

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 29

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 21, 2020

## State Legislators Warn Against Budget Austerity

By SAMANTHA WOOD

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Massachusetts is facing a 19.3% drop in tax revenue – \$6 billion less than was being forecast as recently as January – when looking ahead to FY’21, according to the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation.

“There’s going to be a lot, a lot, a lot of push for an austerity budget,” state senator Jo Comerford of Northampton warned during Sunday’s general assembly of Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution (FCCPR). “We have to push against it.”

The first session of FCCPR’s general assembly this week drew about two dozen people, and included see **AUSTERITY** page A8

ERVING SELECTBOARD

## Erving Delays Town Meeting Until Mid-July

By KATIE NOLAN

The Erving selectboard voted Monday to recommend that moderator Richard Peabody use the authority granted under state emergency legislation to postpone the annual town meeting until July 15.

Although town bylaws state that the ATM should be held the first Wednesday in May, the 2020 date was originally moved to June 17 in reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith said that he had heard citizen concerns about holding the meeting indoors, and that there was some interest in meeting outdoors.

William Bembury said he was “not in favor of an outdoor meeting,” and that he was “much more in favor of canceling it altogether.”

Peter Sanders said he was “not see **ERVING** page A4

## Busted: Skateboarders Make the Case to Save DIY “Turnside Park”



Warned to stop trespassing, local skateboarders are now asking the town of Montague to consider allowing use of this abandoned industrial site.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – “That place has never really been a secret,” Wally Fitzpatrick explained this week of the fenced-off ruins of the former Indeck coal cogeneration plant between the power canal and the river. “The property itself has been used as a dump for different materials: wood, metal, boats, campers. It was totally overgrown with moss and broken glass... You couldn’t ride a bike through it, let alone a skateboard.”

Fitzpatrick grew up in town – his family runs a pool company – and he grew up skating. Since April, he has been part of a group effort to transform the plant’s foundation into an elaborate, do-it-yourself skateboard park.

But about three weeks into the project, Montague police arrived and warned the group not to return: they were trespassing on town-owned land. Now, Fitzpatrick is leading a campaign to convince the town to allow “Turnside DIY,” as skaters have christened the site, to go legit, by either selling or leasing the property to a consortium of skateboarding interests.

So far, town officials are hearing him out.

**Advanced Ruin**

Indeck was built in 1989, on the site of the former John Russell Cutlery, to provide energy to the adjacent Strathmore mill complex. But after that mill closed down, the power plant was also taken out of operation, and in 2006 its machinery was dismantled and shipped to Guatemala. The town eventually took it from private owners under tax title; and since 2018 the lot, which planning documents categorize as an “advanced ruin,” has been owned by the Inhabitants of Montague.

“It’s a challenging parcel to redevelop,” said town planner Walter Ramsey. “It has a very unique location, but there’s practical access challenges in getting to the site, and then there’s legal access challenges. The previous factory that was there had a license agreement to use the canal access road, which has since expired.”

The property is surrounded on three sides by FirstLight Power Resources, which owns the only see **PARK** page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Cautious Reopening Begins, But Gym Judged Too Small For Annual Town Meeting

By JEFF SINGLETON

At its Monday night meeting, the Montague selectboard approved measures to begin reopening town and business functions in accordance with Massachusetts Governor Baker’s phased reopening plan, announced earlier in the day. But the board also voted to close down the Unity Park basketball court, which has been open throughout the recent emergency period, and reversed its previous decision to hold the town’s June 12 annual town meeting in the high school gymnasium. That meeting will now be held in an outdoor location to be determined.

The selectboard was joined by the town board of health, and the two boards briefly discussed the town’s reaction to Baker’s “Reopening Massachusetts Report,” which was unveiled earlier in the

day. The report outlines a four-stage approach which begins with opening construction and manufacturing firms, office space, and “limited personal services” in the first few weeks. It ends with a “new normal” in Phase 4. Each phase will last at least three weeks, and “could last longer” if key public health statistical criteria are “negative.”

“As we expected, there are not many dramatic changes starting tomorrow morning,” said selectboard member Michael Nelson.

“I would highly recommend that people take time to download the ‘Opening Massachusetts’” proposal, said town administrator Steve Ellis. “It’s essentially a 25-page plan. Very digestible, and it lays out all of the basics.” He also said the state would release more guidance for “specific sectors.” see **MONTAGUE** page A7

## Nelson Announces Write-In Campaign for Selectboard

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – Incumbent selectboard member Mike Nelson announced last week that he will wage a write-in campaign to defend his seat in the town’s June 22 election. Nelson did not turn in papers to the town clerk for the seat, and said he was unsure whether he would campaign after challenger Ashley Arthur won the town Democratic nomination by a 21-13 caucus vote, effectively keeping his name off the ballot.

“I think it’s great!” Arthur, owner-chef at the downtown restaurant The Five Eyed Fox, said of the news that Nelson has decided to try to hold on to the seat. “I think it would have been very disappointing for democracy had I not had an opponent.”

Nelson, who has served on the board since 2013 and is due to become a parent in late June, said that the caucus loss had prompted “some very serious see **WRITE-IN** page A3



Nelson (top) was unsure whether to run after Ashley Arthur (bottom) won the Democratic nomination.

## A SOCIALLY DISTANT SPRING



PHOTO AND CAPTION BY ELLEN BLANCHETTE

Turners Falls saw a lot more activity on Sunday, May 17, as the community began to experiment with opening some stores and gathering together, with only some people sticking to social distancing recommendations and wearing masks. People seemed happy to be outdoors again with their families and relaxing along the river in Unity Park.

## Market Makes Local Gift

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – Food City store manager Jon Steiner reported this week that the supermarket had donated \$5,680 in gift cards to the Franklin County Survival Center, following a successful campaign to raise funds at the register.

“From May 1 through May 10, our customers were asked if they wanted to round up their change with their grocery order, to the nearest dollar,” Steiner said. “After the ten days, we raised \$2,840 from our

customers, and Food City matched the donation.”

The supermarket chain is comprised of seven stores: five in Maine and one each in Massachusetts and Vermont. Last year its family owners announced they would be turning ownership over to its workers via an employee stock ownership plan, which will phase in over the course of the next five years.

Similar local fundraising campaigns took place at the supermarket’s other branches.

see **GIFT** page A3

## Official Virus Count Falls

By MIKE JACKSON

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – The state’s official count of positive cases of coronavirus in Franklin County towns has decreased for three consecutive weeks, with only 12 additional cases reported between May 13 and May 19. Three new positive tests were reported in Greenfield this week, and two in Montague.

The official town-by-town data

is published each Wednesday by the state Department of Public Health (DPH). It is widely believed to significantly undercount cases of the virus, which spreads asymptotically.

Thus far, eight of Franklin County’s 26 towns reported zero known cases – including Wendell, and also including one West County town that is home to a resident, presumed

see **VIRUS** page A3

### Readers’ Digest

Editorial.....	A2	Valley View: Anniversaries.....	B1
Illustration/Correction.....	A2	ArtBeat: First Northfield Fest.....	B1
Scam Letter to the Editors.....	A2	Authors’ Corner: Checking In.....	B1
Local Briefs.....	A3	Sports Movie Review.....	B2
Guest Editorial: Women-demic.....	A4	Montague Police Log.....	B3
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....	A5	Bohemian Recognition.....	B5
10 Years Ago This Week.....	A5	Children’s Page.....	B6
Mail-In Ballot Application.....	A7	Five Comics and a Puzzle.....	B7





# The Montague Reporter

*"The Voice of the Villages"*

**Editorial Group**

Mike Jackson, *Managing Editor*  
Nina Rossi, *Features Editor*  
Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*  
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*  
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*  
Lisa McLoughlin, *Science Page*  
Gloria Kegeles, *Editorial Assistant*

**Production Group**

Annie Levine, *Business Manager*  
Lyn Clark, *Interim Distribution Manager*  
Charlotte Kohlmann, *Layout Assistant*  
Christopher Carmody, *Layout Assistant*  
Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*

**Technical Administration**

About Face Computing

**Founded by**  
Arthur Evans    Harry Brandt    David Detmold  
August 2002

## Phases of Labor

Eastern and western Massachusetts sometimes feel like two different states, but the disconnect largely comes down to urban/rural differences. We share a common government, and depend on a common budget. Eastern Mass has been one of the hardest-hit regions during the coronavirus pandemic; the virus spread widely before any stay-at-home recommendation was issued.

Out here, it's a little hard to know quite what's going on: a combination of less of the virus and less medical care and attention, most likely. Serious outbreaks occurred in three Greenfield nursing homes, but in the general population, the virus is mostly an abstract belief.

As the spring wears on, we're settling into the same culture war that is developing around the country. Partisan affiliation is a good predictor of whether one will be overly paranoid or take stupid risks.

Two months of caution has successfully "flattened the curve" a bit, but our society has not made the necessary social provisions to sustain much more economic downtime. And so, back to work we go – probably too early. We brace for the rebound.

Of course, some people have been working all along, exposing themselves to risks because they must. Nurses and other unionized labor have been leading the criticism of governor Charlie Baker's "phased" economic reopening.

"Workers should have a voice on the Reopening Advisory Board," a group of doctors, nurses, clergy, and "essential workers" argued this week. They called for "statewide,

enforceable SARS-CoV-2 workplace health and safety standards," as well as a "predefined trigger for reinstituting a stay-at-home order."

The governor's plan, instead, is to enter Phase I immediately, proposing to move to Phase II as long as certain indicators (deaths, hospitalizations, positive tests) aren't increasing. "The Commonwealth will partner with industries to draft Sector-Specific Protocols in advance of future phrases," it reads.

This *ad hoc* approach will worsen already-extreme inequities in the workforce. The Massachusetts Nurses Association, well-connected and widely admired, has been telling us loud and clear that there still isn't been enough protective equipment available for them. What, then, are farmworkers facing?

Many of our state's farms depend on undocumented immigrant workers, who did not receive any federal stimulus money and can't stay home and collect unemployment. A statewide relief effort ([www.massundocufund.org](http://www.massundocufund.org)) seeks to support their families... but how will Baker's "Sector-Specific Protocols" be enforced to ensure their safety in the fields?

An invisible risk, no vaccine on the horizon, insufficient testing, a laughably small bailout to support a quarantine from the market, and an emerging attitude that caution is an anti-American conspiracy: this is a perfect storm.

A revitalized labor movement could lead us through this crisis. Unfortunately, it's an election year, so the next six months will probably just be a steady plunge into hell.

## Distribution Notes...

1. The *Montague Reporter* is **available for sale** at the following locations: Food City and F.L. Roberts in Turners Falls; the Leverett Village Co-op; the Wendell Country Store; Upinngil farmstand in Gill; Dunkin' Donuts in Erving; and Green Fields Market in Greenfield.

2. Over the coming weeks we plan to return to **all newsstands** on which we were previously available.

3. Until the end of June, all issues can be read **for free online** at [www.montaguereporter.org](http://www.montaguereporter.org).

4. However, we depend on your subscription, so **please renew!**

5. By default, we are **mailing print issues** to all subscribers. This is a costly and time-consuming endeavor.

6. We therefore encourage all subscribers who can read the paper online to do so. About 26% of our subscribers have **opted out** so far, and we would like this to increase!

Call us at 863-8666 or email [info@montaguereporter.org](mailto:info@montaguereporter.org) to opt out.

7. As an alternative, beginning this week, **subscribers can also pick up newspapers** at the following locations: at or near our office in Turners Falls; the Leverett Village Co-op; the Wendell Country Store; and Upinngil Farmstand in Gill. Very few people have chosen this option thus far, but if you're a print type who can work this into your routine, please consider doing so! Use the phone number or email address above to let us know you'd like to do this.

8. If you already opted out to save us postage, but would like to **pick up a print copy** at one of those locations, let us know – we can do that!

9. If you aren't a subscriber, please **consider subscribing**. It's an essential way to support our independent community paper. It's a weird time to subscribe, but it would be a weird-

er time to have our paper tank.

10. We plan to reinstitute **regular home delivery** to most neighborhoods in Montague/Turners, Gill, Erving, Wendell, Leverett, and Greenfield this summer.

11. By popular demand, when we do that, we will also formalize a **digital subscription option** for folks who like reading the PDFs.


12. You can always **donate**, too! Send checks to 177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 or go online to [www.montaguereporter.org/donate/](http://www.montaguereporter.org/donate/).

13. A particularly good deed would be to **buy ad space** for your favorite small local business. Reach out to [ads@montaguereporter.org](mailto:ads@montaguereporter.org).

14. Finally, we need more (real) **Letters to the Editors!** Send those to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

15. We're going to pull through this mess, with your help. **Stay safe**, and keep reading!

NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION



NINA

### CORRECTION:

*Sharp-eyed readers would have noticed an error in last week's Montague selectboard coverage ("Town Can't Legally Block Feverish Members From Town Meeting, Lanyers Warn," Page A1). A single word was mistakenly deleted from its first sentence, "The Montague selectboard voted for the second time in recent weeks to purchase a temperature-taking for potential use at the town's June 13 annual town meeting..." The sentence should in fact have read "...to purchase a temperature-taking clown for potential use..." We apologize to our readers and reporter Jeff Singleton for the copy-editing error, and offer this illustration in apology. (This week, the selectboard decided not to use the high school gym after all; story on page A1...)*

## Letter to the Editors

## Better Than All The Rest



It is our pleasure to inform you that *Montague Reporter* has been selected as the Winner for the 2020 Best of Turners Falls Awards in the category of Publishers. Notification to other award winners in Turners Falls will be made over the next several weeks. After all award recipients have been notified, we will post the complete list of winners on our website.

The Turners Falls Award Program was created to honor and generate public recognition of the achievements and positive contributions of businesses and organizations in and around Turners Falls. Our mission is to raise the profile of exemplary companies and entrepreneurs among the press, the business community, and the general public.

It is not a requirement, but is your option, to have us send you one of the 2020 Awards that have been designed for display at your place of business. As an Award recipient, there is no membership requirement. We simply ask each award recipient to pay for the cost of their awards. The revenue generated by the Turners Falls Award Program helps to pay for operational support, marketing and partnership programs for local businesses. There are various award types, sizes and shipping options.

Also, we can create a digital award image during the production process at no extra charge for use on your website or with any of your other social marketing.

Respectfully,

**Brittany Hayes**  
**Turners Falls Award Program**  
**Houston, TX**

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

**PHONE: (413) 863-8666**  
Please note new email addresses:  
[editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)  
[features@montaguereporter.org](mailto:features@montaguereporter.org)  
[ads@montaguereporter.org](mailto:ads@montaguereporter.org)  
[bills@montaguereporter.org](mailto:bills@montaguereporter.org)  
[circulation@montaguereporter.org](mailto:circulation@montaguereporter.org)  
[events@montaguereporter.org](mailto:events@montaguereporter.org)  
[poetry@montaguereporter.org](mailto:poetry@montaguereporter.org)  
[subscriptions@montaguereporter.org](mailto:subscriptions@montaguereporter.org)

Send address changes to:  
**The Montague Reporter**  
**177 Avenue A**  
**Turners Falls, MA 01376**

Advertising and copy deadline is  
**MONDAY at NOON.**

*This newspaper shall not be liable for errors in advertisements, but will print without charge that part of the advertisement in which an error occurred. The publishers reserve the right to refuse advertising for any reason and to alter copy or graphics to conform to standards of the newspaper, such as they are.*

**Annual Subscription Rate:**  
\$30 for walking subscriptions;  
\$40 for driving route subscriptions;  
\$60 for mailed subscriptions.  
Call us or contact  
[subscriptions@montaguereporter.org](mailto:subscriptions@montaguereporter.org)  
with any questions.

**WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS!**  
*(ORIGINAL CONTENT ONLY, PLEASE)*

**Montague Reporter**  
**177 Avenue A**  
**Turners Falls, MA 01376**

**editor@montaguereporter.org**

### FURTHER CORRECTIONS:

We've received lots of positive feedback for *That's Another Story*, our three-part interview with Turners Falls legend George F. Bush. Mr. Bush himself was pointing out our errors before the series had even ended.

For one, the caption on the first one said he had "taught for three decades at Turners Falls High School." "Someone might get the impression that that's all I did," he complained. "They might say 'Hey, we had Mr. Bush in the seventh and eighth grade!'" So, for the record: he taught for seven years at the grammar school, followed by 23 at the high school, for three decades *total* (1952 to 1982). Our bad!

He also mistakenly referred to his stepfather as his "father" at one point, which was an error.

Last week we ran a related story, a re-run of a 2012 *West Along the River* column about the 1942 high school baseball team that won the state championship for Turners. David Brule made a reference to "winning pitcher Walt Kostanski."

Walter's son, Rick Kostanski, called this week to fess up. "Artie Burke came in for relief in what had to be the fifth or sixth inning, and he got the win," Rick told us. Power-town was down 4-0 in the seventh, so that makes sense. (Burke got the win on the mound *and* crossed the plate with the winning run!)

Rick mentioned that Artie's son (Artie III) still lives in town. We offer an apology to him and to our readers. We may get stuff wrong, but we always appreciate your corrections, and love to print them!

### Sign Me Up!

**\$20** { 8 months (31 issues) for our walking routes  
6 months (23 issues) for our driving routes  
4 months (15 issues) for mailed subscriptions

## The Montague Reporter

177 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_





Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The buoys have been installed above the Turners Falls dam, and First Light Power sent out the following update about **river recreation this year**. FirstLight manages the Barton Cove Recreation Area as part of its federal operating licenses for the nearby Northfield Mountain, Turners Falls, and Cabot hydroelectric facilities.

“Memorial Day is the traditional start of boating season, but river currents can be quite strong at this time of year, and the water still quite cold, so please be extra careful if you go out,” said Len Greene, director of government affairs and communications at FirstLight. “Particularly this year, when the COVID-19 pandemic is putting such strain on the health-care system, none of us wants to subject our families, our friends, or our first responders to unnecessary risks, so boating safely on the Connecticut is more important than ever this spring and summer. We urge everyone enjoying boating on the river to remember to wear your life vest whenever you’re on the water...”

FirstLight has closed its campgrounds for the year at Barton Cove and Munns Ferry, and will not be renting canoes and kayaks, either.

The **Porter-Phelps-Huntington Museum** in Hadley will not open or hold public programming this year. This historic house museum, dating to 1752, is canceling its 71st season due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

“After doing historical research into past pandemics in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, it is clear that the impact of COVID-19 will be with us for a long time,” reads an announcement from the Museum. “Until there is an effective vaccine the Museum will be closed for all tours, Wednesday Folk Traditions, A Perfect Spot of Tea, Corn Barn exhibits, Com-

munity Days, and the many other programs held at this historic site.”

Similarly, the **Memorial Hall Museum** in Old Deerfield, the **Flynt Center of Early New England Life**, and **Historic Deerfield** are all closed and not conducting their usual programs at this time. Look online for virtual tours, which many museums have been offering during the pandemic.

**Epsilon Spires’ virtual cinema** program presents the British film *Sorry We Missed You* as part of a new labor film series. I saw the film earlier this month. It is indeed a “lacerating social drama that demolishes the current corporate line on the gig economy.”

British filmmaker Ken Loach tells the story of a family trying to recover financially from the 2008 economic crisis. They put all their meager assets into a delivery van for the father to drive as an independent agent, with the hopes that he can build it into his own service franchise. The ruthless nature of his experience, paired with the wife’s struggles to provide quality, compassionate care as a home health aide, exert pressures that affect the entire family unit in heartbreaking ways.

