

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 33

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JUNE 18, 2020

## West County Man Charged For Alcohol, Not Threats

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**BUCKLAND** – A 19-year-old Buckland man was arrested last Friday on charges related to a June 4 police search in Hawley, which found the man armed and intoxicated in the midst of a self-reported mental health emergency. None of the charges he faces stem from a threatening and racist video posted to social media the previous day, which was shared widely and reported to state and local police.

According to a press release from the Northwestern District Attorney’s office (NWDA), Zachary M. Taylor was arrested at his home last Friday afternoon, June 12, on a Greenfield District Court warrant charging him with possession of a loaded firearm while under the influence, disorderly conduct, and possession of alcohol under the age of 21.

“That incident was sparked after law enforcement learned of some alarming social media posts allegedly made by Taylor,” read the press release. “Multiple law enforcement agencies responded, including the Massachusetts State Police.”

According to NWDA spokesperson Mary Carey, a spokesperson for the NWDA, Taylor has not been charged with a hate crime, as the incident is still under investigation but at this time does not meet the threshold for probable cause.

“The defendant has been charged with all crimes for which probable cause exists at this point. If during

see **THREATS** page A8

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Wendell Town Meeting Set For June 27 On Common

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard’s June 10 meeting opened with a welcome to Gillian Budine as a newly-elected board member. The board announced that they had elected Dan Keller as selectboard chair the evening before, when they had a quorum at the June 9 broadband committee meeting.

For several weeks the selectboard had considered town meeting options that would allow voices to be heard while still maintaining COVID-related separation recommendations, and whether to hold the meeting in June, or hold it later and finance town business for FY’21 using a 1/12 per month budget.

At the June 10 meeting the board decided to hold town meeting at 10 a.m. on Saturday, June 27, outdoors on the south common, with setup arranged to minimize risk for attending citizens.

The finance committee now has enough information to distribute a budget beforehand, and the warrant will be summarized in the town newsletter, which should be received by residents ahead of the meeting. The warrant will be abbreviated, with some issues that call for discussion postponed to a special town

see **WENDELL** page A5

## Montague Level Funds Its Police, And Looks to the Future



JACKSON PHOTO

*A crowd of about 400 gathered in front of Montague town hall in Turners Falls on Sunday.*

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – The national and global wave of protest against racism and police brutality reached Turners Falls, Leverett, and Wendell last weekend, as hundreds gathered for peaceful marches calling for a reexamination of the role of policing, even in small towns. At Montague’s annual town meeting on Saturday, members voted by a 38 to 35 margin to cut \$45,582 from the police department’s proposed \$1,698,119 budget, effectively freezing next fiscal year’s police spending to the current year’s level.

“Today I am asking town meeting members to consider voting for a small, largely symbolic, step toward a careful process of transforming our communities for the better,” Precinct 5 representative Natan Cohen said in introducing the budget amendment, which sparked a sharp but civil debate.

The meeting was held in a parking lot at Turners Falls High School, under conditions designed to reduce COVID-19 risk. Like many area towns, Montague struggled to plan its town meeting this year, and officials worried whether a quorum of members would attend.

“It verges on irresponsible to try to have this debate here and now, with this pandemic,” Precinct 4’s Jeff Singleton argued. “I also think you’re not going to solve the problem of racism in this society by eliminating police cruisers, or just taking a heavy, blunt instrument at the police budget, on the fly, at a meeting.”

“Whenever a very big discussion starts up, it’s never the time and place to have the discussion, it seems,” Mark Wisniewski of Precinct 2 replied. “This is the only time and place that we have to actually decide where money goes.... We’re talking about changing the system, not punishing police.”

“This meeting, where we really only get to vote on budget, is the only place where a wide swath of Montague gets a direct, binding voice in town affairs,” added Elliot Ezcurra of Precinct 5.

Precinct 1’s Kathy Lynch condemned the “pushback when people raise the issue of race in this town.” “Without a budget issue, there is no conversation,” she said. “People are dismissed. Their feedback is not taken.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz read a prepared statement acknowledging “legitimate concerns around policing in our country, state, county, and right here in Montague.” He said that he and police chief Chris Williams had already been in discussion, and that “the police department is open to having conversations, explaining their current policies and practices and revising any that may need so.”

Cohen suggested the money saved by reducing the police budget could be used instead to hire a consultant “to audit the department’s budget, their use of force, their disciplinary process, and the racial disparities in their demographic data.”

Last week, Williams released a public statement asserting that “[w]hat is happening nationally is not the culture of the Montague Police Department,” and disclosing demographic data from arrests since 2017.

An open letter to the selectboard, signed by 136 residents, compared the report’s indication that black residents account for 9.8% of arrests with a US Census estimate of Montague’s black population at 1.6%, concluding that the data reflected a “clear trend of

see **POLICE** page A6



JACKSON PHOTO

*Longtime Turners Falls resident Denise Aiken was among those who spoke out in front of the town hall about their personal experiences with racism in the town.*



MARY BARNETT PHOTO

*Later Sunday afternoon, about 200 marched from the Leverett Elementary School to the town library.*



ROBBIE LEPPER PHOTO

*In Wendell, another 100 participated in a youth-organized march and vigil on Saturday on the Wendell common. Here, protesters take a knee while observing a moment of silence.*



JACKSON PHOTO

*Sunday’s march in Turners gathered at Peskeumskut Park, assembled on Seventh Street, and came down Avenue A.*

## Selectboard Candidates Make Their Final Case

By MIKE JACKSON

**MONTAGUE** – The annual town election will be held on Monday, and while many have already voted by mail this year, polling stations in Montague’s six precincts will be open from noon to 7 p.m. Only one name, that of downtown restaurant owner Ashley Arthur, is listed at the top of the ballot for selectboard; incumbent Michael Nelson has been waging a write-in campaign to hold his seat for a third full term.

“I think both sides have really strong supporters who are enthusiastic about their candidates,” Nelson said on Wednesday of the race. “That’s a really good sign that we’ve got something good going on in this community.” Nelson says a misunderstanding kept him from submitting papers for the seat, and he was surprised to be left off the ballot after Arthur won the nomination of the town Democratic caucus.

“The campaign is going much better than I anticipated,” said Arthur this week. “But I don’t take the

see **ELECTION** page A5

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Playgrounds, Parks Reopen; Police Study Group Formed

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard, at a joint meeting with the town’s board of health and finance committee, made significant progress on Monday in opening up the town’s parks, playgrounds, and buildings, including town hall. The board also began a discussion of how to respond to what the agenda called “Black Lives Matter Rallies,” following an extensive debate over the police department budget at the previous Saturday’s town meeting.

The approval of a plan to open the parks and playgrounds, which are administered by the parks and recreation department, was something of a milestone. Town officials have struggled with policies to allow greater access to these facilities, which have been closed for several months, while maintaining protocols for social distancing and cleaning of structures. The selectboard had voted to open the skate park at Unity Park the previous week.

The proposal, approved by the emergency management committee and presented by parks and rec director Jon Dobosz, opened all town playgrounds and the Unity Park basketball and sand volleyball courts the next day, June 16. Facilities have opened “with appropriate signage posted at these areas requiring patrons to observe appropriate social distancing, gathering limits, the use of face masks and

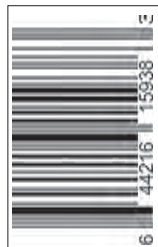
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# The Montague Reporter

“The Voice of the Villages”

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**Technical Administration**

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August 2002

# Turbulence

After four consecutive weeks in which Montague’s official coronavirus case count remained at 25, this Wednesday’s weekly data dump from the state revealed that the count has climbed to 27. It’s a statistically insignificant change, of course, but it comes with a feeling of *oh, right*. We wish a speedy recovery to the new carriers.

Cases in Greenfield also climbed by two – from 198 to 200 – while Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Leverett all stayed put with very, very few confirmed cases between them.

For the fourth straight week, the data also included town-by-town totals of tests administered, and here is the most hopeful news. Each week a larger number of residents is tested in each town. Free testing is now available to anyone who may have found themselves at a *large gathering* recently. We urge our readers to avail themselves of the opportunity, as it will help early detection of asymptomatic transmission through the local community.

Here in Montague, 580 people have been tested, which means we have a very admirable 4.7% positive testing rate.

The news outside our valley is less happy. We recommend the websites *rt.live* and *endcoronavirus.org* for those wishing to track state-by-state data. Massachusetts’ R, the average number each infected person infects, is nice and low – 0.81, the third-lowest in the country after New Jersey and Connecticut. Enjoy a cautious return toward normalcy, but stay on guard!

This week, the *Montague Reporter* is resuming its regular delivery routes. Huzzah.

Nationwide, we see the beginnings of a dreaded second wave in the curve displayed at *endcoronavirus.org/countries*. The United States is a global virus dunce, up there with Brazil and Russia.

And the site’s newest feature is worth a look: interactive county-level maps, at *endcoronavirus.org/us-counties*. This really puts the situation into perspective. When we look at the United States broken down more granularly, it begins to look grimly familiar: the red zones, where new cases are increasing, uncannily resemble the county-by-county concentration of

black Americans.

Health outcomes are largely determined by economic factors, which is to say, in America, largely determined in turn by race. Pull one string and the rest come along with it.

The dizzying, overlapping, catastrophes of 2020 have put most Americans in an unfamiliar world, but others have been through this before. Russians, for example, who lived through *glasnost* and *perestroika*, or South Africans who lived through the fall of (legal) apartheid, or Chileans who can remember the terrible coup. So little has changed for so long, besides improvements to consumer technology and a slowly dissolving social safety net, that it’s difficult to reorient to the fact that our society as a whole is changing, irrevocably, and the decisions we each make now can really help determine its ultimate form.

The helplessness so many are experiencing, in other words, is simply a shock that our collective circumstances can change unbidden. Do not be lulled by that feeling. These are the moments in which we can actually make history.

This summer, as we keep pointing out, several major government interventions helping to hold some semblance of an economy together are scheduled, idiotically, to expire. Perhaps the politicians will admit to this and extend them, but since it is an election year, and since we have a two-party system in which each party’s greatest strength is in convincing some voters that the other one is ruining everything, there is very little incentive for them to cooperate.

Every situation becomes its own political Rorschach test. Depending on what news trough you feed from, the police-free neighborhood now entering its second week in Seattle is either a harmless, glorified farmers market or Mogadishu on the Puget Sound.

We hope not too many people in our own neck of the woods are locked into an extreme alternate-reality media environment. If we start making history here, the *Montague Reporter* promises to cover it right down the middle. For now, keep feeding us your news tips, and don’t forget to renew!



Peter Williams of Mapledge Farm in Shelburne moves a roll of organic hay with his tractor on Monday. Generations of the Williams family have farmed these 140 acres since the 1870s. They are part of the Our Family Farms milk cooperative.

# Letters to the Editors

## Co-op Board Responds to Ad

Re: the paid advertisement in *The Montague Reporter* Year 18 – No. 32, June 11 entitled: “Collective Legal Action – Have you been ripped off by the Leverett Village Co-op”:

The Board of Directors of the Leverett Village Co-op (LVC) together with our interim General Manager are somewhat taken aback by this advertisement which seeks to solicit offenses committed by the LVC. We cannot speak for the entire history of the Co-op but this administration is transparent, honest, respectful, and committed both to high professional standards and sustaining the Co-op as a community resource.

What should well-meaning individuals do when subjected to an insidious smear? On the one hand there is a need for soul searching and a renewed commitment to excellence; on the other, a need to respond. Our response is to forgive the protagonist and ask him/her/ them to reconsider this painful course of action and in turn to forgive the Co-op for the perceived hurt that has elicited the paid advertisement. We are available to discuss this directly if desired.

We want to reassure our members, patrons, and neighbors that we respect and appreciate our vendors and donors, and love serving our community. Despite economic setbacks in recent years that resulted in accumulation of substantial debt, under our current Board of Directors, which was voted in on February 5, 2020, and under the inspirational guidance of our interim General Manager who volunteered to lead the Co-op out of debt and into a sustainable future, we have started to pay-down this debt and many of our vendors are again delivering to the store.

We are on an exciting trajectory of growth and are honored to play our part in meeting our community’s needs for safe food shopping during this time of COVID-19. The feedback that we have been receiving is that people are feeling happy that their Co-op is thriving, expressed by increased purchasing, increased donations, and increased expressions of appreciation by patrons in the store.

The Leverett Village Co-op, in operation since the mid-1980s, is the only brick and mortar store in Leverett and is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the intersection between Rattlesnake Gutter and North Leverett roads. It is a community hub, a venue for safe grocery, wine, beer, and other beverage shopping, operates a kitchen serving tasty breakfasts, lunches, and homemade bakery items, and on Wednesday and Friday nights bakes delicious take-out pizza.

We ask that you visit the Co-op and make up your own mind regarding our contribution to the well-being of Leverett and our surrounding communities. Shop the Co-op; we are member-owned, democratic, cooperative and there for you. If you want to learn more about our Co-op please visit our website at [www.leverettcoop.com](http://www.leverettcoop.com).

Yours truly,  
LVC Board of Directors:  
**Danielle Barshak, Samuel Black** (President), **Jean Bergstrom, Lise Coppinger, Ann Ferguson** (Clerk), **Lori Lynn Hoffer, Jeff Lacy, Jono Neiger** (Vice President and Treasurer), **Martin Pittman**, and **Karen Traub**; as well as **Paul Rosenberg** (General Manager)

## Authors & Artists Fest: Thanks!

Authors and Artists Festival in Northfield is very grateful to all the authors and artists that make this part of the Valley a wonderful place to live. We appreciate the local businesses and nonprofit organizations that make this kind of community possible.

