have a day off.

“Why do you want to serve on the coop board?” McNerney read from the set of questions addressed to all nominees. “I don’t,” he responded candidly, “but I’ll do what needs to be done.”

Next up was Lovejoy, who said he has shopped at the coop since 1993 and volunteered in the past few months since learning of its financial crisis.

Following him was Shively, who highlighted her background in business, and professed her long-standing dedication to the coop since its founding days of her “picking up apples and cider” in the late ‘70s.

Jeff Lacey from Shutesbury made his case. A local small business owner and good friend of former store manager Paul Rosenberg, Lacey, a coop member for about 30 years, said he would bring ten years of experience as a treasurer.

The fifth candidate was Lise Coppinger, a member since the ‘80s who has helped with coop events and the permaculture garden. “As a local builder, I have connections,” said Coppinger, who added that the businesses she has run have “never been in the red.”

Next was Lorilyn Hoffer, small business owner who lives a half mile from the coop and has done a lot of *pro bono* work over the years.

“The coop is in desperate need of sound decision-making,” followed nominee Ju-

lio Mendez, who said that with a position on the board, he would make sure to come away from each meeting thinking “we did something, not just set up another meeting.” Mendez runs two non-profits and said he supports the coop with his dollars, even if what he likes is not in stock. “\$30 honey? I’ll take it!” he said with a shrug, adding that refilling the shelves is his first priority.

The next candidate to speak was Karen Traub, who identified herself as a self-employed belly dancer and acupuncturist. “I believe in coops,” said Traub, who has served on various committees and boards, including the fundraising committee for the Shutesbury library.

North Leverett resident Martin Pittman followed. “We would feel a lot further from civilization if it weren’t for the coop,” joked Pittman, who said he works in international development and has a background in project management and recruitment.

Concluding the annual meeting was Jean Bergstrom, who started by stating her recognition that the coop is indeed in a state of emergency. One of the first 100 members, Bergstrom was involved in getting the coop built, and said she has loved going to the coop for the last 35 years. Bergstrom emphasized that she is “affable, approachable, and a good listener.”

Though some members cast votes on Wednesday night, voting will continue for the next week via a ballot box at the store register. Each member account is given one ballot, and each ballot allows for up to eight nominees.

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NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE TOWN CLERK

Voter Registration Deadline

Wednesday, February 12 is the last day to register to vote or to change your party affiliation for the March 3 Presidential Primary. Registration will be held at the Town Clerk’s Office for all Montague residents who will be 18 years old on or before March 3, 2020. Office hours will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registered voters who belong to any one of the four parties, Republican, Democrat, Green-Rainbow or

Libertarian, must vote their party affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters and voters registered as a political designation can choose any one of the four party ballots. The Town Clerk’s office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information call 863-3200 x. 203 or email [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov). Register online at [www.RegisterToVoteMA.com](http://www.RegisterToVoteMA.com).

Absentee Ballots Available

Absentee ballots are now available at the Town Clerk’s Office for the March 3 Presidential Primary. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is noon on Monday, March 2. All absentee ballots must be returned to the Town Clerk’s Office by the close of the polls on March 3. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Registered voters who belong to any one of the four parties, Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or Green-Rainbow must vote their par-

ty affiliation. Unenrolled registered voters and voters registered as a Political Designation may choose any one of the four party ballots. The last day to register to vote or to change your party affiliation is Wednesday, February 12; therefore, the town clerk’s office will be open from 8:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. The Town Clerk’s Office is located at the Town Hall, One Avenue A, Turners Falls. For more information, call 863-3200 x. 203 or email [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov).

Nomination Papers Available

Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election, Monday, May 18 are now available at the Town Clerk’s office until Thursday, March 26. They must be returned no later than Monday, March 30 by 5 p.m. Potential townwide offices need to obtain 37 signatures of registered voters from the “town at large” to be placed on the ballot. Potential town meeting members need to obtain 10 signatures from registered voters of their “home precinct” to be placed on the ballot. Offices are as follows:

- Selectman, Assessor, Board of Health, and Parks & Recreation all have one seat open, each for a 3-year term.
- Library Trustees have three seats open, each for a 3-year term .
- The Montague Housing Authority has one seat open for a 5-year term.

- Soldiers’ Memorial Trustees have two seats open, veteran and non-veteran, each for a 3-year term.
- Town Meeting Members are needed for all six precincts.

The annual town election will be held on Monday, May 18, 2020. The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. The deadline to register to vote is Tuesday, April 28. Nomination papers regarding school committee seats are provided by the Gill-Montague Superintendent of Schools at 35 Crocker Avenue, 863-9324. The Town Clerk’s office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesday 8:30 am to 6:30 p.m. Town Hall is closed on Fridays. For more information, please call the office at 863-3200 x. 203, or email at [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov).

2020 Dog Licenses

Montague dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk’s Office. All dogs 6 months and older must be licensed and tagged each year. A license for a neutered or spayed dog is \$5. A license for an unaltered dog is \$10. The clerk’s office requires proof of rabies vaccination and also requires proof of spaying or neutering unless already previously provided. There is a late fee of \$20 after Thursday, May 28. If you no longer have your dog, let the town clerk

know by calling 863-3200, x. 203, or [townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov). License renewals may be obtained through the town’s website, [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov), only if your dog’s rabies vaccination that was used for last year’s registration has not yet expired. The Town Clerk’s Office is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Wednesdays 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 pm. Town Hall is closed on Fridays.

Annual Town Census

Did you get your annual census/street list form? Montague’s 2020 Annual Town Census/Street List forms were mailed out Friday, January 17. Census responses are used as proof of residency to protect voter rights, veterans’ bonus, to assist the Council on Aging with service projections and to assist the School with enrollment information and projections. Population figures are also used by the state in calculating state and federal aid monies to the town. If you are a registered voter and do not respond to the census, the Board

of Registrars is required by law to move you to the “Inactive Voter” list and you risk being removed from the voter registration rolls. Please help us make the Annual Town Census as complete and accurate as possible. If you didn’t receive a form you can download one from the Town website [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov) or call the Town Clerk’s Office at (413) 863-3200 x. 203 and we will send out a blank form. Please fill in information for all household members and mail the completed form to the Town Clerk’s Office at One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

SPORTS from page A1

In the girls’ meet, Turners fielded a full six-women squad, while Palmer again filled the lanes. Despite the number disparity, the meet was tight from the first race to the finale. Blue won the 200 medley relay opener, but Palmer stole an additional point because they had two teams competing. Palmer won the 200 free, and Turners forfeited the 200 individual medley. Olivia Whittier and Hannah Marchefka scored first and third in the 50 freestyle, Jade Tyler won the 100 butterfly, Allison Wheeler and Gracie Rosenberg won points in the 100 freestyle, and Hannah Dziedzic took second in the grueling 500 free. The score was 33-23 going into the 200 free relay. Turners again won the relay, but could only make up 2 points because Palmer got off a second-and-third finish. Tyler and Whittier finished first and second in the 100 backstroke, and Whittier took gold in the 100 breaststroke to make the match 42-40 with one event to go. But there was no one left for Coach Colin Machat to send in for that 400 freestyle relay. Palmer sent eight ladies into the pool and swept it 9-0, taking the meet 51-40.

Cheer

The Turners Falls cheer squad has a few new cheers for the winter season, and has their own fan base. You may remember those soaking wet girls in an ice rain, revving up the crowd at one of the football games, but on the parquet it’s a different story. One of their new routines involves throwing a girl way up above her teammates’ outstretched hands, only to land a second later in their arms. At the Smith Academy Basketball game, a fan remarked that she should try dunking. The cheer squad begins their own season in February. They practice or perform five days a week, like other teams, but theirs is the only sport lasting two consecutive seasons. They have a tournament at Chicopee High on February 9, compete in Hadley on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and head down to Holyoke on the 29<sup>th</sup>. These competitions are a mix of Little Miss Sunshine and Wrestlemania, and there’s plenty of dancing. They keep the sound system on during intermission, and all the girls and some of their family members just dance – toddlers, high school students, parents, and grandparents join in the fray. And even though the squads are in competition, for whatever reason, they’re the most supportive competitors of any sport I’ve been to.

Girls Basketball

*TFHS 45 – Mohawk 36*  
*Hopkins 47 – TFHS 25*  
After an 0-and-7 start, the Thunder Ladies of Turners Falls have gone 3-and-4. Two of those four losses Blue felt they could have won. Last Wednesday they got their revenge on one of those teams, the Mohawk Golden Warriors. Powertown kept control throughout the first half, poured it on in the third, and coasted through the final period to win 45-36. Turners does not rely on the long shot, only hitting one 3-pointer in this game, and only making two free throws. The other 40 points came off old-fashioned 2-point hoops. Blue was patient: the guards would advance the ball and hit an open lady on the perimeter, then work it around until a player had an open shot.

In this game, the open player was Kendra Campbell, who lit up the scoreboard with 14 points. Lily Spera hit three baskets and a free throw for 7 points, Hailey Bogusz, Steph Peterson and Taylor Greene all scored 6, Lindsay Whiteman put up 4, and Eliza Johnson topped it off with 2. Turners returned home last Thursday to face the Golden Hawks of Hopkins Academy. The Hawks came into this game with only two losses, and Turners came in a little undermanned: center Dabney Rollins has been out on IR, and Campbell was on the bench in plain clothes. Peterson did the tip-off, while Spera and Bogusz worked the boards. The 47-25 final score was not an indication of the ferocity of the play. The first quarter was a physical, defensive battle, ending with three different Thunder ladies committing fouls. Powertown gave as good as they got in the second quarter, and at midway, the score was 18-17 Gold. But the third quarter decided the game. The Birds pumped out 14 points, holding Blue to just one field goal, and transforming the game into a 33-19 rout. Powertown scored the first bucket of the fourth, but then proceeded to commit three straight fouls. Hopkins never let up, and took the game 47-25.

*FCTS 36 – Pathfinder 20*  
*FCTS 36 – Renaissance School 22*  
Franklin Tech instituted their custom full-court press in their January 17 game against Pathfinder. This defense causes turnovers in the enemy’s back court. Jocelyn Crowningshield, in particular, was in the right place at the right time, and made the Path pay: if a Pathfinder was trying to make a pass, an Eagle would swoop in and double-team her. The problem with the FCP is that there’s always a chance of a fast break, leading to a lone Eagle fending off two or three opponents. But the press worked well enough to keep the Path out of the paint and off the board last Friday. The Lady Birds led 20-7 at the break, when I left to catch the second half the TFHS-Smith game. Tech mounted an incredible 32-9 lead in the third, and in the fourth, Joe Gamache cleared his bench, and the Pioneers ended up with the respectable 32-20 loss. Crowningshield had another stellar night with 14 points and 4 steals, and the rest of the flock had workmanlike nights: Jordan Hurlbert (6), Desiree Doane and Isabelle Duga (5 each), Gemanaia Cruz (4), and Emily Ryan (2). The Eagles went to Springfield on Tuesday, and beat the Renaissance School of Science and Technology 56-22. The first half was relatively close, as Franklin held a 24-14 lead at the half, but the Eagles pummeled the Scientists 19-2 in the third and coasted to the 56-22 final score. Tech again scored by committee, with three Eagles (Duga, Crowningshield, and Cruz) hitting double figures. The two victories extend Tech’s win streak to four, and give them a 9–2 record.