Watch the film (for a fee), then join an online discussion on labor, workers, and the economy this Friday, May 22 at 8 p.m., facilitated by Dr. Teresa Healy and Tom Juravich.

Epsilon Spires also recommends a free, interactive documentary called “Earn a Living” about what might happen if a universal basic income were introduced. It is a series of seven short documentaries from around the world exploring work and money. See [www.earn-a-living.com](http://www.earn-a-living.com).

Drawdown Montague sent notice of a **free composting webinar** next May 29 from 12 to 1 p.m. More and more area residents, businesses, and towns are composting, and you can

learn how to make and improve a home composting system during this webinar. There will be an abundance of technical information, free resources, real-life examples, and a live question & answer period.

The experts presenting include members of the Greater Quabbin Food Alliance’s Food Waste Recovery Group, Amy Donovan from Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, Joel Betts from Worcester County Conservation District, and Rick Innes, owner of Clear View Composting.

See the article in this issue by Susan Campbell for more about composting!

This year, the Shea Theater presents **Immigrant Voices: A [Digital] Celebration of the Arts** online on Sunday, May 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Usually a festive celebration at the Shea showcasing artistic performances by the Center for New Americans’ immigrant students, alumni, and allies, the event is offered digitally in its fifth year. “As a show of resilience and hope, while socially distant, we will come together as a community in song, dance, and poetry,” the theater’s press release explains.

The show features performances that display the diversity of cultures and traditions that enrich our region. Purchase tickets through the theater website, and receive a Zoom link to the performances: [www.sheatheater.org](http://www.sheatheater.org). Your purchase benefits programs at the Center for New Americans, which teaches English and offers citizenship and other support services to immigrants and refugees in western Mass.

Ashfield artist Robert Markey writes that he is selling his artwork in an **online fundraiser for Amnesty International**. Markey was teaching at the Franklin County Jail and the Recovery Center in Northampton, plus projects at the Springfield Museum school, and the Children’s Advocacy Center in Greenfield – all of which have been canceled due to COVID-19. The teaching and projects were important ways Markey felt he was helping others, and the online fundraiser is something he hopes can take the

place of it for now.

The work is on display on his website, [www.robertmarkey.com/donate.html](http://www.robertmarkey.com/donate.html). You can choose a piece and make a donation, and he will mail you the art. All the pieces are works on paper: drawings, woodcut prints, and stencils that are easy to ship.

Markey has also been busy creating “Peace Song Art,” a collection of art inspired by songs of the ‘60s. They are available on his website as well, and you may listen to the songs while viewing the artwork inspired by it: [www.robertmarkey.com/peacesongs.html](http://www.robertmarkey.com/peacesongs.html).

To effectively protect the US population, **100,000 contact tracers will need to be employed**, according to an article by Sarah Holder published on [www.citylab.com](http://www.citylab.com). Contact tracing of people who come down with the coronavirus is best done by humans, apparently. The article states that Bluetooth technology and tracing apps have low compliance rates in areas where those methods have been tried, and privacy issues make it unlikely that such technology will be widely adopted in this country.

Contact tracing is a job that may be done from home, over the phone, and Johns Hopkins University offers a free online course: [www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing](http://www.coursera.org/learn/covid-19-contact-tracing). It takes five hours to complete the training.

**Franklin County Technical School** has sent out information pertaining to their plans for graduation, which takes place on June 5 on the school’s hockey field.

The new plan allows for a socially distant way for graduates to get diplomas in front of their classmates and their families. Families will stay in their vehicles, and listen to the proceedings over an FM station. The school will document the proceedings with aerial footage from a drone camera. Strict adherence to the rules must be followed, or the proceedings may be shut down. The ceremony will also be livestreamed for those who aren’t able to attend.

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

**WRITE-IN** from page A1  
conversations” with his wife about whether he should run for another three-year term, but that she “fully endorses” his candidacy.

“I’ve got a lot of support, including from folks I wouldn’t necessarily expect support from,” he added. “Over the course of the years, you might disappoint some people with the decisions you make.... It’s been a real heartwarming experience for me to know that folks see the position as the greater good that it is.”

Arthur has also said she is surprised at some of her support. “We’ve had a lot of people who I do not know in town reach out and ask how they can get involved,” she told the *Reporter* this week.

The restaurateur said she has just received an order of lawn signs, which supporters can pick up at the restaurant or request for delivery. She plans to hold weekly “meet-and-greets” via Zoom for constituents to meet her and ask her questions.

“I’m also planning on doing a social-distance meetup in a park soon, but I don’t have any specific details for that yet,” she added. An official Facebook page, “Ashley

Arthur for Montague Selectboard,” went live this week.

Nelson’s own page on the site, “Re-elect Michael Nelson for Montague Selectboard,” began March 9.

“My opponent will be on the ballot,” Nelson said on Monday. “Under her name will be a blank space, and folks who desire to vote for me will be required to physically write in my name, and check off a box next to it.”

Nelson’s address is 16 Sunderland Road, but he said he had consulted with town clerk Deb Bourbeau and was told that because “it’s all about voter intent,” including the address should not be necessary. “I’m the only Mike Nelson in town,” he explained. “One can make the assumption that if someone votes for Mike Nelson, it’s for me.”

Arthur said she had printed out applications for mail-in ballots, and was distributing them at her restaurant. (The form is also available on Page A7 of this edition.)

The dog whose photograph appears on some of Arthur’s lawn signs is Vincent, who the candidate describes as a “good boy.”



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

**PZ**  
**Partridge-Zschau Insurance**  
**Protect Your Future**  
**Since 1891**  
25 Millers Falls Road  
Turners Falls, MA 01376  
tel: 413-863-4331  
[www.pzine.com](http://www.pzine.com)

**GREENFIELD FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE**  
Locally Owned Since 1916  
269 High Street - Greenfield  
(413) 773-9639  
**Local Farmer-Owned**  
**Products for the home, farm, pets, yard & garden**  
**If you Feed it - Seed it - Weed it We GOT it!**  
[www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com](http://www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com)

**Formerly Jay K's — bigger & better!**  
**Connecticut River Liquor & Wine**  
Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm  
Fri & Sat 10am - 11pm • Sun Noon-8pm  
123 Avenue A • Turners Falls  
863-5066

**NANCY L. DOLE BOOKS & EPHEMERA**  
**BOOKS**  
20 State Street,  
Bucklandside  
Shelburne Falls  
413-625-9850  
[ndole@crocker.com](mailto:ndole@crocker.com)  
closed Mondays

**WENDELL COUNTRY STORE**  
It's just a stone's throw from reality.  
Groceries - Videos - Home Baked Goods  
Beer - Wine - Liquor  
**MON - SAT 7-9, SUNDAY 8-8**  
978-544-8646  
Lockes Village Rd.  
1/2 mile south of Wendell Center

## VIRUS from page A1

positive and placed under quarantine, who wrote about her experience in the April 9 edition of the *Montague Reporter*.

Another nine, including Leverett and Gill, are reported to have had “fewer than 5” cases, an effort to prevent pinpointing private medical data. On April 10, the Leverett board of health reported that 11 Leverett residents had been infected as of that date, though only three had been tested, and two were positive.

The DPH also publishes a daily “dashboard” report that includes countywide cumulative totals. By comparing the figures, it appears that 16 positive cases are attributed to those nine towns. 81% of the county’s reported cases are concentrated in Greenfield, Montague, and

Orange, towns that account for 47% of the population.

This week, governor Charlie Baker announced a phased reopening of the state’s workplaces and public areas. The relaxation of restrictions is dependent on continued progress in six areas: testing; contact tracing; healthcare system readiness; positive tests; hospitalization; and deaths. The state observed a “positive trend” as of May 18 in the rate of positive tests, which is calculated on a seven-day average.

However, in nearly every county, more positive tests were registered between May 13 and 19 than between May 6 and May 12. The exceptions were Franklin, Hampshire, and Berkshire counties, all rural counties in the western part of the state.



## GIFT from page A1

Steiner said he had heard the Survival Center was “short on prepared meals” and canned goods, and that the gift cards would allow it to replenish the shelves of its food pantry.

“A lot of local people greatly supported the store during the

first month or so of the pandemic,” Steiner said. “Business was really crazy, and we saw that there was a need for extra food to be out there, so the company decided to do this.”

Attempts to reach Survival Center staff for comment on the donation were unsuccessful as of press time.



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

**REAL PICKLES**  
Locally grown vegetables  
Fermented & raw  
100% organic  
A worker co-op in Greenfield, MA  
[www.realpickles.com](http://www.realpickles.com) | (413) 774-2600

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient  
**IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE**  
UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD  
413-883-7323  
Easy in-town location  
Secure 24-hour access  
OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA  
Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshaw Vendors  
and Artists encouraged to inquire  
**VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES**

**Brian R. San Soucie Locksmith - CRL**  
certified - bonded - insured  
863-2471  
28 Montague St  
Turners Falls, MA  
Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of locks & entry devices for business & homes  
**- Dead Bolts**  
**- Household Lock Sets**  
**- Master Keys & Re-keys**  
**- Safe Combinations Changed**



## RECYCLE

PAPER  
Week of May 25  
in Montague

more info? call: 863-2054

## LOOKING TO BUY

Turners Falls  
and Greenfield  
High School  
Yearbooks  
(All Years)

Call: (413) 863-9297

THE LADY  
KILLIGREW:

Awesome Beer  
Amazing Food



Amazing, Awesome  
Employees!

440 Greenfield Rd, Montague MA  
7 Days / 8am - 11pm (at least)  
(413) 867-9666

WE HEAT  
FRANKLIN  
COUNTY

- System 2000 (Energy Kinetics)
- Thermo Pride
- Weil-McLain
- Other Major Brands
- Expert Burner Service



(413) 773-3622

Nina's Nook  
Uniquities,  
Frivolities,  
Un-necessariums

Closed Indefinitely due to COVID-19  
125A Avenue A Turners Falls  
413.834.8800

Find me on Etsy.com/shop/ninarossi

www.ninasnook.com

## ERVING from page A1

keen” on an indoor meeting, and that an outdoor meeting was “fine as a contingency,” but he was not sure how well one would work.

Smith reported that Union #28 superintendent Jennifer Culkeen had concerns about cleaning the Erving Elementary School, where town meetings are normally held, before and after the annual town meeting. He said that he, town administrator Bryan Smith, Culkeen, and principal Lisa Candito would be meeting to discuss their concerns.

Regarding the idea of postponing the meeting, town clerk Richard Newton said, “You buy a month, but you won’t have a vaccine in a month.”

Jacob Smith referred to the state re-opening plan released earlier that day by Governor Charlie Baker, which would allow larger gatherings during “Phase 4.” “Maybe July is better than June,” he said. Phase 1 began Monday, and each phase is expected to last a minimum of three weeks.

Bembury said he felt the board “should keep bumping [the date] until we can hold an annual town meeting in total safety.”

Sanders said he agreed with Bembury. Jacob Smith said that decisions for future postponements would be made thirty days in advance.

## Re-Opening Erving

In accordance with the phased re-opening, the board decided that, although town buildings will remain closed to the public, town employees who wish to could start

coming in to their offices, at least part time.

Bryan Smith said that the town would follow the state’s office opening guidelines. He said that increased cleaning was already in place, that the town will provide health and safety training, sanitizer, and personal protective equipment for returning office workers, and that individual employees would be responsible for sanitizing their own spaces. Employee training would be available by Friday, and employees can use their town hall offices beginning May 26.

Although the new library building will remain closed, library staff will be able to start work on setting up the space.

The senior center director will be able to do office work at the senior center. The selectboard approved curbside distribution of food boxes to elders at the center, and having the senior center cook prepare and package elder meals for pickup once a week.

## IP Mill Cleanup

Brian Day of Tighe & Bond, the town’s environmental consultant, informed the town that Air Quality Experts, Inc. (AQE), the contractor removing the asbestos-containing material from the former International Paper Mill building, had found additional layers of asbestos floor tiles under layers of plywood.

According to Day, removing these previously unknown tiles is beyond the scope of work proposed by AQE; the additional cost to remove these tiles is estimated

at \$8,500 to \$9,000. Because no funds are left in the cleanup line item, Bryan Smith recommended asking the finance committee to release \$9,000 from the reserve fund for the additional work.

## Bembury said he felt the board “should keep bumping [the date] until we can hold an annual town meeting in total safety.”

Bembury said he felt it was important to take care of all of the issues at the building while the cleanup was ongoing. Bryan Smith said he would ask the fin com to meet and consider the request.

## Town Logo and Branding

Planning assistant Mariah Kurtz presented five draft town logos developed by Tiny Town Marketing of Orange. Based on residents’ ideas, the draft logos highlighted the French King Bridge, the Millers River, and nature. Kurtz said that the draft logos were a “jumping-off place” to start a conversation about the board’s preferences.

Building on the current slogan “A Great Place to Live,” several of the drafts included the words “Live, Work, Grow, Thrive.”

Board members said they felt “Thrive” seemed out of place, and in general preferred “A Great Place to – .”

## GUEST EDITORIAL

# Women and COVID-19

By H. PATRICIA HYNES

**MONTAGUE** – Women have risen to heroic heights during this pandemic – comprising the majority of essential health care workers, leading successful countries in containing the coronavirus, homeschooling children while working from home. And yet, the global pandemic in physical and sexual violence against women continues unabated and worsened during the coronavirus pandemic.

As of mid-April, women led six of seven countries with the best record of containing COVID-19 infections and deaths: Germany, Taiwan, New Zealand, Iceland, Finland, Norway and Denmark. While most of these front-runners are small, Germany is the most populous country in western Europe. And Norway is comparable in population to the medical mecca Massachusetts, which became a hotspot of infection and deaths soon after New York City, given its delay in implementing a testing and contact-tracing program.

Though taking different approaches, some lockdowns, some not, the women-led successful countries acted immediately and decisively with testing, tracking, widespread education, adequate personal protection, and with ongoing personal communication through press conferences, some for children only.

Remarking on the example of these women leaders, one commentator – a consultant to business on women’s leadership – points to studies that show “women are more likely to lead through inspiration, transforming people’s attitudes and beliefs, and aligning people with meaning and purpose than men are.”

## Nurses on the Front Lines

The crisp crisis-driven prose of Simone Hannah-Clark, an intensive care unit nurse in New York City, takes us non-stop through one long day typical of the hundreds of thousands of critical care nurses on the front lines of the pandemic.

Rising early while her family slept; avoiding the too quiet, dark subway (because of risk of sexual assault?) for Lyft; at the hospital hav-

ing to quickly wedge two beds, ventilators and sets of monitors into rooms sized for one, for the tidal wave of COVID-19 patients; swiftly hooking up her patients to a half dozen monitors and machines; haunted with worry about reusing personal protective equipment in short supply throughout a 12-hour shift; and bearing respectful witness to those who die.

“We wrap the patient’s body, securely, stroking her brow and wishing her well on her next journey.”

“Doctors,” she notes, “may be the architects of what happens in the hospital. But we are the builders.”

And so the nurses – almost all women – build ceaselessly amidst overflowing trash buckets; and shortages of equipment, sedating drugs, stretchers and beds within the chaos of a broken health care system.

Cook Country Hospital, Chicago’s safety net and largest hospital, serves the poor, homeless, incarcerated, insured and uninsured, immigrants regardless of legal status, and mainly people of color. An ER nurse there recounts the tactic she resorted to in order to get N-95 masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE) for the ER nurses assisting extremely ill COVID-19 patients: a work sit-down in the break room.

The ER coordinator immediately found a PPE cart and N-95 masks for the nurses – equipment readily available to ER doctors – but wasted no time in demeaning their action as a “temper tantrum.”

“Something management would say only to nurses, who are 80-90 percent women,” the nurse notes. To which she adds, “We are fighting back daily on the inside.”

As of last week 91 US nurses have died from COVID-19, while none has died in Canada, where a nationalized health care system prioritizes people over profit, meaning no Canadian nurses have to resort to using garbage bags and work sit-downs for personal protection. Canada has one-tenth the population of the US.

## The Underbelly of “Stay in Place”

Home, the refuge from the coronavirus, is

Jacob Smith observed that many Erving residents liked the wood and stone signs proposed by U-Mass architecture students in the Erving Center Visioning Plan. Kurtz said that future drafts could use more nature-based colors, rather than bright ones.

## Other Business

The selectboard approved a \$12.4 million FY’21 budget, and a budget presentation that will be printed and sent to every residence in Erving.

Public education is the largest spending category, at \$5.2 million, followed by \$1.7 million for benefits, \$1.1 million for general government, and \$931,000 for public safety.

The board revised two related job descriptions. The “building and grounds maintenance” position became “building and grounds maintenance I,” and the highway building and grounds maintenance position became “building and grounds maintenance II.” Because the second position includes plowing, running the loader and backhoe, and requires a hoisting license, the job classification, and therefore its compensation, was upgraded retroactive to March 30.

The board also reviewed new job descriptions and compensation increases for fire department training officer, assistant training officer, fire safety educator, and fire inspector. These changes will be considered again at the board’s June 1 meeting.



universally the “hotspot” for physical and sexual assault of women and children. Almost 1 in 3 women throughout the world (1 in 5 in North America and Western Europe) aged 15 and over have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence during their lifetime. Violence by an intimate partner is the leading cause of injury to women 15 to 44 years old.

This relentless pandemic in violence is now magnified with women having to stay in place with their batterers to protect against COVID-19. As one feminist activist states, “this [coronavirus] pandemic can trigger a wave of violence, committed by men unable to deal with the psychological, financial and social consequences of the crisis.”

Unable *and unwilling*, I would add.

The ER for assaulted women is hotlines, shelters, the courts, and hospitals: all needed, but deeply inadequate without systemic prevention. We – parents, educators, relatives and friends, media, religious leaders, politicians, coaches and mentors at large – must challenge boys and men to be “another boy, another man against violence against women.”

Above all, men and boys must take responsibility for their emancipation from toxic male identity and behavior in seeking a path to healthy manhood.

## Resources for victims of sexual and physical abuse:

- NELCWIT 24-hour domestic violence and rape crisis hotline: (413) 772-0806. Franklin County and North Quabbin toll-free number: (888) 249-0806.
- Local police or DA’s office for restraining order.

## Resources for boys and men:

- Men’s Resource Center, Amherst: supporting healthy manhood, challenging violence. (413) 253-9887.

*Pat Hynes, a retired Professor of Environmental Health, directs the Traprock Center for Peace and Justice in western Massachusetts. She lives in Montague.*

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

## Renaissance Excavating, Inc.

COMPLETE  
SITE WORK

Septic & Drainage Systems | Sand, Gravel & Loam  
Main Road, Gill  
Douglas Edson 413.863.4462  
renexc@gmail.com cell 413.834.2201

INFO@RENBUILD.NET  
413-863-8316

RENAISSANCE  
BUILDERS

WWW.RENBUILD.NET • PO BOX 272, TURNERS FALLS, MA 01376



SINCE 1970.  
LICENSED, INSURED  
INTERIOR/EXTERIOR PAINTING, ALL PHASES  
POWER WASHING

BRIAN MCCUE, PRESIDENT  
240 GREENFIELD ROAD • MONTAGUE, MA 01351  
PHONE & FAX: 413-367-9896 • RENAISSANCEPAINTINGCOMPANY.COM



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

# Residents Speak Out Against Weed Farm, But Moratorium May Not Succeed

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Meeting one more time through Zoom on May 13, the Wendell selectboard went through a long and varied agenda in just under two hours. The meeting was recorded and will be available on the town website at *wendellmass.us*. In order to save time, board chair Dan Keller held off public input to the meeting’s end.