Sponsors of the 2020 virtual A&A festival include: Greenfield Cooperative Bank, our first major sponsor, who’s responsible for making this festival a reality; the Massachusetts Cultural Council through its Local Cultural Councils of Northfield, Bernardston, Gill, and Warwick, who were really flexible and responsive as we changed from in-person to online; the Kiwanis Club of Northfield for funding children’s programming; the Dickinson Memorial Library for financial and programming support; the Northfield Historical Commission for funding Dr. Gretchen Gerzina, writer of Northfield African-American history (speaking June 20); and Greenfield Savings Bank for supporting our artist speaker Dr. Simone Alter-Muri, who spoke on the body as canvas, tattoos and healing, through Deerfield Valley Art Association.

Thanks too to all the attendees – we’re so grateful for your presence and engagement, and hope you will also visit our virtual art shows on our website. We hope to bring you a live festival next year, but in the meantime please tune in to this free virtual event for the remaining Saturdays in June, and see videos of the talks you may have missed on our website. Free registration at: [www.authorsand-artistsfestival.wordpress.com](http://www.authorsand-artistsfestival.wordpress.com).

**Lisa McLoughlin**  
Northfield

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

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LARKIN-ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Have you been to a gathering in recent weeks? Wondering where to get tested for COVID-19?

Check out the “interactive testing map” linked at [www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing](http://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-testing). It points to two sites in Greenfield and one in Orange. Many test sites require pre-screening, referral, or appointments, so contact them first before showing up. You may not even need to leave your vehicle to do the test at some of these drive-up locations, and most take MassHealth.

This Friday, June 19, the Leverett historical commission hosts a **virtual visit to the Field Mill** as part of its ongoing project, “A Sense of Where You Are – Conversations about Leverett’s historic industrial landscape and community.”

This Zoom event at 7 p.m. will follow historical commission members Eva Gibavic and Ann Tweedy and historian Pleun Bouricius, as they explore and learn to interpret the Field Mill site and gain insights into its history. The visit will be followed by a discussion.

## Leverett Reduces Quorum

By REPORTER STAFF

The Leverett selectboard met Tuesday night, unattended by the press, and voted to reduce the required quorum for this Saturday’s annual town meeting to 20.

Selectboard member Tom Hankinson said state emergency legislation allows towns to reduce quorum from 5% of the population to 0.5%, which in Leverett’s case would be 7.8 people.

“There was a sense on the call that we should set a higher mini-

The talk is free and open to the public, but you must register at [www.swiftriverpress.com](http://www.swiftriverpress.com).

The Shea Theater and Dysfunctional Just Fine presents the **Queer-antine Fringe Festival** on Fridays and Saturdays in June. It is described as a virtual queer arts festival featuring over 20 LGBTQ+ artists presenting staged readings, musical performances, poetry, and more. This is, of course, a livestreamed event, and you may register for it through [www.sheatheater.org](http://www.sheatheater.org).

**What is Localization?** Epsilon Spires, a Brattleboro arts and performance center, has put together “World Localization Day” on Sunday, June 21. “Localization,” in a business sense, tries to shorten the distance between producers and consumers. Taken personally, it means connecting with others and the natural world around us and emphasizing what is meaningful.

The event starts at 6 p.m., and will be an online festival of inspirational talks, films, and music, from an international roster of presenters including Noam Chomsky, Vandana

mum, so we went with 20,” Hankinson reported of the meeting.

The board also voted to create a social justice committee, he told the *Reporter*, “comprised of a racially diverse group of Leverett residents, who will work together to explore and recommend action steps that can be taken by the police department, school, and town government.”

Also on the agenda were COVID-19 reimbursement, gas and diesel bids, and the recent termination of the sole black teacher at Leverett Elementary School.

Shiva, Russell Brand, Brian Eno, Jane Goodall, and many more. Register by sliding-scale donation at [www.worldlocalizationday.org](http://www.worldlocalizationday.org).

Seeking employment? Check out the **Virtual Job Expo** from 9 a.m. on Monday, June 22, through 4 p.m. Wednesday, June 24. This three-day event is offered free to employers and job seekers courtesy of the MassHire Franklin-Hampshire Career Center.

The agency writes that many employers are hiring in our region, and there will be opportunities from dozens of employers from Franklin County, Hampshire County, the North Quabbin area, and beyond in a wide range of industries including health care, manufacturing, landscaping, administration, warehousing, transportation, education, banking, and more.

This is the first virtual job fair offered by the center. Pre-registration is required. If the job seeker is already a member of a MassHire Career Center, call (413) 774-4361 to register for the event. If they are not yet a customer, they may create a profile at [jobquest.dcs.eol.mass.gov/jobquest/Register/](http://jobquest.dcs.eol.mass.gov/jobquest/Register/) before calling. Those who do not have internet access are invited to pick up a listing of “Hot Jobs” in the hallway outside the Greenfield Career Center at One Arch Place, Greenfield.

If you are an employer looking to participate, email Penni and Marija at [bizteam@masshirefhcareers.org](mailto:bizteam@masshirefhcareers.org).

The LAVA Center in Greenfield presents an **online short play festival** on Sunday, June 28 at 2 p.m. “From A Distance: 2020 (corona) vision(s)” features 18 short plays by Nina Gross, Karen Miller, Vanessa Query, Marlon Carey, and Jan Maher. The program is produced by Maher and directed by Maher, Carey, and Query, with local and regional performers filling out the roles. It will be followed by a question and answer period with the playwrights and directors. This will be a Facebook livestream; for information, email [info@localaccess.org](mailto:info@localaccess.org).

**Great Falls Books Through Bars** writes: “In this time and always

we encourage people to reach out to political prisoners. We don’t have a strict definition of what that means, but it’s important to maintain connections and show support to people who have ended up in prison because they’ve bravely stood up to oppression, or who have organized against the inherent repression of the prison system since being incarcerated. We express solidarity with all imprisoned people and an end to prisons and the prison industry in general.”

The group still needs community support to fund the mailing of materials to incarcerated people, and they welcome donations of books and other supplies. They are also seeking people who are willing to write letters to prisoners, and offer support in how to write such a letter, and can share lists of people to write to. Get in touch for more information by emailing [gfbbooksthroughbars@riseup.net](mailto:gfbbooksthroughbars@riseup.net).

Sad news came in from the Franklin County Musicians’ Coop this week: they are **canceling the summer Coop Concerts** at Greenfield Energy Park. These free concerts on Thursday evenings were going to enter their 17th year, but folks felt it was best for reasons of health and safety to skip this year. Look for music online from Coop musicians instead.

The **Sunwheel at UMass-Amherst** is a popular spot to witness the summer solstice on June 20, but this year, there will be no presentations at the site. UMass astronomer Stephen Schneider says that any time between June 15 to 25 is a good day to visit the sunwheel to see the alignment of the standing stones with the rising or setting position of the sun, as viewed from the center of the wheel.

The sunwheel is located south of McGuirk Alumni Stadium, just off Rocky Hill Road and a quarter-mile south of University Drive in Amherst. Distancing rules apply, and visitors should wear masks and prepare for possible wet footing and mosquitos.

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

## More Letters to the Editors

### Monday Elections: Write-In Endorsements

Over 40 seats in Montague are up for election on Monday, June 22. Twenty-one will be filled by write-in candidates. Following last week-end’s town meeting vote to freeze the police department budget, Elliot Ezcurra and I put out a call for people interested in running for town meeting seats.

We received a lot of interest! In some precincts we heard from more candidates than there are write-in seats available. We do not know everything about these candidates’ politics. These are simply people who let us know they hope to become town meeting members in order to redirect police funding and move towards racial justice. They are:

For Montague representative to the Gill-Montague school committee (all precincts): Denise Aiken.

Town meeting, **Precinct 1:** Matt Lord. **Precinct 2:** Alexis Hott, Illaria Dana, and Joanna Mae Boody for the

3-year terms; Andrew Stewart and Caleb Hiliadis for the 2-year term; Meghan Smith for the 1-year term. **Precinct 3:** Zach Billings. **Precinct 4:** Thomasina Hall for the 3-year term; Richard Hall for the 1-year term. **Precinct 5:** Melissa Rohde and Mishel Ixchel for the 3-year terms, Brian Brownell for the 1-year term. **Precinct 6:** Sara Jung.

Thank you to all who have expressed interest. Voters can visit the town website, [montague-ma.gov](http://montague-ma.gov), for polling locations. Polls will be open from noon to 7 p.m. on Monday.

Please also note that school district elections are district-wide, so Gill voters can also write in Denise Aiken as Montague’s representative! The polls in Gill are open from noon to 4 p.m. at the town garage.

**Natan Cohen, Precinct 5**  
**In collaboration with Montague Defund**

### Sign Skirmish Points To Need for Dialogue

A few days ago, residents of Leverett awoke to Black Lives Matter signs painted on many roadways in our town. Within a day, many were painted over or covered with X marks. This has sparked ample conversation and agitation in our small town, where some may have been surprised to find such sharp political diversity.

The arrival and defacing of BLM signs and responses on our roads is a mini-reflection of the tensions on display around the nation. Political differences in town and across the country are not new but are certainly amplified in our present historical moment.

We in Hands Across the Hills (the dialogue project between some residents of Leverett and Letcher County, Kentucky) have learned so much through dialogue, and value what we gain by stretching ourselves to listen deeply to the per-

spectives of others. Leading with questions rather than assumptions, engaging through minds of curiosity rather than our anger, has offered us uncountable insights into the minds and hearts of those who think and vote differently.

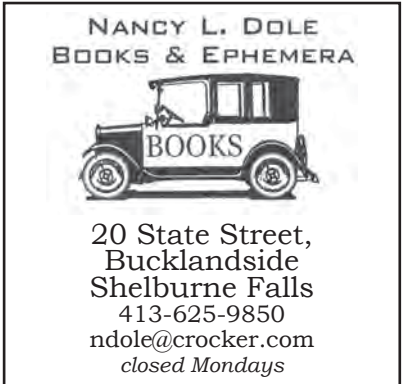
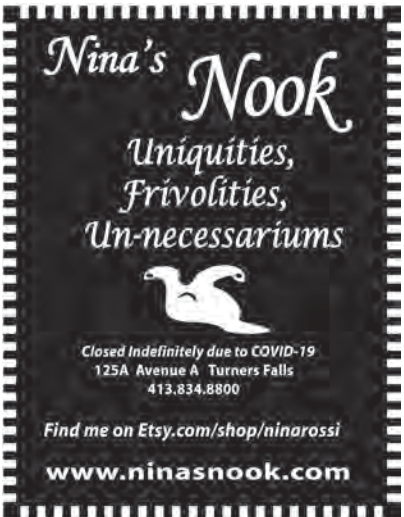
Perspective matters. Each of our core beliefs has been honed by a lifetime of formative experiences, connection to esteemed others, cherished identities, acts of grace and cruelty, and more. Such accumulated views, including our own, are not easily dislodged.

Gandhi spent a lifetime struggling with respectful opposition. That’s our task right now, in our town and in our country. Let’s find the right way, and not pile reactivity upon reactivity, which only separates us more.

**Paula Green**  
**Leverett**



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local gossip, news & business listings



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GUEST EDITORIAL

Finding Hope (and Toilet Paper) at the Village Co-op

By KAREN TRAUB

**LEVERETT** – Three months into a global pandemic some things that used to matter – wearing a bra, for example – have become less important. Others – like leaving a cranberry muffin on the doorstep of a friend – take on new meaning. While some are hunkering down and others must go to work, I will continue to volunteer at the Leverett Village Food Co-op.

The Village Co-op was started in the 1970s as a pre-order buying club when grocery stores did not carry natural foods like brown rice and brewer’s yeast. Deliveries were on Tuesday, and volunteers sliced the cheese and bagged the beans.

“Everything from cigarettes to seaweed” was the motto when the Co-op shared space in LaClaire’s General Store with Harry and Marion Norwood. In those days, differences were marked by a running

joke known as “The Mayonnaise War” between those preferring the commercial brand and those who went for the one without additives.

The Leverett Village Co-op is located nine miles north of Amherst. Constructed in the early 1990s, on land generously donated by one of its founding members, Dan Bennett, the one-story wood framed storefront is a stopping point for locals and visitors to Rattlesnake Gutter, Lake Wyola, and the Wendell State Forest.

According to the International Cooperative Alliance, “A cooperative is an autonomous association of persons united voluntarily to meet their common economic, social, and cultural needs and aspirations through a jointly-owned and democratically-controlled enterprise.” People, not profit, is the reason for coops.

The cooperative movement was born in 1761 in Fenwick, Scotland

by local weavers wanting to support each other, secure the future of their trade, and ensure a fair price for their work. Over the years, they extended their mission to include bulk purchase of food items, a fund for the poor, and a lending library.

Some food coops, including ours, are struggling these days. Coops fail because of changing shopping habits, lack of participation by members, and conflict in management and board relationships.

My husband Frank and I joined the Village Co-op when our kids were small. Friday pizza and video night was a big deal. The Co-op has been a place to buy ice cream, coffee and scones, run into friends and neighbors, enjoy a breakfast sandwich, soup, or tempeh Reuben, and listen to live music.

Over the past year we saw less food on the shelves and learned the Co-op was in trouble. Frank and I started attending meetings, and in

January I was elected to the board. At my first meeting we learned that the staff had been laid off and there was a motion to dissolve the Co-op. A lively community discussion ensued. Tempers flared.

Longtime Co-op member Sam Lovejoy stood up and talked about consensus. He said it is not easy, and not always possible, to reach consensus. He talked about the principles of Democracy, and how messy it can be. In plain talk and with a sense of humor, Sam charmed the board and smiles appeared on the previously tense faces.

Consensus was reached to keep the Co-op open, run by volunteers until the staff could be rehired.

Volunteering at the register has been a great way to get to know the business and the shoppers. We don’t have long lines or fights over toilet paper at the Co-op. People help by buying an extra bottle of wine to give to a friend, offering to mow the

lawn, or donating paper bags and egg cartons. Kids give us drawings we tape to the wall.

There’s nothing like a pandemic to remind us how much we need each other. I feel blessed to live where there is access to local products like Maple Mama Beverages, Real Pickles, and fresh eggs from the Montague chicken lady. I believe in what we can accomplish when we put our heads together and roll up our sleeves because I see it every day at the Co-op. I am heartened by the champions of the Co-op who also believe.