**Boys Basketball**  
*FCTS 62 – Hampden 59*  
The Hampden Charter School of Science came into last Thursday’s game with a 6-1 record, while Tech sported a 6-4 tally. This was a seesaw game, with Tech leading by 5 a quarter of play and Hampden leading 30-26 at the half.

The third looked bleak for the Eagles, and they went into the final stanza trailing 50-43. But Tech came off the ropes and scored a flurry of points to steal the game 62-59. Two Tech players netted 46 points against the charter school: Bailey Young (25) and Garrett Cole (21). Other Eagles in the fray were Justin Littlewood (7), Ryan Bergmann (5), and Noah Ausikitis and Hunter Wozniak (2). Winning the close ones and coming from behind is an indication of a team that doesn’t give up. The victory gives Tech a 7–4.

*TFHS 57 – Mahar 44*  
*TFHS 54 – Smith Academy 40*  
*TFHS 58 – Mohawk 51*  
Across town, the Turners Falls Boys were trying to fend off elimination. “All the games are winnable,” Ant Peterson said to me during the Hopkins-Turners girls’ game, responding to my comment that the Boys can still make the playoffs. We went over the schedule, and I agree: Turners has a chance to beat any team they go against. And this week, they went 3–0. Powertown halted a five-game skid last Wednesday, by beating Mahar 57-44. Turners set the pace early, going up 19-8 after a quarter and 31-16 at the half. Mahar made a third-quarter run to pull within 44-34, but Blue outscored them and ended with a 13-point victory. Unlike Tony “The Ant” Spilotro, Joe Pesci’s character in *Casino*, Anthony “Ant” Peterson is not a little guy, and he proved it against the Senate, led Blue with 24 points and pulling down 16 rebounds. The other producers were Chace Novak (17), Marcus Sanders (7), Jaden Whiting (4), Brendan Driscoll (3), and Liam Driscoll (2). Blue made it two in a row last Friday, defeating Smith 54-40. When I got to the game Powertown was down 22-20, but they slowly chipped away, and going into the fourth it was tied at 33. The game remained tight until the last three minutes. Leading 43-40 with 2:56 left, Powertown hit the rockets, and soared to a 14-point victory. The Boys in Blue traveled up the trail to take on the Mohawk Warriors on Tuesday. This was not supposed to be this close: Mohawk barely beat Franklin Tech, while Turners scored 81 points against them. But on any given Sunday or Tuesday, any team can beat any other. Turners got out to a decent enough 17-8 lead after a quarter, but a defensive second quarter left it 20-16. Blue edged ahead 39-31 in the third, and Mohawk made up a point in the fourth for the final score 58-51. So: will Big Blue make the playoffs? Yes. I haven’t read this year’s MIAA rules, but one of my sources said Turners only has to win six games to qualify, and they already have five. They cross the river this Thursday to take on the Green Wave. Speaking of the MIAA, they’re voting whether to eliminate regional playoffs, which will certainly be interesting if it passes. Turners Falls may have to travel to Nantucket in the first round, while a team from Martha’s Vineyard may need to visit Tech. But that’s all projection at this point. For now, area teams are more interested in making the playoffs, and securing the best seed possible.

Next week:  
Chasing the seed.



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**LEVERETT** from page A1

recyclables anticipated under the new contract between the Franklin County Solid Waste District and the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Springfield. “Recycling is going to be going up by about \$6,000,” Herda said, at an additional \$93 per load hauled to the MRF.

Leverett, however, has an advantage over many area towns on the issue. Its high volume of recycling earned the town about \$6,300 during FY’20 through the state’s merit-based Recycling Dividends Program (RDP), earmarked for recycling-related expenses. Herda said that due to recent changes in the program, RDP funds can be used to subsidize recycling hauling.

The transfer station has also been operating in the black, taking in about \$3,000 annually above expenses and passing the profit into the town’s general budget. Shutesbury residents pay when they drop off bulky waste in Leverett, and the town also earns money selling compostable waste to Martin’s Farm in Greenfield. Highway superintendent Matt Boucher offered to look into saving on the cost of hauling compost, currently set at \$1,140 in the budget, by using his department’s staff and trucks.

But Herda, it turned out, would not escape the hearing so easily. “Um, do we have a new compactor yet?” capital planning member Ricky Roberts asked from the audience.

In April 2018, town meeting voted to appropriate \$15,500 to purchase a new trash compactor.

“It’s not enough,” Herda explained. “We could not purchase the compactor with the money we have – I tried.” She said the machine has already been repaired once for around \$300. “It’s a workhorse, but when it gives out we’re going to need to move on it,” she added.

This kicked off a circular debate as to whether the department should replace the machine before this spring’s town meeting can approve the additional funds – and whether a purchase that has already been delayed for nearly two years can be considered an “emergency.”

A vendor has offered to allow the town to pay for a new compactor on an installment plan. “If we had to, we could give him what we have, and then pay off the rest over the following year,” Herda suggested.

Selectboard chair Peter d’Errico said the purchase could be made from the town’s capital fund, but town coordinator Marjorie McGinnis disagreed. “You need an appropriation,” she said. “You can’t buy something you don’t have all the money for.”

“For a few thousand dollars, it seems like it’s a safety issue,” Roberts argued. “I don’t think we should keep waiting.”

“If the thing broke and you had to replace it, I think you could do a reserve transfer,” McGinnis said, “but you’re not in that circumstance.”

“We approved it [in 2018] because it was a safety problem,” said Roberts.

In the end, selectboard member Julie Shively brokered a compromise: Herda should get an exact quote, take the vendor up on his offer of a payment plan, and officially plan to pull the remainder out of other lines in the station’s budget if additional funds are voted down at town meeting. All parties agreed this was the most legal and prudent course of action.

#### Library and Highway

In order to qualify for State Aid to Public Libraries, a town must fund its library 2.5% more than the average of the previous three years’ budgets, a sum known in the library world as the Municipal Appropriation Requirement (MAR). Leverett Library director Natane Halasz said that the town’s MAR for FY’21 is \$83,371.

There is a further stipulation that 19.5% of the MAR, or \$16,257, be spent on direct patron uses, a line indicated as “Materials” on the worksheet Halasz shared with the selectboard.

D’Errico asked Halasz where she would squeeze costs, given that her department’s total growth, including library building expenses, was predicted to come in over 1%.

Halasz said she would reduce her electricity budget from a 10% to an 8% increase, “and hop[e] for the best.”

Highway superintendent Matt Boucher, who started on the job in mid-October, delighted the selectboard by turning in a strict 1% growth budget. To balance the budget, he eliminated his own \$650 cell phone stipend.

Boucher said he was in touch with Franklin County Technical School about hiring a coop student. “It’s a great learning experience for the kids,” he said. “I did it when I was there as a student.” The board gave him the go-ahead to make arrangements.

Having hired new staff, Boucher asked if there was a policy about the department paying for boots and other work clothes during the six-month probationary period. After some discussion, the board recommended he have hires sign an agreement to repay the cost of any such purchases if they leave before they reach the half-year milestone.

The board and finance committee members praised Boucher’s crew for their response during the most recent snowstorm. “Everybody’s working together great,” Boucher said. “Good attitudes – they both like staying busy; there’s no sitting around in the office.”

“That’s a huge change,” d’Errico replied. “Pass on to them the good news that we’re hearing.”

“We’re getting a lot of positive feedback,” Shively concurred.

#### Hot Plume

The selectboard discussed the latest developments on Teawaddle Hill, where a plume of toxic groundwater seeping from a town-owned landfill has created perennial and protracted issues. Member Tom

Hankinson reported on the failure of a study by engineering firm Wilcox & Barton to test affected residents’ wells at various depths in search of non-contaminated water.

While the firm had hoped to test a number of wells, it was only granted access to the one belonging to Virginia Goodale. Goodale’s well produces very little water, though, and engineers were only able to isolate one water-bearing fracture productive enough to test. The single sample came in positive for volatile organic chemicals (VOCs), as well as iron and manganese, which may be what is clogging the well.

“My recommendation is that we end [the study],” Hankinson said.

Board of health chair Michael Fair came to the meeting with separate concern about the same well.

The town provides bottled water for drinking on the property, and pays for an activated-carbon treatment system to remove contaminants from the wellwater. But Goodale runs a home daycare center, and the state Department of Early Education and Care became concerned after the environmental consultants tasked with maintaining the carbon filters reported a positive *E. coli* test.

“How did this *E. coli* happen?” d’Errico asked.

“They tried to get water from another source,” Fair replied. “That stream has an active population of beaver upstream.”

“In my sense, that’s not the town’s responsibility,” said Shively. “It was never our idea, or recommendation, to hook up to a stream for water.”

“The clogged well came first,” said Goodale. “In all fairness, we never tested [the well] for *E. coli*.”

“We don’t actually know where the *E. coli* came from,” Hankinson said, diplomatically. “We can only assume where it might have come from.”

While the traditional remedy is to flush a house’s plumbing and water tanks with a bleach solution, the weak well does not produce a sufficient flow for the job. Further complicating the matter, the sanitization must be timed to correspond with the biannual replacement of the carbon filters at the end of this month. Paying ATC Group Services, the consultants who maintain the filters, to sanitize the plumbing could cost the town over \$2,000.

Fair and the board brainstormed a cheaper solution. “All you need is a big container of water,” Hankinson pointed out.

“We only have this one chance,” Fair warned. “Otherwise it’s a \$4,400 bill to exchange the filters.” He agreed to reach out to a local well driller to secure the water for the operation.

Finally, the board returned to the topic of a long-term solution to the groundwater issue. D’Errico reported that the town of Amherst was not currently interested in helping build a drinking water pipeline across the towns’ border. “They’ve got their hands full with capital projects, and they just threw up their hands,” he said.

#### Other Business

The selectboard met with Tim Haas of Haas Networks, who set up the firewall for the town-owned broadband network, to discuss replacing the phone system at town buildings with a voice-over internet protocol (VOIP) system.

Haas warned that including the Leverett Elementary School in the network would make the project much more complicated.

