

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 18 – NO. 44

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 8, 2020

Widespread Damage from Storm; Hardest Impact in Lake Pleasant

By MIKE JACKSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – A cold front moving in from the west pushed a line of thunderstorms across Massachusetts Wednesday afternoon, creating gusts of high wind that tore roofs off buildings, knocked over trucks and sheds, and downed trees, branches, telephone poles, and power lines. Greenfield, Deerfield, and Montague were hit especially hard, and in Lake Pleasant, falling trees caused severe damage to the iconic Bridge of Names.

The storm line reached Turners Falls around 4:43 p.m. Two hours later, 1,553 Montague households were without power, according to Eversource, or about one-third of the town. Statewide, the number was over 200,000. Route 91 was closed in both directions for a period of the late afternoon, requiring elaborate detours. As of press time early Thursday morning, about 960 were still without power in Montague.

“We’re making good progress,” Turners Falls fire chief John Zellman, who also serves as Montague’s emergency management director, told the *Reporter* just after 9 p.m. “We’re working to get main roads open. We have crews from Eversource, highway, and see **STORM** page A8



Lake Pleasant resident Erin Bernard shared this photograph of the damage caused by Wednesday’s storm to the Bridge of Names. From about 1959 to 1975, no bridge connected the two parts of the village – the “Highlands” and the “Bluffs.” The footbridge’s construction was a major effort of community revitalization.

Dire Plea from a Dark Time Leads Author to Local Man’s Vienna Room

By LEE WICKS

MONTAGUE CENTER – If you read *The Unanswered Letter* by journalist Faris Cassell (Regnery History, 2020), you will learn

that Ferd Wulkan, who lives in Montague Center, is a member of the large extended Berger family whose history this book uncovers. Some of the Bergers who lived in Vienna while Hitler’s troops invaded

ed survived the Holocaust, and are now living all over the world.

Ferd, who was born in America, has preserved a slice of the world they lost by designating a room in his home as the Vienna Room and filling it with furniture that his grandfather Herman Berger shipped from Vienna before he fled the Nazis.

Letters, documents, and photographs stuffed into boxes in Ferd’s Vienna Room gave Faris Cassell much of the information she needed to trace the Berger family – and helped her solve the mystery of a letter that came into her possession after one of her husband’s patients found it while cleaning out her attic.

Written by Alfred Berger in 1939, the letter read, “You are surely informed about the situation of all Jews in Central Europe... by pure chance I got your address... my daughter and her husband will go to America... help us follow our children... it is our last and only hope.”

Cassell could not stop thinking about that letter. Did anyone answer it? Had Alfred and Hedwig Berger escaped the terrors of Europe, or had they perished long ago? At that point in time, only an affidavit from an American family would allow a Jew to gain entry into the United States.

The recipients of the letter had no relationship to the Bergers except their last names. Did they respond to the plea for help? Or did

see **VIENNA** page A5



Montague Center resident Ferd Wulkan with a copy of *The Unanswered Letter*, which tells the story of some of his extended family escaping from Vienna during WWII.

Montague Scrambles To Mail Ballots Out To First 2,100 Voters

By JEFF SINGLETON

With three weeks still remaining for Montague voters to request mail-in ballots, town clerk Deb Bourbeau said that the first batch arrived from the state on Tuesday, and that she and her staff will be working over the weekend to mail out a staggering 2,100 early requests.

In the 2016 election, a total of 4,490 votes were cast in Montague.

“We’re busting our ass to get this done,” Bourbeau told the *Reporter* on Wednesday. “Yes, you can use that quote.... We’re starting to mail them out today. We’ve got

Precinct 1 and 3 mostly done, and we’re going to be working through the weekend.”

Applications for mail-in ballots are available to download on the town website or obtain at town hall, and can be mailed in or delivered by hand. A ballot will not be mailed to the voter if the application reaches the Bourbeau’s office after 5 p.m. on Wednesday, October 28. Completed ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, November 3 and received by the clerk by Friday, November 6 to be counted.

Bourbeau has also provided an see **BALLOTS** page A7

Erving Voters Approve \$17.9M Loan for Drying Paper Mill’s Wet Sludge

By KATIE NOLAN

At a special town meeting last Saturday, Erving residents questioned Erving Industries chief executive officer Morris Housen and the town selectboard intensely before unanimously authorizing the board to borrow up to \$17.9 million for a sludge-drying system at a wastewater plant shared by the town and paper mill.