If anyone can figure out how to overcome differences to work and live together, it will be members of a food coop. That is why I get up, gear up, and go make the coffee.

*Karen Traub is a student in the Newport MFA writing a memoir about her local library. She lives in Shutesbury.*

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GUEST EDITORIAL

Denial of Science is Killing Us

United States death toll due to COVID-19: 1 on 3/1/2020  
United States death toll due to COVID-19: 4,079 on 4/1/2020  
United States death toll due to COVID-19: 63,006 on 5/1/2020  
United States death toll due to COVID-19: 100,000 on 5/26/2020, and counting...

By VRISHALI JAVERI

**SUNDERLAND** – We are in the middle of a global pandemic, a virus gone viral. The death toll due to COVID-19 is still rising. It’s the middle of June and we are well over 115,000 deaths in the United States alone. As states are emerging from the restrictions of the past two months we are seeing spikes across the board. Twenty-one states saw an increase in their infection rates for COVID-19 compared to last week.

The virus has bought the whole world to its knees. Almost no one alive today has seen an epidemic on this scale, so paranoia is running amok, even among people who should know better. The closest parallel is the Spanish Flu that swept the globe almost a hundred years ago.

First it was China, then Italy, and then it was the United States at the eye of this storm. We currently lead the world in both the number of infections and deaths due to COVID-19.

Our response to the pandemic has been anything but surefooted. While the states were scrambling to get medical supplies, the federal response was halting and inadequate to combat the scale of the unfolding disaster. A microscopic virus, invisible to the naked eye, brought the behemoth of the global economy to a complete standstill.

But was this inevitable? The federal response to the pandemic has been guided more by wishful thinking and posturing than by hard scientific data. What explains all the missteps and the fits and starts to combat this pandemic?

At the heart of this unfolding tragedy is the scientific and numerical illiteracy that plagues our society, from ordinary citizens to the President. Climate change deniers, anti-vaxxers, and people who believe that the earth is flat have been proliferating for some time now. Some of them have ascended to the highest positions of power.

Isaac Asimov said it better than I ever could in a 1980 essay:

*The strain of anti-intellectualism has been a constant thread winding its way through our political and cultural life, nurtured by the false notion that democracy means that my ignorance is just as good as your knowledge.*

This cult of ignorance is proving costly to our health as the death toll keeps rising due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Infectious diseases experts have been warning about a pandemic at the scale of the 1918 flu pandemic for a while now. The President and his team had been warned by

experts as far back as January that a catastrophe was looming. They knew yet they did nothing. They disregarded the scientific consensus about the virus, just as they have disregarded the scientific consensus about climate change.

One look at the graph of the exponential spread of infection should have scared anyone. Unfortunately for us someone didn’t pay attention in their high school math class – or their intelligence briefings, for that matter.

People who disregard science forget one thing: you don’t have to believe in science for it to be true. The laws of nature work whether or not you believe in them. The earth’s gravitational acceleration is  $g = 9.8 \text{ m/s}^2$  even if you think that the earth is flat. Viruses can infect you even if you are an anti-vaxxer.

But ignorance of science and math is not without consequence. People who promote falsehoods that vaccines cause autism are bringing back infectious diseases, like measles, which were considered eradicated. They also vote into office elected officials who deny climate change and twiddle their thumbs as a virulent virus ravages the nation.

They gut budgets that fund our research infrastructure, from the CDC to the NIH and NSF. They want to gut CDC funding during a pandemic. The research budgets which were trimmed because of sequestration (across-the-board cuts to

the funding of government agencies enacted in 2012 to enforce fiscal discipline) never bounced back when the economy did.

Gutting research funding while cutting taxes for the wealthy and corporations is like burning seed corn to have a party right now.

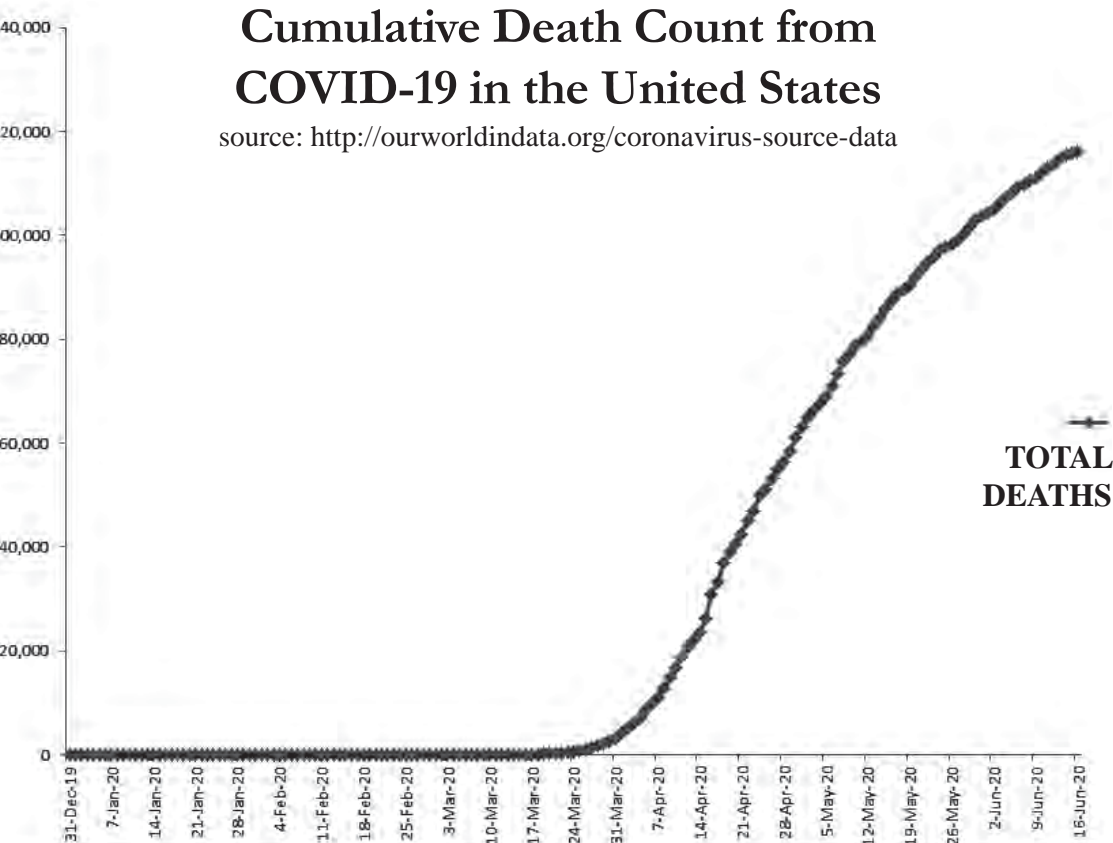
Everyone wants a vaccine for COVID-19 in a hurry, but scientific expertise and research excellence don’t happen in a day, or even a year. There is no just-in-time research. It has to be funded generously, and in a consistent manner, so that people are willing to dedicate their lives to careers in science – which for the most part is hard, lonely work with little glory.

And who else but the government can do this when the rewards, if they exist, are distant?

Investment in science and math is essential for our very survival. This includes support for science and math education, K-12 and beyond, and robust federal funding for both pure and applied research.

I hope that this pandemic has taught us that ignorance of science comes at a steep price. The price tag is 115,000 dead Americans – and counting.

*Vrishali Javeri is the founder of Mathematics Rules, has a masters in physics and an MBA, and blogs at schroedingerscat.wordpress.com. She lives in Sunderland.*



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write-in status of my opponent lightly at all. He is well-known and very beloved, so I have been very active in my campaigning.”

Both candidates offered comments on another surprise development in this spring’s political cycle: the decision by town meeting last Saturday to entirely cut annual growth out of the police department budget, against the recommendation of the selectboard and finance committee.

“What happened at town meeting was great,” Arthur said. “I would like to see funds better allocated.... We should be approaching this big discussion right now in a more prevention-based mindset. There are people in our town – people I personally have known – who could be given better resources than our police.”

“Our public safety facility could be a public health facility,” she add-

ed, “where we also employ social workers and train our dispatchers to be able to decide: Is this an issue that needs to go to a social worker, or a crisis counselor, or an addiction counselor? I don’t see the harm in taking some stuff off [the police’s] plate that they shouldn’t necessarily have to be qualified to do.”

“I think we started a really great discussion at town meeting regarding the police budget,” said Nelson. “The numbers show that there’s a fine line how folks in town feel about how we should be moving forward. The vote was 38 to 35 – you couldn’t get much closer than that.”

Nelson said he had observed “multiple people, from both sides of the argument, expressing interest in running” as write-in candidates for open town meeting seats this week.

“It’s heartwarming for me that people are getting involved,” he said.

“Town meeting is by far the best way to get involved in local government, and a huge way to learn about the process and how things work.”

“I don’t think that our police believe that they have a racial problem,” Arthur said. “However, many people in this town believe that they do, so even if they don’t believe they do, I don’t see why it shouldn’t be a discussion.”

Nelson said he looked forward to the work of a planned community advisory team to review policing.

“Having a good cross-section of our community on that board will help us come up with some good policies,” he continued, “to build our police department into something that is a service for all people in our community – and that is seen as a resource, and not necessarily a threat, which is unfortunately the way some folks in the community

do perceive it.”

“I think a lot of people in our town could use better public transportation,” Arthur responded when asked about other priorities. “Even though we are this little mini-metropolitan area up here, a lot of people need more access to Greenfield, Northampton, and Amherst.”

She added that she would like to see the town “diversify and uplift other cultural resources” beyond the RiverCulture program, and change the name of Turners Falls.

“I would like to do that within my first term, to be honest,” she said. “I think it’s ridiculous that this place is still named after a totally terrible person, who wasn’t a hero in any regard, whatever side you were on.... It has been called Great Falls in the past, but I think that should be opened up as a discussion amongst the town.”

For his own priorities, Nelson pointed toward “rehabilitation, or potential demolition, of structures in the canal district,” such as the Strathmore and Railroad Salvage properties. “Some of this stuff just takes time,” he said, “but we’re starting to get to the point where the pegs in the wheel are coming together to start making some things happen over there.”

Nelson also praised the selectboard he sits on, whose composition has remained unchanged for five years, for taking “a strong, proactive stance on building and in-

frastructure planning, as opposed to crisis response.”

“Crisis spending is not something we can afford to do right now, especially given great concern about how finances are going to be in coming years,” he added. “Coronavirus is going to take a real hit to budgets everywhere.”

Nelson said his write-in campaign has been waged in person, by mail, on Facebook, and through “personal social networks,” and that he planned to have volunteers outside every polling station on Monday.

Arthur said her campaign has been “very grassroots,” relying largely on canvassers. “The way the world currently is, I don’t feel comfortable asking people for donations,” she explained. “People volunteering their time has been the most valuable thing for my campaign.”

Arthur also said she felt the town could use a woman in a leadership position. “I think it’s important that we have a diversity in experience of living, and I think I offer that,” she said. “As much as I do not want to run on identity politics, the fact that we have three middle-aged white men representing our town does not represent the whole town.”

“A lot of challenges lay ahead,” Nelson said, “but I’m confident that the team we have in place at town hall is in a really good position to take these challenges head-on.”

WENDELL from page A1

meeting which board members hope will be held under better conditions.

One article that wants discussion, a planning board-written moratorium on permitting marijuana facilities, will be included on the warrant. A second consideration, whether the town internet should have an elected or appointed board, was allowed to be postponed after discussion with Robert Heller, who supports an elected board.

Otherwise, the warrant will be streamlined, and will include a “consent agenda” in which routine financial decisions will be lumped together and voted as one. One suggestion was to give voters a red card for “nay” and a green one for “yay,” which could make counting votes simpler, as long as someone makes the cards ahead of time.

The grounds will be marked out for officials, seating area, and aisles, and the usual uncomfortable town hall chairs will be set up with proper distance between participants. A crew is wanted to sanitize the chairs.

The town meeting advisory committee recommended, though not unanimously, one microphone only, for the moderator. “Keep it fast, keep it simple,” said fire chief Joe Cuneo.

To keep numbers down, it was recommended that school representatives allow school committee members to speak for them. Katie Nolan, who serves as town moderator, town meeting planning committee chair, council on aging treasurer, and community garden committee chair, said that Franklin County Technical School plans to send two representatives and Union 28 may send three, including Swift River School principal Kelly Sullivan.

Nolan said she had not heard from Mahar, but fin com chair Doug Tanner said that Mahar’s proposed budget is less than level funded, with “draconian” reductions, and is not likely to call for much debate. The tech school request is down because fewer Wendell students are scheduled to attend next year.

Possible rain dates for the meeting are June 28, or 29, and 30.

Coronavirus Update

Fire chief Joe Cuneo reported that not much had developed since the May 27 meeting. The state has reported a steady rate of COVID-19 infections, and New Salem has one official reported case, and one possible.

Board of health chair Barbara Craddock said the padlock on the basketball court, locked to minimize contact among residents, had been broken.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said she had attended a virtual small town administrator meeting with 70 or 80 other participants about reopening town buildings. “It was chaotic,” she said, and recommended that Wendell wait until after town meeting to reopen its buildings. The library is offering curbside pickup of pre-ordered materials, and the book drop is open for returns.

A Long-Term Lease

Representing the Wendell Meetinghouse board of directors, Court Dorsey Zoomed in from outside the town office building, where he had a decent internet connection.

The selectboard wants to pass the Meetinghouse on to the Friends of the Meetinghouse, and the Friends want to own the Meetinghouse and the land it sits on, which would make it easier to get the grants needed to restore the building. The Friends also want water and septic connections, however, and the legal complications of connecting a private owner to those town systems make that option nearly impossible.

Keller said a lawyer had suggested a 99-year, or otherwise long-term, lease of the land might eliminate some difficulty. No lease agreement is ready, and drawing one up will take time.

Dorsey said that grant applications are due in mid-July, before a lease agreement can be completed.