The elementary school administrative union, Union 28, is recovering from a hacking attack, and plans to assess the town \$13,000 to install new security measures. “Leverett has the capacity – we could run Union

28’s IT,” d’Errico said. “We could run Franklin County’s IT.”

“Other towns are years and years behind where Leverett is,” Haas agreed.

The \$25,000 bill for the town’s accounting services through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments is likely to rise by 21% next year. The selectboard complained, but agreed it would still be cheaper than hiring a town accountant.

The board signed a new contract with Colonial Energy for its service in providing the town with electricity aggregation. The renewal will not affect electricity rates.



## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was January 21, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### Erving: Strategy for A New Senior Center

Members of Erving’s senior center committee met with project manager Bruce Hunter, of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority, and town administrative assistant Tom Sharp to discuss options for going forward with a new senior center.

Last June, Erving voters rejected the plan for a 7,000 square foot, \$2.3 million senior center to be located just north of the Erving Elementary School on town owned land. The proposal failed in a close vote, falling four votes shy of the two-thirds majority that was required to finance the new building. The senior center committee is now attempting to find a way to place a somewhat scaled back proposal before the voters at a town meeting to be held in May.

At the meeting, the committee discussed two main options. The first would be to completely redesign a new senior center from the ground up. The second option would be to modify the existing plan, cutting costs where possible to bring the project in at a lower budget. The committee considered neither of these options desirable. The present strategy, as Sharp put it, is to hope the current economic slump will result in “a reduced price in construction.”

### The Rogue Editor: Ain’t She “Tweet”

Last month, Lake Superior State University released its annual “List of Words to Be Banished from the Queen’s English for Misuse, Overuse and General Uselessness.”

A significant number of the words on the list pertain to social media. One was the use of “friend” as a verb, meaning “to add a link via a social networking site,” as in “I friended several

of my classmates on Facebook.” Another notable member of the list was “tweet,” referring to a brief message or notice posted on Twitter, or a verb meaning to send such a message, as in: “She tweeted that she enjoyed the movie.”

Although I do not maintain a Twitter account, I don’t think the act of tweeting is going away any time soon, which means the word isn’t likely to, either. Both “Twitter” and “tweet” are proprietary names, just like “Google,” and their staying power may hinge on just how long the service itself stays solvent.

If popularity is an indicator, I suspect that “tweet” will remain part of our language for a long time, to the point where we are as comfortable with tweeting as we are now with Googling.


### Massachusetts Turns Purple

On Tuesday, in an election that riveted the nation and divided the Commonwealth in electoral fault lines from west to east, city to suburb, Scott Brown, a Republican state senator hitherto best known outside his Wrentham district for posing nude in the centerfold of *Cosmopolitan*, handily defeated attorney general Martha Coakley to topple the Democrats’ dynasty on statewide office and inject a shade of crimson into the bluest of blue states.

Statewide, with nearly 54% of registered voters turning out, Brown pulled in 52% of the vote to Coakley’s 47%, and Libertarian Joseph “no relation” Kennedy brought up the rear with 1%.

Still, if the election could have been limited to Western Mass, Coakley would have breezed to victory without getting her shoes muddy. She took Springfield handily, cleaned Brown’s clock in her native Berkshire County, and racked up large margins in Hampshire County towns like Northampton, Hadley, and Amherst, where she pulled down 84% of the vote.

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**BUILDING** from page A1

has been deeply involved with the project since its inception, assured us that the size and cost of the project is well within the typical range for towns of Montague’s size. He was quick to list the cost and scope of comparable projects.

But walking through the building’s huge steel skeleton on a very cold winter day is, without doubt, an “Oh Wow!” moment. DPW superintendent Tom Bergeron estimates that the current facility occupies 10,000 square feet, while the new one is approximately 28,000.

Once the space is enclosed, the structure might not seem quite as imposing. Long metal sheets with insulation attached for the walls and roof – six inches thick for the roof, four inches for the walls – lie stacked in the snow next to the building. According to Morin and Whittaker, they will be attached once the door framing is complete, probably in the next few weeks.

Next comes the heating system, including radiant heat for the storage and repair rooms, the plumbing and electrical systems, and the concrete floor.

A variety of subcontractors will be hired to complete these tasks. As our tour ended, ironworkers returned from their morning coffee break to continue working on the frames for the building’s massive doors. Whittaker estimated that as many as 20 companies may be involved before the project is finished.

Crews will also significantly grade trenches around the facility



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

*The building, soon to receive its roof and walls, may be in use as early as next winter.*

and the entrance to its gigantic salt shed, which has already been constructed on the southwest corner of the site and is being used to stage equipment for the job.

The design of the new fueling station, which was recently added to the scope of the project, has not been completed, but according to Bergeron, there are few other “question marks” left at this point.

**Opening Up Space**

After the building is complete in late summer, all the equipment currently in the old DPW building and behind town hall will have to be moved to Turners Falls Road. This might take several months “while we do all our regular work,” Bergeron told the *Reporter*. But, he said, there is a solid chance the facility will be fully operational by next winter.

The town will then have to decide what to do with the buildings the DPW vacates. Montague has requested that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments assist in implementing an initial “historical assessment” for potential hazardous materials at the old garage.

Town administrator Steve Ellis has expressed optimism that the building can be marketed to a pri-

vate developer.

Ellis has also said the town hopes to repurpose the portion of the “town hall annex” which the DPW now occupies, and plans to remove the storage building behind it.

**A Long Time Coming**

Town officials have been discussing the need for a new highway garage for several decades, but other projects – including the renovation of Turners Falls High School and a new police station – came first. The project then had to compete with other capital needs, such as a new senior center and new library, both of which are deemed to be located in archaic facilities.

The town created a committee to conduct a feasibility study for a new DPW garage in 2015, but the Proposition 2½ debt exclusion vote to fund the project was not held until May 2018. The planning committee, which oversaw design and bidding, was finally renamed the “building committee,” with Morin appointed as chair. It meets once every month, and the minutes of those meetings are available to the public on the town website.

It has been a long haul for Montague’s public works department, which has operated for years out of a building many believe does not conform to contemporary health and safety codes. One can understand the enthusiasm generated in some quarters by the sight of those cold steel girders, rising up from the snow on a frigid January morning.



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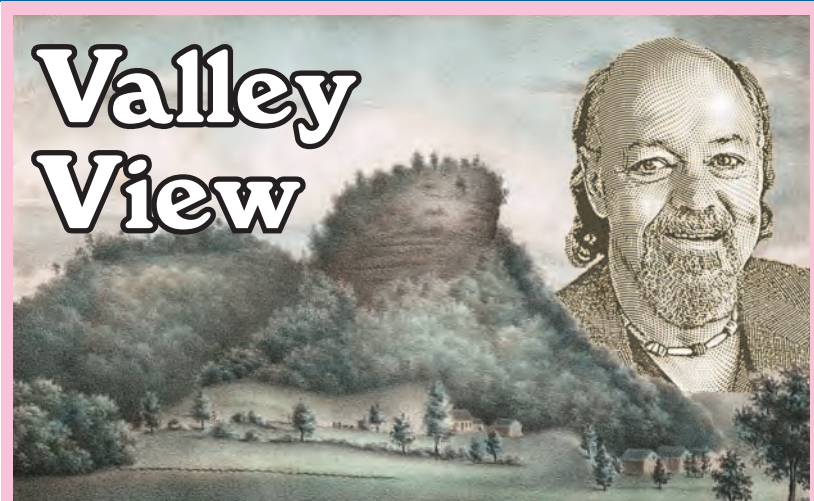


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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER JANUARY 23, 2020



By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Back to the ancient mastodon tooth recovered nearly 150 years ago in a Colrain “muck bed” two miles up the hill from my upper Greenfield Meadows home and discussed in my last column. New information worth sharing has since come to light.

To me, a retired newspaperman, it made sense all along that Elias Bardwell’s December 2, 1871 discovery of this 1.5-pound proboscidean molar on his East Colrain Road farm would have made the local newspaper. Yet I couldn’t connect online despite several name-, topic-, and site-specific keyword searches. At that point, I decided it wasn’t worth a chase to tedious library microfilm.

Well, as it turned out, I didn’t need microfilm. *Reporter* editor Mike Jackson came to the rescue. The young man’s innate curiosity and laudable perseverance struck online gold in cumbersome, unindexed Greenfield *Gazette and Courier* archives. Jackson knew of a multi-newspaper online archive to search and, sure enough, found precisely what he was looking for: the fresh Colrain tooth tale. After more than 40 years in the newspaper business, I cannot overstate what a luxury it is to submit copy to such an engaged, diligent editor.

So, yes, there it was, buried in this obscure yet very useful online newspaper repository, including the *Gazette and Courier* – a four-page weekly broadsheet covering Franklin County in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. On Page 2 of the Greenfield paper’s December 11, 1871 issue, a little blurb about Bardwell’s discovery headlined “Big Tooth” looks more like a contemporary classified ad for cord wood than a news story. Though brief and speculative, the report provides key, previously elusive information about Bardwell’s find – contextual stuff like the precise date (December 2, 1871), why he was digging (to fertilize cropland with organic marsh muck), and what exactly was meant by “muck bed” (swamp) in 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular.

Most interesting is the rapid sequence of published reports citing Bardwell’s find, then expert intervention. First, the December 11 newspaper story understandably misidentifies the tooth as “three united teeth that must have belonged to a species of animals long

since extinct.” Can we really expect an 1871 local newspaper to know anything about mastodon teeth? Unlikely. A quick trip through the eBay market of mastodon teeth clearly illustrates how someone who knew nothing about Columbian mastodons could believe a single, six-peaked tooth was three. Plus, the *Gazette and Courier* report admits uncertainty by closing with the suggestion that the peculiar, large molar be “sent somewhere for scientific inspection” and, presumably, positive identification.

Someone at the paper likely recommended tooth inspection by Amherst College professor Dr. Edward Hitchcock Jr., an expert with deep Deerfield roots. He’d likely know what he was viewing. Hitchcock was a scholar of Ice Age beasts and would have been the contemporaneous authority on Connecticut Valley prehistory, paleontology, and geology.

It didn’t take long for a Hitchcock assessment – less than a month, in fact, in a time before motor vehicles, when a winter trip between Colrain and Amherst could be a daunting task. We know it all happened fast because the *Gazette and Courier* published a follow-up less than a month later, on January 8, 1872, under a small, bold “Colrain” headline. This brief account corrects the record with Hitchcock’s identification as not three but one tooth – “a grinder” from the mouth of a “veritable mastodon.”

Just four days later, on January 12, 1872, Hitchcock wrote a letter reporting Bardwell’s discovery to the editors of the *American Journal of Science: Scientific Intelligence, Geology and Natural Science*, documenting the tooth for posterity in a respected national periodical.