The town owns the plant, known as POTW#2, but it is operated by ERSECO, a subsidiary of Erving Industries. POTW#2 primarily treats wastes from the Erving Industries papermaking process, but also from residential and commercial sewage from Erving Center.

Housen explained to the meeting that the recycled paper his company uses to make toilet paper, paper towels, and tissue paper contains clay, and that a byproduct of treating the water in POTW#2 is clay-filled sludge. This wet sludge

is currently categorized as “Type II” sludge by the state, and is less acceptable for applying to land than “Type I” dried sludge.

Housen said the paper mill “must switch to Type I, or we cannot operate – we will have nowhere to deposit the clay material.”

Engineering consultant Tighe & Bond designed a drying system for the plant, and estimated the cost at \$17.9 million. Mill manager Michael McAuliffe said that the company’s engineering department had reviewed the plans and reduced the scope of the installation, primarily by using two dryers rather than the three specified by Tighe&Bond, and decreased the cost to \$10 million.

Of that \$10 million, McAuliffe said that Erving Industries would buy the dryer machines for \$5 million, and the necessary borrowing would be \$5 million for the supporting infrastructure. He said the \$5 million dryers would serve as

see **ERVING** page A6

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

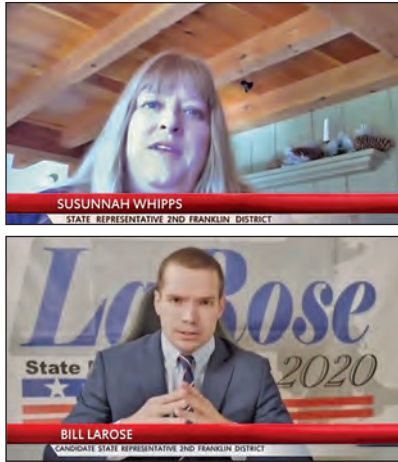
State Rep Candidates Meet In Online Forum

By JEFF SINGLETON

ATHOL – Susannah Whipps and Will LaRose, the two candidates seeking to represent the twelve towns in the 2nd Franklin state legislative district, participated in a debate on Saturday, October 3 sponsored by the Friends of the New Salem Library.

The “virtual forum” was held over the widely-used Zoom application, with neither the candidates nor their audience in a single room. Since this has become the venue for most public political events – the recent presidential debates being a notable exception – the participants appeared to have a comfort level, if not a great deal of enthusiasm, with the setup.

The forum was moderated by Mary-Ann Palmieri, a longtime New Salem resident and former chair of the Friends of the Library. Its structure consisted of three questions from



Incumbent Susannah Whipps (top) and Will LaRose (bottom) met in an online forum last Saturday.

the Friends sent to the candidates in advance, followed by questions submitted by “the community” at large and selected by the moderators.

The 2nd Franklin is generally considered a “purple” district, unlike its cousin to the west, the 1st Franklin.

see **FORUM** page A4

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The Montague Reporter

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Sovereign Immunity

Since our last edition, it was announced that President Trump had tested positive for COVID-19 and is sick; he was helicoptered to a special military hospital, and three days later helicoptered back to the White House. He says he is feeling fine; he describes the infection as a “blessing from God.”

According to an August report by the Economic Policy Institute, as many as 12 million Americans have lost their health insurance during the pandemic. Over 211,000 deaths in the country have been attributed to COVID-19, and for those who distrust that tally, there’s another metric: excess mortality. The CDC counts 249,167 more deaths from February through September than the previous five-year average.

“We’re going back to work,” Trump said to the cameras. “We’re going to be out front. As your leader, I had to do that. I knew there’s danger to it, but I had to do it. I stood out front. I led. Nobody that’s a leader would not do what I did. And I know there’s a risk, there’s a danger, but that’s OK. And now I’m better and maybe I’m immune, I don’t know. But don’t let it dominate your lives.”

Going back to work. America’s unparalleled commitment to pushing its workforce into the spinning blades of the market has led to poor outcomes amidst a pandemic that would have required massive collective coordination. If all but the most essential workers had been paid a living wage to stay home, and the essential ones granted hazard pay, the virus might have fizzled out in April or May.