Keller suggested a selectboard letter of intent and a quitclaim deed might suffice, and Dorsey said he would check with the Friends’ grantwriter. Keller offered an article on a future town meeting warrant,

and said he would write the letter.

Personnel Considerations

Aldrich said the town custodian came into the office and simply dropped off a resignation letter with no explanation. One thought was that the resignation followed the selectboard’s decision not to give her hazard pay because her contact with people is minimal.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato said she would try to find out the reason for the resignation.

One resident has expressed interest in taking the essentially volunteer position of animal control officer. Aldrich said the Erving police department was also willing to take on coverage of another town.

Following Larry Ramsdell’s retirement, the town has no one to take the position and responsibility of water operator. Aldrich held that position before Ramsdell, and said that it required passing a test, mostly math, some monitoring, and quarterly reports to the state, but no chemistry. An out-of-town firm could take over, but that would cost the town more than the \$600 a year that Ramsdell has been paid.

Other Business

Aldrich reported two bids for monitoring the town building alarm systems. One bid came in at \$965 for establishing the link and \$400 a year for monitoring the buildings; the other was \$275 for installation and \$600 a year for monitoring.

DiDonato said the town also can stay with the present system, which uses the copper phone wires.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is administering federal CARES Act reimbursements for towns. Authorized expenses for Wendell include rescheduling the auction of town properties, personal protection equipment, hazard pay, a Zoom subscription, and staffing the emergency operations center.

The selectboard voted to establish a separate COVID account, and to declare a COVID emergency, in order to request \$32,000 in reimbursement.



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# Outdoor Town Meeting Goes Pretty Smoothly

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Despite fears that the Montague Annual Town Meeting, held in the parking lot between Turners Falls High School and the school’s football field on Saturday, June 13, would not reach a quorum due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meeting quickly filled with the required number of members and started business near the scheduled 8:30 a.m.

It was an unusual meeting, with controlled entry and exits, seats spaced six feet apart, microphones placed at strategic locations and washed between speakers, the moderator and town boards kept at a distance, and everyone wearing face masks, although these were generally removed when speakers addressed the meeting.

A quorum for Montague’s representative town meeting of 126 elected members from six precincts is 64. Frequently in recent years the meeting has had to wait, sometimes for emergency phone calls to absent members, to achieve the required number. Well over 70 seats were filled by the opening remarks by the town’s representative in the state legislature, Natalie Blais.

Blais welcomed the attendees, which this year appeared to also include a significant number of non-members. “I just wanted to thank each of you for caring for one another, and for being here this morning to show our Commonwealth the importance of our town meeting, and the lengths that we are going to participate in our democracy,” she said.

The initial articles, to allow the meeting to receive town reports and accept grants, quickly passed unanimously, as is usually the case. **Article 3**, which set the salaries of elected town officials such as the town clerk, treasurer, and tree warden, also passed with no opposition.

But **Article 4**, which set the salaries of appointed officials, was a bit more controversial due to the decision to create the part-time position of coordinator of the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC) at a cost of \$4,000.

MEDIC was established in 1984 to oversee economic development projects, and actually administers a number of properties, including those in the airport industrial park. Town administrator Steve Ellis said that the development projects in town have greatly expanded, but MEDIC has not had “the level of staffing that it could.” He said that town planner Walter Ramsey would be the “intended coordinator,” whose hours would be increased.

Former building inspector David Jensen of Precinct 2 complained that the hours for Ramsey’s planning staff were already being increased, as was compensation for the planner himself. “I would appreciate at least an explanation, from finance [committee] or board of selectmen, why this is happening, why we’re going down this route.”

Ellis said there was actually a decrease in the staffing in the planning department, and that the MEDIC position would require the planner to work “outside of his normal hours.”

Jensen’s motion to “zero out” the MEDIC coordinator line item failed

to receive a second, and Article 4 passed with only one “no” vote.

**Article 5**, which created a new position in the planning department called “assistant planner,” passed unanimously. The background material in the town meeting packet stated that the position would “expand the responsibilities of the Cultural Coordinator, including an enhanced economic/community development objective.”

Town meeting member Kathy Lynch of Precinct 1 asked whether the increased responsibilities could be handled by the hours previously allocated to the Cultural Coordinator. Ramsey said that the hours devoted to cultural coordination would not be reduced, and that the proposal was “budget-neutral.”

The most extended and lively debate of the day came with **Article 6**, the proposed \$10,537,425 town operating budget. Natan Cohen of Precinct 5 proposed that the police department line item be reduced to the previous year’s level, creating the possibility of a nearly \$46,000 cut due to fixed cost increases such as previously negotiated union contracts. That proposal, which was justified in terms of starting a local discussion about reconfiguring town public safety expenditures, partly in response to national protests about police violence against African-Americans, sharply divided the meeting, but passed by a 38 to 35 vote. *(The debate is covered in a separate article on Page A1.)*

Cohen also put a hold for debate on the \$53,000 for the police cruiser, and asked why the cost of the cruiser had increased, and how much of it would be covered by a federal grant. Police chief Chris Williams said the grant would cover about 55% of the cost of the vehicle, and Ellis said the town needed to appropriate the total cost before it could be reimbursed by the grant.

Ellis also argued that the capital improvements committee had reviewed the purchase of the vehicle and said he “would hate to lose the opportunity to get the grant.” He said he “appreciated greatly the value of symbolism... but in this case, the town [would be] losing something.”

There was no motion to eliminate the cruiser from budget.

David Jensen put a hold on a line item in the department of public works (DPW) budget to allocate \$24,090 for the second lease payment on the flail machine, a piece of equipment used to cut heavy roadside brush. Jensen asked why the lease was in the operating budget rather than a separate special article, as has been the tradition.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen said that this was an “accounting thing,” and explained that the first year of the lease payment had in fact required a special article, but now, in the second year, it was not necessary because the approval for the purchase had already been made.

Olsen also said there were other leases in the budget, but the flail’s lease was the only one funded from taxation.

“Oh boy,” said Jensen. “I’ll drop it there.”

With no discussion the meeting approved the \$2,449,068 budget of the water pollution control facility (WPCF), of which \$220,559 was funded from taxation and the

**POLICE** from page A1

overpolicing of Black communities right here in our town.”

Ariel Elan of Precinct 1 said she felt the town budget should be arranged to put more into human services, but disagreed with the amendment. “I haven’t so far heard from anyone evidence that simply cutting back the current budget is going to eliminate discrimination or insensitivity,” she said. “These problems need to come out in public hearings.”

John Reynolds, also of Precinct 1, agreed that the solution should be led with discussion, rather than defunding. “This is a community and public issue that has sat in this country for a long, long while,” he said. “A budget reduction in the police department isn’t going to make a tinker’s darn.”

“The police budget is over one and a half million dollars,” David Jensen of Precinct 2 observed. “We’re a small town – we’re pretty generous to our police.”

Jensen offered a reframing of

the amendment’s symbolism. “Visualize tomorrow, *Greenfield Recorder, Montague Reporter*,” he said. “Montague increases police budget?” Or, look at it another way: ‘Montague defunds its police by reducing its budget?’ Eh, doesn’t sound that good either. Why don’t we just say, ‘Montague level funds its police, and looks to the future?’”

“My fear,” said Jen Lively of Precinct 4, “is when we cut a budget, we don’t have any say as to what gets cut out of that budget.” Lively said that anti-bias training and policy reviews require more, rather than less, money to the police.

After Linda Kuklewicz of Precinct 4 called the question, the amendment went to a vote; the members, whose chairs were carefully space throughout the parking lot, took turns standing and being counted for their “yay” and “nay” votes.

After the amendment was determined to have succeeded, the meeting discussed a separate line

item allocating \$53,000 up front for a new hybrid police cruiser. Williams explained that 55% of the cost would be reimbursed by a USDA matching grant, and town accountant Carolyn Olsen confirmed that the reimbursed funds would pass into the town’s free cash account, rather than the police department.

After no amendment was made to the cruiser line item, the meeting proceeded, and the overall town budget was eventually approved, reduced by the \$45,582 taken away from the police. *(For other annual town meeting coverage, see page A6.)*

## There Is Racism

The next day, approximately 400 people gathered at Peskumskut Park for a rally in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, organized by local women who had helped plan the unexpectedly large June 6 rally in Greenfield.

“I’m sick of being looked at differently because I’m Latina,” Turners Falls resident Tatyana Torres-Cruz told the crowd from the bandstand. “We are all equal, and we’re here to share that with one another – and to let all these racists in this town know that we’re here, and that’s it.”

Organizers had informed the police of their plan to march down Avenue A to the town hall, but did not apply for a permit. Earlier that Sunday morning, chief Williams used the Montague’s emergency notification system to warn the town that a Black Lives Matter rally would be held downtown, and to seek alternate routes. As marchers staged on Seventh Street, police blocked downtown intersections on L Street, and state police blocked both the far end of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge and Turners Falls Road in Greenfield.

“Say her name / Breonna Taylor!” the demonstrators chanted on

see **POLICE** next page



Montague police chief Chris Williams (left) answers questions about his department’s budget at last Saturday’s town meeting as selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz looks on.

remaining \$2,228,509 from sewer user fees.

**Articles 8 and 9**, the budgets for the Colle Building on Avenue A and the Turners Falls Airport, passed quickly with virtually no discussion. Airport manager Brian Camden said tax funding for the airport had been reduced from “about six grand last year” to \$1,405 this year, and “everything looks good to be down to zero next year.”

**Article 10**, Montague’s assessment of \$1,255,456 to fund the Franklin County Technical School, passed with a majority, after some questions about funding the school resource (police) officer and potential staffing cuts. Superintendent Richard Martin, responded to those questions, but selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz, who also sits on the FCTS school committee, pointed out that the cost of the resource officer was shared by 19 towns in the tech school district.

**Article 11**, which funds the proposed assessment from the Gill-Montague Regional School District at a cost of \$10,732,268, occasioned more discussion, as is often the case. However, as in recent years, there was little opposition to the size of the appropriation.

Mark Wisniewski of Precinct 2 said he hoped that the school district would eliminate the school resource (police) officer, but did not propose to cut the position. Ya-Ping Douglass, also of Precinct 5, cited “two studies that directly linked more police officers in the schools to worse academic outcomes.”

Richard Ducharme, from Precinct

3, asked about the district’s school choice losses. He also noted that *US News and World Report* had ranked the district 287<sup>th</sup> out of 345 in the state, and number eight of nine districts in Franklin County.

Superintendent Michael Sullivan said 237 students have choiced out of the district, while 82 choiced in and 64 left for charter schools, for a net cost of approximately \$1,479,000. He also spoke to projected state aid losses of up to \$800,000 as a result of tax revenue losses due to COVID-19. Sullivan said he was not familiar with the basis of the *US News and World Report* rankings.

Kathy Lynch said she was going to vote against the school budget because two of her children were “petrified” to go to the local schools.


Ariel Elan, also of Precinct 1, said she “wanted to express how sad I feel right now to hear such a negative point of view about the schools.” The school assessment passed by a solid majority.

The meeting unanimously appropriated \$16,250 to provide the board of assessors with services to valuate local utilities.

Town meeting members then voted on three omnibus articles which had been consolidated in advance to shorten the meeting.

After a brief discussion, the meeting approved an article to fund three school building projects, including a canopy repair over the administration building’s side entrance, a repair to the Hillcrest Elementary School roof, and a facilities assessment study.

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POLICE from previous page

Avenue A, in memory of a young EMT shot and killed in March by police in Louisville, Kentucky, executing a no-knock warrant on her home in search of drugs they did not find.

“Say his name / George Floyd!” they chanted as they approached the town hall.

Organizers set up a PA in front of the town hall entrance. Brianna Arsenault announced the news that the town had “voted to freeze the police budget,” to cheers. “We are going into unprecedented territory,” she said. “We are going to take back control of making our community safe.”

“We’re here to hear black voices,” Arsenault told her fellow demonstrators. “If you have anything to say, anything you might want to get off your chest, we support you.”

“I’ve dealt with the police here, and they’re worse than New Jersey,” said Marcel Yarborough, who moved to town earlier this year. Yarborough described being sized up and followed in the street by local police, then shared a harrowing story of being detained by police in Springfield.

“Five cars, two cops in each car, first question was a drug question. I don’t even have a record – I went to college, graduated 3.8 from high school. I guess all they saw was what they saw.”

“I live in this town, and I know there’s racism here,” said Denise Aiken, who has lived in Turners Falls since 2002. “People around here can say that there isn’t, but it’s undercover. I know this. I experience this with my children. I experience it myself.”

Aiken shared a story about her son heading out to a store and being pulled over nearly immediately by Montague police. When she arrived to intervene at the traffic stop, Aiken said, the police asked her where her son had gotten his sneakers.

“That’s none of your business, where he got them from,” Aiken shouted. “His momma has a job, that’s where he got them from!”

As it turned out, she said, a neighbor had called the police to reported a suspected drug deal. “I said, ‘I guess I’m the buyer, then, because it was me who they were talking to – me, his mother. Telling me that

he was going to the store.’” Anger cracked through Aiken’s voice.

“Do I feel that there is racism in this town?” she asked. “Greenfield, Deerfield, Hatfield? Everywhere. There *is* racism. They can say what they want to say, *but there is.*”

Some kneeling, some lying face down on the Avenue A pavement, tddemonstrators observed eight minutes and 46 seconds of silence – a ceremony reenacted around the country in recent weeks, for the amount of time Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin knelt on George Floyd’s when he killed him. Protest organizers read Floyd’s last words.

**Making Adjustments**

“We kind of stayed in the shadows, and we made it as safe as possible,” police chief Williams told the Reporter on Wednesday of Sunday’s rally. “It was very peaceful. There were no negative outcomes.”

Williams objected to complaints that police had prevented some demonstrators from joining the rally by sealing off roads and bridges.

“People who were not the protest

were upset with the police, because they weren’t letting them travel freely,” he said. “We were there, ultimately, to protect people protesting police brutality – it’s kind of a double-edged sword.”