That 1872 *Journal of Science* reference is what alerted Amherst archaeologist Stuart Fiedel and South Deerfield sidekick Bud Driver to the Colrain tooth, perhaps only a tiny piece of the ancient mastodon remains at the site. Because the Bardwell tooth seems now to have disappeared or, at the least, lost its site association, the men would like to find associated skeletal remains from which to get a radiocarbon date. The date would allow them to plug the Colrain find into a sparse western Massachusetts database that includes two other sites, one in South Egremont, the other Northborough.

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

Above: Winterberry brings a dash of color to the entrance of the Great Falls Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

# ArtBeat

by Trish Crapo

## Complex, Astonishing “Refractions”

**NORTHAMPTON** – He stands with his eyes closed, arms resting without tension along his sides. He’s a black man wearing a conservative blue business suit, white shirt, and orange tie. He exudes both strength and calm as he stands with quiet intention against the light blue background. But then, the most curious thing – coils of hair unspool from his head and snake across and beyond the edges of the canvas like dark smoke, or ink spreading on the surface of water.

Is he dreaming this hair? Willing it into being? Is he transforming himself through a deliberate act of consciousness? Or waiting patiently, knowingly, while some other force transforms him?

*Conspicuous Fraud Series #1 (Eminence)*, painted in 2001 by Kehinde Wiley, the New York-based artist that Barack Obama commissioned to paint his presidential portrait in 2018, is a large canvas, 72.5 by 72.5 inches. To stand in front of it is to be confronted with a profound mystery. I don’t know the answers to the questions it poses. I’m not even sure of some of the questions. But I found myself imagining the moment when the subject’s eyes might open, a moment sure to unleash tremendous power.

This formidable, enigmatic painting is just one of nearly 100 works in many media that comprise the exhibition “Black Refractions: Highlights from The Studio Museum in Harlem,” on view at the Smith College Museum of Art now through April 12.

The exhibition, organized by the American Federation of Arts and The Studio Museum in Harlem, includes work by nearly 80 artists working from the 1920s to the present, and is the largest traveling collection in the Studio Museum’s history. The Studio Museum itself, at 144 West 125th Street in New York City, is closed for major renovations during the exhibition’s tour. “Black



Kehinde Wiley, *Conspicuous Fraud Series #1 (Eminence)*, 2001. Oil on canvas, 72.5” x 72.5”. The Studio Museum in Harlem; Museum purchase made possible by a gift from Anne Ebrekrantz, 10/14/02. © Kehinde Wiley. Courtesy of the artist, Roberts Projects, Los Angeles, California, and the American Federation of Arts.

Refractions” will travel to only five US cities other than Northampton: San Francisco, CA; Charleston, SC; Kalamazoo, MI; Seattle, WA; and Salt Lake City, UT. The Smith College run is its only showing in the Northeast.

The Studio Museum in Harlem was founded in 1968. The inclusion of “studio” in its name was an expression of the founders’ commitment to providing space, time, and financial support to artists. The artist-in-residence

see **ARTBEAT** page B5

## THEATER REVIEW

# YSP’s *Comedy of Errors* at the Shea

By ELLEN BLANCHETTE

**TURNERS FALLS** – The Young Shakespeare Players just completed a week-long presentation of William Shakespeare’s *The Comedy of Errors* at the Shea Theater. Four individual casts doing two performances each meant this show ran from Tuesday, January 14 to Sunday, January 19. A total of 26 young actors took part in all aspects of the performances.

This was the culmination of five months – September 2019 to January 2020 – of study and practice in the Young Shakespeare Players East (YSP) theater program, which included nine hours a week of rehearsal time, plus at home practice. All participants received explanatory



Left to right, Maisie Burch as Luciana, Nola Busansky as Adriana, and Ezekiel Mirin as Dromio of Ephesus during a rehearsal for *The Comedy of Errors* at the Shea.

ry audio material for studying at home. Over the many months of work, the young actors learn not just how to say their lines, but the meaning behind Shakespeare’s words, so that when they speak them it is clear they have a full understanding of the intention of each word.

In introducing the performance on Friday evening, program founder and director Suzanne Rubinstein explained that there are no auditions in YSP. All participants get a speaking role, and casting is done without regard to age or gender. Everyone takes part in all aspects of theater production.

With many young actors taking part in the program, their parts are often characters much older than their actual age and frequently with long monologues. These were played with skill and a clear understanding of the meaning behind the words they were saying. There was no hesitation or doubt; the actors knew their lines well, and they portrayed their parts to the audience with actions and words that clearly communicated what was happening in this complicated, but very funny play.

The basic premise of *The Comedy of Errors* is that two sets of twins are separated at birth and grow up in two different towns. They find their way to the same town, leading to a series of misunderstandings when they are mistaken for each other in some very funny situations, until the truth is finally revealed.

Performing at the Shea on a stage with one simple set and a few sparse additions, such as a table for a meal and a doorway on one side, the cast members often walked or

see **THEATER** page B5



# Pet of the Week



IMAGE COURTESY DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY

## “ETHEL”

Ethel arrived at Dakin recently because her people are no longer able to care for her.

She is a super playful, affectionate kitty. She just wants to be loved, and to have a place to call home. Ethel is petite, and she has lost some of her coat recently, but her pretty coat will grow back in in no time.

Interested in this sweet, affectionate girl? Come visit her at Dakin in Leverett – and bring your cat carrier, because you won’t want to leave without her!

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

MONTAGUE REPORTER EXTERNAL MEDIA DIVISION

# Very Important Announcement

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – After 17 years in print the *Montague Reporter* has finally broken into a new media environment. This week marks the launch of the Montague Reporter Podcast, a project pitched to us by our volunteer Sarah Brown-Anson, who is also hosting and producing the show.

The MRP will be produced sporadically (erratically? irregularly?) for now, hopefully at least once a month, and maybe building up to weekly as everyone’s schedules allow. The general plan is to have guests on, discuss the local news of the week, and give readers a peek



behind the curtain at our little community newspaper.

The first episode, a 14-minute conversation between Sarah and me about last week’s print edition, is online now. So far the MRP is hosted at [anchor.fm/montaguereporter](http://anchor.fm/montaguereporter) and available on Spotify, though it may take a little while to show up in searches there.

We’re in the process of adding it to the rest of the popular podcasting platforms (iTunes, Google Play, Stitcher, etc.), so watch for it on your favorite app. We also plan to make it available for streaming via our own website, [montaguereporter.org](http://montaguereporter.org). We’ll keep you updated.

One cool added touch: our theme music is by Blue Dot Sessions, a local business that makes original music available for free to non-commercial media (like us!) under a Creative Commons license.

So check it out, subscribe, and send us feedback at [podcast@montaguereporter.org](mailto:podcast@montaguereporter.org). And just in case you’re worried: Yup, we’ll still make the newspaper.



## Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

Many of my clients in their late teens and early twenties, refreshingly, do not identify as cis-gender, as well as some older clients. Additionally, I’ve noticed bathroom signs changing in the Pioneer Valley – yay, Quarters, Amherst Cinema, and Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence! – to accommodate this transition beyond the male and female binary.

Therefore, this month I’d like to provide updates on gender. These concepts continuously evolve, so when in doubt, research reputable sources such as the National Center for Transgender Equality ([transequality.org](http://transequality.org)), Human Rights Campaign ([HRC.org](http://HRC.org)), or PFLAG ([pflag.org](http://pflag.org)).

For much of the last and current centuries, Western colonialist culture has tried to push folks into either “male” or “female” labels, with often a very rigid set of characteristics accompanying each label. Just watch any film from the 1950s to understand this rigidity.

Doctors and midwives aided in this categorization by glancing at a newborn’s external genitalia and proclaiming, “it’s a boy” or “it’s a girl.” Gender activists, those who question this very binary system, have recently developed the phrase “sex assumed at birth” to describe this instant labeling.

Researchers over the last few decades have discovered that external genitalia does not always match up with chromosomal or hormonal information, and that gender is a great deal more complicated than that first glance identification. Folks who are born with elements of male and female genitalia are “intersex,” with estimates of some kind of intersex (reproductive organs, chromosomes, or hormones) at about 1.7 in a 100.

According to an awesome hand-out called “The Gender Unicorn,” full gender understanding includes these five elements: *gender identity*: do we identify as a woman, man, or other genders, in our own self-view?; *gender expression*: do we present ourselves in a feminine, masculine, or some other way through clothes, pronouns, behaviors, etc?; *sex assumed at birth* (female, male, or intersex), and our *physical* and *emotional* attrac-

tions to other genders. We will look more closely at the attraction side of things in February’s column.

Throughout history there have always been individuals who did not agree or act like their sex assumed at birth. Many cultures accept this diversity more easily, such as the concept of “Two-Spirit” in some Native communities on this continent. Two-Spirit folks often fulfill an esteemed ceremonial role beyond male or female roles.

Other cultures beyond this continent also include concepts of gender variety. Native Hawaiian culture has the term *mahu* which refers to a revered and respected individual embodying both female and male spirit.

There is an excellent interactive map at [pbs.org/independentlens/content/two-spirits\\_map.html](http://pbs.org/independentlens/content/two-spirits_map.html). You can tour the world via this map, appreciating how many other cultures express gender diversity.

Transgender (male to female, or female to male) folks here in Massachusetts may choose to transition either through surgeries (covered by most insurances), and/or by altering their names, pronouns, and appearance characteristics to fit into a chosen gender expression. Getting names and designated genders changed with the RMV and insurance companies can go a long way in helping transgender folks achieve harmony with their gender identity and expressions.

Folks who do not identify with the gender binary of male/female are now using terms like “gender non-conforming,” “non-binary,” and “gender fluid” to break from the binary. You may meet folks who immediately provide the pronouns they want you to use (i.e. *he/him*, *she/hers*, *they/theirs*, *ze/zir*). Folks with non-conforming gender identities may be “out” to different degrees in different settings. It’s considered good etiquette to let someone know your pronouns, and to wait and see if they feel comfortable sharing their pronouns.

Most cis-gender folks – those who identify with the sex assumed at their birth – would be hard-pressed to agree that they have always stuck exclusively within their prescribed gender roles. Women have literally been wearing pants here in the Unit-

ed States since the early 1800s, and openly since the Sixties. In other non-western cultures women have worn pants throughout time.

Men used to wear leggings, draped dresses, and robes (mostly prior to buttons and zippers), and continue to wear kilts (Scotland) and sarongs (Southeast Asia). I have often seen men wearing kilts and skirts here in our progressive Pioneer Valley, particularly for contra dancing.

Lots of different genders chop and stack wood, lots of dads and other genders work at home changing diapers and feeding babies. Most of us, in fact, are harmed by assumptions of gender, since stereotypes are by definition limiting and simplifying. Many of us want to be seen and understood beyond what people assume is our gender.