Much of the discussion involved COVID-19 considerations. Board of health chair Barbara Craddock began by saying that Wendell still has no reported cases. Fire chief Joe Cuneo said Franklin County is not doing as well overall, and Worcester is still seeing increasing numbers of cases. He said the fire department planned to hold an appropriately modified training at Swift River School on May 14.

Cuneo said that the fact that other states are easing their restrictions is no help for Massachusetts. Keller commented that an increase in COVID infections followed an easing of restrictions in China.

Treasurer Carolyn Manley said that Massachusetts legislation would require employers to allow employees up to two weeks of emergency paid sick leave for COVID-related illness. That leave would be used before the employee takes any accrued sick leave.

Manley said she thought the benefit applied only to employees who are entitled to benefits already – those working 20 or more hours per week – but board member Christine Heard asked why she thought that, and Keller said he thought all employees were entitled to that protection, and that for part-time workers who do not get benefits, it would be prorated.

Manley said that she planned to attend a webinar that the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association was holding on May 14 and would try to find out if non-benefited employees were eligible for COVID-related sick time.

Finance committee chair Doug Tanner said that providing any given employee sick time should be revenue-neutral, unless a replacement is hired.

Moderator Katie Nolan has been following an ongoing email conversation among town moderators about how to hold annual town meetings this year. The risk of COVID transmission outdoors is low, and some towns are planning to hold the town meeting outside.

For Wendell, the most logical place outdoors is the town common, but passing traffic can make discussion difficult to hear, and there is no clear way to control access.

Nolan agreed to organize an advisory committee to explore and recommend options. The board appointed her, Craddock, Cuneo, Tanner, deputy moderator Christopher Parker, and town clerk Gretchen Smith as committee members.

After the meeting, Nolan said she has measured both the north the south common to get an idea of how many people can fit within it at six- to ten-foot intervals. She also said that Mark Kemsley is open to use of the Kemsley Academy building, which has a large gym and smaller

classrooms that might be connected.

### Budget Concerns

Tanner said the Swift River School budget request is up again, \$250,000, which would increase the tax rate by \$2.50 per thousand. The state Student Opportunity Act might give more money to schools, but Tanner said Mahar is more likely to get money than Swift River.

Wendell pays for Swift River with a basic capital expense equal to New Salem’s contribution, plus a per-student cost based on a five-year rolling average. The proportion of Wendell students at both Swift River and Mahar is increasing. According to Tanner, in the short term the number of Wendell students is driving costs, while a long-term increase is coming from special education.

Tanner said state Senator Jo Comerford is researching ways to help towns, including a home rule waiver that would allow Wendell to spend over its cap. He said Comerford “is extremely helpful – she does a lot of work, and she has submitted bills regarding special education funding.” Several special education bills are in committee now, but not dead yet; Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is resisting them. Tanner said he would talk with Comerford on May 20, and invited a selectboard member to the conference.

Wendell’s fin com has not yet been informed by the state of its Chapter 70 school funding amount or its free cash amount. Tanner said he is hoping the free cash amount is high.

The fin com’s preliminary calculation is that Wendell’s budget will be \$40,000 to \$50,000 above its cap. The stabilization fund has \$300,000, and Tanner said he is not comfortable with letting that amount get any lower.

Answering a question from Keller, Tanner said that broadband borrowing totals \$28,000 so far – not that much considering how much the total borrowing will be.

### Marijuana Proposal

Several residents, connected to the meeting by telephone or computer, said they opposed Appleguy Flowers, LLC’s proposal to build a marijuana growing facility on West Street, and the selectboard’s work on drafting a host community agreement with Appleguy Flowers.

Keller responded that the process is still in its early stages, and that there are many steps before anything may be built. He said the discussion has been about procedure, and is neither for nor against the project.

Wendell now has three model host agreements, one provided by Appleguy Flowers, and one each from Conway and Sheffield. The next step is a legal review of those documents. Town boards and departments are currently returning comments on the proposal.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato said that the applicant has to have community outreach before a host agreement can be signed. With COVID restrictions that call for remote participation, and Wendell’s current limited internet capacity, a public hearing might not be not easy to achieve.

The proposal would then have to get a special permit through the planning board.

Most of the public comments at the meeting’s end were about the Appleguy Flowers application, and none of the citizens who spoke were in favor of it.

Sharon Gensler, calling from the library parking lot with a dying cell phone battery, said she wanted to slow the process, and pointed out that Appleguy Flowers has changed its story. She said she would like to see the Conway and Sheffield host community agreements, and wondered what Wendell’s cost would be. She said she thought the town should get its fiber-optic internet system in place before a public hearing is held.

Chris Queen said he appreciated Gensler’s comments, and added that his concerns were about the environment, water use, lights, fencing, and security requirements. Heard answered that those concerns are part of the special permit process.

One West Street resident said she was concerned about the lights, the smell, and the water use, and argued that the proposal is not in the town’s interest.

Dan Leahy said that the public hearing should happen before any next steps are taken.

Keller said the window of opportunity for a town moratorium is over. Planning board chair Nan Riebschlaeger said the state attorney general could not answer about a moratorium without knowing the wording of Wendell’s bylaw.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich reported that Peggy Sloan, Franklin Regional Council of Governments director of planning and development, has said it is unlikely that Wendell can impose a moratorium on marijuana projects now.

DiDonato suggested that Wendell can vote a moratorium, but that it might be overruled by the attorney general.

### Community Solar

Heard said that building inspector Phil Delorey said that the plan to divide the lot at 97 Wendell Depot Road into one lot for a house and another for a proposed community solar project would have to go before the planning board, and that it would probably be rejected, because the solar array’s fence would be only 10 feet from the house. Permits usually require a border 25 feet or more from a structure.

After being rejected, the proposal can go before the zoning board of appeals which can be fairly accommodating but can grant a variance only when physical properties require it. It may be permissible to have the solar fence inside the house lot.

DiDonato said that Greg Garrison of Northeast Solar, a consultant on the project, is keeping options open. Incentives have changed but will go down, and nothing can be connected until National Grid finishes increasing the capacity of its Wendell Depot substation. That delay makes success of the community solar project less likely. But Garrison has said it might be feasible to move the project’s fence back from the house, and make the array smaller.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was May 20, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### Crochier, Boutwell Win Gill, Montague Selectboard Seats

Apathy reigned in town and school district elections on Monday, with only 17.5% of the voters turning out under sunny skies to cast ballots in Montague, and 22% in Gill.

In Montague, 976 voters went to the polls to hand a three-year seat on the selectboard to board of health chair Chris Boutwell. Boutwell, a Democrat, easily defeated two challengers with 581 votes to 193 for Rachel Roy, and 150 for Margaret Pyfrom.

In Gill, 233 turned up to vote. Board of health member Randy Crochier unseated incumbent Nancy Griswold in a race for a three-year seat on the selectboard by a vote of 161 to 71.

Fifty-seven percent of Gill voters favored incumbent Sandy Brown over challenger Jane Oakes for a three-year seat on the Gill-Montague regional school committee, by a vote of 130 to 99. But 58% percent of Montague voters picked Oakes, by a vote of 528 to 376 for Sandy Brown.

Due to the disproportionate size of the electorate in the two towns, Montague voters in effect picked Gill’s new school committee representative for them.

### Town Asked to Take Over North Leverett Cemeteries

“It’s getting to the point where the town’s going to have to run the cemeteries,” Arnold Glazier, who has presided over the North Leverett Cemetery Association since 1984, told the selectboard on Tuesday, May 11. “We’ve been doing it since 1916. We’ve got five up in the north end of town. One’s hiding in the bushes. There are eight

of ten of us in the association, but nobody wants to continue on. My brother’s mixed up in it. He can’t hardly get around. I’m in about the same situation myself.”

Board member Julie Shively asked Glazier if he could provide the board with a written description of the responsibilities and cemeteries under the association’s care.

He brought with him a scrolled up blueprint of the Plainview Cemetery, on North Leverett Road, which Glazier said was the only cemetery in the north part of town with plots available for new burials.

Regarding the demand for new burials in North Leverett, Glazier said, “It amounts to about five burials a year.”

### Tornado Money Arrives

Almost four years after a tornado tore through Wendell State Forest – downing trees in a wide swath across the horseshoe of Wickett Pond Road, threading a path of destruction around the Marion Herick homestead, lifting shingles off roofs, damaging the historic schoolhouse that would have been renovated into the town’s new library near the common, and trapping a goat, rescued unscathed, in the collapse of a shed in the center of town – the state of Massachusetts finally came through with promised funds to reimburse the town for tornado cleanup, depositing \$150,000 into Wendell’s bank account.

The money was placed in a special “miscellaneous revenue” account. The first \$38,000 will be used to pay back neighboring towns that offered mutual aid and have not been repaid for their manpower or equipment expenses since July of 2006.

After that, there may be restrictions on how the money is spent, beyond reimbursing town departments for expenses derived from the cleanup.



### Other Business

Aldrich said the town is set up for a call-in hearing for Wednesday, May 27, at 6:30 p.m. regarding Community Development Block Grant funding for broadband.

Aldrich reported that the mowing contractor wanted to begin mowing the town’s lawns the previous weekend. Because town engineer Jim Slavas believes the town septic system needs regular mowing to prevent larger plants from sending roots deep into the leach field, the board approved mowing the septic mound as part of the job, and that would add to the cost for each mowing.

DiDonato reported that the pollinator group has agreed that the entire north common can be mowed, and that their pollinator-friendly areas can be elsewhere near the town center.

Aldrich was given the job of writing a letter to town residents encouraging them to vote by mail

for the town election. Polls will be open on June 1, from noon to 7 p.m. The next step is to allow voting by mail for the September primary elections, and the November national election. Town clerk Gretchen Smith is putting in an order with the New Salem store for masks and gloves.

Citizen Robert Heller called in to promote having an elected municipal light board (MLB), rather than an appointed one as the selectboard has favored. He said that Leverett has the only appointed MLB in the state, and it is a legal ambiguity. The state prefers an elected board.

Heard said he could submit an article for the annual town meeting warrant, and Heller said he could easily get the ten required signatures.

Aldrich is also writing a letter in support of a Mohawk Trail National Scenic Byway, which board members expect to sign at their next meeting, which is scheduled for May 27.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



Bringing Peace to Tired Muscles

Gearing up for spring?

Let me help

Gretchen Wetherby LMT

Massage Offices in Shelburne Falls and Millers Falls  
www.gretchenwetherby.massagetherapy.com

gretchenwlm@gmail.com 413-824-7063

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

53C S. Main St. South Deerfield, MA  
295 Amherst Rd. Sunderland, MA

New Location Now Open:  
6 Main Road, in Gill  
(formerly Jan's Package Store)  
Come check us out!

Deerfield: (413) 665-2456  
Sunderland: (413) 665-5030  
Gill: (413) 863-5730



**Rau's Auto**

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

**(413) 367-2475**

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing  
Best service licensed Mechanics





PARK from page A1

road in. According to Ramsey, the town’s long-term vision for the area is “recreational use.”

Last year a landscape architecture student from UMass-Amherst made a rendering of an eventual park on the site. The ruined structure currently housing the skatepark is imagined as an “Art & Culture Space” including a performance stage, illuminated coal silo, and catwalk.

That image is on the town website as “Riverfront Park Concept Poster,” and the town shared it with the power company during relicensing negotiations for the canal and nearby hydroelectric dam, but those negotiations have stalled.

“It would require significant capital to do a project like that,” Ramsey said, emphasizing that the poster shows “one individual’s concept of what a park there could look like.”

“We’re probably looking at at least a five-, ten-year project,” he added, “given that we’re just on the conceptual stages.”

A Second Home

“If someone wants to put in the millions of bucks it’s going to take to make it into something else, fine,” argued Bryan Dolan. “But for now, all you have to do is *nothing* to let this park happen.”

Dolan, a cabinetmaker with a workshop on Third Street, helped lead the effort to build Unity Skatepark, the 7,200-square-foot concrete park that opened at nearby Unity Park in 2016. He was not involved in building Turnside DIY – he got the call, but was too busy with work and school – but he expressed admiration for the new park, and said it could complement the sanctioned facility.

“The one complaint I hear consistently is that [Unity] is too crowded,” he said, “and that the skill level using it all at once is too diverse.... So far, we haven’t had a lot of injuries, it’s been going okay. But if we had this other space that’s not for everybody – that’s just for the hardcore skaters – they could go there, and it could become much more family-friendly at Unity Park.”

“I know they’ll say, ‘we already have a skatepark in town,’” echoed Fitzpatrick. “But I also play golf a lot, and nobody wants to play the same golf course! Every one’s unique.”

Fitzpatrick added, responding to speculation, that the project was not a response to the closure of Unity Skatepark due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Above: Sand has been heaped on the skatepark’s elements during negotiations. Below: The crew hauled in materials using wheelbarrows and buckets.

“It had nothing to do with that one being closed,” he said. “Whether COVID happened and they closed or didn’t close that park – we would have been down there building either way.”

Fitzpatrick said that ten to 20 people helped develop Turnside, working “13-hour days Saturday, Sunday, three weekends in a row.” The group included veteran builders of both sanctioned and DIY skateparks from around the region, who purchased a pallet of concrete and carted in materials by wheelbarrow. They cleared the site of brush and debris, covered some of the old graffiti with new art, and poured their expertise into creating smooth, curved surfaces to ride.

The ramps, rails, and bumps in the new park will not be easy to demolish.

“Most of us are contractors,” said Fitzpatrick. “I have three jackhammers, a dump truck, and a backhoe, and even with all that equipment, it’s still a project.... Good luck getting through all that ‘crete and rebar!’”

After a Montague police officer arrived at the site and warned the skaters they would be arrested if they returned, “a lot of people got discouraged,” but Fitzpatrick and a

few others decided to appeal to town hall. As of press time, 1,978 people had signed a petition on *Change.org* to “Help Save Turnside DIY.”

“They plan on tearing down this place we call our second home in the near future,” the petition reads. “We need to show them that our community cares.”

An Intriguing Idea

The petition was followed quickly by a letter to town administrator Steve Ellis, signed by Fitzpatrick and “the Turnside D.I.Y. Crew.”

“We would like to make a bid for the lot, with the goal of transforming it into a safe and constructive community space,” the letter read. “We have already put in weeks of clean-up and landscaping work to make the area safer and more usable, but our efforts have been hindered greatly by not having legal access to the property....

“If we owned the lot, we would be able to increase security by fixing, patching, and changing the numerous entry points, conspicuous and not, around the property. Entrance to the property would be gained only after signing a waiver, and only during operational hours, possibly

through a membership.”

“When I saw what they were up to, I was immediately struck by the creativity and energy that was obviously there behind the installation of various skatepark features,” said Ellis. “But I was also immediately aware of the insurance and liability policy that the town just finished paying for, and the fact that there’s no one allowed in that area because it is generally quite unsafe.”

“The parcel itself doesn’t have any legal [access] rights, as it currently stands,” said Ramsey. “Even if you had the legal rights, there’s still the issue of the very narrow canal access road, as the only way to get vehicles there.”

“It is not a place that anybody has a particular right to simply go and start constructing things and hanging out,” said Ellis.

Still, Ellis said that when Fitzpatrick suggested the skaters could dump sand around the skate elements to make them inoperable, he felt it was a “very reasonable request.” The town department of public works provided a dump truck full of sand, and Fitzpatrick and others heaped it over the elements they had built.

“I think there’s a general sense of understanding that – lacking authorization and other agreements – what they’re doing there presently can’t continue,” Ellis said. “But the town’s ear is genuinely open to people who want to bring constructive ideas to the community for spaces that have been underutilized.”

Difficult Terrain

Town officials plan to meet with skaters on the site this Thursday to continue the discussion of the site’s recreation potential – and of its drawbacks.

“It’s an intriguing idea, but there’s lots of details that need to be worked through to figure out whether this is really feasible or not,” said Ramsey.

“I can’t think of anything else that would work there,” argued Dolan. “I can’t imagine anybody demolishing the million tons of poured reinforced concrete to make it a park – or anything else.”

“To me, it’s like if your town has a rock face, and people want to go rock climbing on it,” he added. “This

is a natural resource that’s shared by the entire community. Why not let people use it?”

While town hall does have the right to dispose of the property, Ramsey said, the selectboard would likely issue a request for proposals (RFP) to the general public, requiring prospective buyers to enter into a land development agreement “to make sure whatever the proposal is they accept is going to follow through.”

After all, the property abuts the town-owned Strathmore complex, and would be central to any long-term park or recreation zone. It is Montague’s hope that the federal government eventually requires FirstLight to restore more water to the “bypass stretch” of the Connecticut River as a stipulation of the dam relicensing, and if that happens, the river might be ripe for whitewater rafting.

“We have a proposal [to FirstLight] pending, and we think it would be a tremendous asset to the community if realized,” Ellis argued. “Some pretty extraordinary things have happened through relicensing processes, so I don’t want to sell us short before we’ve received any formal answer.”

“You know what? Dolan asked rhetorically. “Pursue that plan, and as soon as the first piece of equipment comes in to execute that plan, we will leave graciously.”

According to Ramsey, in a situation like that, the town would prefer to lease one section of the property to the skateboarders rather than the entire lot – leaving both the access challenges and public liability.

“You’d be looking at pretty considerable expense to secure the island further, particularly if we’re looking at encouraging more traffic out there,” he said. “It’s only going to invite people to start doing some more urban exploration of the mills and the other sites around there.”

“None of us are lawyers, so we don’t know exactly how these things work,” said Fitzpatrick. “If safety is the concern, we can very easily fence everything off besides the entrance and the skatepark itself. I already have the stuff – I’ll do it for free.”



PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

**HAWKS & REED**  
PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
IN DOWNTOWN GREENFIELD

MUSIC - THEATER - PRIVATE EVENTS  
FOR INFORMATION AND RENTAL INQUIRIES,  
EMAIL US AT  
INFO@HAWKSANDREED.COM  
FULL SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT:  
WWW.HAWKSANDREED.COM

289 MAIN ST. GREENFIELD, MA 01301 413.774.0150

**Fred Holmgren**  
Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay  
tuned!

(978)544-5494  
fredholmgren@gmail.com

**Pipione's**  
SPORT SHOP

- Fishing supplies; Live bait
- Fishing & Hunting Licenses
- Paintball & CO<sub>2</sub> Refills
- Guns & Ammo

Open 7 am 7 days a week  
101 Ave A, Turners 414.863.4246



MONTAGUE from page A1

Ellis said town buildings would likely begin to reopen to the public during Phase 2, with “appointment only, or managed capacity.” He then introduced a proposal by town library director Linda Hickman to allow residents to “access the [library system’s] collections through drop-off and pickup.” According to Hickman’s plan, requested books and other items will be placed outside “by staggered appointment.” When returned, they will be “quarantined in sealed bins for a minimum of four days,” with library staff handling them wearing gloves and masks.