Williams said the department’s policies generally follow along with those prescribed by the Massachusetts Police Association, and described the state as “ahead of the curve,” already in line with the reforms recommended by the national “8 Can’t Wait” campaign.

The chief said he hoped the police review committee being assembled by the selectboard is led by an outside consultant. “Hopefully it’ll be positive,” he said. “It might not be at first, but I think moving forward, communication will be key.”

Williams also discussed the likely impact of the \$45,582 budget cut on his department’s operation. Compared with FY’20, his proposed total budget hike had comprised of a \$49,182 hike in personnel-related costs, and a \$3,600 reduction in other expenses.

The vast majority of the personnel increases, in turn – \$37,201 in wages for full-time officers, \$3,168 in educational expenses, a \$3,500 increase in fitness stipends – are contractual obligations Montague cannot back out of. The town negotiates binding agreements with two units of the New England Police Benevolent Association Local 184, representing

11 patrol officers and detectives and four sergeants, respectively.

“A lot of the officers are getting a 4% increase,” Williams said. “\$45,582 may not sound like a lot, but it really is, especially with that large of an increase.” Williams said he met this week with town accountant Carolyn Olsen to work out a plan to cut the money out of the remaining available lines of the budget.

Under the plan, \$15,000 will be saved by shrinking the \$145,249 overtime budget by 10.5%; \$15,000 more by reducing the \$46,800 line for training by 32.1%; and the remaining \$15,582 by a 40.5% cut to the \$38,440 allocated for wages of part-time officers. Montague currently contracts with three reserve officers, he said, with a fourth in training and due to start next month.

“We use them to bolster the force on our busier nights,” the chief explained, particularly Fridays and Saturdays. “So some days we won’t fill the shift – there’ll be two guys on, instead of three.” If the department overspends, it may bring a request for additional funds to a special town meeting next March.

“It might not be as bad as it sounds,” Williams said. “As we work through the year, I’ll stay in contact with Carolyn, and adjust line items that aren’t being spent. It’s pretty disheartening, but I think we’ll still be able to do our job.”

MONTAGUE from page A1

practicing personal hygiene.”

The Unity Park field house and its restrooms will remain closed, though the town plans to acquire a “portable toilet and wash station.”

As to the thorny problem of washing playground structures, “high touch surfaces” at Unity and Peskeompskut parks will be sprayed every day with an “appropriate commercial cleaner and disinfectant,” then rinsed with a “secondary unit.” Structures at Highland Park in Millers Falls, Montague Center Park, and Rutters and Norma’s parks in Lake Pleasant will be cleaned “a couple of times a week.”

This cleaning will be performed by the department of public works (DPW) on Mondays and Tuesdays and by the rec department Wednesdays through Sundays. Dobosz’s memo estimated the additional staffing cost to his department at between \$350 and \$400 per week, although at the meeting he said the higher number will probably be more realistic. Equipment and cleaning materials were estimated to cost from \$750 to \$1,000.

elections on June 22 will take place in several town buildings. Visitors will generally need appointments, and must wear masks or plexi-shields. Visitors to town hall will need to pass a temperature check. There will be a limit of one visitor per office, and hours may be limited.

The library will remain limited to curbside pickup, and the senior center will remain closed, providing only “outreach services.”

The selectboard approved the re-opening plan.

The board, along with Ellis and public health director Daniel Waseluk, reviewed the progress of recent business re-openings, particularly the four restaurants that have been approved for outdoor seating. Waseluk said all the businesses were “putting their best foot forward” and were in approximately 80% compliance with a state checklist for outdoor seating.

Fin com chair Jen Audley, not speaking in her official capacity, asked why selectboard members had not attended the rally, and whether they had received a letter left by the demonstration.

Member Michael Nelson said the letter was the same as the one presented to the board at the annual town meeting the previous day.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz then read a statement he had made at town meeting calling for the creation of a group to review the police department budget and policies. Kuklewicz moved to form a “working group to form a group to review police department policy.” He said that he did not want to give the group a name or a mission statement, which would be left up to the working group.

Kuklewicz said he would like the review group to be “as diverse as possible,” and not to be “too heavy on town staff.”

Police Review Board

Turning to non-COVID agenda items, the board entertained a lively discussion, with much public participation, about the Black Lives Matter rally held Sunday in downtown Turners Falls, which attracted about 400 people.

Board members and the chief of police were effusive in their praise of the behavior of both the demonstrators and police. “There were no issues,” said police chief Chris Williams. “It was very professionally done, and I thank the organizers for that. It was great.”

However, several participants in the protest who attended the virtual board meeting questioned why the Fifth Street bridge across the river and power canal had been closed.

“The bridges were closed to keep people safe,” said Williams. “We didn’t want people coming into town, because [the demonstration] took up all of Avenue A... It was safety, one hundred percent.”

Later Williams and Ellis also stressed that the demonstration had not applied for or received an official permit, so town officials were unsure of the march’s route.

But a number of speakers questioned the need to close the bridge. Ashley Arthur of Turners Falls noted that the bridge had not been closed during the Great Falls Harvest Festival, and David Harmon, also of Turners, called the bridge closing “unprecedented.”

Elliot Ezcurra of Turners Falls asked if the “community” would have input into the membership of the committee, and if the group would have decision-making power. Kuklewicz said he would like to see a diverse committee, which would be advisory.

The board approved the proposal. Kuklewicz then read aloud the letter left at town hall by the demonstrators.

**Other Business**

The finance committee approved two transfers from the reserve fund to cover IT expenses associated with response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A \$44,450 contract with Associated Building Wreckers of Springfield, to remove the oil tank and vault at the WPCF, was approved.

Also approved was an extension of the Community Development Block Grant timeline, from June 30 to December 30, that funds low-income housing rehabilitation and the Rutters Park improvement project in Lake Pleasant.

The board also briefly discussed the agenda of the upcoming annual meeting of the advisory board of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority, which will vote on the next fiscal year’s transit budget.

The meeting was adjourned after nearly two hours. The next scheduled meeting will be held Tuesday, June 23.

LOOKING BACK:  
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was June 17, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Ramsey Appointed  
Montague Town Planner

On Monday, Walter Ramsey became Montague’s permanent town planner after a successful six-month temporary appointment, but not without a hitch.

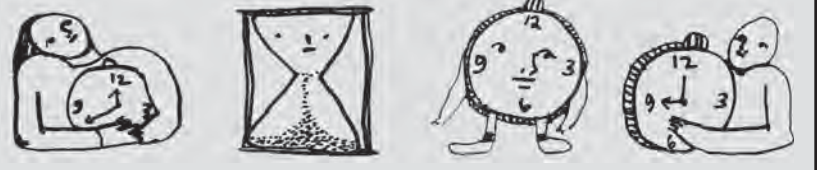
At Monday night’s selectboard meeting, town manager Frank Abbondanzio commended Ramsey for the work he has already done for the town, saying, “I am very impressed by his work ethic.”

Erving Officials  
Tour Usher Mill

On Monday, town administrator Tom Sharp convened a small troop of officials to visit the former Usher Mill on Arch Street, partially destroyed in an arson fire in July 2007. They did not have a hard time getting in.

The mill is owned by Patriots Environmental, a demolition and salvage company out of Worcester. Since the fire, building inspector Jim Hawkins has pleaded with Patriots to secure the site with a perimeter fence and clean up the property, a public health hazard. At town meeting on May 5, voters approved spending \$500,000 to demolish the mill with or without the owner’s cooperation.

“I was surprised to see how many things of value had been taken away,” Sharp said. “It appears that was the major mission of Patriots Environmental.”



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THREATS from page A1

our investigation the evidence supports additional charges, they will be sought from the court,” Carey told the *Reporter*. “The Commonwealth has limited criteria under which a hate crime may be charged, including that the person charged must have acted with the intent to intimidate or harm a specific victim.”

According to state law, hate crimes are motivated by the offender’s bias towards a member of a “protected group.” This can include assault or battery, property damage, or intent to intimidate another person on the basis of their race, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

“In order for a violation of civil rights to occur one of the requirements is that a specific person must be targeted,” said Assistant District Attorney Jeremy Bucci. “The video released by the defendant did not reference a particular person.”

State and local police were made aware of the threatening video on Wednesday, June 3, after several private citizens called to report it. In the video, Taylor, holding a shotgun, used a racial slur, and told the viewer(s) to “come pull up and see what happens.”

“We’re here, law-abiding citizens, Second Amendment,” he said.

A written caption circulated with the video additionally read, “Pull up I got mor [sic] guns than the state police my family would love to go c—n hunting.”

After Erving police contacted his department, Buckland police chief James Hicks took steps that day to suspend Taylor’s firearms license, and tried to serve the suspension the next day, shortly before Taylor’s armed standoff with police in Hawley.

Taylor self-reported to the state police by telephone at 4:39 p.m. on June 4 that he was “suicidal, armed with multiple guns, and intoxicated,” according to a press release, initiating a search that involved a state police helicopter, K9 units, and a Special Tactical Operations team. Police found Taylor in a field off Labelle Road one hour later, and he surrendered after over six hours of negotiations.

“At one point Troopers observed the young man holding the rifle inside the truck,” read a release from state police media communications director David Procopio. “State Police crisis negotiators also responded and were able to gather information about the young man and establish phone contact with him.”

Taylor agreed to exit the vehicle at 12:12 am on Friday June 5 without injury, and was transported to Berkshire Medical Center in Pitts-

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**GREEN FIELD CC**

field for a mental health evaluation.

The warrant for Taylor’s arrest was issued on June 12, one week after the armed standoff occurred and one day after a *Montague Reporter* article outlining the timeline of the police response. He was arraigned

from the Franklin County Jail and House of Correction and released the same day on the conditions that he “not consume alcohol, wear an alcohol monitoring device, undergo a mental health evaluation and not possess firearms of any kind.”

Weapons seized from Taylor’s residence at the time of his arrest included a loaded shotgun, a loaded rifle, and additional boxes of ammunition.

A pre-trial hearing is scheduled for September 8.



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JOE KOPERA PHOTO

Above: Photo correspondent Joe Kopera needed to pick up a few things from Sadie's Bikes, so he felt it was only fitting to ride his bicycle there from Montague Center along the canalside bike path.

ArtBeat

by Trish Crapo

Cheryl Savageau Steps Out of the Crazywoods

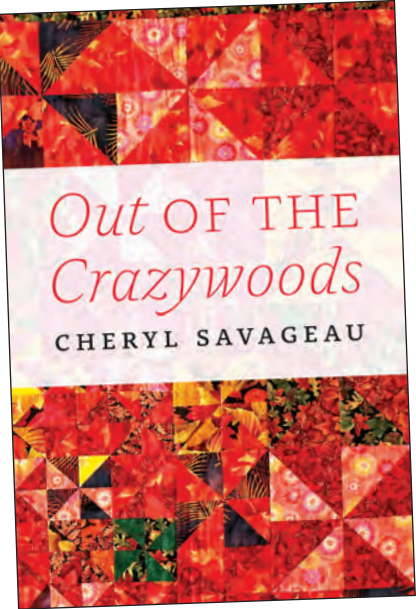
**NORTHFIELD** – “Crazy-woods” are those places, common in New England woods, where the forest has been cleared and new growth begins to replace it. There might be tangles of vines, stands of brambles, spindly saplings. These places might be fairly clear, with a path through, or your way might be choked by undergrowth.

At the beginning of her new memoir, *Out of the Crazywoods*, Worcester author and artist Cheryl Savageau, one of the featured readers last week in the virtual Northfield Authors and Artists Festival, gives us this short poem:

*it is what we call them  
those places grown back  
after the forest was cut down  
crazywoods and we walk  
crazy among them...*

“We” refers here to the Native people of the Northeast, Savageau tells me by phone the other day. The crazywoods, in this case, are not only these literal patches of destroyed forest, but also the whole cultural landscape that Native people find themselves within.

But for Savageau, the crazywoods is also personal, referring to her own



mental and emotional landscape as she struggles to make sense of the late-diagnosed bipolar disorder that has wreaked havoc on her life.

The book is made up of short sections; a few are only a paragraph long. Savageau thinks of many of these as prose poems, and a few have been published separately in *Hinchas de Poesía*, an online journal of contemporary Pan-American writing. Savageau wrote the pieces on index cards and then arranged them in different ways, grouping them by different themes and inten-

tions, to arrive at her final structure.

As she describes this, I’m reminded of the sections in the book that tell of her fascination with tarot cards. She owns over twenty decks, and writes that she would “spend entire days lost in the cards.”

“I am trying to find my life in these cards,” she writes.

Creating a whole from smaller pieces is a way of working that carries through in other parts of her life as well. The cover graphic for *Out of the Crazywoods* is a detail from a pinwheel quilt that Savageau made. She calls it “Autumn Jazz” because she uses the traditional quilt pattern as a starting point, and then stitches in a more improvisational way, creating an abstract landscape that calls to mind swirling red leaves.

Piecing together her book was a similarly intuitive process, Savageau says. Her goal was never to create a linear structure. “That’s not the way our minds work,” she says.

And here, “our” means people with bipolar disorder. But the plural pronoun also expands more broadly, to include her Abenaki ancestors.