In my middle age, I like the idea of identifying as a non-binary type person, mostly due to my strong feminist sense of equality. I have always hated feeling boxed in, and enjoy many stereotypical “masculine” pursuits (lifting weights, martial arts, making household repairs, road cycling, putting together Ikea furniture – well, who really enjoys putting together Ikea furniture?). In my youth, I so intensely eschewed stereotypical notions of female behaviors that I refused to take home economics or typing in school – two skills I sorely wish I had learned, thirty years later. If I were 16 now, I would decidedly be non-binary, and would have taken typing as well as woodshop!

Sharing information in open-minded conversation allows us to understand what resonates and where we may notice discomfort, whether with ourselves, our questioning teens, or our elders who may finally be feeling comfortable to explore beyond the binary. And having so many bathroom stalls available for everyone – especially for those identifying as women, who’ve historically faced long bathroom lines – is a boon to us all.

*Stephanie Baird is a certified OWL facilitator and an EMDR psychotherapist and consultant who encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at [sexmatters@montaguereporter.org](mailto:sexmatters@montaguereporter.org).*

## Senior Center Activities

### JANUARY 27 THROUGH 31

#### GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

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

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

**Monday 1/27**  
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

**Tuesday 1/28**  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga

**Wednesday 1/29**  
12:30 p.m. Bingo

**Thursday 1/30**  
9 a.m. Tai Chi  
10:15 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards, Games, & Pitch  
3 p.m. Census Info Session  
4 p.m. NO Gentle Yoga

**Friday 1/31**  
1 p.m. Writing Group

Bettors, 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 1/27**  
8:45 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones & Balance  
*No Lunch Will Be Served*  
12:30 p.m. Card Pitch Game

**Tuesday 1/28**  
8:45 a.m. S.W.A.P. Exercise  
10 a.m. Stretching & Balance  
*No Lunch Will Be Served*

**Wednesday 1/29**  
8:45 a.m. Line Dancing  
10 a.m. Chair Yoga  
11 a.m. M3 Games  
12 p.m. Grinder & Chips  
12:45 p.m. Bingo & Snacks

**Thursday 1/30**  
8:45 a.m. Aerobics  
10 a.m. Healthy Bones  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

**Friday 1/31**  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Quilting Workshop  
9:30 a.m. Fun Bowling  
12 p.m. Congregate Lunch

#### LEVERETT

For information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022, ext. 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

Wednesday 10 a.m. Flexibility & Balance Chair Yoga at the Town Hall. Drop-in \$6 (first class free).

Friday 12 p.m. Senior Lunch. Call (413) 367-2694 by Wednesday for a reservation.

#### WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is at 2 Lockes Village Road. Call Nancy Spittle, (978) 544-6760, for hours and programs, or for a ride.

#### ERVING

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

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Montague Community Television News

# Performances & Meetings

By MICHAEL SMITH

Check out “You Are Here: Exploded View,” a performance at the Great Falls Discovery Center, at [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org). This community art exhibit will be running through the end of February at the Discovery Center, but if you are unable to make it there yourself, we have video of the opening reception performance available on our website. You can access it by clicking the “latest videos” tab on our homepage.

While you’re there, check out Windborne performing at the Discovery Center Coffee House, a monthly musical event. Windborne is a group of singers who played to a packed house. It’s definitely some-

thing you don’t want to miss.

As always, MCTV also has your local government meetings available on [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org). This week you can check out the Montague finance committee meeting from the 15th, as well as the Gill-Montague regional school committee meeting which took place on the 14th.

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

# Bud’s War, Part 10

By JERRY “JINX” COLLINS

**TURNERS FALLS** – Jerry “Jinx” Collins wrote about his youth growing up in Turners Falls in his memoir “Jinx: A New England Mill Town Urchin’s Life, the Depression through 1952,” which we have excerpted from previously.

Now, Collins is sharing the experiences he and his brothers had during active duty in the armed services in excerpts from his latest memoir, still in progress, “Transition: A Journey From Youth to Manhood.”

In this installment, Jerry continues to learn about what Bud experienced during the war, many years later, on a trip the brothers took to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC in October 2017.

Bud then opened up to me with what follows:

“With Okinawa now over, the Wiley was preparing for what was probably going to be the dreaded invasion of Japan. The whole ship’s crew felt that undoubtedly we would be one of the lead ships ordered in to clear the waters off the landing beaches of mines before the Marines could begin their assault. We all felt our chances of surviving were, at best, slim.

“Then came the dropping of the A-bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, ending the war. The ship exploded with excitement, and we all were shouting for joy. We knew we’d be going home now.

“Not so. It wouldn’t happen for almost six months, as we were dispatched to the China Sea to sweep

the many remaining mines laid there by the Japanese. However, we were given shore leave in Shanghai. Needless to say, having been cooped up so long aboard ship, we were going to do up the town. After so many bars and drinks, most of us ended up at a club full of young English ladies. I was excited, and hoped to dance my socks off.

“My excitement was short-lived when I discovered that the most diminutive of the ladies was 5’10” tall. My negative feeling about this situation ended quickly when one of the girls, who stood closer to six feet tall, sauntered over and asked me to dance.

“Now here I am a shrimp at 5’6” and I thought I’d look pretty foolish but, having been somewhat of a clown in high school... or maybe it was the imbibing I’d been doing earlier... I jumped up and slurred, *You Bet, Baby!* Her next move was great. To make me feel more at ease with the height situation, she kicked off her high heels. That was all I needed. I put them on, to level the playing field even more!”

He had been laughing throughout his tale, and then ended it with, “It was no longer nose-to-nose and my toes almost at her knees. It was now toes-to-toes, and my nose in a much, much nicer place between her boobs.”

Seeing the huge, now yellowed-with-age grin flashing out from under the still-neatly-trimmed, snow-white-mustache, I laughed so hard that I almost fell off my chair and spilled the rest of my Guinness. What a great way to end a perfect,



The crew of the USS Wiley.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### Walnut Explosion; Shingles On Plains; Earring Misdial; Stolen Mountain Bike; Neighbor Dispute On Sherman Ave

**Sunday, 1/12**

6:34 a.m. Caller states that there was a large tree in the road on Bridge Street and he hit it with his Ford F350; there are now chunks of the tree in the road causing a hazard. Caller does not see any damage to his truck, but it is pitch black out. Caller states another vehicle hit a piece of the tree while he was on the line. Responding officer advising large tree came down and is resting on the guardrail; some branches were in the road. Branches have been removed. Tree is not in travel lane, but officer requesting MassDOT be notified.

12:22 p.m. Caller from Sherman Drive states that she believes that one of her neighbors is cutting down a tree that is on town property. Advised to call tree warden.

12:34 p.m. Family Dollar store manager requesting female customer be trespassed from the store after she caused a major disturbance. Female located and verbally trespassed from store.

4:25 p.m. Caller reporting dog in vehicle with its windows up in Food City parking lot. No safety concerns for dog; weather conditions appropriate for windows to be up.

7:57 p.m. Caller states that he hit a deer with his car at Lake Pleasant and Millers Falls roads; not much damage to vehicle; deer is still alive on the side of the road but appears to have broken legs. Officer advises someone will be out to pick up the deer.

**Monday, 1/13**

10:10 a.m. Caller would like officer’s assistance proving that he has never lived at a certain address. Advised of options.

11:17 a.m. Walk-in re-

ports that he was just assaulted out in front of FL Roberts. Officer checking for video footage. Report taken.

5:43 p.m. Caller reports that his mother is being harassed by a party who resides on H Street. Officer spoke to other involved party; she was given a verbal trespass and advised to stay off the involved property.

9:12 p.m. Caller reports that a dark-colored sedan is parked at Cold River Mining and a male and female appear to be going through boxes at this location. While caller was on the line, the two parties got into the vehicle and left. Officers checked area; unable to locate. Message left for keyholder.

10:12 p.m. Multiple 911 calls from Walnut Street reporting an explosion-type noise and now what appears to be lines or a tree on fire. Power is also out in the area. TFFD advises wires are down and arcing. Road shut down. Eversource on scene. Road later reopened.

10:28 p.m. Caller from Alice Street reports that her golden retriever, Buster, took off. Unsure if he has his collar on. Patrol units advised to be on lookout; caller given number for animal control officer.

**Tuesday, 1/14**

4:31 a.m. Caller from Fifth Street thinks that the people upstairs might be having an argument; states it sounds like they are stomping and things are being thrown or broken. Caller states that they stop every fifteen minutes or so then continue and that this has been going on since approximately 11:30 last night. Officer advises that the elderly gentleman who lives in that apart-

ment is on crutches. Man advised of complaint. Caller called back later to report that the stomping was now occurring every five minutes.

7:57 a.m. Chicopee PD faxed over a letter of license to carry suspension for a K Street resident; requesting that MPD attempt to hand-deliver the letter, take any guns that he may have in his possession, and take his LTC card. Officer made contact with party. Letter served and LTC taken. Party does not have any guns.

12:45 p.m. Following a complaint re: stalking/harassment, a 28-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant.

1:58 p.m. 911 misdial. Caller advises no emergency; was trying to use her GPS on a new phone and is still getting used to it.

5:05 p.m. Caller reporting truckload of used shingles dumped in the Montague Plains. Environmental Police notified; they will look into it.

**Wednesday, 1/15**

11:17 a.m. Report of resident-on-staff assault that occurred around 1:30 this morning at Farren Care Center. Advised of options; incident will be on record.

3:08 p.m. Report of employee threatening to kill another employee at Lightlife Foods. Report taken.

4:46 p.m. Medication and cash reported stolen from a Fourth Street residence. Report taken.

6:37 p.m. Caller from Clark Avenue reporting vehicle parked on his mother’s lawn without permission; operator is refusing to move it. Officer spoke with owners of vehicles. Situation handled.

8:36 p.m. Greenfield PD advising they received a 911 hangup call mapping in area of Fourth Street. Called number back and spoke with female who stated she is fine; she got a new phone and her earring hit the button while she was using it. Confirmed misdial.

10:04 p.m. Caller from Burnett Street reporting that his neighbor has a strange green light on his house that is shining directly into the caller’s bedroom and preventing his wife from going to sleep. Caller has had issues in the past with his neighbor and would like an officer to speak with him. Officer advised neighbor of complaint and asked if there was any way he could turn the light off.

**Thursday, 1/16**

9:25 a.m. Shelburne Control received 911 open line from 911 prefix phone; unable to call back, but mapped closely to Carlisle Avenue; child singing on the phone. Officer located source of call; grandmother gave grandchild what she believed was a deactivated phone. Confirmed misdial.

**Friday, 1/17**

3:48 p.m. Caller reports that sometime last week his mountain bike was stolen from outside of an Avenue A store. Bike described as spray-painted all black. Serial number provided. Officer will be on lookout.