Hickman’s plan, which was approved by the selectboard, includes pickup and drop-off at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls five days a week, and at Millers Falls and Montague Center branch libraries two days a week. It will begin on May 26.

Next the board voted to close down the basketball court in Unity Park, which has been open for the past two months, in response to a complaint that on the previous day “there were an estimated 25 people on the court,” according to parks and rec director Jon Dobosz.

Dobosz said that the court had previously seen a limited number of users, and “they do their best in terms of social distancing,” but that it was going to become increasingly difficult to monitor the courts as the weather gets warm. “Even though we are moving into different phases, I would recommend that we close down the basketball court,” he said. “And, most likely, remove the rims.”

As of Tuesday, the rims had been removed.

Emergency management director John Zellman said he had received two complaints about the basketball players that morning. “I hate to have to see us do something like this when it appears like

folks have been relatively responsible,” said selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz. “But weather is getting better, and folks are getting more complacent – or anxious.”

Town Meeting Location

The board had another lengthy discussion about the location and protocols for the annual town meeting, which is scheduled for June 13. Two weeks earlier, it had voted to hold the meeting at the Turners Falls High School gymnasium. “I thought when we made that decision we thought it was going to be a positive step,” said Kuklewicz. “But it appears that it is not being well received, so we need to have a further discussion.”

Kuklewicz said the alternatives were in a tent, which he felt was not much different than in the gym; outside; or via remote electronic meeting.

Ellis reviewed the current legislation pending at the state level to allow electronic town meetings. The legislation, he pointed out, is an extremely complex process, and might not pass both houses on Beacon Hill.

Most board members and public participants moved towards the option of having an outdoor location, with the high school parking lot, the football field, and even Peskeompskut Park in downtown Turners Falls mentioned. “I think we need to do some research on it,” said Kuklewicz, noting the need for accessible “facilities.”

The selectboard approved the warrant for the annual town election on June 22, but delayed final approval of the town meeting warrant because the location had not been finalized.

Ellis was asked if he thought the problem could be resolved by May 26, to which he replied “the worst that could happen is that I would fail.”

Outdoor Dining

The board voted to direct Ellis to “find an appropriate location” and return with a proposal on June 1, twelve days before the date of the town meeting.

Chris Janke, co-owner of the popular bar and restaurant The Rendezvous on Third Street in Turners Falls, came before the board with a plan to allow food service in the town parking lot next to the business. Janke presented the board with several maps of the lot, with tables on the south side next to his business and parking on the north side. Janke said his proposal drew on policies in Connecticut, which is allowing restaurants to open with strictly outdoor seating.

“We’ve used the parking lot a number of times in the past,” he said, “although I guess it’s been about ten years or more.” Janke noted that planned service hours would end at 9 p.m., and described the proposal as “a way to start the dialogue.”

Nelson said he wanted to do everything possible to support local business, but that he was concerned about the “precedent” of allowing just one business to set up outdoor seating just because it was next to a town lot.

“I think we need to think of this in a larger context,” said Kuklewicz.

Janke, noting that the bar Between the Uprights had been allowed seating on town property without a broader plan, added, “I am in favor of other establishments coming up with plans that make sense for them.”

“Rather than being competitive, we want to be a catalyst,” said co-owner Mark Wisniewski. The proposal was supported by Ashley Arthur, owner of the Five Eyed Fox, also located on Third Street.

After Ellis said that he envisioned Avenue A in an “ongoing outdoor cafe and sidewalk-sale kind of mode,” the board charged him

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY  
MONTAGUE MICROENTERPRISE COVID  
RECOVERY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

The Town is providing forgivable loans of up to \$5,000 to eligible Montague businesses that currently employ 5 people or less.

Applications will be accepted on a first-come first served basis beginning Tuesday, May 26 at 1 p.m.

Application and program details are available at [www.montague-ma.gov](http://www.montague-ma.gov).

with working on a broader proposal for downtown restaurants, and to hold a meeting on Tuesday, May 26 to discuss the issue.

Local Stimulus

The meeting began with a public hearing on a proposal to reallocate \$64,000 in surplus 2019 Community Development Block Grant funds to COVID-related expenditures. \$6,000 will be split among three social service agencies who received funds under the original grant, and the remaining \$58,000 allocated to a “micro-enterprise” loan fund for small businesses administered by the Franklin County Community Development Corporation (FCCDC).

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (FCRHRA), which manages the town’s block grant funding, explained that the micro-enterprise funds are available to businesses with five or fewer employees, whose owners have income below 80% of the area median income.

The program, which has been in existence for over 20 years, covers businesses in Montague, Greenfield, Buckland, and Shelburne. Businesses may apply for up to \$5,000 in “forgivable” loans.

John Waite of the FCCDC said the loans are designed to help “brick and mortar” businesses in downtown areas like Avenue A in Turners Falls remain viable during

the pandemic. He said that “this first chunk of money will probably go quickly, but hopefully it will follow with some other.”

McHugh said the Montague block grant funds “will only be spent on Montague businesses.” He also said the program has a list of “eligible expenses,” which include employee salaries, health care, inventory and mortgage interest.

The board voted to authorize the housing authority to apply for the reprogramming of the block grant funds. Town planner Walter Ramsey said “up-to-date details” for businesses interested in applying would be posted on the town website.

Other Business

The board authorized a \$132,500 contract with GZA Environmental to cap the burn dump on Sandy Lane, and \$479.60 to the Berkshire Design Group for the Spinner Park restoration project on Avenue A.

The board also endorsed a letter of support for designating the Mohawk Trail, a.k.a. Route 2, a federal “scenic byway.”

The board also “clarified” policies for tag sales during the current COVID-19 emergency by stating that tag sales will not be allowed at the current time due to the inability to guarantee proper “social distancing.”

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held on May 26.



Vote By Mail!

From the Elections Division of the Secretary of the Commonwealth’s office:

“We are aware that the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic may change the ways that you vote or run for office.... Whether or not your town has postponed your local election, a law has been passed to allow early voting by mail in local elections being held on or before June 30, 2020. You may apply now for your mail-in early ballot....

Early voting by mail is similar to absentee voting, but unlike absentee voting, **no excuse is required**. Early ballot applications are available for upcoming local and special elections now. As with absentee ballot applications, any written request is acceptable.... Applications may be mailed, hand-delivered, faxed, or emailed. If you are emailing your application, you must be able to send an image of the application as an attachment, either by scanning it or by taking a picture of it. A hand-written signature must be visible.

All mail-in ballots must be back at your city or town hall by the close of polls on the day of the election – a postmark is not sufficient.... Please be sure to allow enough time for the mailing of your application and your ballot.

Leverett Town Clerk

9 Montague Rd., PO Box 300, Leverett, MA 01054  
Phone (413) 548-9150 / Fax (413) 548-1035  
[townclerk@leverett.ma.us](mailto:townclerk@leverett.ma.us)

Montague Town Clerk

One Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376  
Phone (413) 863-3200 x 104 / Fax (413) 863-3224  
[townclerk@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@montague-ma.gov)

Erving Town Hall

12 East Main St., Erving, MA 01344  
Phone (413) 422-2800 x 106 / Fax (413) 528-6234  
[townclerk.richard.newton@erving-ma.org](mailto:townclerk.richard.newton@erving-ma.org)

Gill Town Clerk

325 Main Road, Gill, MA 01354  
Phone (413) 863-8103 / Fax (413) 863-7775  
[townclerk@gillmass.org](mailto:townclerk@gillmass.org)


Wendell Town Clerk

59 Lockes Village Rd., PO Box 41, Wendell, MA 01379  
Phone (978) 544-3395 x 2 / Fax (978) 544-7467  
[townclerk@wendellmass.us](mailto:townclerk@wendellmass.us)

Greenfield Town Clerk

14 Court Square, Greenfield, MA 01301  
Phone (413) 772-1555 x 6162 / Fax (413) 772-1542  
[townclerk@greenfield-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@greenfield-ma.gov)

2020 Municipal Election  
Early Ballot Application



William Francis Galvin  
Secretary of the Commonwealth

Voter Information

1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Legal Voting Residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
  
Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Ballot Information

2

Mail Ballot to: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Circumstances  
(If applicable)

3

☐ Voter required assistance in completing application due to physical disability.  
Assisting person's name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Assisting person's address: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (under penalty of perjury): \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Eligibility

Any registered voter may use this application to request an early ballot for a local election being held on or before June 30, 2020.

Completing the Application

1. Voter Information – Provide your name, legal voting address, and date of birth. Telephone number and e-mail address are optional fields.

2. Ballot Information – Provide the address where you want the ballot mailed.

3. Special Circumstances – If you are assisting a voter in completing this application, complete this section.

4. Sign your name. If you require assistance in signing the application, you may authorize someone to sign your name in your presence. That person must complete the assisting person's information in Section 3.

Submitting the Application


Send the completed application to the local election official at your city or town hall.

Applications can be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications may also be submitted electronically by fax or e-mail, as long as your signature is visible.

Please allow ample mailing time for this application and for the ballot. Ballots must be returned to your local election official by Election Day.

Find contact information for local election officials at [www.sec.state.ma.us/e/e](http://www.sec.state.ma.us/e/e) or by calling 1-800-462-VOTE (8683).

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!




Bryan Hobbs  
Remodeling LLC

Blown Cellulose Insulation • Spray Foam Insulation  
Airsealing • Energy Audits • Replacement Doors & Windows


Email: [bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com](mailto:bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com)  
Now Accepting Credit Cards

Office: (413) 775-9006  
Lic # 083982  
Reg # 139564



mass save  
PARTNER


Bryan G. Hobbs  
PO Box 1535  
Greenfield, MA 01302



EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

Matthew Edwards  
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals  
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture  
Residential / Commercial / Municipal  
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping  
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability  
WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM  
Wendell, MA  
Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties



413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452

ED L

Dealer in used  
Home Furnishings

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield

featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets  
Cookery Figurines End Tables

I Make  
Lamps Lite!

Open 7 Days a Week

GOOD USED USABLES



AUSTERITY from page A1

updates from the state legislative delegation: senator Jo Comerford of Northampton, 1st Franklin representative Natalie Blais of Sunderland, and 2nd Berkshire representative Paul Mark of Peru.

The meeting, held by video over Zoom with a text chat running alongside, also began with a campaign update from Holyoke mayor Alex Morse, who is challenging US representative Richard Neal in the state’s 1st congressional district.

FCCPR is an independent political group that was formed after the 2016 presidential election by Franklin County organizers who had supported the campaign of Vermont senator Bernie Sanders. The group’s priorities include campaign finance reform, climate change, single-payer health care, workers’ rights, and civil rights.

FCCPR members asked Comerford and other members of the delegation for advice on how to direct their political energies.

“You asked for what we should do?” Comerford replied. “You should say, now, ‘Don’t go to austerity.’”

The economic situation brought on by the pandemic response, she said, “showed us that folks were right on the edge of survival and just hanging on, and this pitched them into an incredibly dangerous, painful place.”

Comerford recommended that the state borrow and reconfigure taxes, as well as reprioritize spending “within the state budget, to things like human needs, and education and our municipalities. There are things we can do and not go down that rabbit hole of austerity.”

Rep. Blais made a pitch for fast action on a number of issues, including housing and communications infrastructure, both in response to immediate needs and as a way to fuel economic development. “We want to make sure we are standing up for those who need it most,” she said.

“We can use this as an opportunity, too, to push some of these import-

ant pieces of legislation through that we’ve been working on,” Blais said, citing as an example an information technology bond bill that would fund “infrastructure that we need to have a single portal for people to apply for SNAP benefits, and the other benefits, that they need in one place.”

“The fact that the Housing Choice program only has \$1 million in it for rural communities is absurd,” she continued. “We have so many rural communities across the commonwealth that need affordable housing now.”

According to the state website *mass.gov*, the Housing Choice program includes “incentives, rewards, technical assistance and targeted legislative reform to encourage and empower municipalities to plan and build” diverse housing stock.

“If we’re able to use this as an opportunity to direct funds toward the Housing Choice program, that would create jobs, and hopefully build zero-net-energy housing for folks,” Blais said. “We should be trying to do that to fuel the local economy.”

Blais recommended that voters contact the governor’s office and their local representatives to help set funding priorities.

“Education is something that’s top of mind for me right now, for not only higher ed, but K through 12,” the representative from Sunderland explained. “I’m really concerned about the digital divide, not only in rural Massachusetts, but also in our more urban communities that don’t have access to technology or the internet because they can’t afford it. That digital divide spans our entire commonwealth, and we really have to be pushing to make sure that this is a number-one priority for the state.”

FCCPR coordinating committee member Ferd Wulkan of Montague Center asked how legislators are working toward balancing the budget and bringing more federal money into the state.

“It’s a two-pronged approach,” Blais replied. “We need to be looking at those tax measures, as Jo [Comerford] said.

“A number of us have also been talking with the federal delegation – both [US representatives Richard] Neal and Jim McGovern – to say these are the programs and policies that we need you to be advocating for at the federal level that would help Massachusetts specifically.”

In an interview after the FCCPR general assembly, Blais described her efforts to gather information on the pandemic’s local impact. She said she has been “hearing every day from constituents and local businesses,” and coordinating with MassHire, Community Action, the Franklin Regional Council of Governments, and the Franklin Regional Economic Development Initiative.

“I’m trying to get a 360-degree view of how COVID is impacting our community,” Blais said. “Things are changing day by day.”

“We have to be pushing these things that we’ve all been fighting for really hard,” Blais told the assembly, “to get them through now in the time when we might have a window to address some of the challenges that we’re seeing.”

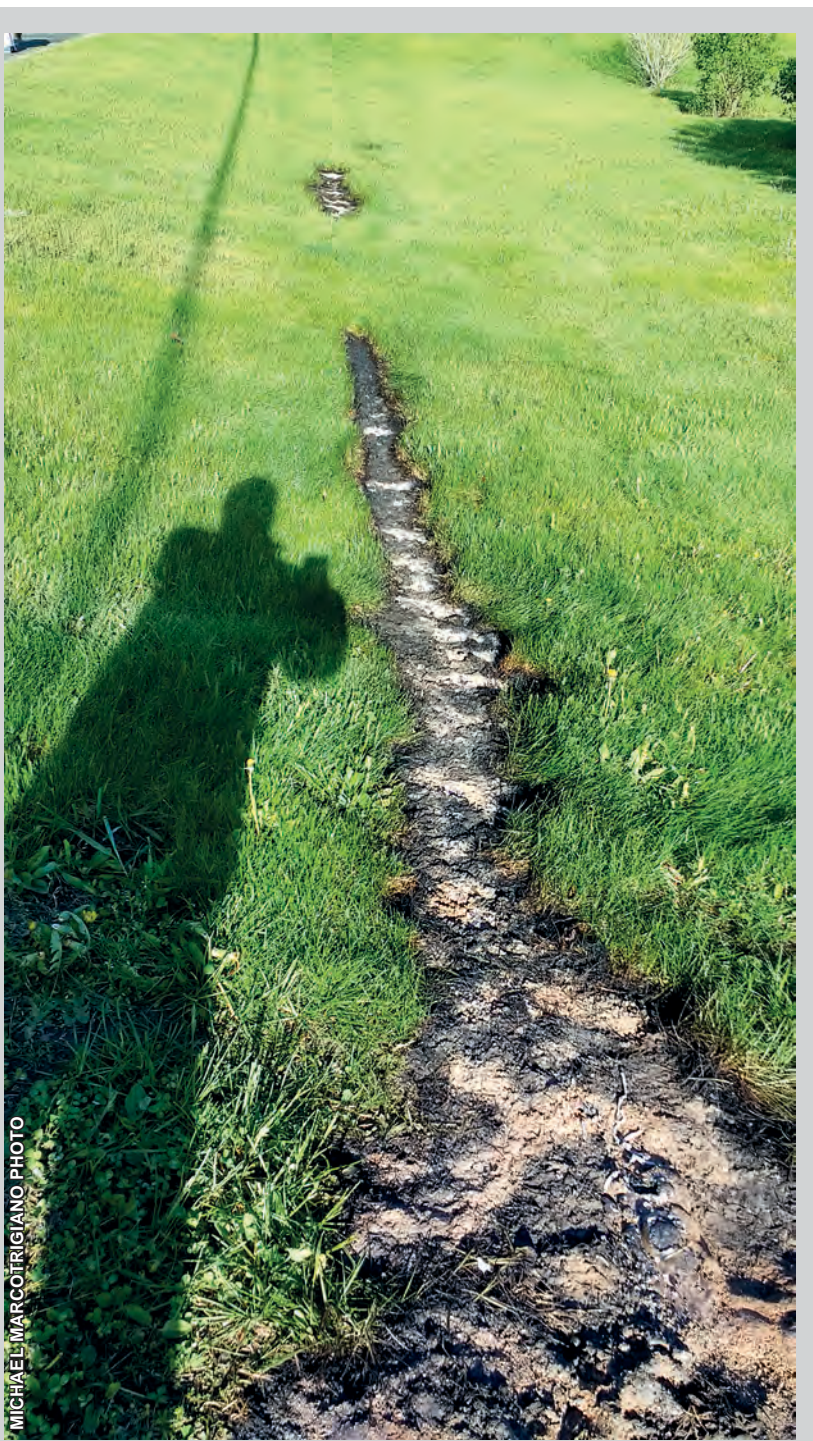
One such challenge remains communications technology. “I’m trying to get a package through that would look at cell phone mapping across the entire commonwealth,” Blais explained, “so that you can have access to telehealth if you’re in western Massachusetts.”

Rep. Paul Mark, who lives in the small town of Peru, joined the meeting by phone from his car, because his internet connection is not strong enough at home.

“If this crisis proved anything,” Mark said “it’s that too many people were already on the edge. Too many people were living paycheck to p—”

His comment was cut off when his mobile signal quit.

The second part of the FCCPR general assembly is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, and is open to the public. Video from Sunday and a registration form for Thursday are available on the group’s website at [www.fccpr.us](http://www.fccpr.us).



MICHAEL MARCOTRIGIANO PHOTO

Scorched earth: Much of Montague Center was without power last Friday night after a powerful storm brought a maple tree down onto power lines on Center Street. Tree committee member Michael Marcotrigiano sent us this photo of damage the hot lines caused to his neighbor’s lawn. “It looks like somebody took a propane torch and kept walking back and forth for half an hour,” he said. “I guess Eversource was pretty busy!”

Marcotrigiano said the maple in question had been in “really bad shape” for a while, and that part of it had earlier fallen onto the Center Street bridge, which is reduced to one-way traffic while it awaits repairs for other reasons. Friday’s storm, Marcotrigiano added, also brought down an 80-foot spruce on Newton Lane. “There was a lot of cleaning up to do,” he said.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!



- Pizzas
- Entrees
- Salads
- Full Bar & Patio

**magpie**

magpiepizza.com

21 Bank Row, Gild.  
413-475-3570

**woodfired pizzeria**



**DIELAND FARM**

**Smokehouse is back!**

Keep social distance but have your Smokehouse Dinner fix

**Take Out Baby Back Rib Dinners**

**Mondays June 1st—22nd**

Reservations at [thediemandfarm.com/smokeyhouse](http://thediemandfarm.com/smokeyhouse)

**Start the Future Today!**

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement



**GSB**

**Wealth Management & Trust Services**

(413) 775-8335 • [greenfieldsavings.com](http://greenfieldsavings.com)



**MUSIC & MOVIES**

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

**TURN'S**

**LAWN CARE**

Landscape Design & Maintenance

For Owners Seeking Recurring Service

Now Scheduling Spring Clean-Ups

**413.522.2563**

[www.TurnLawnCare.com](http://www.TurnLawnCare.com)



**FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP**

144 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301 (413) 773-9567

3 STATE STREET SHELBOURNE FALLS, MA 01370 (413) 625-2548

**GREAT FALLS HARVEST**

fresh • local • creative

Rich flavors from around the world with a local state of mind.