“Native people tend to tell our stories in spirals, not lines,” she says. She describes the way that, listening

see **ARTBEAT** page B3

Unearthing the Archives

By Charlotte Kohlmann

PART XII: MARC FISCHER AND PUBLIC COLLECTORS

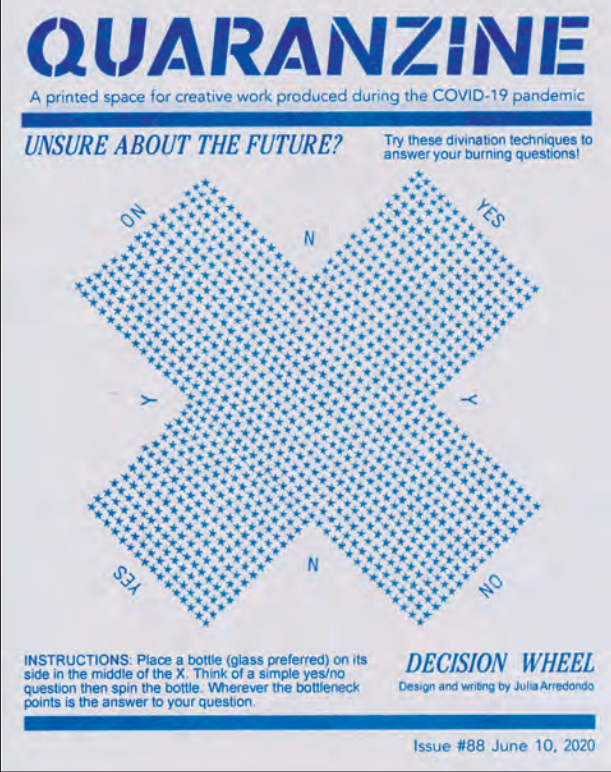
By CHARLOTTE KOHLMANN

**NORTHAMPTON** – Marc Fischer recently noticed a leaflet trend in the neighborhoods around his Chicago home. Identical, colored-paper advertisements for roofing, gutter replacements, and other home improvement needs were being taped onto garage doors, tucked under car windshield wipers, and placed on front door mats around countless suburban blocks.

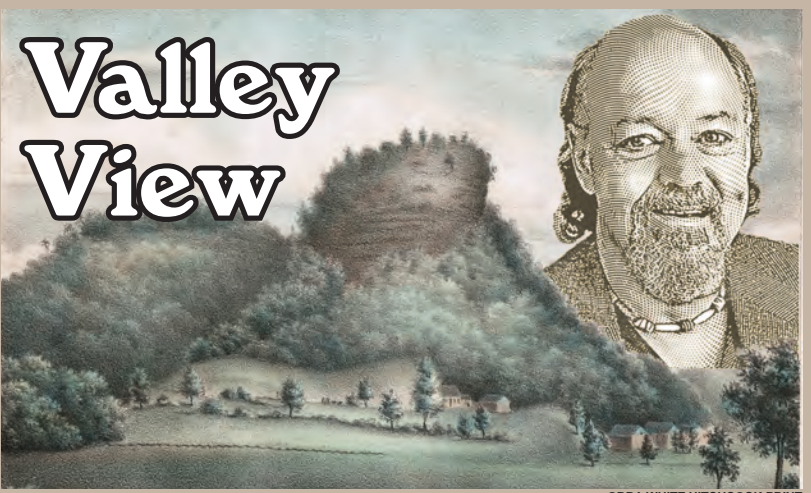
Where others may have seen junk mail, Fischer – a publisher, collector, writer, and liaison between private collectors and willing patrons – recognized a collection. Back in 2007, Fischer established a publishing project called Public Collectors, his own way of preserving and disseminating materials. Public Collectors’ stated beliefs are rooted in the “concern that there are many types of cultural artifacts that public libraries, museums, and other institutions and archives either do not collect or do not make freely accessible.”

I spoke to Fischer over the phone recently, and he told me how practically every part of the design on each advertising flyer was identical to the next. It was as if one template existed for these small businesses: all that differed were the names, switched out after each print run. He noticed a phone number discreetly placed in the

see **UNEARTHING** page B5



Quaranzine is a collaborative project between Public Collectors and artists who submit work inspired by COVID-19.



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Time to fess up to a little error published right here in a railroad-fatality tale, plus a few additional details about a historic Deerfield mill complex and the South Deerfield Billings family.

Must have been the muggy meadow’s inspirational wild-rose sweetness that unleashed truth serum, spurring me to correct the record. It doesn’t matter that the mistake would most likely have gone undetected and unchallenged. After all, who, a century and a half later, gives a hoot about the location of the South Deerfield railroad-crossing where 60-year-old Rudolphus Sanderson met his maker two years after Booth assassinated Lincoln?

Well, I do. Facts and intellectual honesty matter in this business. Thus, I must set the record straight on my third great-granduncle’s fatal, December 4, 1867 crash site while reigning his horse and buggy home from the grist mill on a fateful Wednesday evening.

What I incorrectly presumed after reading the newspaper story published five days after the fatal crash was that the site was today’s long-ago-barricaded South Main Street crossing. Not so. The accident occurred at the opposite end of Main Street, a mile and a half north. Young readers should heed this little lesson, remembering to always inspect every grain of evidence before arriving at a conclusion.

Although I correctly reported all the gory crash’s details – right down to the destruction of the buggy, a miraculously unscathed horse, and the victim’s buffalo robe flying high from the post-crash express train’s flag pole – I misinterpreted the *Greenfield Gazette*’s imprecise site description by immediately fixating on what seemed like the most likely one in my hometown.

First, let me explain the thought process responsible for my unfortunate error, one obscured by familiarity, if you can get your head around that concept. Trust me, it can happen ... and did. I absolutely should have known better. Not my first time around the block. Far from it.

The railroad tragedy of family lore was not news to me. I had

known of it for years, not from Thanksgiving-table tradition, but because author James M. Crafts noted the crash in his Sanderson genealogical profile in the *History of Whately* (1899). Then new impetus to revisit the incident was supplied by old friend Dereka Smith, who these days is fully engaged in Whately research for her hometown’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday next year. It was her recent query about the Sanderson farms in Canterbury – now the north end of Whately’s River Road, Mount Sugarloaf’s southern skirt – that refocused my attention on an old, familiar place I love to explore. In the process of answering her question, I decided to chase down documentation for whatever I could of the family history I was sharing. Why risk feeding a serious researcher and friend misinformation?

It didn’t take long to strike newspaper gold. In the *Gazette* that hit the street five days after the crash, I found the story headlined “Fatal Accident” buried inside without a dateline. That absence of dateline immediately sowed site confusion in my mind, and because of its proximity to Sanderson’s home, my knee-jerk site assessment centered on South Main Street.

When the report identified the site as the “Connecticut River Railroad crossing at the north end of South Deerfield Street,” I wrongly interpreted the reference to have been made from the perspective of Sanderson’s East Whately place of residence – thus the north end of the street from Whately to South Deerfield. Wrong. The story was written from the crash-site perspective in South Deerfield. Duh? So, in fact, the accident occurred on the opposite end of Main Street.

Honestly, when I wrote that column more than a month ago, I had no doubts about my site at the now-barricaded South Main Street crossing of my youth, where I remember red blinking lights, ringing bells, and the drop of a gate to warn of oncoming trains. Soon after my column hit the street, however, I started to entertain vexing doubts. Oh, how I hate when that happens, setting the wheels of inquiry awhirl.

The recurrent questions that

see **VALLEY VIEW** page B8

Pets of the Week

FRIENDS OF THE MONTAGUE COMMON HALL

The Montague Common Hall Heads Toward Energy Efficiency: An Insulation Story



“LUKE & STELLA”

We are two 9-year-old short-coated Chihuahua mixes, and best friends. They are sometimes nervous meeting strangers, and don't like cats, but if you kneel down sideways and talk gently to them, they will soon be your best buddies, too.

They like comfy laps, pets, and attention. Luke is maybe sometimes overly exuberant. Stella is spayed.

In response to COVID-19, animals at Dakin are available for adoption by appointment only. Please call (413) 781-4000, or see [www.dakin-humane.org](http://www.dakin-humane.org), for more information.



Senior Center Activities

JUNE 22 THROUGH 26

**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 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

**Green Fields Market:** 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

**McCusker's Market:** 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 [pickup@franklincommunity.coop](mailto:pickup@franklincommunity.coop) (413) 625-2548

**Stop and Shop:** Senior hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m. (413) 774-6096

By KATE O'KANE

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – Contractor: “Did you know there’s absolutely no insulation in the walls?”

Yes, we knew, and we wanted to do something about it!

The Montague Common Hall was built on the town common in Montague Center in 1835, a time when buildings were not insulated. In the many years since then, extensive repairs and renovations were done, but the building was never insulated.

After the Friends of the Montague Common Hall (FMCH) took ownership of the building in 2015, the cupola was repaired, the dance floor was refinished, the interior walls were sheet-rocked and painted, and the large windows in the hall were restored. In the past year or so, the roof was replaced and the basement windows were reframed and replaced.

Last fall, the Board of FMCH decided it was finally time to tackle the project of insulating the building. We were concerned about the cost of heating the building, but we also had the bigger concern of wanting to reduce our carbon footprint in this time of increasing awareness of the climate crisis. We knew there was fiberglass batting in the attic, but that it was haphazard and inadequate. It turns out that it was installed upside down. And, as noted above, we knew that there was no insulation in the walls.

In October 2019, we contacted Mass Save, the state-wide program that provides energy audits and incentives for projects that increase energy efficiency. We knew that Mass Save provided those services for homeowners, and we hoped that there would be something similar for businesses and commercial facilities.

We found out that such a program does exist, and we were put in touch with consultants from Energy Resources, an approved contractor for the Eversource MA Small Business Direct Install Program. The consultants took measurements and gathered other information they needed, and last December we were given a proposal for insulating the building.

The proposed measures included air sealing around openings or gaps, blowing dense-pack cellulose insulation into approximately 3,200 square feet of walls, and doing a proper job of insulating the attic, which meant putting insulation under walkways and storage areas, installing plywood damming walls around those, and blowing in 10 to 12 inches of cellulose. The total cost for the entire project was \$23,271, an amount that FMCH would not have been able to afford. But the incentives from Eversource amounted to \$16,290, leaving us with a bill of less than \$7,000. (We were offered

INTERVIEW

David Bulley, From Storypalooza 2

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**TURNERS FALLS** – When I went to Storypalooza 2 earlier this year at the Shea Theater, it occurred to me that doing an article on one of these storytellers would be a good idea. I contacted David Bulley through his email, and he answered me.

David told me, “I’ve been performing as a storyteller for five or six years. But I’ve been telling stories my whole life.” He grew up in a family that celebrated and honored oral storytelling. He also has many publishing credits. He mentioned a published novel, and a chapbook of poems, as a couple of them. I discovered the novel is titled *Weapon in Heaven*, and the chapbook is called *Myself: and other Mythological Creatures*.

I also discovered that his stories are true stories. For about five years, he has been telling stories at events. He said that people seem to enjoy them, and be entertained by them: “They keep laughing where they are supposed to, and they keep coming back for more.”

Family and friends of his enjoy

his stories, too, and people often ask him to tell one. He is happy to do so.

Some of the events beside Storypalooza he has done include being a “frequent contestant for NEPR’s Valley Voices story slams,” and doing the annual Spooky Stories Concert at Hawks and Reed. He’s also “available for public speaking engagements.”

David’s day job is as a disciplinary administrator at the Pioneer Valley Chinese Immersion Charter School in Hadley. I believe that kind of job makes you have a lot of interaction with people, and I think that that, along with his family being so involved with storytelling, helps him be so good at keeping the audience’s attention when telling a story.

I found an article on a previous Storypalooza that the Greenfield Recorder did where he speaks about previously being a teacher, which he said was helpful as well. “The reason I’m a good storyteller is that I’m excited about life, and things delight me,” he said in that article. “I seek out those things, and then I like to share it.”



REPORTER FILE PHOTO

interest-free financing for 24 months.)

Excited that we could get the building properly insulated at a price we could afford, we accepted the proposal. Despite some delays, the work was completed in late February. Unfortunately, the pandemic caused FMCH to close the Common Hall in March, so we have not yet been able to fully experience the benefits of a well-insulated building.

This insulation project has increased the energy efficiency of heating the Common Hall by a considerable amount. We hope that the Hall will be more comfortable in cold weather while at the same time using less oil and causing fewer emissions. We also hope that other small businesses, landlords, and owners of commercial buildings will be inspired to explore what types of resources Mass Save might offer them.

In a time when awareness of the climate crisis is growing, it’s important that we all do what we can to lessen our carbon footprint. And it’s wonderful that homeowners, landlords, businesses, and non-profit organizations can all save money while doing so!

*Kate O’Kane lives in Montague Center, and serves on the Board of the Friends of the Montague Common Hall.*

*For more information on Mass Save resources, visit [www.masssave.com](http://www.masssave.com). The website has information for homes, businesses, and multi-family dwellings regarding energy audits, lighting assessments, and rebates and incentives.*

In my review earlier this year of the Storypalooza 2 event, I mentioned that David’s story, “The Time I Got Stabbed,” was one of my favorite of that evening. It was very hilarious to hear because when he defended himself against the guy who stabbed him, he almost made the car they were in crash. The robber was like “you broke my nose,” repeatedly, and while dealing with this, he lost control of the car, and David had to help get control of it in order to prevent it from crashing. So that’s definitely rather hilarious.

I asked him his opinion on the other storytellers who were a part of the event, as well their stories. He said he had heard a few of their stories, and that he thinks these storytellers are some of the best he knows, and that they do an amazing job.

As for doing a third Storypalooza, if one comes back to the Shea: another one can’t happen without him, because he’s the producer of Storypalooza. But he did say that “Storypalooza 2 was a huge success, and so yes, I believe we’ll do a third one next year.”

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ARTBEAT from page B1

to a Native American storyteller, “You come around, and you come around, and each time it’s a little different.”

“The spiral is the strongest form in nature,” Savageau says. “Our great weather systems are spirals. Tornadoes are spirals, galaxies are spirals.”

*Out of the Crazywoods* is a spiral, as well. Here, time is never linear. It flows the way memory does, bringing up incidents from decades ago just as easily as something that happened yesterday.

“Because isn’t this the way our minds work?” Savageau asks.

I confess to Savageau that I had been wary of the book, not sure whether I would be able to relate to the story of an illness I’m not familiar with in a person I didn’t know. She acknowledges the danger, saying that so many of the books on the topic are sensationalized.

“I didn’t want to brutalize my reader,” she says. “The book I needed wasn’t there when I needed it, so this was the book I wanted.”