9:13 p.m. Caller states that she just struck a deer on Turners Falls Road and her vehicle has some damage. She is not injured. Vehicle appears to be driveable. Area checked; deer not located.

**Saturday, 1/18**

9:14 a.m. Caller states that there is still some smoke coming from a brush fire from yesterday on Turners Falls Road. TFFD will investigate.

11:51 a.m. Caller from Masonic Avenue reports overhearing possible threats from someone at a neighbor’s house. This stems from an incident where the Fire Chief went to a neighboring property on Sherman Drive and had them shut down an illegal brush burn. Caller called back to report that one of the involved neighbors has parked a plow truck directly in front of her home. Caller was advised that the truck is on a public way and therefore not a police issue at this time.

**Sunday, 1/19**

9:13 a.m. Caller from Federal Street wants it on record that her neighbor has been revving car engines and plowing snow into the road. Area checked; no noise heard.

though exhausting, day.

As we had such a late lunch, we skipped dinner and hit the sack early. Our Amtrak train was heading back to Greenfield and departing at 7:20 a.m. the next day.

Rising at 5:30 a.m. and performing the normal morning rituals, we then taxied back to the station, where we had breakfast before boarding our train. As the train left the station Bud was completely exhausted, and it didn’t take him very long to doze off.

The train jerked to its stop at Penn Station, and up Bud popped, awakening with a big grin brightening his age-wrinkled face. “How about having a beer and a little something to eat?” he queried. “I’m not very hungry, but am thirsty.”

“Sure. But we have to wait to pull out of the station,” was my reply, laughing.

A half hour later it was again slumber time. But, his dreams would be interrupted when The Vermonter was abruptly detoured a little north of Hartford onto a sidetrack.

Looking out the window and see-

ing only trees and no station platform, he looked at me, confused. “What’s this all about? We’re not in Greenfield yet, are we?”

As I was about to tell him that I didn’t know what was going on, over the PA system came, “Sorry for the quick stop. We are experiencing a possible problem with one of the car’s brakes, and needed to get off the mainline to let other trains to pass while we inspect them.” An hour later across the PA came, “The problem has been corrected; we’ll be getting underway in about 15 minutes, after another – southbound – train passes by. We’re sorry for the inconvenience, but we wanted to ensure your safety.”

“Oh well, I guess those things happen, but I’ll sure be glad to get home,” Bud responded.

“Me too. It’s a good thing we had our sandwich, because I’m afraid by the time we get to Turners there won’t be any place open to get something to eat.”

*Jinx and Bud’s story concludes next week.*

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# Comics and PUZZLE

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**T-RUMP**  
LET ME EXPLAIN THE RULES BEFORE WE EVEN GET STARTED. FIRST...  
THIS IMPEACHMENT TRIAL WILL ALLOW NO EVIDENCE AND NO WITNESSES.  
ALSO NO NEW INFORMATION OR RELEVANT DOCUMENTS WILL BE SUBMITTED.  
THE TRIAL WILL BE HELD UNDER THE COVER OF DARKNESS AND WE WILL ARRIVE AT A FOREGONE CONCLUSION.  
WHERE THE HELL DID YOU GET THAT MODEL FOR A TRIAL?  
1963: BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA VS. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.  
1-23-20

**Cool Cats on the Ave**

**OVER THE HILL**  
Carolyn Clark  
I think you men must have a special gene that makes you super aggressive.  
But I'm a pussycat, Cupcake!  
There are exceptions to every rule, Harry.  
Someday women will govern the world and there will be no more wars.  
Uh oh... Lysistrata...  
No more drones dropping bombs. No more trading missiles.  
You'll be trading recipes instead and bragging on the grand-kids. Does sound kinda nice, actually.

**THREE DEGREES OF WARMING**  
JANICE ROWAN  
So Corporations have personhood, but trees and animals don't?  
I call B.S.  
Did dark money pay for that?  
How about a little equality?

**GLIMPSES FROM THE OFFICE**  
ANNABEL LEVINE  
CRUNCHING THE NUMBERS

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Submit your comics and puzzles to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org). Original & local only, please!

**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1

Though there are undoubtedly other Western Mass swamps that contain mastodon remains, they have not been and probably never will be found. The small fraternity of scientific sleuths currently trying to solve North American mastodon puzzles is slim indeed, though seemingly gaining a little steam recently, this Colrain probe a local example.

The East Colrain beaver-pond wetland bordering the southern meadow facing the old Elias Bardwell farmstead snugly fits the profile of sites where mastodon remains have most often been uncovered over the years, often by farmers digging swamps into ponds. Because mastodons drank an incredible amount of water daily, they gravitated to springs not only for water but also for the plant foods growing in

wet areas during the late Pleistocene. Such wet, mucky sites were thus advantageous to predators like dire wolves, saber-tooth cats and, yes, even Paleo hunters trying to mire and kill their large, dangerous prey without being injured or killed. What remains buried some 13,000 years later, preserved in lime-rich marl (clay), are bones, ivory tusks, teeth, and perhaps even human remains and/or artifacts linking them to Clovis or even pre-Clovis human hunters.

The digging of ponds is relatively easy these days with mechanical equipment such as backhoes. However, 19<sup>th</sup>-century farmers who relied on hand shovels and elbow grease and horse- or ox-drawn contraptions didn't shy away from opening up a pond for livestock or, more likely, filling their carts with organic swamp muck, with which they fertilized agricultural fields.

Such fertilization was common and necessary in hilltowns like Colrain, where topsoil was thin and railroad depots distant, increasing the cost of imported fertilizers like guano, shipped from South America and lugged to the countryside by rail. Hilltown farmers relied on homegrown fertilizers, including organic swamp muck, manure, and compost waste, such as apple pomace from the cider mill, which could be spread over fields.

If you read between the lines of the January 8, 1872 *Gazette and Courier* piece about the mastodon tooth, it's likely that Bardwell was filling an oxcart with swamp muck the day he found the tooth. Why? Because the story closes by encouraging local farmers to "keep

their eyes open to such things, now that they are doing so much with" swamp-muck fertilizer.

How important and widespread was the mucking of farm fields? Howard S. Russell, author of *A Long, Deep Furrow: Three Centuries of Farming in New England*, cites "one farmer applying 5,000 ox-cart loads of swamp mud to 25 acres in the course of 15 years." Do the math. That computes to 320 loads per year, more than a load a day excluding Sundays.

Although December may seem a little late for such an 1871 Colrain chore, the richest, blackest, organic muck of inner swamps never freezes solid and would have been accessible to Bardwell, who could have stayed atop the frozen outer margins without breaking through.

So, there you have it: a new twist that better identifies the location of Bardwell's hilltown tooth discovery. Now, with the site narrowed down, it could be easier for researchers to go there and take core samples, or comb the wetland with probing rods to find bones of the beast whose massive molar surfaced in the East Colrain "muck bed."

Yes, the tooth could have been transported downstream by a freshet or the break of a beaver dam along upper Workman Brook, the spring sources of which are less than a half-mile above the meadow and beaver-pond basin visible from the old Bardwell house. In the upper Pleistocene when mastodons roamed, that beaver meadow would likely have been a pond.

Stay tuned. This is a developing story awaiting spring exploration.



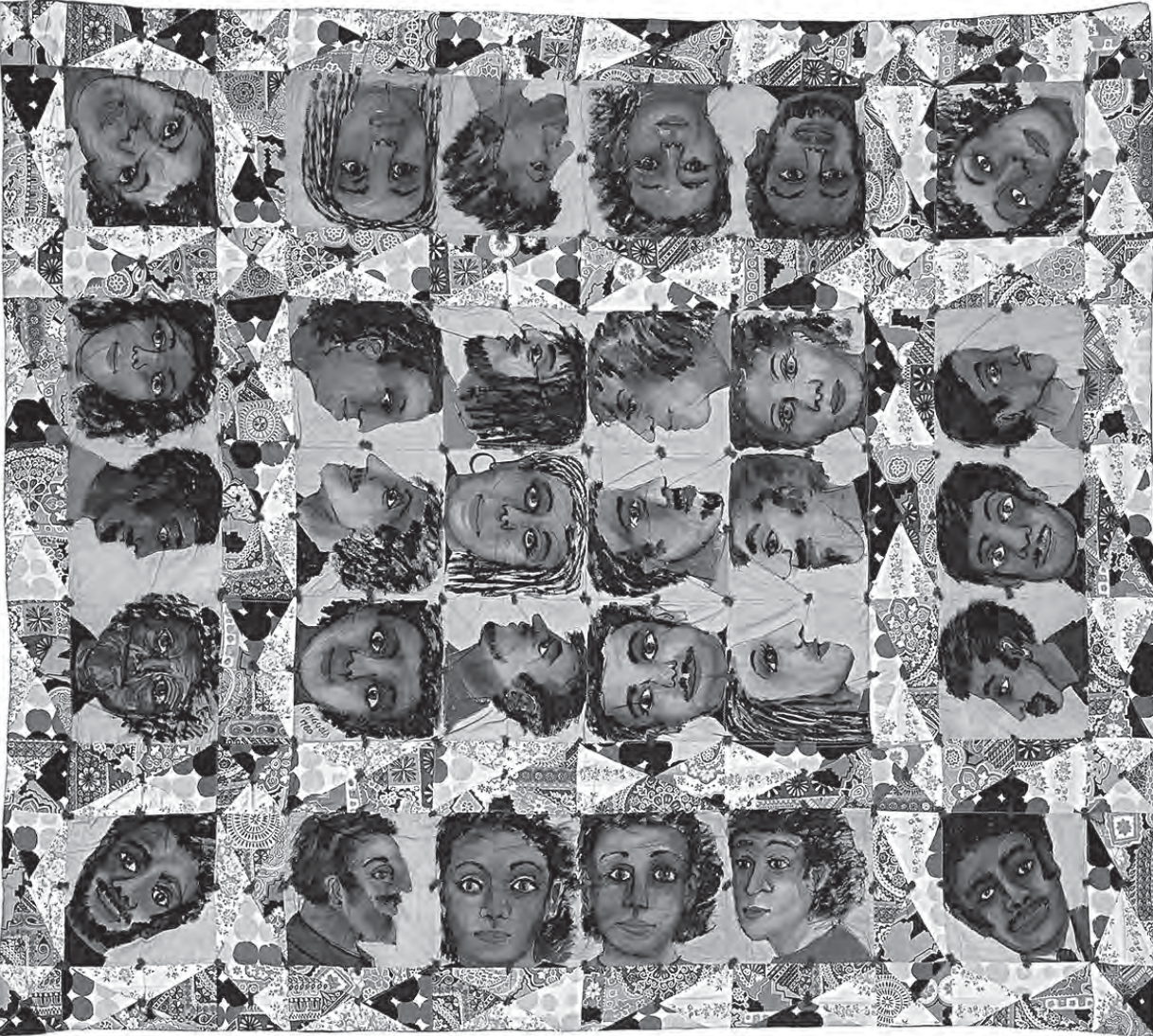
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Faith Ringgold, *Echoes of Harlem*, 1980. Acrylic on canvas, 79.5" x 80.5". The Studio Museum in Harlem; gift of Altria Group, Inc., 10/13/08. © 2018 Faith Ringgold. Courtesy American Federation of Arts.