**NOW TAKING RETAIL AND PREPARED ORDERS**

**9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

**Pickup: 5 to 7 p.m.**

**863-0023**

**50 Third Street**

**Downtown Turners Falls**

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

Celebrating Our 120th Anniversary!

**COUTURE BROS.**

Christian S. Couture, President

- ★ Commercial
- ★ Residential
- ★ Industrial

Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740

400 Avenue A - PO Box 270 - Turners Falls, MA 01376

[www.couturebros.com](http://www.couturebros.com) | HIC Lic. 100326

Geri Johnson, Realtor

ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES

413-863-9736 • [GeriJohnson@Realtor.com](mailto:GeriJohnson@Realtor.com)



66 French King Hwy., Gild [WWW.GJAR.COM](http://WWW.GJAR.COM)

**GERI JOHNSON, CRS** 30 years of experience.





“WE HAD A **WONDERFUL AND INFORMATIVE** EXPERIENCE, START TO FINISH. SO HAPPY WE CONTRACTED **PV SQUARED** TO SEE IF **SOLAR** WAS A VIABLE OPTION FOR US. THANK YOU!”



**413-772-8788**

**PVSQUARED.COOP**

**GREENFIELD, MA**

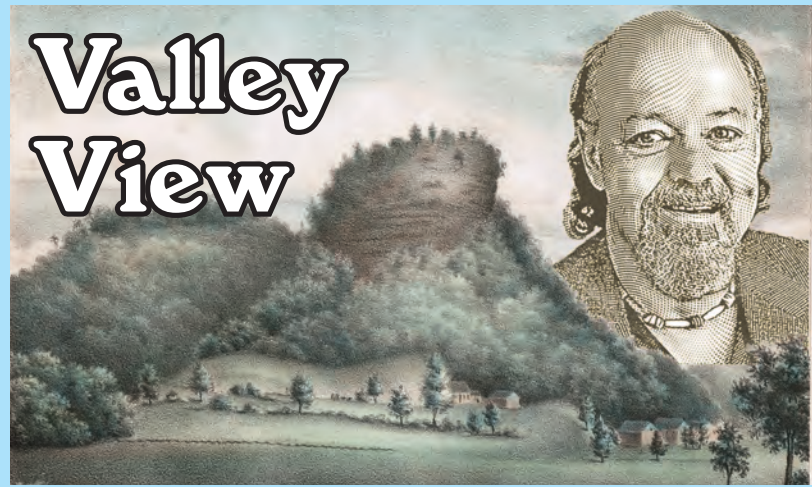
MA ELEC. LIC. A13764 MA HIC 140077





NINA ROSSI PHOTO

FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER MAY 21, 2020



By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Saturday, 6 a.m. Backyard brook rattling. Sparse, wispy-white clouds creeping eastward in the soothing, pale-blue sky. Perfect for pondering, allowing your mind to run free.

Heavy overnight winds and rains have passed, leaving in their wake an ebullient-green yard, the rich, verdant base only enhancing ornamental trees and bushes to their happiest springtime splendor. There is nothing quite like a bright spring morning to stimulate your senses, stir memories.

Returned from a meandering meadow walk, my saturated, worn Gore-Tex hiking boots face the sun on the flagstone terrace hauled many years ago by oxcart from Charlemont. I’m sitting in a leather recliner, legs outstretched, head and back upright. Facing south toward the closed glen road passing my upper Greenfield Meadows home, wheels spinning, I can detect any passersby over my laptop screen.

I’m moving into a meditative space I have often visited over the past 41 years, one I always welcome and from which I have produced thousands of columns created by whatever spirit moves me. One never knows where fertile curiosity and mischievous imagination will lead on such an inspiring morning, especially following a freewheeling, freethinking ramble that stimulates introspective thoughts, riffs, and melodies worth capturing and sharing.

Never do such unfettered thoughts flow freer than on brisk, solitary walks, one foot in front of the other, heart thumping, blood circulating, sweat dripping, thoughts swirling into a dust storm of stimuli, the topics darting from here to there and back again. When the time and place is right, such a process can sweep you away from a starting point to a magical place you’re not expecting, one worth exploring.

Saturday’s was such a walk. It stimulated my imagination, stirred memories, and propelled me not ahead but back 50 years and more, to younger days relevant to the present.

Actually, for weeks I have been thinking ahead to a couple of looming birthday celebrations local towns will celebrate. The first is Whately’s 250th next year, then my

hometown of Deerfield’s 350th in 2023. Preparations already underway for both, with local historians of many stripes swapping insights to be worked into a public narrative and unveiled down the road.

Plus, there’s Hatfield’s 350th this year, which has already been reduced to a disappointing virtual celebration due to COVID-19 demons, likely to be present virtually anywhere, but especially in dense gatherings. Sad indeed. Hatfield is a proud Yankee town that helped seed the Connecticut Valley with families that still populate our hills and dales. We’re talking about familiar surnames like Allis and Arms, Bardwell and Belden, Dickinson, Hinsdale, Jennings, Marsh, Nash, Porter, Waite, Wells, and many more.

Just one more nagging reminder that I’m getting old is the realization that this will be my second rodeo. Because, yes, I was there 50 years ago for the same towns’ last birthday galas, celebrated in villages where as a kid I played baseball, fished, farmed and foraged ... and unapologetically raised hell. So, go figure. That’s precisely where my Saturday-morning walk took me: a half-century back in time. I had no intention of going there when my legs started moving. It just happened. Perhaps the result of a wandering, walking mind. Oh my! How times have changed since then.

Take, for instance, 1970 – the year Hatfield celebrated its 300th birthday. Though I undoubtedly passed through, I have little or no recollection of the event. And even what I think I do recall may well be a combination of many similar celebrations I attended in my younger, wilder days. So, fearful that I’ll meld many into one, why bother trying to piece together my Hatfield memories? Facts matter. Especially in print.

What I now know but didn’t back then is that Hatfield actually goes back more than 350 years. From 1659 to 1670, the infant Hadley was, like Northfield, a town split by the Connecticut River. Finally, after years of grievance and requests, the Hatfield folks were allowed to split off into their own town. A century later, in 1771, Hatfield was split in two, the northern half becoming Whately, today the member of a different county no less.

I had just completed my junior

see VALLEY VIEW page B3

# ArtBeat

by Trish Crapo

## The Northfield Authors and Artists Festival

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST

**NORTHFIELD** – “Art is a kind of bridge,” Lisa McLoughlin told me over the phone the other day. “A way to inspire each other.”

Creating that bridge is part of why McLoughlin, along with Wendell spoken word artist Paul Richmond, and Dickinson Public Library head of programming Matt Atwood decided not to cancel what had been initially planned as a brick-and-mortar arts festival, but instead to take it online. The Northfield Authors and Artists Festival will bring an eclectic blend of readers and speakers, as well as two art exhibits, to a screen near you every Saturday in June. On the first day, June 6, starting times begin at 11 a.m. and run ‘til 3 p.m.; on all the remaining Saturdays, the last event begins at 2 p.m.

McLoughlin, who is also the *Montague Reporter’s* monthly science page editor, spoke enthusiastically about the various speakers and readers.

“JuPong Lin is a really well known poet in her circles,” McLoughlin said. “She wrote a beautiful performance poetry piece about folding cranes for peace based on the last wishes of a girl who was dying from the effects of the bomb.”

After her performance piece, Lin will lead an online workshop in how to fold an origami crane.

Dr. Gretchen Holbrook-Gerzina will read from *Mr. and Mrs. Prince*, her book about an African-American couple who lived in Northfield during the 1800s; Dr. Simone Alter-Muri will read from *The Body as Canvas: Tattoos and Healing*; and Abenaki author Cheryl Savageau will read from her memoir, *Out of the Crazywoods*, about treating bipolar disease with both Native American and Western medical therapies and techniques.

Adult programming for the festival also features Vermont mystery writer Archer Mayor discussing his writing process, inspiration, and research, and women’s rights activist and memoir author Dr. Lise Weil. Weil lived in Montague for a long time, McLoughlin says, and will be reading from *In Search of Pure Lust*, her personal retelling of the lesbian-feminist movement in



Bernie Kubiak writes of this photo entry, Cape Woods: “Walking the trails through woods on Cape Cod, these forests suggest the haunted frightened trees leading out to the windy beach Dylan mentions in Mr. Tambourine Man.”

the Pioneer Valley.

Children’s programming includes children’s cookbook author Deanna Cook; and Christina Uss, author of *Adventures of a Girl Called Bicycle*. Uss has ridden her bike across the United States twice, once lengthwise and once widthwise. On her website, she writes that she

see ARTBEAT page B5

## THE AUTHORS’ CORNER: QUARANTINE!

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**TURNERS FALLS** – Happy May!!! Instead of doing my usual column, I wanted to write about my quarantine experience so far.

First, the saddest thing that has happened has been losing my great-great-Aunt Virginia to COVID-19. She was 102, and had such an amazing life! She participated in flying lessons, painting, horseback riding, and lots of other adventurous activities. Even though this is very sad, Aunt Virginia always had a new and fun hobby, to keep her occupied, and I’m trying to do the same during quarantine!

Even though I only met her in person a few times – including at her 100th birthday party a few years ago – she was someone who inspired me, because of her health, her long life, and how she kept up to date with things, like emailing and FaceTiming. She was also really strong, and said she did not want to be put on a ventilator because she’d already lived a super long life and wanted to pass away peacefully instead of struggling to stay alive.

Second, I wanted to talk about how I’m staying busy. Something super fun I’ve been doing with my family is delivering gifts to people we know. For example, I made one of my friends a poster, and bought a bunch

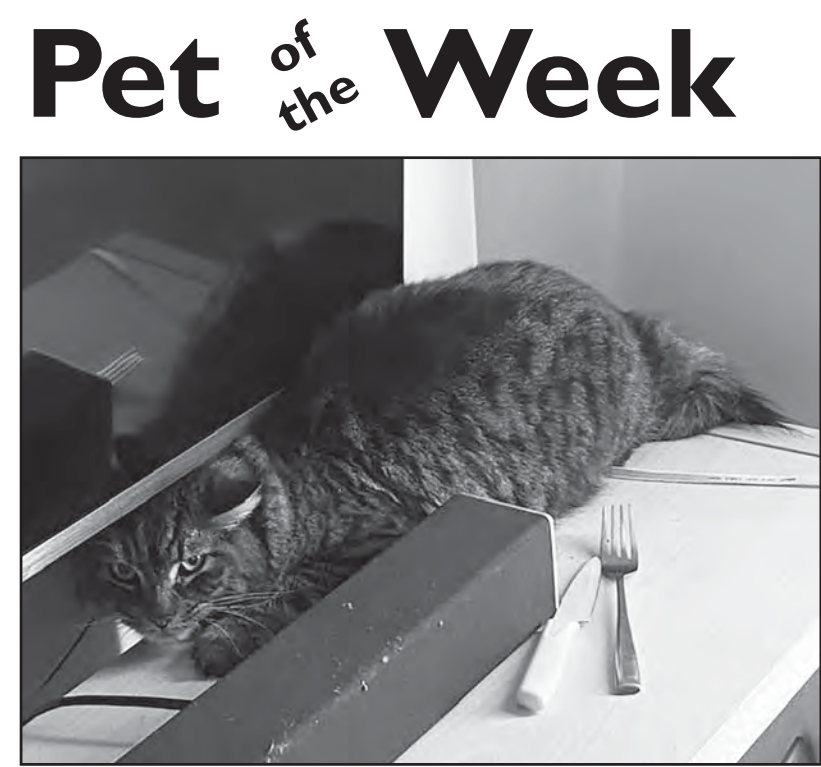
of candy and ice cream, and delivered it to her. Also, I brought one of our family friends Chick-fil-A the other day. She is a special education teacher and a mom with three kids at home, and she has a lot to do right now and is really overwhelmed. She has to take care of her kids and make sure that they are doing their online schoolwork, and she has to make sure that all of her

see AUTHORS’ page B8



Our correspondent (left), staying safe with her family in the time of coronavirus.





# “F.K.A. BEEZER”

This cat is missing from Central Street in Turners Falls. He’s a large Maine Coon, wearing a heart-shaped tag on his collar with his (old) name, “Beezer,” and his owner’s phone number.

The owner of the cat formerly known as Beezer would really appreciate help from their neighbors looking out for him! He’s an experienced outdoor cat who is new to their home and disappeared the second



## Senior Center Activities MAY 25 THROUGH 29

**GILL and MONTAGUE**

The Gill Montague Senior Center is closed and will reopen when advised by state and local authorities that it is safe to do so. This measure is taken not lightly but with the utmost concern for the most vulnerable in our community.

The Council on Aging staff will be available for referrals and information from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Thursdays, at (413) 863-9357 by telephone, and [coa@montague-ma.gov](mailto:coa@montague-ma.gov) by email.

**ERVING**

Erving Senior Center director Paula Betters writes that the Center is closed until further notice:

“All programs are canceled or postponed. With that said, I will be here or at least checking my messages daily. I want anyone to call me and leave a message if they have any questions or concerns regarding food or other services. I will call them back and if we can

help with services of any kind we will do so. I am working with other agencies so we can be sure to keep our seniors healthy & safe.”

Paula can be reached at (413) 423-3649 or [paula-betters@erv-ing-ma.gov](mailto:paula-betters@erv-ing-ma.gov).

**LEVERETT**

Leverett senior activities are currently canceled. Further updates are being distributed via TTY telephone and email. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

**WENDELL**

Wendell senior activities have been canceled. The Wendell Senior Center is closed. The Wendell Council on Aging will continue to provide transportation for essential medical visits if volunteers are available. For more information or for rides, call Nancy Spittle at (978) 544-6760.

## Local Supermarket Senior Accommodations

*Supermarkets in Massachusetts are now required to provide special hours for seniors and immunocompromised shoppers. Call ahead – this information is accurate as of April 8; hours and accommodations are still changing.*

<b>Big Y:</b>	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 772-0435
<b>Foster’s:</b>	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 773-1100
<b>Food City:</b>	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 863-9591
<b>Green Fields Market:</b>	Senior hours from 9 to 10 a.m. Curbside pickup available. Order by 8 p.m.; order ready for pickup between 1 and 6 the following day. Delivery also available. \$6 per delivery inside Greenfield. \$8 outside Greenfield.	(413) 773-9567
<b>McCusker’s Market:</b>	Only six customers allowed in store at a time. Curbside pickup available. Order between 12 and 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Delivery available. \$10 per delivery. Email <a href="mailto:pickup@franklincommunity.coop">pickup@franklincommunity.coop</a>	(413) 625-2548
<b>Stop and Shop:</b>	Senior hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m.	(413) 774-6096



By **MISHEL IXCHEL**

**TURNERS FALLS** – I still can’t figure out what it is about a family unit that is so intriguing to me. Is it merely that my longing for it, like most other things, stems from the grass always being greener on the other side? Is it that having lacked it growing up, my yearning for it has merely intensified now that I’m a mother? Or is it this uncharted, shelter-at-home life that makes the longing for partnership that much more intense?

It could very well be a combination of all of these. Whereas before I had a fiery optimism that somehow one day I would find my partner, and we’d shack up and do our thing together, these days that fire has been nearly extinguished. Aside from those we share living space with, we’re all now forced to go online for any kind of connection. On the one hand, this unprecedented life we’re now living would be much harsher without the ability to plug in and connect. But on the other, I am now convinced that I cannot possibly get everything I need by amping up my screen time.

In recent months, I prided myself in having succeeded in being able to surround myself with the support I needed to raise my child. As I began to tend to my new business, we had a roster of four different babysitters, all of whom were amazing and love-

### MOVIE REVIEW

## The Way Back (2020)

By **SEAMUS  
TURNER-GLENNON**

**CHARLEMONT** – The late, great, cultural critic and political theorist Mark Fisher once wrote of the Pixar animated film *Wall-E* that “[it] exemplifies what Robert Pfaller has called ‘interpassivity’”: the film performs our anti-capitalism for us, allowing us to continue to consume with impunity.”

If this is the case – and it is – then 2020’s *The Way Back* performs the same function, minus even the hint at anything remotely resembling radical politics. Instead of the performative, manufactured anti-capitalism of *Wall-E*, *The Way Back* deals in the sort of messaging I would call Golf-Club-Fundraiserism: in essence, “political opinions” which consist of thinking that crime and death and addiction are bad, and that we should make them go away, and that “It’s good to be nice,” and... well that’s about it, really.

*The Way Back* stars a Ben Affleck whom I would call past his prime – had he ever had one to begin with. Affleck gives a lifeless, rigid performance as construction worker and dour alcoholic Jack Cunningham, who is hired to coach basketball at the Catholic high school where he enjoyed minor fame for his athletic abilities as a teenager. He meets a group of

## The Irony of It All

ly in different ways. Add to that, we had our close circle of friends, whom I could always count on to help me with my child in sticky and last-minute situations.

There I was, at the onset of 2020, living the life that had taken me years to build: owning a new business, raising my child and finally peacefully co-parenting with his dad, having a slew of friends – an incredible support system to get it done.

And just like that, overnight, it was all gone.

Co-parenting has also had its challenges recently, yet overall, the structure seems to be strong enough as it hasn’t collapsed under all this pressure. The restrictions on everything else have landed me back on square one, where I was years ago when I first moved to Turners Falls: parenting without immediate support, hustling to figure out long-term income, and as single as ever. It’s no surprise that my yearning for partnership and cohabitation has only intensified.

The irony of getting knocked down just as I felt like I was finally living the life I wanted is definitely not lost on me, and yet I haven’t succumbed to despair. Resistance to all of these changes is futile, and day by day I have let go of the control I thought I possessed.

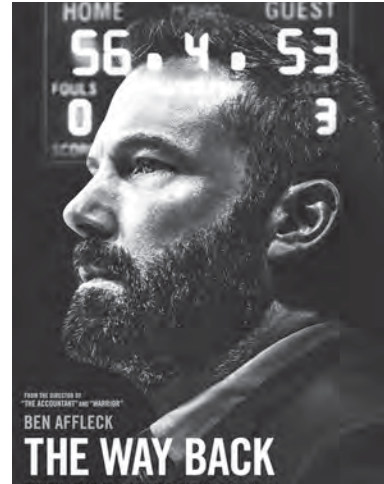
Because, if I’m truly honest, when I look back at the beginning of the year when I thought I “had it all,” the truth was that I didn’t. Perhaps from the outside it may have appeared that way. And I may have even succeeded in convincing myself as much.

However, despite living the life I had worked so hard for, and raising my child within it, ultimately I felt myself just going through the motions. That paradigm didn’t support slow-down; it didn’t care for taking breaks. On the contrary, I felt like I needed to work harder and faster, all the while spinning my wheels and still barely coming up for air.