She hopes the book will help people with bipolar, and also their loved ones, come to a better understanding of the disorder. And indeed, there’s something about the tone – honest but not brutal; straight-forward, yet never pushy; equally uncompromising and kind – that dissolves my wariness and makes me feel like I am just sitting with Savageau at a kitchen table hearing what her life has been like. And her life has been hard.

Before she received her diagnosis of rapid-cycling bipolar disorder, Savageau would experience periods of intense productivity: writing forty poems in three weeks, making five quilts in two months. She had what she describes as “intense numinous experiences,” during one of which she was positive her husband was the blue-skinned Lord Krishna.

But these highs often morphed into rage, and then crashed into depression. She’d experience highly agitated periods in which she was sure that people around her were moving in slow motion just to annoy her. She had trouble keeping jobs and paying rent, and ended up homeless, living with various family members.

“I live on that edge between what is true, what is sacred and magical, and where madness begins,” she writes at one point.

Finally getting on the right medications and finding the right therapist helped her get on a more even keel. As did recognizing what calmed her: meditation, the woods, playing late night games of cribbage with her son, and later, being “Mémère” to her grandsons. “Everything they do fills me with gladness,” she writes.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AUTHOR



Cheryl Savageau, author of *Out of the Crazywoods*.

Upcoming Book Launch

Savageau will be launching the book with an online reading and discussion this Sunday, June 21, at 1 p.m. Attendees can register through [www.nature-culture.net](http://www.nature-culture.net). Savageau says she considered not having a book launch at all, given the difficulties of moving it online, “but on the other hand, right now with the pandemic and isolation, there are a lot of people having mental health problems.”

Friends encouraged her to get the book out there for others.

“What I want to say to young people, especially now,” Savageau says, “is there are good drugs now, and bipolar responds quite well to drugs.”

She admits that it can be hard to find the right combination of meds, but urges patience. “Even if it takes three to five years to find the right drugs, that’s okay, you can still have a life. And you can have a good life.”

Savageau’s own accomplishments are a testament to these words. A collection of her poetry, *Dirt Road Home*, was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, and her children’s book *Muskrat Will Be Singing* won several awards. She’s received grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Massachusetts Artists Foundation, and has been a mentor to Native American writers. Savageau teaches at Bread Loaf School of English at Middlebury College.

Most recently, *Ms. magazine* plugged *Out of the Crazywoods* in their May 2020 “Reads for the Rest of Us” column, listing “new books being published by writers from historically underrepresented groups.”

*Out of the Crazywoods* can be purchased directly at [www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/university-of-nebraska-press/9781496219039/](http://www.nebraskapress.unl.edu/university-of-nebraska-press/9781496219039/). Or visit [www.Bookshop.org](http://www.Bookshop.org) and order from your favorite local bookstore. To find out more about Savageau, see [cherylsavageaublog.wordpress.com](http://cherylsavageaublog.wordpress.com).



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Kids Up To No Good; Street Fight On Fourth; Fireworks; Bears; No Mention Of Any Big Rally

Monday, 6/8

3:38 p.m. Report of bear sighting on Randall Wood Drive. PD units advised.

5:52 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street states that four kids came and threatened her grandson, and one of them said they would come back with a gun. Investigated.

6:25 p.m. Passerby approached officer reporting that a male party had his shirt off and was causing a disturbance on L Street. Unable to locate.

6:55 p.m. Caller from Main Street states that someone went into the back of his pickup truck and stole a cordless drill and a socket set from the toolbox. Advised of options.

9:36 p.m. Report of fireworks near Power Street. Officer located parties with fireworks in the old Railroad Salvage parking lot. Parties moved along.

10:39 p.m. Greenfield PD advising that they received an anonymous call reporting a disturbance on Second Street. Neighbors disputing over political signage. Peace restored.

Tuesday, 6/9

2:19 p.m. Report of fight between a male and a female near the Creemee on Avenue A. No known weapons; no obvious injuries. MPD and GPD units advised.

2:47 p.m. Caller reports that a vehicle just passed the speed sign at Greenfield and Randall roads at 70 mph; has recently observed other vehicles passing the sign at 69 and 70 mph. Advised this would be logged so officers can monitor while on patrol.

9:58 p.m. Caller from FL Roberts states that two guys were calling her names. Gone on arrival.

Wednesday, 6/10

2:41 a.m. Caller states that there is a brown horse running in the middle of Hatchery Road. Officer familiar with owner; calling to have them get the horse if it belongs to them. Horse returned home.

6:33 a.m. Multiple calls from party playing NPR news into phone and then asking if dispatcher knew what a time clock is that is for the real world; also spoke about George Floyd. Party called four more times since 7 a.m., yelling profanity each time. Party also spoke about former Chief Dodge and Sergeant Laster. Party was asked multiple times if he needed police, fire, or ambulance; no assistance requested. Voicemail archived.

8:02 a.m. Report of vehicle on Turnpike Road with male party slumped over steering wheel; has been there for approximately 15 minutes. Caller cancelled request; stated that a home

healthcare aide had come out and gotten the party, who had just fallen asleep and is OK.

8:24 a.m. Caller from Montague City Road believes someone broke into her apartment last night while she was sleeping and stole her medication. Report taken.

10:45 a.m. Caller requesting removal of a dead squirrel that has been in front of the Pizza House for a few days. Voicemail left for DPW.

11:23 a.m. Farren Care Center employee requesting to have a resident-on-resident assault put on record. No injuries.

3:25 p.m. Caller reporting a two- or three-year-old child wearing only shorts on the corner of Chestnut Street. Officers advised.

8:05 p.m. Caller reporting an erratic operator who was racing with another vehicle on Millers Falls Road and almost hit her. One vehicle described as a 1950s vintage black lowered truck with a Harley Davidson sticker on the back. MPD officers busy on another call; Shelburne Control advised.

9:45 p.m. Report of two or three cars full of kids who are “up to no good” in the middle of South Ferry Road. Officer reports that he spoke with all occupants of one vehicle who stated that they were just hanging out but are heading back home to Greenfield for the night. Per officer, the operator stated that he had smoked marijuana earlier in the day but was fine to drive now; officers had operator switch places with a passenger for the ride home.

Thursday, 6/11

10:47 a.m. Detail officer reports that Asplundh Construction bumped the telephone wires attached to an Oakman Street residence and knocked them down. Verizon contacted.

2:14 p.m. Report of car into parked motorcycle and trash can on Chestnut Street. No reported

injuries or entrapment. Report taken.

3:26 p.m. Report of fight among approximately 15 people on Fourth Street. No visible weapons. Officer reports quiet on arrival. Anonymous caller states that fight was instigated by a party from Greenfield who drove up and got out of his vehicle and started swinging. GPD advised.

5:01 p.m. Officer out with commercial delivery truck whose axle broke while turning into a driveway on Sunderland Road. Operator attempting to make contact with the company and a tow truck; is all set for now.

8:57 p.m. Caller from Third Street reporting that she has a baby possum with a severe eye injury in a box on her porch. Animal control officer will stop by to pick up possum in the morning.

Friday, 6/12

9:12 a.m. Caller from Family Dollar reporting that she asked a customer to leave after he entered the store without a mask and refused to tell her why he was not wearing one. Caller called back on 911; possible verbal argument heard in background. Advised caller not to engage with customer and that officers were almost on scene. Units clear; customer completed what he went there for and has moved along.

1:06 p.m. Report of bear on Randall Wood Drive. Area search negative.

3:48 p.m. 911 misdial received from Federal Street. Male party stated it must have been a butt dial. He is out back with friends hanging out. Confirmed misdial.

8:06 p.m. Officer advised some kids riding dirt bikes on Hillside Road that this activity is not allowed.

8:49 p.m. Reports of fireworks on Stevens Street and High Street. Unable to locate.

11:48 p.m. Anonymous caller reporting loud music coming from a house at

the end of Morris Avenue. Officers spoke to resident, who stated they had fallen asleep with the radio on. Music turned down.

Saturday, 6/13

12:11 p.m. Report of dog left in vehicle on Central Street for over half an hour. Officer checked vehicle; all windows partially lowered and vehicle interior is cool. Officer advised caller to call back if the dog is still in the vehicle in an hour.

2:56 p.m. Report of stop sign facing wrong way at Newton and Bridge streets. Officers located stop sign and identified cause as vandalism; moved sign, but it will need to be reset by DPW.

9:31 p.m. Reports of fireworks from the Scalpers Lodge and in the area of Swamp Road and Center Street. Unable to locate.

Sunday, 6/14

12:47 p.m. Report of BMW SUV with no plates at the airport. Officer spoke with airport manager, who is familiar with the vehicle and advises all set.

8:51 p.m. Caller form Moltenbrey Property reporting intoxicated male party refusing to leave building. Involved male is resident of building. Male escorted back to his apartment.

11:28 p.m. Caller from Marshall Street states that the house diagonal from hers has a loud TV outside and they won’t turn it down. Spoke to resident. They have an outdoor movie playing but have shut it down for the night.

Monday, 6/15

12:53 a.m. Caller states that he has struck a deer on Turners Falls Road. Some damage to callers vehicle. Deer appears to be severely injured. Animal put down due to injuries and removed from scene.

5:40 a.m. Officer requesting message be left for DPW, advising lights at Avenue A and Seventh Street are not cycling properly, specifically the southbound lane.

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

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# RACISM has NO PLACE in our COMMUNITY

The killing of George Floyd by members of the Minneapolis police was yet another horrifying example of how racism still plagues our country. What if George Floyd's death hadn't been caught on video, would we ever have found out what happened to him? My heart goes out to the family of George Floyd and all of the other families who have suffered similar racist acts. So, here's the question: How do we overcome the deep rooted bias, racism and hate that is in our culture? How do we un-teach racism?

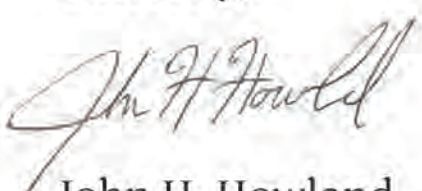
No one wants to think that they are racist or do racist things, but not all racist acts are overtly violent actions. Often, we are unaware of our biases and how they can manifest themselves in our daily interactions. So, to that end, last year, Greenfield Savings Bank brought in a team of consultants from the University of Massachusetts and Mount Holyoke College to lead diversity, equity and inclusion trainings for our management team.

One of the take-a-ways from the trainings is that racism frequently takes place in everyday conversations in the form of micro-aggressions. We have learned that *all* acts of racism, no matter how slight, have a cumulative and long-term effect. We have extended this training into 2020, expanding it to our entire employee base, and we will keep working at improving our sensitivity to and awareness of micro-aggressions. We want to be more welcoming and inclusive.

While I am proud that as an organization, we have been making strides in our efforts to be inclusive and more diverse, in the shadow of recent events, I know that there is a lot more that we need to do. As an organization, Greenfield Savings Bank needs to take a more active role in addressing racism in our community. And all of us need to keep up our commitment to learn more and to work to end racism in our country — *even after the recent events are out of the news cycle.*

I believe that racism has no place in our community. This is not a political statement. It is a moral position. Working to end racism in our country and our culture is our moral duty. This is when we can show the world how caring a community we really are. I can say, without reservation, that I have faith in the people of the Valley that we are all going to do our best to work together.

Sincerely,



John H. Howland  
President and CEO



UNEARTHING from page B1

corner of the flyers, and called to find out who was printing this ephemera he saw scattered all over the city.

“This collection can seem completely valueless, but they tell you a story about how something like a small independent business might work, and the informal labor contributing to it,” said Fischer, who went on to explain that Public Collectors is an exercise in collaboration between strangers who have had “the luxury to amass, organize, and inventory these materials, to help reverse this lack by making their collections public.”

The data in the collections are transported via printed books, Flickr albums, and downloadable PDF catalogs, all made available through one website, [publiccollectors.org](http://publiccollectors.org).

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Fischer started a new project, *Quaranzine*. It is a riso-printed, double-sided, 8.5- by 11-inch paper publication that already spans 92 issues. Inspired by the small home improvement leaflets and other material plastered around Chicago, Fischer prints these collaborative features from his basement and posts them freely around his neighborhood, on the sides of dumpsters, in some Little Free Libraries, and on social media. Each issue of *Quaranzine* is a partnership with a different individual, and consists of both written and visual reflections and reactions to COVID, and now civil protests.

Through his archival work, Fischer said he aims to highlight the assiduousness of independent collectors, and bring undervalued materials to light in order to make them more approachable. “I am more interested in the direct relationship a person has to something, and their involvement in the creation of it: a collective knowledge that builds – or can build – community,” he said.

Everyday Collectors

Under the Public Collectors imprint, one can view an online album of photographs of vandalized cacti from Tequitcan, Mexico; flip through *Library Excavations*, a zine series that documents physical materials located in parts of Chicago public libraries where people don’t visit; or read another publication called *Hardcore Architecture*, which dissects relationships between residential architecture and the history of underground hardcore bands in the 1980s.

Collecting is often an intrinsic pursuit, an end in itself. There is a nearly universal art of gathering evidence, which can take tangi-



Issues of Quaranzine, free for the taking, in Parkview Park, Chicago.

ble or digital form, accumulate in small or large quantities, and be measured in bytes or linear feet. Everyone is an inherent collector of some kind, with or without an intention behind it, or a decision to name it that.

Vinyl records with hidden messages in their matrices; CB radio operators’ QSL cards from the 1970s; an incarcerated artist’s portfolio of drawings: all can be justified as noteworthy collections. All three types of collections are on digital view or catalogued in zine format, accessible through [www.PublicCollectors.org](http://www.PublicCollectors.org).



A QSL card by an unknown artist from Spokane, W.A. From the collection of Jordan Smith.

At one point, Fischer posted a proposal on two internet music discussion forums, asking individuals to look through their vinyl collections at home and for rare messages inscribed where the catalogue number is usually located. For example, on Sweet Cobra’s 2003 record *Praise* (Seventh Rule Recording), Side A is inscribed with the words “It’s Too Late To Run” and Side B with “You Left This World For Me To Find.” Many contributed their findings, and a new public collection was born. The index is still ongoing, and can be added to by anyone with an interest and an email address.