ARTBEAT from page B1

program, followed by exhibitions of residents’ work, has remained a defining feature of the museum.

From the beginning, the Studio Museum’s emphasis was on celebrating the diversity of work produced by African American artists, and the “Black Refractions” exhibition reinforces this mission. There are paintings in oil, acrylic, and watercolor that range in style from realistic to abstract to surrealistic, and sculptures made of wood, metal, cloth, or rubber tires. There are also photographs, videos, assemblages, collages, woodcuts, and other prints.

The first piece you see is *Mousakoo*, a multi-colored light sculpture by Tom Lloyd. Created in 1968, the piece is made up of 960 incandescent bulbs in 4 modular parts that can be assembled in different configurations. Its pulsing vibrance reminded me of New York City’s incessantly present streetlights and theater marquees and seemingly inexhaustible energy. Lloyd was the Studio Museum’s first artist-in-residence, and his “Electronic Refractions II” was its inaugural exhibition. The work’s primary placement, as well as the inclusion of the word “Refractions” in the overall exhibition title, seemed a nod to that history.

Having long loved assemblages, I was thrilled to discover the work of Betye Saar. This Los Angeles artist uses found objects, metal, feathers, and thread, as well as painting and drawing, to create mixed-media pieces that harken back to Renaissance altarpieces while asserting her own eclectic spirituality drawn from her Afri-

can-American, Native American, and Irish roots. Described in the exhibition catalogue by Stephanie Sparling Williams, assistant curator at the Addison Gallery of American Art, as “the mystic enchantress and the hoarder,” Saar seemed to be a woman of my own pack.

Faith Ringgold’s hand-painted cotton quilt, *Echoes of Harlem*, made in 1980 in collaboration with her mother, Willi Posey, features thirty portraits of black men and women interspersed with colorfully patterned fabrics that might be used in traditional quilt-making. It is the precursor to Ringgold’s famous story quilts. The individuality of each face implies that each is an actual person Ringgold encountered, though there is no way to know if this is true. Real or fictional, the faces accumulate to create a sense of vital community.

*River*, by Maren Hassinger, is a sculpture constructed of heavy chain and various skeins of rope. It lies coiled along the length of the floor of the lower gallery with a weight impossible to ignore. The connections suggested in the wall signage to the chains worn by slaves and prisoners, and the ropes used on the ships that transported slaves on their passage from Africa to the Americas, rose quite solidly out of the work itself. The piece asserts its serious presence, causing many to give it a wide berth as they pass through the gallery.

Also downstairs was Mickalene Thomas’s *Panthera*, a picture composed entirely of rhinestones on a 48- by 72-inch panel. The piece glitters with savage beauty. Walking along slowly while looking at it out of the corner of my eye set it afire.

Nearby, Willie Cole’s *Steam’n Hot*, a sculpture created using a common white steam iron bursting with delicate white feathers, caused two children to giggle in amazement while their adult companion laughed, too, and asked, “What? What? What?”

The three moved from there to Nari Ward’s sculpture, *All Stars*, a baseball bat covered with rounded mounds of cotton, burnt sugar, and medical tape. Leaning against the wall, the bat is both nonchalant and eerie, giving off conflicting vibrations of violence and softness, sweetness and cruelty. The materials call to mind the long history of slave labor on cotton and sugar plantations and the pervasive control of slave owners.

I’ve barely scratched the surface of this complex exhibition, one which I find astounding. I’ll be going again, and you should, too. As always, check the Smith College Museum of Art website for a list of related talks and activities, of which there are many.

Smith College Museum of Art, 22 Elm Street, Northampton; (413) 585-2760; website: [scma.smith.edu](http://scma.smith.edu). Hours: Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Thursdays 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays 12 to 4 p.m. Closed Mondays.

Free Second Fridays, scheduled to coincide with Northampton’s town-wide Arts Night Out ([artsnightout.org](http://artsnightout.org)), include hands-on art-making for all ages, guided conversation in the galleries, and free light refreshments.



**THEATER** from page B1

ran through the theater to create the impression of a town full of people. This brought a lot of energy to the play. I might add that the intermission also included a lot of children running through the theater as the audience was engaged out in the lobby, eating a variety of very wonderful treats provided by the company to help pay for the event.

The Young Shakespeare Players East is a program that educates young actors from ages 8 to 18 (approximately) with an in-depth examination of the meaning behind the language of William Shakespeare’s plays. Each year they select one play to study and with several months of preparation conclude the study with a week of performances that are offered free to the public. They do not modernize the language, and they perform the complete play. Scholarships are offered to cover the cost of the program so money is never an obstacle to participation. Young actors get to play several parts and also participate in all the tasks necessary to put on a play.

The program emphasizes collaboration, not competition. By having actors from the different casts rehearse together in a supportive and positive environment, they all get to learn from each other and work together to support each other in performance.

Within the program, teens who have been part of YSP in the past work as directors and mentor the younger actors, creating a sense of collaboration within the group. At dress rehearsal the weekend before performances began, I had a chance to speak with a few of the members of the cast, and the sense of family was often mentioned.

They were a varied group in age and hometowns, coming from Northampton, Deerfield, Gill, Easthampton, Heath, and Montague. Juniper, age 9, is home schooled and

lives in Heath. This is her first year at YSP.

Noa Rubinstein, age 14, attends the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion charter school. She said she has been part of the YSP program for eight years, from the first show. Maeve Noble, age 11, said she joined because she thought it would be fun but now it feels like family. The others agreed.

Nola Busansky, age 14, is one of the actor-directors. This is her eighth production at YSP. Vivienne Potee, age 16, said she likes being part of YSP, and is learning a lot about theater. This is her first production.

The comradery was evident among this small group of actors, who expressed joy and enthusiasm about the upcoming show. At some point they began to talk among themselves about previous Shakespeare productions, at which point they totally lost me, making it clear that their knowledge of the Bard was far beyond mine.

Maggie Solis, a parent with two sons in the program, said she noticed that in rehearsals, actors are addressed with their character’s name instead of their own, letting the critique seem less personal.

All of this contributes to a well-developed system that allows everyone who participates in the program to get a full education in theater arts and learn that putting on a play requires great collaborative effort. Young Shakespeare Players East is a non-profit organization. At present they are offering the program with performances once a year.

For more information about YSP, contact Suzanne Rubinstein at (802) 258-7922 or [rubisuz@gmail.com](mailto:rubisuz@gmail.com), or visit online at [youngshakespeare-playerseast.org](http://youngshakespeare-playerseast.org). Registration in the program is limited and on a first-come, first-served basis.



Atticus Belmonte as Antipholus of Syracuse, and Nola Busansky as Adriana, who has mistaken this Antipholus for her husband, his twin, as he responds with surprise to her advances during a rehearsal for *The Comedy of Errors*.

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# The Children's Page

YONDERNODJTLI

CHELLA LOVELIGHT, SITTING IN THE ROCKER ON A SUMMER EVENING, IS HAVING HER HAIR PUT IN SOFT

FOAM CURLERS BY HER SISTER ELDA. ANOTHER SISTER, VIOLA, SITS KNITTING A SCARF THAT SEEMS TO GROW IN LENGTH AS

THE SOUND OF CRICKETS FLOATS IN ON THE BREEZE. NOVELLA IS PLAYING THE FLUTE AND PUTTING THEM ALL UNDER A DREAMY SPELL.



Text by  
BEVERLY  
KETCH

Illustration by  
HANNAH  
BROOKMAN

“These are the loveliest and most peaceful times, and tomorrow I will wake up with beautiful curls!” says Chella.

SHE WATCHES. VIOLA'S FINGERS ARE A BLUR OF MOTION. THE CURTAINS SWAY IN THE WINDOW. AND THE

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## EVENTS

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 23

Federal Street Books, Greenfield: Workshop, *Altered Books: Paper Arts with Trish Crapo*. Talk and hands-on workshop. Bring books or magazines and scissors. Free. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Primitive Heart, Chronophobia 5000, Omega Vague*. Synth-pop and more. \$. 9 p.m.

Sierra Grille, Northampton: *Human Ignorance, Tortured Skull, Palemoon*. Punk. \$. 9 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 24

Artspace, Greenfield: *Jam Session*. Kevin Dee leads monthly session, all ages and skill levels welcome. Suggested donation. \$. 12 p.m.

Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton: *Courtney Barnett, Hachiku*. \$. 7 p.m.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *CINEMASTORM* double feature with *The Thing* and *They Live*. Cheap cover, cash bar. See page A3 for more details. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Queer House Party*. Games, 8 p.m., dancing at 10 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Model Home, Mal Devisa, Pussyvision, DJ Meginsky*. \$. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Wubwitus Vol. VI* with *Isded, Camnah*, and *Desoli*. Dub. In the Wheelhouse. 9 p.m.

### SATURDAY, JANUARY 25

Brattleboro Music Center, Brattleboro, VT: *Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival*. Showcasing Irish, Scottish, English, and French Canadian traditions. \$. 12 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Freedom & Struggle Song Swap*. Singalong and potluck. Donation. \$. 5 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Screening, *Citizenfour*, documentary on Edward Snowden, followed by discussion. \$. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *John Sheldon and Blue Streak*. \$. 7 p.m.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. \$. 7 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield:

*Dance Spree*. Freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Matt Bachmann, Katie Shlon*, and *Nick Bisceglia*. \$. 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Huevos II* record release show, with *Land Man, Animal Piss (Is Everywhere)*, and *DJ Mentaldrift*. 9:30 p.m.

North Village Smokehouse, Millers Falls: *Wild Bill and the Flying Sparks*. Honky tonk to go with your BBQ. 9:30 p.m.



*Nappy Nappa and Pat Cain are Washington, DC's Model Home, described by their label Dischord Records as an "abstract hip hop/mutant danceball duo." We heard they stole the show opening for M. Sayyid of Antipop Consortium last spring at 10 Forward. They return to the Greenfield venue this Friday for a headlining gig backed up by local favorites Mal Devisa, Pussyvision, and DJ Meginsky.*

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 26

McNeill's Brewery, Brattleboro, VT: *Northern Roots Traditional Music Festival*. Pub singing, French Canadian and Irish tune jamming. Donations suggested. 1 p.m.