Like many of us who are privileged enough to be able to stay home, I have used this time to go within. Listening to many wise people on conference calls and in workshops, I’m hearing a common thread: *when we emerge from this, on the other side, nothing will ever be the same again*. And thank goodness for that, because we are in desperate need of radical changes in our lives and in this world.

We each possess the responsibility to create the changes we yearn to see, even if for a lot of us, it means having to start from what feels like scratch. Going within, being in deep listening, and when the time is right, taking correct action: all of this may very well create the kind of life that doesn’t need to be rushed. The kind of life where whatever gets accomplished in one day is perfect, and enough. The kind of life where one feels complete, without constantly having to chase for more.

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



the human psyche. *North Dallas Forty* is a movie about football, but it’s really about how the capitalist sports industry profits off of an unhealthy and commodified conception of masculinity.

*The Way Back*, however, is not just lacking the depths to which the aforementioned films go, it goes so far as to equate sporting with real, material life. Alcoholic and sad because your son died at nine years old like Jack Cunningham’s did? Don’t whine about the inherently corrupt society and system that led these events to transpire: instead, find yourself a pack of basketball youths you can coach to victory with some good old-fashioned tough love. That’s really what’s going to help you overcome your crippling addiction, so why even bother suggesting that you should be taken care of and treated for your disease? Why ever even think about the fact that you have quite literally no access to any kind of rehab program? The problem isn’t systemic: it’s you. And the only way to overcome it is through a series of meaningless conversations with teenage athletes about team-work or something.

And maybe I’m overanalyzing this. Maybe I just found the movie boring. Maybe that’s on me. But to quote Mark Fisher once again: “No one is bored, everything is boring.”

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

**BestLocalBank.com**

**FREE** Online Banking with Bill Pay, Transfers, Account Opening, Debit Card Controls & More!

**FREE** Mobile Banking APP with Mobile Check Deposit, Alerts, Freeze/Unfreeze & More!

**GREENFIELD**  
Cooperative Bank

**NORTHAMPTON**  
Cooperative Bank

Avenue A, Turners Falls | 413-512-5012

MEMBER FDIC

**OPEN DAILY**  
**LUNCH and DINNER**  
24 Federal St., Greenfield  
773-0333 / [thepeoplespint.com](http://thepeoplespint.com)

**The Pint Says: TURN THE KEY!**  
When you idle your car's engine for more than 10-20 seconds, you're wasting fuel.  
Save on Gas - Save our Climate

**COME SEE OUR NEW HOME ON AVENUE A!**

**THU-SAT 12-6 SUN 12-5**

**102 AVENUE A TF MA**



**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1

year in high school for Hatfield’s last birthday party, a time when Hunter S. Thompson’s “Gonzo” journalism was born. Richard M. Nixon was president, and America was enflamed in protest opposing the Vietnam War and supporting the civil-rights movement. Segregationist Southern governors George Wallace and Lester Maddox still had strong national voices, and were supported by local townspeople my father privately referred to as John Birchers in the pejorative.

A couple of proud, hard-right characters I recall were Deerfield selectmen, another owned a Sunderland business, and still another flipped eggs and burgers at his greasy-spoon in, of all places, the People’s Republic of Montague Center. Imagine that! In an eatery facing the town common, a large Confederate flag hanging horizontally and menacingly above the grill, the proprietor more than willing to share his reactionary views on race and “long-haired, hippie commies.”

There’s no need to mention names. What would that accomplish in these Trumpish times? The men are dead and buried. RIP, fellas.

The year 1970 also produced Kent State, which unfolded on May 4 and likely means nothing to most high-school students today. On that Ohio college campus, an anti-war demonstration blew up into chaos when National Guardsmen shot four protestors dead and wounded nine others to set off a contentious national debate. On one side of the battle line was Nixon’s law-and-order gang, on the other raged the “new left.”

The debate quickly spilled into my junior English class, where a bespectacled, flat-topped English teacher who had been hired after many years as a *Greenfield Recorder* reporter assigned an essay expressing our thoughts on whether the soldiers were justified.

As I recall, that was our second assignment of the final semester. I don’t remember the topic of the first, only that my grade was an A, and – horrors – the teacher read my paper aloud to the class. How embarrassing for an adolescent lad of my persuasion.

Well, that all changed quickly with my reaction to Kent State. I thought heads should roll for unjustified killings of peaceful protestors exercising their right of peaceful assembly under the First Amendment. That position, penned by the same hand, was met with bright red insults from a love-it-or-leave-it teacher, who gave me a D and unfairly evaluated the rest of my assignments that semester.

Some may call that a lesson learned. Not me. I call it censorship, unwelcome and unjustified in any fair, freethinking, open and honest classroom. Live and learn, I did. Education’s not always everything it’s made out to be. I had met my first bad editor.

I can’t claim salient memories from Whately’s 1971 Bicentennial Celebration, but I definitely passed through. Seems to me there was something happening at the old youth-baseball field off Christian Lane, before the days of Herlihy Park. Maybe a chicken barbecue? Can’t recall.

What I do remember is Ena M. Cane’s update of Temple’s and Crafts’ Whately histories and genealogies with a bicentennial book of her own. Plus, I still occasionally bump into the stoneware jugs sold in

facsimile remembrance of Whately’s 19th-century Thomas Crafts pottery.

This time around, Whately Historical Commissioner Dereka Smith is working up a revision of Temple, Crafts and Cane’s town histories and genealogies with a book of her own, while Northfield master-potter Tom White will produce hand-thrown stoneware pottery in the style of historic Whately potters.

As for the 1973 Deerfield Tercentenary, yes, my memories are clearer. That’s a no-brainer. It was held on my stomping grounds. Dwyer Lot, the site of the beef barbecue and Rotary Club Beer Fest, was right across Pleasant Street from the home my parents shared with my grandfather for my first 12 years of boyhood.

Back then, the elementary school was on the other side of Bloody Brook, where there was also a circular, concrete wading pool with a central fountain circulating water in summer. On the open Dwyer Lot stood a roofed pavilion that hosted many a public cookout. Before pavilion construction, the field served as an agricultural plot where silage corn was grown in my youth, even occasional potatoes if I’m not mistaken.

The reason I suggest uncertainty is that I know memory doesn’t always serve one well, especially on familiar turf, where one story can easily run into another over time.

A case in point occurred during the writing of this piece, relating to what I believed I recalled of Deerfield’s Tercentenary. It seemed to me that it was for this very special occasion that a well-known South Deerfield character had taken it upon himself to spice up the party a bit. What he did was hire a pilot friend from Northampton to enhance the Saturday-night fireworks scheduled to be launched from Mt. Sugarloaf.

Apparently concerned that town officials would sell townspeople short, this proud, inventive Deerfield man decided to command a flyover dynamite-bombing mission. Before midnight, he and a friend or two proceeded to toss eight sticks of dynamite out the plane window while flying over Sugarloaf and its northern brother, shaking houses on Mountain Road, Eastern Avenue, and Graves Street, and even breaking a few windows. A police spokesman told the *Greenfield Recorder* he was confident he knew who was responsible, which was likely true, because it was no secret around town. Nonetheless, no one was ever prosecuted, and the explosive event soon faded into the ether.

So, there you have it. Although I had the story right, the date and event were wrong. The flyover bombing occurred not during the July 7, 1973 Tercentenary, but during the town’s national bicentennial celebration three years later, on the night of July 3, 1976. Thankfully, at the last minute, I fact-checked the incident, which was a cumbersome task. But I finally tracked it down and avoided disseminating inaccurate information in black and white.

That said, you gotta hand it to good old South Deerfield: back then a hard-drinking, hard-working, hell-raising prankster town. Not unlike the Wild West, I’m glad I grew up where I did.

Can you imagine what would become of similar pranksters today? Tossing dynamite from a Piper-Cub window? Are you kidding? Gitmo would be too good for them!



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Bears; Honey Traps; Belligerent Combatants; Pet Emergencies; Guns; Fire; Social Gatherings

Monday, 5/11

1:01 p.m. Caller from Davis Street states that two people are yelling and throwing luggage around outside of a neighboring residence. Verbal argument only.

7:26 p.m. Caller from Carlisle Avenue reporting two bears across the street from his house. Officer drove through area to advise anybody who may be outside of the bears.

7:32 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting a fight between two male parties; states they are no longer fighting and have both gone home, but one of them had a metal pole/rod and was using it in the fight. Officer checked area; no issues at this time.

11 p.m. Caller from Millers Falls Road reporting a bear that was just on her front doorstep before running back into the woods.

Tuesday, 5/12

1:42 p.m. Caller from Randall Road states that an intoxicated male just smashed a window and is trying to get into a neighbor’s house. Removed to hospital.

5:28 p.m. Caller from East Main Street states that a male party was just lurking around his property and may have been trying to break in. Party left when caller spoke to him. Caller advises party is currently in Carroll’s and he would like him trespassed from this location. Male party no longer in area. Officer spoke to caller about options; also spoke to female party who was outside and intoxicated in this area and advised her to go back inside.

Wednesday, 5/13

4:33 a.m. Caller states that the fire department received a call from an off-duty firefighter reporting a disabled vehicle on the railroad crossing in Millers Falls. Area checked; no vehicles on tracks.

9:43 a.m. Male on O Street advises that he was just punched by another male; does not want any action taken; requests to have on record only since parties are co-defendants in a case. Officer checked area; negative findings.

1:56 p.m. Report of disturbance in progress at East Main and Franklin streets. Officer spoke with female who was screaming by Millers Pub; she was going for a walk and was upset about something. Officer advises he has received multiple complaints from people in the area advising that the female is screaming outside again and may have an open container. Party arrested and taken into custody. Clerk-magistrate requested that female be held in protective custody then released after twelve hours and that charges be changed to a summons due to the

COVID-19 virus.

2:54 p.m. Caller reporting that a neighbor in a brick building off the back alley behind Fourth Street has several honey traps on their porch. Caller advises the traps are attracting large numbers of bees and that the bees are coming onto neighbors’ porches, including landing on the caller’s porch and on the caller. Caller advises he has been calling the Board of Health since last week and left a message but has not heard back. Call placed to Board of Health, who advised that no messages to that effect were received but now that they are aware, they will follow up on the complaint.

4:36 p.m. Caller from South Prospect Street advises she discovered a deceased calico cat with a red collar in her backyard. Caller buried the cat on her property and advised that if the owner calls, it is OK to give them her number should they want to retrieve the cat for burial elsewhere.

7:27 p.m. Caller reporting what looks like a rabid raccoon on the side wall area near the driveway at the Wentworth building on J Street. Officer advises raccoon took off; it did not appear to be sick but had been eating out of the dumpster.

8:25 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reports that her father left her house last night after a verbal argument and has not been seen since then. Missing person paperwork filled out; subject entered into national database.

11:03 p.m. Caller from Mormon Hollow Road states that the people next door have been having parties all week with underage drinking and being loud. All quiet on arrival. Officer advises he ran some plates and none came back to juvenile operators.

Thursday, 5/14

4:41 a.m. First of two calls reporting loud noise from upstairs neighbors on L Street. Peace restored.

1:47 p.m. Caller reports that her wallet fell or was taken out of her back pocket at Cumberland Farms. Wallet was found in the men’s room; cash was missing, but remainder of contents appeared to be there. Advised of options.

3:08 p.m. Multiple calls reporting four-vehicle accident on the General Pierce Bridge; no obvious injuries/smoke/fluids; parties on scene reportedly agitated. One operator signed medical refusal, but her mother arrived on the scene and will be taking her to the hospital. Officer requesting units be on lookout for vehicle that left scene. Vehicle located on Park Street. Summons issued for leaving the scene of personal injury; unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle; and failure to use care in starting, stopping, turning, or backing.

5:48 p.m. Report of a group drinking what caller believes to be beer in Peskeomskut Park and putting their empty cans inside one of the grills. Group warned re: drinking in park. Parties removed empty beer cans from grill and disposed of them properly. No active drinking observed on arrival.

5:52 p.m. Caller from L Street looking for animal control re: an injured cat in his yard. Advised caller of after-hours options; MPD cannot pick up the animal and take it to the emergency vet. Caller disconnected, then called back advising that the emergency vet told him to contact MPD to have the cat dispatched. Confirmed with officer that we cannot put the cat down and cannot transport to the vet due to the town being liable for any expenses. Call placed to animal control officer; no answer.

Caller advised of options. 7:31 p.m. Caller reporting dog hit by car on Seventh Street near Aubuchon. Officer advises owner is

with dog now and that the owner is getting a ride to the emergency vet in Deerfield.

7:38 p.m. Caller reports that his neighbor was out on his porch on K Street harassing the caller and his kids while they were out riding bikes; states this happens all the time. Officer drove through area; area search negative.

Friday, 5/15

7:51 p.m. Caller from Center Street reports that a possible lightning strike has started four small fires in his front yard. MCFD toned out. Officer advises poles and wires down sparking. Eversource notified.

Saturday, 5/16

12:01 p.m. Multiple calls reporting bear or bear cub in the Vladish/Coolidge/Nadeau area. Environmental Police advised. Officer located bears at Chester Street and Millers Falls Road; crossed toward the riverbank.

3:31 p.m. Caller from Woods Road states that someone is firing a large amount of ammunition close to her camp. Parties located; they are licensed and shooting on their property. No issues. Advised caller that all is well.

4:24 p.m. Trespass notices from an East Main Street property owner served in hand to a male and a female.

9:29 p.m. Caller states that some kids are throwing items into an unattended fire in the Third Street alleyway. Fire extinguished prior to FD arrival.

11:13 p.m. Caller from G Street states she can hear loud gatherings on both sides of her house. Caller states she knows it was a nice day and everyone has been cooped up, but now it is late and she would like them to quiet down. Residents advised to turn music down.

Sunday, 5/17

3:32 p.m. Report of ten kids playing basketball at Unity Park. Caller provided with Board of Health public contact info.

Montague Community Television News

We’ll Edit Your Videos!

By MICHAEL SMITH

Along with most businesses, MCTV encourages people to stay at home and limit visits to the station. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updated station hours.

One way to connect with your community from the confines of your quarantine is to make videos! It’s easy to film a tutorial, a public service announcement, a story or a hike by using your phone, computer or one of MCTV’s cameras that are sanitized and available for pickup. Any editing

can be done by MCTV staff editors, or you can try it at home!

Residents of Montague can find MCTV on Channel 17, and the MCTV Vimeo page is available online. Email [hannahbrookman@gmail.com](mailto:hannahbrookman@gmail.com) for editing assistance or filmmaking questions.

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 or [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!



**STONEDWORK**  
— BUILD. REBUILD. MEND. —

**R. SKELTON, WALLER**  
(413) 367-2435 • [skelton.rob@gmail.com](mailto:skelton.rob@gmail.com)

**Dudek Tax Service**  
10 Masonic Ave  
Turners Falls  
MA 01376  
**Frank J. Dudek**

413.863.5394 - Office  
413.775.3327 - Cell  
[frankd\\_74@yahoo.com](mailto:frankd_74@yahoo.com)



**Doug’s Auto Body**  
Doug Smith - Owner



MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785  
Fax: (413) 863-0120  
**FREE ESTIMATES**  
**REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS**

39 Center Road  
Gill, MA 01354  
**FREE LOANER CARS**



# Composting: A Modest, Yet Profound, Action When the World Is Upside Down

By SUSAN CAMPBELL

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – With extra time to cook, the days warming, and a sharp eye on the pandemic food supply, the urge to garden can be acute. If you don’t already compost to nurture your garden, now is a fine time to learn how to set up a system at home. Composting is a natural process that converts organic materials such as food scraps, yard waste, and newspaper into nutrient-rich soil, with the help of water, air, and microbes.

So go tune into our free webinar offered this Friday, May 29 from noon to 1 p.m. on “How to Make and Improve a Home Composting System,” and then go build yourself a compost pile.

An abundance of technical information, free resources, real-life examples and live questions and answers will be offered in this one-hour webinar. The experts presenting include members of the Greater Quabbin Food Alliance’s Food Waste Recovery Group, Amy Donovan from Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, Joel Betts from Worcester County Conservation District, and Rick Innes, owner of Clear View Composting.

Register here: [www.mountgrace.org/get-involved/events/event/home-composting-webinar](http://www.mountgrace.org/get-involved/events/event/home-composting-webinar).

### For You and the Planet

I love making compost for my garden. It is a creative and nurturing activity – like making a double batch of homemade soup for the winter freezer. It is a grounding act of stewardship; it fortifies my sense of food security. It gives me hope and wonder at the workings of nature. When spreading nutrient-rich compost on my garden plants, I am working toward health for life ahead.

On the practical side, composting lessens the amount of kitchen and yard waste that goes into the trash bin, improves water retention in soil, and saves a few dollars I might otherwise spend on buying soil amendments.

Happily, composting can be

done in rural or urban settings, with scrounged or purchased materials, and like gardening, it can be scaled to fit your circumstances.

Making compost is a humble action with profound implications beyond the backyard. It’s not just good for individual homes; it’s good for communities and for the planet. By keeping our collective food waste out of the landfill, we dramatically curtail the production of methane, a major greenhouse gas culprit in causing climate change.

The difference between your home compost pile and food waste in a landfill is the process by which microbes break down organics. The composting process uses air (aerobic), and carbon is stored in the soil; in a landfill, materials are compressed without air (anaerobic) and the result is methane off-gassing to the atmosphere. These are two very different outcomes for the planet, and two very different choices that we can make.

### Composting In Montague

The impulse to make compost at home is akin to the one that led me to be part of Drawdown Montague. This group of neighbors and friends work on community projects to address the climate crisis at the town level. We had learned from the book *Drawdown* (edited by Paul Hawken, 2017), that reducing food waste ranks third out of 100 global solutions to the climate crisis, so we wanted to find out how Montague was doing on the composting front. We wondered what had already been done, and what more could we work on to reduce food waste in Montague.

This led us to meet with Amy Donovan at the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD), who has ably worked with town leaders and volunteer groups around the county to reduce, re-use, recycle and compost.

In early conversations with Amy, we were impressed and inspired to learn that all schools in Montague have been composting food and paper waste from cafete-

rias and kitchens since 2011, via a Triple T Trucking dumpster that is hauled weekly to Martin’s Farm in Greenfield. This commercial composting facility transforms these organics with a natural high-heat decomposition process.

In addition, most large events in town – the Great Falls Festival (formerly Pumpkinfest), the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival, Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival, RPM (Rock, Punk, and Metal) Fest, and Barbès in the Woods – are working toward zero waste, thanks to systems available through FCSWMD. With their support and an army of bins and supplies, local volunteers make this happen.

Large grocery stores in the area have also been sending food waste for composting, in part because of the 2014 state waste ban that requires stores generating over a ton per week of organics to divert food waste from the trash. Food City in Turners Falls joined this group of composters most recently.

### Small, Steady Steps

With these successes in mind, Drawdown Montague decided to work on the business front. Beginning small, in March 2019 we initiated the use of compostable beer and wine cups at the Shea Theatre events. We purchased a stash of compostable cups and volunteered to transport the used ones to a nearby Triple T Trucking composting dumpster. This was a start, but having volunteers transport the material was not a sustainable arrangement.

Still, this small victory led us to the larger goal of expanding composting to more businesses, and we worked with the Food Waste Reduction and Composting subcommittee of the Greater Quabbin Food Alliance to expand on a popular program they had run in the spring.