These kinds of repositories are not usually organized, remembered,

or stored with proper funding in temperature-controlled rooms. “There are tons of people operating in amateur capacities, with the knowledge that would be just as qualified as a curator who has a Ph.D.,” said Fischer.

Materials collected by ordinary private individuals, or small communities, often fall beyond the purview of major archives and libraries. This loss is constitutionalized when institutions classify collections, deeming certain ones unworthy of preservation in the public collective memory.

While official archives and museum repositories are the forebears of proper curatorial practice, and vital for future preservation and handling of certain artifacts, this is not the only way collections are kept. Small groups and individuals also decide what should be remembered, outside formal and commercialized cultural sectors.

For example, CB radio operators created QSL cards to inform others of their handles, radio call numbers, channels they frequented, hometowns, and greetings – such as 73s or 88s, Q-code for “Best Wishes” and “Hugs and Kisses.” Senders would fill out these cards to indicate when they spoke over the radio, and owners could “check a box indicating that they spoke to the recipient, heard them on a specific channel, or received their card from a friend,” according to Jordan Smith, the collector of “73s from the Evergreen State: CB Radio QSL Cards from Washington.”

Smith, a collector of this kind of ephemera, knows a lot about the “folk art social media” of radio history. He has scanned and shared thousands of cards through his website, [www.73sand88s.com](http://www.73sand88s.com), and collaborated with Public Collectors to

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## GCC’s New Early Childhood Ed Program: Tuition Free!

**GREENFIELD** – Early childhood educators are essential workers, and there is a renewed recognition of their importance in our communities. Quality early education supports our economy, provides access to equity for children and families, and creates an environment where our youngest citizens can thrive. Greenfield Community College recognizes the need for highly qualified educators, and is launching a new Child Development Associate (CDA) and Early Childhood Education (ECE) Lead Teacher Certification Program.

This ECE Certificate/CDA Plus Cohort is a unique opportunity for qualified educators to expand skills and acquire advanced credentials in their field, all fully funded. The program prepares students for the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) certifications, as well as the Child Development Associate Plus (CDA+) credential – the most widely recognized national credential for early educators.

The ECE Certificate/CDA Plus Cohort is supported by a grant from the state Department of Early Education and Care through the Career Pathways program, making all classes free to eligible individuals currently working in the early childhood education and care field.

The ECE Certificate/CDA Plus Cohort begins Fall 2020, and is an accelerated program, with 18 credits earned over three semesters. The program provides free tuition, fees, books and other materials, as well as teaching practicums, on-site ob-

servation, and specialized coaching. The Education Department’s dedicated faculty have prepared a dynamic remote teaching and learning program with practicum experiences that are carefully monitored to meet the safety protocols required by the coronavirus.

Virtual Information Sessions for the ECE Certificate/CDA Plus Cohort are scheduled for June 25 at 7 p.m., July 15 at 7 p.m., and July 16 at 1 p.m. Attendees will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn more. Register for a session online at [www.gcc.mass.edu/education/career-pathways/](http://www.gcc.mass.edu/education/career-pathways/)

For students wanting to complete the Early Childhood Education Associate in Science degree at GCC, all ECE Certificate/CDA Plus Cohort credits can be applied. Scholarships and funding programs are available for associate and bachelor’s degrees through Career Pathways and EEC scholarship programs.

For information or to apply online for the Fall 2020 ECE Certificate/CDA Plus Cohort, visit [go.gcc.mass.edu/cd](http://go.gcc.mass.edu/cd) or contact Kim Audette at [audettek@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:audettek@gcc.mass.edu). GCC’s Education Department works with Early Childhood and OST Educators to advance their education and professional credentials.

For more information on the ECE Certificate/CDA Plus Cohort at Greenfield Community College, please contact Peggy Martalock, Ph.D., Associate Professor and Education Program Director, at [martalockp@gcc.mass.edu](mailto:martalockp@gcc.mass.edu) or (413) 775-1118.

create a publication that shared his content with a broader audience.

Rogue Archives

Even as archives and museums strive to bring values of equity into how they collect history, disparities still remain in terms of what is preserved, and how it is disseminated. “Rogue” archivists like Jordan Smith are reimagining what a traditional archive can be through their methods of scanning, posting, and publishing.

Small-scale collectors may not want their material to land in the hands of institutional gatekeepers, or even necessarily to be remembered. While institutional collections are sometimes necessary to safeguard certain artifacts, they can often lose sight of the people whose work contributed to them, and lack their specific histories and stories.

The Art Institute of Chicago recently acquired a private collection consisting of works by renowned mid-20th-century artists, valued at an estimated \$400 million. In exchange for this philanthropist’s major gift, the museum agreed to keep the collection on display for the next 50 years. With no prospective circulation of the museum’s storage for generations to come, the gift not only prevents other traditional works of art from being displayed, but also prevents alternative works from being newly shown on such a large public platform. “These are not the kinds of experiences that have an impact on me,” said Fischer.

Visits to dealers like Steven Leiber, who collected art-

ists’ ephemera from almost every 20th-century experimental art movement, do impact Fischer. “Every time I visited Steven’s place, he made no effort to sell me anything,” he said. “He just wanted to tell you about the work. He valued a lot of different materials and would collect ephemera people threw away, like brochures, posters, exhibition announcements, and fliers. If an artist designed their own ephemera, Steven considered it to be within their larger body of work.

“For quite a long time, archives and museums were not collecting this kind of stuff,” Fischer explained. “Visiting collectors like Steven, are the kinds of experiences that became more important to me than visiting museums.”

When one enters a museum, there are undeniable social roles: one is expected to dress a certain way, abide by a silent code of manners, and in most cases, pay an admission price. With the advent of the internet and the resurgence of independent, collaborative publishing, people like Marc Fischer can provide more equitable and affordable access. By creating more awareness of the kinds of collections found in personal homes and on the margins, projects like Public Collectors are helping us reimagine what is considered an archive – and whose archives may be worth preserving.

For more information on Marc Fischer, Public Collectors, and the vast array of projects under this imprint, visit [www.publiccollectors.org](http://www.publiccollectors.org).



ALL IMAGES COURTESY PUBLIC COLLECTORS



One collection published on [Publiccollectors.org](http://Publiccollectors.org) is an album of fantastical and illuminating drawings by Angelo, an artist currently incarcerated in California. The site also published his avid reading list from 2007 to 2010. Angelo’s artwork is featured in the title *Prisoners’ Inventions*, published by the group *Temporary Services* (Brett Bloom, Salem Collo-Julin, and Marc Fischer). Angelo’s drawings illustrate and narrate prisoners’ inventions – ones that he either made himself, or witnessed others making. For more information on *Prisoners’ Inventions*, visit [temporarieservices.org](http://temporarieservices.org).

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# The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

## Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
Was blind, but now I see.  
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,  
I have already come;  
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,  
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my Shield and Portion be,  
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
And mortal life shall cease,  
I shall possess, within the veil,  
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,  
The sun forbear to shine;  
But God, Who called me here below,  
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.

The popular song "Amazing Grace" was written in the year 1772 by a British man named John Newton, who worked as a captain on a slave ship before becoming a Christian priest. Though at first Newton was blinded by the money people paid him for the men, women, and children he stole from their homes in Africa, he eventually recognized how cruel and unfair the practice of slavery was. By the year 1780, John Newton was calling on his government to abolish, or get rid of, slavery altogether. The lyrics he wrote about his change of heart have been sung in churches, in schools, on streets, and on stage by all kinds of people as an anthem against all forms of social injustice.


Written and illustrated by Hannah Brookman  
Information from the Library of Congress

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JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux

DUE TO SOME SORT OF RELIGIOUS RITUAL CALLED JUNETEENTH, WE ARE CHANGING OUR RALLY DATE TO SATURDAY.

WE WANT TO PACK THE HOUSE. SOCIAL DISTANCING AND MASKS ARE NOT REQUIRED. BE BOLD, AND BE BRAVE. THAT KINDA SPIRIT IS CONTAGIOUS.

LET'S SHOW AMERICA WE'RE READY TO GO BACK TO OUR WAY OF LIFE. A LIFE BEFORE THE DEMOCRATS CLOSED THE COUNTRY.

WE'RE GOING TO GO HOME AFTER THAT RALLY AND SPREAD THE WORD, WE NEED TO REOPEN THE COUNTRY!

"WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO LOSE?"

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MAKE AMERICA GERRY AGAIN

OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark

My allergies have given me a really bad headache, Harry.

Extra Strength

I'm going to go lie down for a while.

You have a nice rest, Cupcake.

Don't mess up my kitchen, Harry.

Perhaps chocolate macaron. I'll need eggs, almonds, cocoa...

I'll dum dee dum dee dee

Butter, Cocoa, Cream, Chocolate, AORN Syrup

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Cool Cats on the Ave

What were all those humans doing? There sure was a lot of them.

I couldn't see all of the signs. One said Solidarity. That's a big word for a cat. Big word for humans too.

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ANNABEL LEVINE

SAY HIS NAME!

SUNDAY IN THE PARK WITH GEORGE

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**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1 kept surfacing were: 1) why had Sanderson gone right where he should have taken a left to get home at the old fork adjacent to the north-west corner of Brookside Cemetery? and 2) why was the Billings residence, where he was said to have died, nowhere to be found near the South Main Street railroad crossing on the 1871 Beers Atlas map? After all, how far would a mortally wounded man be carried from the scene of a railroad crash in horse-and-buggy days? Likely not far.

Hmmmm?

As for taking a right where he should have gone left, well, I pondered, maybe Mr. Sanderson had one more stop before returning home, thus a temporary diversion. Then again, perhaps the road and crossing had changed between 1867 and the 1871 map? Though possible, it wasn't adding up in my mind, which kept mulling it over whether driving, mowing, trying to fall asleep, reading or you name it. No matter what I was doing, the wheels of doubt were screaming.

What finally pulled everything into focus was a simple Google search for what I anticipated would be a longshot effort to identify the "Meadow Mills" referenced in the *Gazette* piece. Sanderson had gone there "for a grist," and was struck by the train on his return home.

To my welcome surprise, the first keyword search hit paydirt in Deerfield antiquarian George Sheldon's *History of Deerfield* (1896). In his

Stebbins genealogy, Sheldon mentioned Meadow Mills as the site built around 1790 by brothers Col. Joseph and Asa Stebbins at Mill Village – an early industrial village along a bottomland millrace constructed for waterpower between Stillwater and The Bars. That's where Sanderson had taken his corn to be ground into meal or flour – a likely place for a Canterbury farmer to travel for such service. Canterbury and South Deerfield have long been joined at the hip, be it for churchgoing, courting, shopping or bar-hopping. Mill Village was a short distance up the road from South Deerfield.

A quick return to the 1871 Beers Map revealed a string of five Billings residences on North Main Street in South Deerfield above the Bloody Brook Monument. Among them were two Billings homes at the crossing today known as the "Dry Bridge," which spans the tracks near the Szafarowicz and Sokolowski residences. Likely, those very homes are the same ones labeled (north to south) "Misses Billings" and "A. Billings" on the Beers map. Both structures appear to fit an early- to mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century construction.

According to the 1870 census, Misses Billings was the widow Harriet (Billings) Howe, 42, living at the time with unmarried, 34-year-old sister Laura J. They lived closest to the tracks, just above brother Ira Austin Billings, 44, whose farm sat on the corner of Jackson Road. Judging from census and online

data, Billings went by his middle name. The mortally injured Sanderson died at Austin Billings' home.

The other three Billings families living farther south on North Main Street were headed by tanner/leatherworker Samuel D. – at the farm with a pond on the corner of Hillside Road – and father and son Charles W. and Henry W. – on the west side of the street, just north of today's high-school lot. The 1870 census identifies Charles Williams Billings as a pump-maker.

What did victim Sanderson do for a living? Well, according to the newspaper and census data, he was a farmer, but take it to the bank that he had a hand in the family tannery and leather business associated with his home and that of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Those were the waning days of barter economy, when men listed as farmers were capable tradesmen who often helped neighbors in exchange for goods and services.

Take, for instance, a tanner, who would assist in butchering by skinning carcasses and taking the hides as payment, possibly even including boots and/or shoes in the exchange.

Another nagging issue that arose in my suspicious mind was: Why was Sanderson doing business with miller Zebina Stebbins in Deerfield, when first cousin and fellow Whately townsman Elon Chester Sanderson owned and operated a grist mill on Indian Hill (now Whately Glen)? Could there have been hard feelings

# INSECT PATROL

*Photo correspondent Joe R. Parzych of Greenfield sent us this curious-looking creature. "I took the photo with my camera with a macro telephoto zoom lens," Joe writes. "A rare, one of kind, hard to find, and beautiful moth."*



*"I texted my cousin Matt Olson, an entomologist and Oregon State University graduate. He has been studying and collecting insects since he was little. He told me it's a rare moth called the rosy maple moth. According to Wikipedia, the moth is Dryocampa rubicunda, the rosy maple moth or the Cosmoth, a small North American moth in the family Saturniidae, also known as the great silk moths..."*

over inheritance or other family matters gone sour?

Well, one never knows and, at this point, we probably never will know, though it's not out of the realm of possibilities.

On the other hand, Zebina Stebbins grew up and started his big family in the South Deerfield farm village of Sugarloaf (now southern River Road between Mount Sugarloaf and the river), within a stone's throw of the Sanderson Canterbury farms. Though Stebbins was 10 years older than victim Sanderson, the men had been neighbors, and likely knew each other well. Plus,

the hilly, circuitous route around Great Swamp to Indian Hill may have been treacherous in December compared to the basically flat run from Canterbury to Mill Village by way of Sugarloaf Street, North Main Street, and Mill Village Road.

Whew! Glad that's over. Hopefully, the record has been settled, and no one will repeat my previous mistake. Consider my deed done. Truth be told, I should have found my way through the weeds of uncertainty the first time.

Oh well. Chalk it up as experience. Lesson learned.



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