Ja'Duke Theater, Turners Falls: *To Kill a Mockingbird*. \$. 2 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Swing Sunday* with *The O-Tones*. \$. 3 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Brian Dickens*. 6:30 p.m.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Kath Bloom, Police Kittens, Sound of Pot*, and *Matt Krefling*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

### MONDAY, JANUARY 27

Stone Church, Brattleboro: Movie double feature: *Inglorious Basterds, Reservoir Dogs*. Free entry; pizza and cash bar. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Nina's Birthday Bash* with *Little House Blues*. 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Open Mic with Heath Lewis*. 9 p.m.

### TUESDAY, JANUARY 28

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Music in the Morning*. Children's music series. Live, interactive music by educator *Marcy Gregoire*, accompanied by movement specialist *Hilary Lake*. Puppets, costumes, musical instruments. 10 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Stand-Up Showcase*. Comedy showcase, hosted by *Monk Kelley*, followed by open mic hosted

by *Ang Buxton*. 7:30 p.m.

### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29

10 Forward, Greenfield: *id m theft able + Wendy Eisenberg* duo, *Vic Rawlings*, and *Otto Benson*. \$. 8 p.m.

New City Brewery, Easthampton: *Sessa*, Brazilian psych-folk-pop, with *DJ Quils*. \$. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Owsley's Owls*. Grateful Dead family night. 9:30 p.m.

### THURSDAY, JANUARY 30

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *The Thursday Experiment* featuring *id m theft able, Androo Wang*, and *Craig Davis*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Star Show*, GCTV live taping: conversations followed by performances, hosted by *Finley James*. This month's guests: *Loculus Collective, Nemesister, Lena Abraham*. \$. 8 p.m.

Sierra Grille, Northampton: *Bunnies, Hot Dirt, Eternal Crimes*. \$. 9:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY, JANUARY 31

LAVA Center, 324 Main Street, Greenfield: *Grand Opening Party* with the *Farley String Band*. 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Four Rivers Charter School Annual Variety Show*. 7 p.m.

Hutghi's At The Nook, Westfield: *Major Stars, Mountain Movers*, and the *Moloney-Pasquarosa Duo*. Heavy psychedelic. \$. 8 p.m.

Shutebury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *SpaceBar*. Danceable blues, rock, r&b, and more. \$. 8:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Astrology Rave in Aquarius*. Benefit for Looky Here, with *DJ Leo Meginsky* and dance performance by *Loculus Collective*. \$. 10 p.m.

### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *International Family Dance*, 12:30 p.m.; Kids' Story Time with author *Doug Selwyn*, 1:30 p.m.; *Strings for Kids Advanced Ensemble* performance, 2 p.m.; *Lindy Whiton* photography exhibit opening, 3 p.m.; *BYO Performance Salon*, 5:30 p.m.; *Silverthorne Theater Fashion Show*, 7:30 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro, VT: *Mystra Record Imbolc Festival*. Featuring *Mia Friedman's Sand Frame, Wendy Eisenberg, Wes Buckley, if not I than who then, Dredd Foole, Frozen Corn, Hung Trucker, Apie*, and *Ten Gallon Hat*. \$. 5 p.m.

St. James Church, Greenfield: *Dance Spree*. Freestyle boogie: no shoes, no alcohol, no rules. \$. 7:30 p.m.

SCDT, Northampton: *HUT 28* featuring *Tyler Rai, Julio Cesar Diaz*, and *Ruth Garbus*. \$. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bad Behavior*, dance party with DJs *Odiosa, Tall Girl*, and *Kashmere Champagne*. House, techno, kumbia, etc. 9 p.m.

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Green Fields Market, Greenfield: *Co-Op Straight Ahead Jazz*. Balcony in the afternoon. 12 p.m.

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Musica Franklin* performance, followed by community potluck and discussion. 4 p.m.

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

## CALL FOR ART

The Art Garden in Shelburne Falls is seeking work that reflects on the theme of relationships and/or the title *Woven Together*. All media welcome, including interactive pieces (by arrangement). One submission per person. Bring work to the gallery on drop off dates of January 25, 28, and 30th between 1 and 5 p.m. Size restrictions apply. Please call (413) 625-2782 for more information.



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**Queer House Party!**  
8p Games 10p Dancing

SATURDAY 1/25  
9:30p  
**Huevos II**  
(record release),  
Land, Man, Animal Piss

SUNDAY 1/26  
6:30p **Brian Dickens**  
9p **Karaoke!**

MONDAY 1/27  
8p **Open Mic w/ Heath**

WEDNESDAY 1/29  
9:30p **Dead Night w/ Owsley's Owls**

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## EXHIBITS

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.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *You Are Here: A Juried Community Art Exhibit*. Work by regional artists in multiple media exploring maps, the significance of place, and movement across boundaries, curated by Exploded View. Where do you live? Where are you from? Where do you dream? How do you find your way? Where are your borders? Do maps lie? Through February 29 in the Great Hall.

Hampden Gallery, UMass Amherst: *Christine Texiera: Release the Moorings*. Mixed media paintings using a pouring technique. Through February 28. Reception Sunday, January 26, 2 p.m.

Herrick Gallery, Wendell Free Library: *Lynne Stopen: Birds Bring Peace*. Drawings of birds in graphite and colored pencil, capturing their unique characteristics. Reception on Saturday, February 1, 3:30 p.m. Through February.

Hosmer Gallery, Forbes Library, Northampton: *Marty Espinola*, photographs; *Jon Bander*, metal sculptures. Reception, Saturday January 25, 2 p.m. Through February 4.

Looky Here, Greenfield: *Looky Here 2020: A Submission Based Art Show*. Works by over 30 regional artists in a variety of media: paintings, poetry, video, sculpture. Through April.

McCusker's Market, Shelburne: *Wool Works: Making Art and The Intuitive Process of Play*. Exhibit by Rachelle Royer-Llamas. Through February 28. Reception February 2, 3 p.m.

Sawmill River Arts, Montague Center: *Small Works*

*Exhibit and Sale*. A non-juried exhibit of small-scale community artwork. February 1 through February 29.

Shelburne Arts Coop, Shelburne Falls: *Sweet*, a group show. Paintings, ceramics, leather, paper cuts, jewelry, wood and ornaments by member artists. Through February 24.

Smith College Art Museum, Northampton: *Black Refractions*, highlights from the Studio Museum in Harlem, through April 12. See ArtBeat column on B1 for a description of this exhibit. Also at the museum, *A Dust Bowl of Dog Soup: Picturing the Great Depression*. Featuring 50 photographs and prints from artists including *Dorothea Lange, Arthur Rothstein, Marian Post Wolcott, Martin Lewis*, and more. These artists helped shape social policy by making the travails of rural America visible during the Depression, which stimulated enthusiasm for Roosevelt's New Deal programs. Through June.

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THE AUTHORS' CORNER: TWO MYSTERY REVIEWS

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**TURNERS FALLS** — Happy January! On the 21st of this month Maureen Johnson’s third book in the *Truly, Devious* series came out! I reviewed the first two books in this series in an article a couple months ago. I don’t want to give away the ending if you haven’t read either of those novels, but the second book in this series (*The Vanishing Stair*) left off on a really big cliffhanger. I recently reread the first two books, in preparation for the third one, *The Hand on the Wall*.

In today’s article, I’m going to be reviewing two other mystery books I’ve recently read as I was waiting excitedly for the third *Truly Devious* book.

The first book is called *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder*, by Holly Jackson. This novel is set in England and is about a girl named Pippa who, for her senior project for school, chooses to investigate a mystery that happened in her town five years ago. The police supposedly solved this case, but Pippa thinks they accused the wrong suspect.

I loved this book so much! It was really exciting, and I couldn’t stop reading it, because it’s really fast paced, so none of it is boring. The way the book was set up was really cool too, because it shows Pippa’s investigation notes and interviews.

Another reason I really enjoyed this book was because it’s fun to try

to work out who you think committed the crime. I would recommend it to young adults or adults who love mysteries. My mom and I both read it, and thought it was super good!

The second book I read is *A Study in Charlotte* by Brittany Cavallaro. *A Study in Charlotte* is about Sherlock Holmes’ and John Watson’s great-great-great grandchildren, Charlotte Holmes and Jamie Watson, who meet at a prep school in New England.

Shortly after their arrival, Lee Dobson, another student at their school, is found dead, after fighting with Jamie Watson. Everyone at the school is blaming Watson and Holmes for the murder. They then set out to investigate the case, just like their relatives did many years ago.

This book is full of plot twists, which makes it super exciting to read! One thing I didn’t like about this book was that Charlotte Holmes is super intelligent, so when she’s detecting clues, it’s hard to understand her conclusions, and what she thinks is going on in the case. It makes it hard to try to figure out who did it yourself, because some of the clues are hard to recognize.

Other than that, I really enjoyed reading about Holmes and Watson’s descendants. (I’m currently reading the second book in this series, which is called *The Last of August*.)

I would recommend this book to young adults, and adults. Some of the language and clues can be hard

to understand, but once you get the hang of what’s happening, it’s really fun to read!


I really liked both of these books, and I definitely recommend them to someone who likes mysteries. I reached out to both of the authors but I haven’t heard back yet. If I do, there are sequels to both of these books I can ask them about. (The sequel to *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder* is coming out this spring.)

I also wanted to say thank you to our school librarian at Turners Falls High School, Tabby Martinelli, for suggesting these two novels to me! I hope you enjoy these books if you decide to read them.



Turners Falls High School librarian Tabby Martinelli (left) recommended this week’s selections to our correspondent.

Your Participation is Requested!  
**Downtown Turners Falls Livability Plan 2020 Review**  
*Where Do We Grow from Here?*  
Saturday, February 1, 2020



Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, 11am-3pm  
*Presented by the Montague Planning and Conservation Department*

Downtown  
Turners Falls

**LIVABILITY PLAN**

- \*Review the 2013 Plan;
- \*Recap our accomplishments;
- \*Provide an overview of upcoming building projects;
- \*Host a forum for thought- provoking conversation; and
- \*Brainstorm ideas and priorities for the next decade.

Participation is encouraged. Lunch will be served.  
The Discovery Center is wheelchair accessible.

11:00 AM SLIDESHOW PRESENTATION: *Livability Plan 2013 to Today*  
12:00 PM- LUNCH and opportunity to view “You Are Here: An Exhibition by Exploded View”  
12:20 PM- MODERATED PANEL DISCUSSION: *Where Do We Grow from Here?*  
1:30PM- FACILITATED BREAK-OUT SESSIONS: *Envision Future Development*  
2:30-3:00 PM RECOMMENDATIONS & WRAP- UP

Contact: 413-863-3200 ext. 126 riverculture @montague-ma.gov  
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