Drawdown Montague members went door-to-door to 15 local businesses throughout the five villages, and invited them to the November workshop where they could learn from local experts how to reduce trash, donate leftover food, and re-



*Finished compost in wheelbarrow, from an off-site pile, will nurture new tomato starts. The compost at the right, not yet ready, is convenient to the garden beds.*

cycle nutrients back into the soil through commercial composting. Soon after the program, we set a goal of getting five businesses to make up the critical mass required to launch a cost-effective pick-up service in Turners Falls.

By March 2020, the new Upper Bend Cafe, 253 Farmacy, Black Cow Burger Bar and the Shea Theater had all begun a weekly pickup service through Greenfield’s new worker-owned business, the Compost Cooperative. Several more businesses had expressed interest in joining the route within the near future.

And then the pandemic hit, turning the world – and the Turners Falls business district – upside down.

### What Next?

In a brief eight weeks, the pandemic has closed world economies and revealed the power of unified action toward the specific target of flattening the pandemic curve. One benefit has been clearer air and cleaner water, and even the return of wildlife, which has been venturing into places it had been crowded from.

We are learning that it is possible to make meaningful shifts in human behavior. Imagine what we might accomplish if we tackled the climate crisis head-on.

Attend the free webinar this Friday, May 29 at noon to learn about home composting.

Or, if a composting dumpster is placed at the Montague Recycling Center and Transfer Station, bring your food waste and related paper waste there.

Or, if you live in a dense neighborhood, organize a commercial compost pick-up service to take it to a composting facility.

When businesses re-open in town, you can applaud the businesses that are composting, and can ask of others that are not, what they need to get there.

This pandemic is a dress rehearsal for disruptions to come. It is showing us where we need to improve, and what a resilient community looks like. It shows us how we need to take care of ourselves, of others, and of the planet.

*Retired from a career in forestry, Susan Campbell found a group of fellow Montague residents to work on practical, community-building projects, inspired by the book Drawdown, a solutions-based look at the climate crisis. Drawdown Montague combines networks, skills, and good will to set up projects such as repair events, composting, energy-efficiency workshops for tenants and landlords, and more. Drawdown Montague welcomes others who might want to collaborate with them. To find out more, see [info@drawdownmontague.earth](mailto:info@drawdownmontague.earth).*

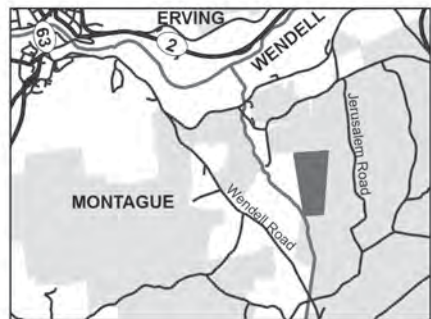
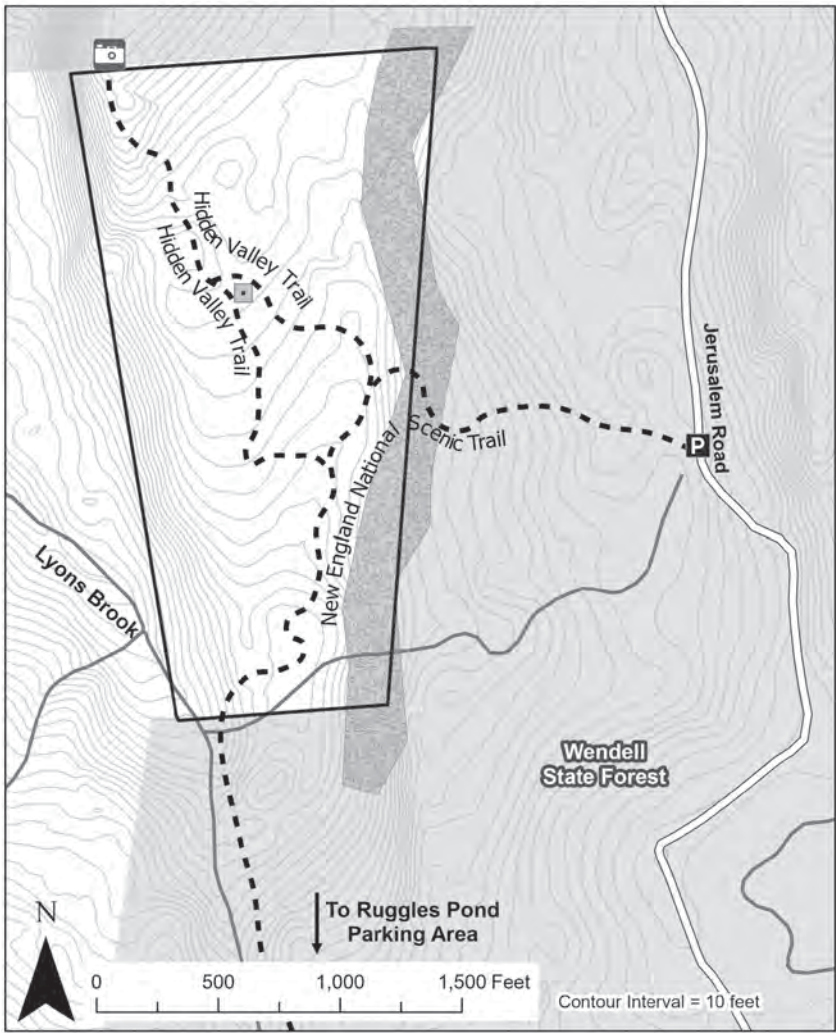
# Hidden Valley Conservation Area

Ruggles Pond Road, Wendell, MA

## Trail Map Courtesy of Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust

During the COVID-19 crisis, we encourage you to safely get outdoors for your mental and physical well-being. All our trails remain open but are subject to recreational use guidelines in line with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which are subject to change, but currently include physical distancing of 6 feet between visitors, wearing a face mask if social distancing is not possible, and keeping dogs on a leash.

*Map produced by Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. Source data obtained from Office of Geographic Information (MassGIS), Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MassIT, and from Global Positioning System (GPS) field data. Boundary lines and trail locations are approximate. Updated September 2018.*




- Hidden Valley Conservation Area
- Parking
- Trail
- Scenic Outlook
- Old Foundation
- Stream
- Acidic Rock Cliff
- Protected Open Space



1461 Old Keene Road  
Athol, MA 01331  
(978) 248-2043  
[mountgrace.org](http://mountgrace.org)

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

**FEDERAL STREET BOOKS**

8 Federal Street, Greenfield  
[federalstreetbooks.com](http://federalstreetbooks.com)

Lic #36550-EL 1-413-345-1687

**ELECTRICIAN**  
**CHRIS M. STRAKOSE**

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL  
ALL ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS AND REPAIRS  
EMERGENCY SERVICE

9 SWAMP ROAD  
MONTAGUE, MA 01351  
EMAIL: [CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM)

FULLY INSURED FREE CONSULTATION

**OrigamiUSA**

*Origami is for anyone,  
anywhere, anytime!*

Join us at: [OrigamiUSA.org](http://OrigamiUSA.org)  
Email: [admin@origamiusa.org](mailto:admin@origamiusa.org)  
Tel: 212.769.5635

- Find a local community origami group
- Fold from diagrams in our publications
- Shop for origami paper and books
- And much more!



# How Many Bohemians Can You Name?

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – This photograph of members of the St. Vaclav Bohemian Society of Turners Falls, circa 1904, was sent to us by Jim Bridgman of Northampton last week. He writes that his mother’s family were Bohemian immigrants who came to work in the cutlery. They were the Schuldas, also spelled Shulda, or Sulda. Old timers may also be interested to note that Bridgman is distantly related to Dr. Arthur Charron, whose mother was a Sulda.

He received the photo in the 1980s from his great-aunt. The group shot has numbers written on the figures for identification. His aunt did not have the “key” so over the past thirty years, Bridgman has been trying to identify some of the members by asking relatives and comparing photographs, with some success. But, the list is small so far: only about eight or ten names.

He does know the names of many of the members of the organization.

“For a long time now I’ve been thinking that other copies of this photo *must* exist somewhere, perhaps in the attic of other old Turners Falls families. Most of these men either were, or would become, the heads of large families whose descendants still live in the Franklin County area today,” Bridgman writes.

Turners Falls had two Bohemian Societies; St. Joseph was the other one. From a search through the online archives of old *Turners Falls Reporter* issues, Bridgman found the societies to be “friendly rivals” who staged their annual picnics on



*Are your forebears in this photograph?*

the same day, at least once offered a free shuttle running between their two picnic grounds.

Can anyone help Jim Bridgman with the identification of people in the photograph, or offer further information about the St. Vaclav Society? Here is a list of the members that Bridgman feels fairly confident he has been able to identify,

based in large part by a conversation he had with Katie Baxa, who died several years ago at age 102, but also supplemented by other family photos he has:

1, Charles Martin Baxa; 4, Vaclav (Vencil) Svatora; 11, Fred Ulrich; 12, Jacob Valenta; 14, \_\_\_ Prokop; 23, Ferdinand Engerman; 28, John Baxa; 30, John Joseph Schulda.

Other known members of the Society, most of whom he suspects are somewhere in the picture, include John Baxa, Joseph Duda, Martin Duda, Ferdinand Engerman, John Engerman, Joseph Hoffman, Joseph Houdek, Joseph Koskuba, John Meyer, Charles Mundl, Thomas Pauley, John Prokop, Mathias Prokop, John J. Schulda, Edmund

Shulda, Joseph Shulda, Valav Slais, John Sokora, Joseph Sokora, John Sulda, Vaclav Svatora, Vincent Ulrich, and Jacob Valenta.

Information about the St. Vaclav Bohemian Society can be sent directly to Jim Bridgman: [jim-bridgman@comcast.net](mailto:jim-bridgman@comcast.net) and (413) 586-3472; or you may send to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

## ARTBEAT from page B1

“loves books that remind us all that the world is a wonderful, weird place.”

There’s also an online art exhibit for children, a photographic exhibit, and a nature poetry project coordinated with Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust. For this latter project, participants are invited to visit Conservation Trust lands, write work inspired by it, and read in the online reading on the last day of the festival, June 27.

Reina Dastous, co-chair of the Northfield Elementary School PTO, said the children’s art exhibit is “a way of connecting kids in community while we’re apart.”

“Anything goes,” she said of the work that can be submitted. “We’re encouraging kids to do a piece of art that’s inspired by something they’ve read, but that’s not required.”

To submit work to the photography exhibit, send up to three .JPGs or .PNGs on the theme of “The Natural World,” each less than 2 MB, along with artist’s name, town and state, a title for each piece and a brief statement about why you chose to create the piece. Email to [AnnOndras@gmail.com](mailto:AnnOndras@gmail.com).

## New Times, New Forms

Richmond will open the festival each Saturday at 11 a.m. Appointed National Beat Poet Laureate for 2019-2020 by the National Beat Poetry Foundation in Wolcott, Connecticut, Richmond is known for his incisive spoken word pieces that somehow manage to make you laugh while exposing the social and political malfeasances of our times.

Richmond is also the organizer of the popular Third Tuesday Greenfield Word open mic series, the Word Stage at the North Quabbin Garlic and Arts Festival, and the Great Falls Word Festival, which began across the river as the Greenfield Annual Word Festival in 2009 before moving to downtown Turners Falls in 2017.

As both performer and festival organ-

## SUBMITTED PHOTO



*As part of the festival, Dr. Gretchen Holbrook-Gerzina will read from Mr. and Mrs. Prince, her book about an African-American couple who lived in Northfield during the 1800s.*

nizer, Richmond has been thinking a lot about what it means for creative types to move their work online. He’s taken part in a number of Zoom readings, including the World Poetry Café, and more locally, an online open mic in the Easthampton-based Unbuttoned reading series. It felt good, he said, to see “all the folks I used to see” at the Unbuttoned readings, and to hear their poems.

Even the Clearwater Festival, the music and environmental festival started by folk singer Pete Seeger, is talking about going online, Richmond said. It’s unclear to him how something like the Clearwater Festival can be replicated online.

Jokingly, he makes this analogy: “You gave up bacon. So, how about tempeh bacon?”

Chuckling, he added, “Well, now that you reminded me of bacon, I’m not sure...”

“It’s all an experiment,” he said. “Everyone’s going to be in a learning process, trying to figure out these questions.”

And maybe the key lies not in trying

to replicate what we were used to before but in creating something new, Richmond suggested.

“We need to practice new forms,” he said. Ruminating on the effects of the online format on poetry readings, he said, “It’s going to force poets who didn’t want to see poetry as performance to perform. A ‘page poet,’ a ‘spoken word artist – ’ all of these definitions and categories are going to be awash.”

Another aspect of online performance that’s in flux right now is how artists get paid. People are used to getting their online content for free, Richmond said, yet performers still need to get paid. Many online concert series and readings include virtual tip jars, but, “Who’s going to put money in the tip jars?” Richmond asked. “Are we going to all pass around the same five dollars? You give it to me, I give it to so-and-so, she gives it to someone else?”

Most of the speakers in the Northfield Authors and Artists Festival are being paid through grants, including Massachusetts Local Cultural Council money from Northfield, Gill, Bernardston, and Warwick; the Greenfield-Northampton Cooperative Bank; the Kiwanis Club of Northfield; and the Northfield Historical Commission. Some are donating their time, McLoughlin said.

In spite of all the unknowns, McLoughlin remained upbeat about the festival’s prospects. “I’m very happy with the format we ended up with online,” she said. “A mix of professional authors speaking, with time for local people to read.”

“It’s all free,” she added, “so there’s no reason not to sign up.”

For a full schedule of events, go to [authorsandartistsfestival.wordpress.com](http://authorsandartistsfestival.wordpress.com). A list of local poets presenting their work is available on the website.

Register to attend, and sign up for readings through the website as well, or go to [bit.ly/2WrDPXR](https://bit.ly/2WrDPXR).



## LAVA Center Continues Online Literary Programming

**GREENFIELD** – As part of the LAVA Center’s ongoing “Lit up the Night” series, author and Pioneer Valley resident Ellen Meeropol will read from her new novel, *Her Sister’s Tattoo*, followed by a Q&A, on Monday, June 1.

After a 24-year career as a nurse and then nurse practitioner, Meeropol turned to writing fiction full-time in 2005. *Her Sister’s Tattoo* is her fourth novel. It features two sisters who protest the Vietnam War in 1968. When they are arrested following a demonstration that takes an unexpected turn, Rosa determines to take advantage of protesting the war in court as well as on the streets. Her sister Esther, a new mother, feels her own responsibility is to avoid prison. Their conflicting priorities and loyalties drive a story of the intersection of family life and politics.

Meeropol, a founding member of the Straw Dog Writers Guild and coordinator of its social justice committee, is married to Robert Meeropol, the younger son of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg who were executed by the U.S. government.

In a recent interview, she reflected, “My husband was six years old when his parents, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, were killed. Robby’s story has profoundly affected my beliefs about justice and injustice.”

Signed copies of her book are available online from Federal Street Books [federalstreetbooks.com](http://federalstreetbooks.com); the book can also be purchased online at [Bookshop.org](http://Bookshop.org). It is not necessary to read the book in order to attend and enjoy the event.

The event will take place at 7 p.m. on June 1. It is free on Zoom, but an invitation is required to join in (to prevent “Zoom bombing”).

To request an invitation, contact [info@localaccess.org](mailto:info@localaccess.org). Alternately, folks can find the “LAVA Center” Facebook page and message LAVA directly to request an invitation. Please request your invitation by 5 p.m. on the day of the event.

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM).

CALL 863-8666

**TNT Productions**  
DJ & Karaoke specialists

413-522-6035  
[www.tntprodj.net](http://www.tntprodj.net)

413-256-6217

*fine instruments  
bought and sold  
repaired and restored*

**Fretted Instrument Workshop**  
49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

**HUGE  
WASHERS!**

**HOT  
DRYERS!**

Open 365 Days  
6 A.M. - 10 P.M.

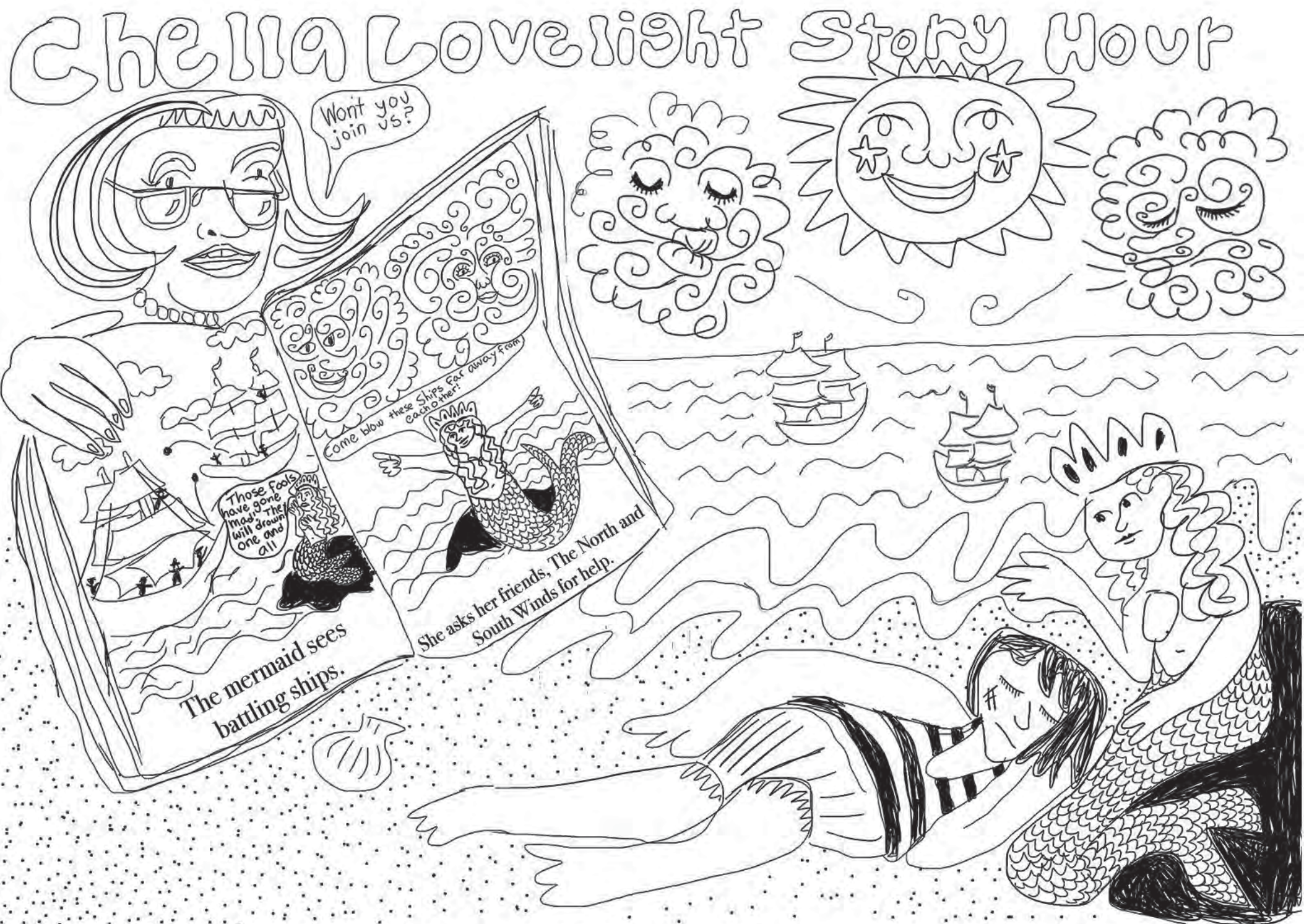
**SUZEE'S THIRD STREET  
LAUNDRY**  
TURNERS FALLS

*Suzee's*  
THIRD ST. LAUNDRY  
413-522-1376



# The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION



The ships' crews are saved as the deadly battle stops, but a cabin boy is thrown overboard!



Words by Beverly Ketch  
Pictures by Hannah Brookman

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM) CALL 863-8666!

**B. RUBIN & SONS INC.**




**COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS**

Shocks • Tires • Batteries • Starters  
Struts • Tune-ups • Brakes • Oil Change

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT    FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051



**BOOK MILL**

440 Greenfield Rd.  
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206    www.montaguebookmill.com

Books you don't need in a place you can't find.

**DOLAN & DOLAN**

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

174 AVENUE A  
TURNERS FALLS MASSACHUSETTS  
01376  
413-863-3133

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

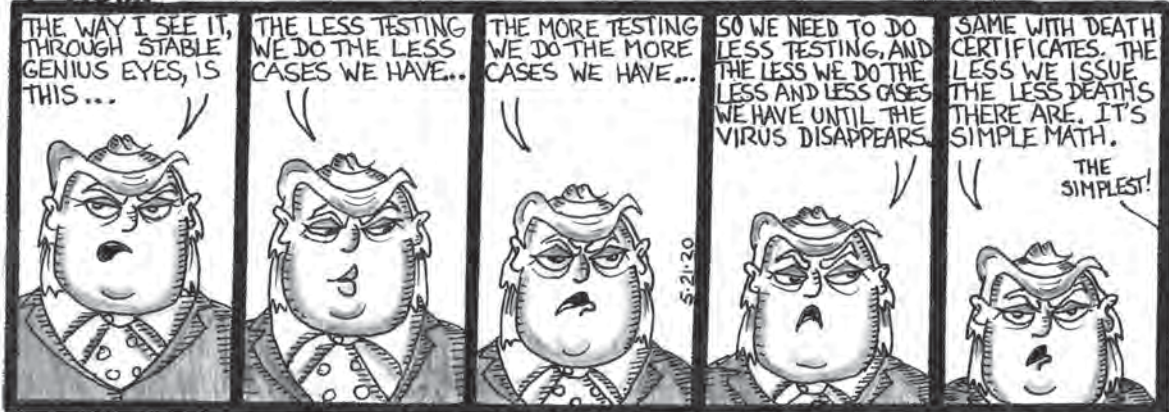


# COMICS and PUZZLE

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

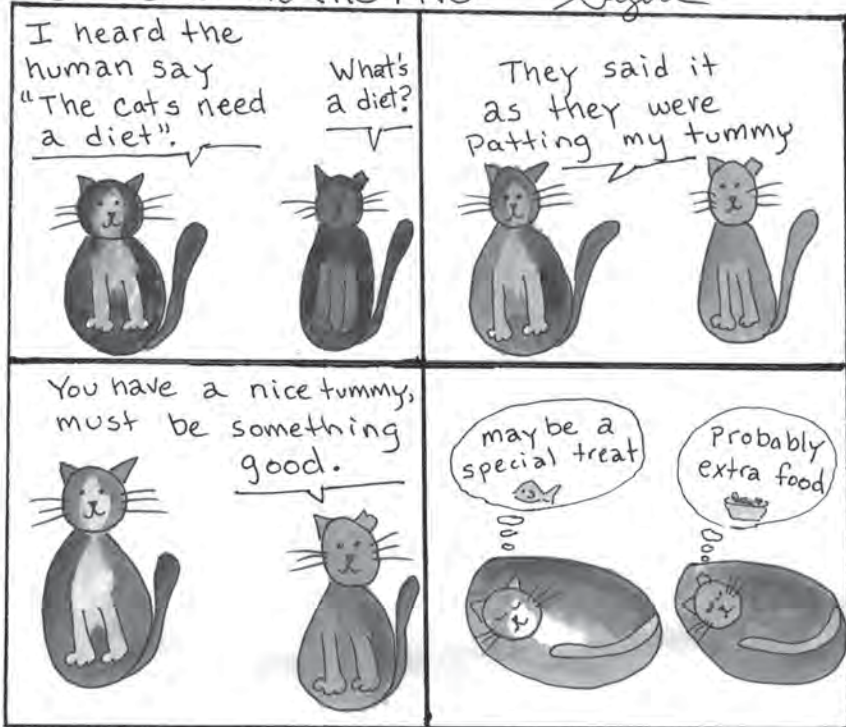
## T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux



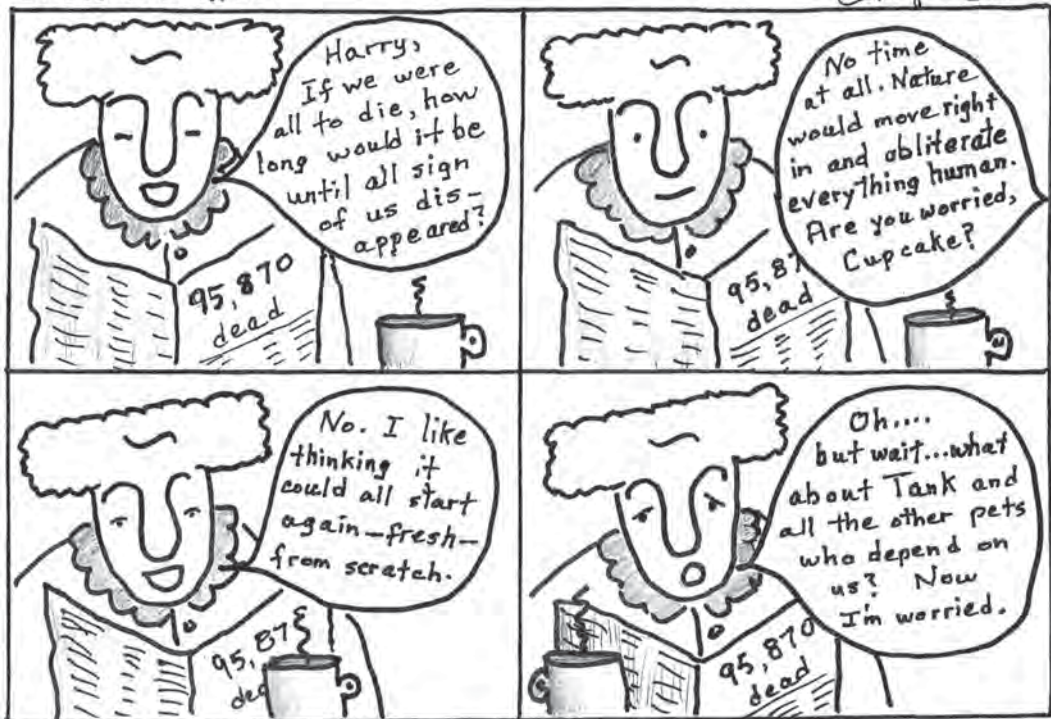
## Cool Cats on the Ave

by Jyoti



## OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



## THREE DEGREES OF WARMING

by JANICE ROWAN



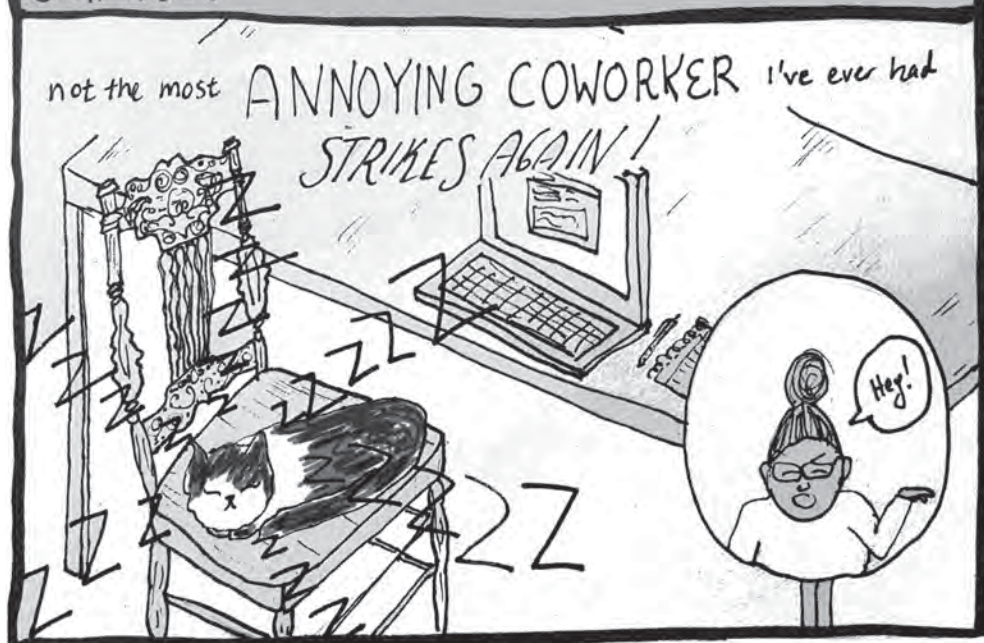
TWELVE episodes are now available!



Look for us on Apple/iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Anchor, Castbox, and elsewhere...

The Montague Reporter Podcast

## GLIMPSES FROM THE (HOME) OFFICE — ANNABEL LEVINE



# MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM !!!

UQ WE QUOTE CRY  
MRG'E TYDDAAM, ESAG  
TXCMUBUGI MAQUGUEAHC  
UTG'E QRO CRY.  
- TEABAG LOUISE

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: [INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG](mailto:INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG)

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

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION  
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL  
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street  
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161  
Franklin: 773-9497

About-Face  
Computer Solutions

(413) 863-5447  
176 Avenue A Suite 2,  
Turners Falls  
WE FIX COMPUTERS!  
[www.about-facecomputers.com](http://www.about-facecomputers.com)



French King  
Restaurant & Motel



OPEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER  
WEDNESDAY - SUNDAY 7 A.M.

Edward J. Terault  
(413) 223-5494  
[www.REILCLEAN.com](http://www.REILCLEAN.com)



• Complete Custodial Services •  
• Bonded and Insured •

"We Don't Cut Corners, We Clean Them!"

Cleaning Franklin & Hampshire Counties since 1972

BKONFONQEQWIYSS.IPY  
HMZGESCGQVQFHJW.MMO  
FONTLVPEAXQAHO.SHC  
LJKEVOBFBFNAPGR.RED  
SECRETBROADCAST.NET  
a weekly secret message podcast

RIVERSIDE  
RADIATOR

General Auto Repair  
RADIATORS for CARS - TRUCKS  
and HEAVY EQUIPMENT  
Foreign and Domestic

Propane  
Filling  
Station

Route 2, Gill  
863-4049 1-800-439-4049  
85 Monday (e) Thursday



**AUTHORS’** from page B1  
students are also doing *their* work.

I really love doing these deliveries, because it makes people so happy, and it’s so fun coming up with gift ideas, and delivering them!

Another thing I’ve been doing is exercising with my dad. We try to go for runs almost every day – unless it’s raining – and before we go for our run, we do a Facebook Live video, which my grandmas watch. It makes them super happy, since we can’t really see them in person much.

I’ve also been baking, which is super fun, but not always successful. I’ve made cupcakes multiple times, which have turned out super yummy. Then I tried to make peanut butter bonbons, and those failed, and so did these chocolate brownie balls that I attempted to make.

We’ve been trying to cook and bake with things that we have at home so that we don’t have to go to the store very often.

The thing that takes up a lot of my time is online school. I wanted to talk about my experience with that, because it’s been different for each school.

I have a schedule, so I have a specific class each day. For instance, I have Algebra on Tuesday, ELA on Wednesday, Science on Thursday, etc. I have a Google Meet with my teacher each day at 10 a.m., and we end them at 11, and have until next week’s Google Meet to complete our assignments. Most of the work has been easy to complete, but for some assignments, my friends and I FaceTime to help each other out.

My teachers have also made Google Meets a lot more interesting. For example, my science teacher, Mr. Tully, brings his baby on the Google Meet sometimes, and all of our teachers are available from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to give the students extra help.

Even though online school hasn’t been that bad, I’m *SO* excited to get back to school once everything is safe! I really miss my friends, and I love the beginning of the school year, because I love back to school shopping, and getting supplies, so I really hope that school isn’t canceled for the next semester...

Another thing I wanted to mention is what it’s like outside of my house. The other day I went with my dad to Target, which was the first time I’ve been in a public place since quarantine started over two months ago. We wore masks and gloves, and we got our cart from an employee who was sanitizing them. At first it wasn’t that out of the ordinary, except that everyone was wearing masks, of course.

We got all our groceries, and once we got in line, I realized how *ginormous* the line was, because everyone had to be spaced at least six feet apart. The line went all the way from the register to the women’s clothing section! We stood in line for about fifteen minutes, and you could tell other people were getting impatient. I felt really bad for the employees, because they’re risking their lives, and a lot of the customers seemed annoyed, when they were only trying their best to

keep everyone safe.

Then, once we were first in line, we walked up to the register. They had red dots spaced six feet apart from each other, reminding us to keep our distance. When we paid, there was a wall of plexiglass between us and the cashier, which was different than usual. This was obviously out of the ordinary, and it was kind of scary to see all the changes that have happened in Target due to COVID-19.

The last thing I wanted to talk about is how I’ve been staying in touch with my friends.

During the first couple weeks, we mostly FaceTimed or texted, because we didn’t really expect quarantine to be happening this long. Then, we started making things for each other, like posters, or delivering candy, etc.

Recently, I’ve been writing letters back and forth with my friends, and it’s so so fun! I definitely recommend doing it, because it’s supporting the US Postal Service, and that’s important because the post office is struggling financially right now. Also, it’s so much nicer to receive a handwritten letter rather than just getting a text or a phone call.

Every once in a while, a friend will stop by my house, with a mask on, and we’ll talk six feet apart, which is really sweet.

Thank you so much for reading this, and as always, I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. And I’ll be back to my usual column next time, so stay tuned!







**thevoo.net**  
413-863-2866



**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT**

# Community-Supported Pollinator Nurseries

**WESTERN MASS** – Pioneer Valley based non-profit Local Harmony has been working with local nurseries to initiate three new Regenerative Pollinator CSAs this season. Rather than getting vegetables, herbs or plant starts, these CSAs will provide organically grown, native pollinator perennials to increase habitat and beauty in the landscape around us.

By signing up for a share directly with one of these nurseries and becoming a member, participants will be able to pick out and take home plants later in the sea-

son. Details about how this works with each respective nursery can be found below.

All three CSAs can now be accessed through Local Harmony’s site at [www.localharmony.org/regenerative-csa/](http://www.localharmony.org/regenerative-csa/).

You can also access each CSA directly at the nursery’s websites:

**That’s A Plenty Farm**, Hadley: [www.thatsaplentyfarm.com/csa/](http://www.thatsaplentyfarm.com/csa/)

**Kohl Gardens**, Wendell: [www.kohlgardens.com/nursery/](http://www.kohlgardens.com/nursery/)

**Wing and A Prayer Nursery**, Cummington: [www.aliceskitchen-athoneyhill.com/amys-nursery/](http://www.aliceskitchen-athoneyhill.com/amys-nursery/)

PLACE YOUR BUSINESS CARD HERE (12 WEEK MINIMUM). CALL 863-8666!



**Turners Falls Pizza House**  
Family Owned & Operated  
Serving Turners Falls area for 40 Years  
Dave Argy, Family & Staff

**PIZZA, GRINDERS, DINNERS, SALADS, BURGERS**

[www.turnersfallspizza.com](http://www.turnersfallspizza.com)  
119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000

**We Service all Types of Equipment!**



310 Federal St.  
Rte 63, Montague  
[sirumequipment.com](http://sirumequipment.com)

Ask about pick-up & delivery options!



**SINCE 1888**  
**A.H. Rist**  
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.

**Savings & protection for your WHOLE FAMILY!**



Competitive rates & discounts for all of your insurance needs!  
159 Avenue A | Turners Falls MA | 413.863.4373 | [ahrist.com](http://ahrist.com)



**SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.**  
SCSC “Rock solid service with level advice”

**Complete Masonry Supply**  
Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more. 

298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322  
and at our new location 529 S. Main St, Brattleboro or 802-579-1800  
[www.shanahansupply.com](http://www.shanahansupply.com)



**A Custom Touch**  
Painting & Home Repair  
Established 2003

Tony Tucker (413) 863-4833



**BLUE DRAGON APOTHECARY**  
CUSTOM CRAFTED HERBAL PRODUCTS  
TRADITIONAL MEDICINES & HOLISTIC HEALTH  
OFFERING BODYWORK AND CONSULTATIONS

RETAIL HOURS: TUE-FRI 10-6; SAT 10-4  
413-773-3730. [info@bluedragonapothecary.com](mailto:info@bluedragonapothecary.com)  
158 MAIN ST, SUITE 10 GREENFIELD, MA 01301  
[BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM](http://BLUEDRAGONAPOTHECARY.COM)

Dennis L. Booska Phone & Fax  
Dennis L. Booska, Jr. 413-863-3690

**Booska’s Flooring**

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member The Flooring Network.

**Tile Lino Carpet**



**A BEAUTIFUL Smile Starts With Healthy Teeth**  
GEETU SHOKEEN, DMD

Montague Dental Arts  
General Dentistry  
300 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 • 413-863-2288

**The Gill Tavern**  
Come For a Drink, Stay For a Meal

[www.thegilltavern.com](http://www.thegilltavern.com) Open Wed - Sun at 5 PM  
326 Main Road Gill, MA 413-863-9006



**Reward Yourself** with the FREE GSB Debit Card BUZZ Points Program.

**\$10 BUZZ Points Sign-up Bonus\*\***

(413) 774-3191 • (413) 584-4441  
[greenfieldsavings.com](http://greenfieldsavings.com)

**Greenfield Savings Bank**

\*Double points earning offer (2X points) applies only to locally-owned businesses which are in the GSB-Buzz Points Database at time of purchase and is not applicable at local outlets of national or regional chain stores or businesses.  
\*\* Must open account and sign up for BUZZ Points by 06/30/20 to qualify.

Member FDIC/Member DIF

**Serving Home Grown Farm-inspired Food & Drink**



44 Hope Street, Greenfield, MA 01301  
Ph 413 774 3150 | [hopeandolive.com](http://hopeandolive.com)


**Peter Waters Painting Services**

Interior/Exterior  
Custom Residential  
Fully Insured

Office: 978-544-6534  
Cell: 413-461-5172  
Wendell, MA  
[peterjwaters88@gmail.com](mailto:peterjwaters88@gmail.com)



**Follow the Sun into the Future**



**GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE**  
413.772.3122

2 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield  
[solarstoreofgreenfield.com](http://solarstoreofgreenfield.com)

Local, residential and small commercial Solar PV Installers for 14+ years in Franklin, Hampshire and Hamden counties.

**Panasonic Solar** AUTHORIZED INSTALLER  
Call for free site assessment.  
Artist: Christine Pellerin