Instead, here we are, afraid to send our children into school. Women are leaving the workforce at eight times the rate of men, presumably to take on the unwaged work of supervising remote learning.

A superspreader event on September 26 in the Rose Garden, where the cream of the Republican Party gathered bare-faced to celebrate the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, sparked an outbreak that infected 11 prep staff or media workers at the September 29 debate, two White House housekeepers, two communication aides, two military aides, a secret number of Secret Service agents, the vice commandant of the Coast Guard – who may have carried the virus to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, prompting a preemptive quarantine of top Pentagon brass – Trump’s campaign manager, the RNC committee chair, senior advisors Stephen Miller and Hope Hicks, and three US senators, as of press time. And counting.

But back to work! On Tuesday, back to work, Trump ordered an end to negotiations over the fourth coronavirus stimulus package until after the election. “Immediately after I win,” he said, “we will pass a major Stimulus Bill that focuses on hardworking Americans and Small Business.”

He didn’t say what would happen if he doesn’t win, leaving a nation to wonder if there was an implicit threat that government intervention would be blocked until late January.

The first three stimulus bills were passed in March; how did the process get tangled up with the election?

The third, the CARES Act, cobbled together \$877 billion for business, \$274 billion for state and local government, \$300 billion in direct checks to most individuals, and \$260 billion in supplements for unemployed workers. The two parties have been unable to reach a deal since then because Republicans would prefer to send less assistance to state and local governments, and to the unemployed – back to work, folks, pandemic’s over.

In April, the parties did agree to inject another \$372 billion into the private sector (plus \$100 billion for testing and lost healthcare revenue), though the Republicans blocked state and local aid. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell derided the idea a “blue-state bailout,” and said that he “would certainly be in favor of allowing states to use the bankruptcy route.”

At that time, CNN’s Jake Tapper pressed House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as to why the Dems had rolled over, asking if the compromise had been a “tactical mistake.”

“We always said that CARES 2 would be the bill where we would go for state and local,” Pelosi replied. “Just calm down. We will have state and local, and we will have it in a very significant way.... The governors are impatient... Don’t criticize it for what it doesn’t [do], because we have a plan for that. And that will happen.”

It didn’t happen, and now it looks like it won’t. Oh well, two party system, lol. Pandemic’s over, back to work, back to school. Hope your vote gets counted or whatever. Back to the Rose Garden.

And mostly, don’t let it dominate your lives. After all, the president might be immune.



Musica Franklin students practice violin with Sarah Yakir in the bandshell at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls on Tuesday evening.

Letters to the Editors

Stop the Sordid Farren Deal

I want to thank Jeff Singleton and the *Montague Reporter* for its in-depth, well researched article detailing the history of ownership of the Farren Care Center and the existence of a \$30 million bond bill authorization for the rehab of the Farren facility. This is very valuable information for those of us trying to save the Farren and stop this ill timed bad deal.

The fact that Trinity Health Care has made no effort to access these authorized funds in the last two years demonstrates their complete lack of concern for the Farren Care Center and its residents. Notably, Trinity Health never listed the Farren Care Center as one its Facilities on its website.

This very large, out of state provider should not be allowed to abandon its clients at the Farren and Mount Saint Vincent’s in Holyoke or, through a shady land deal, give its unique mission and license to a for-profit out of state corporation, iCare Health Network, with very mediocre ratings.

Unfortunately, as many other things during the pandemic have illustrated, we do not have any real control over the health care system. The sordid deal between Trinity and iCare will go forward unless we stand up and demand from our elected officials and government administrators that this process be stopped.

If the Governor has the authority to close churches, schools, courthouses and small businesses during this public health emergency he certainly can tell these big companies to stop this bad deal.

This is not a done deal! Write the Governor and your local elected officials and ask them to stop this closure and merger.

David Roulston
Greenfield

Opening Schools: Word from Maine

I am a former resident of both Montague and Gill who now lives in Portland, Maine and works as Assistant Principal at one of Portland’s public elementary schools. I read with great interest (and déjà vu) about the current argument regarding re-opening schools in GMRSD.

Here in Portland we went through this same debate over the summer, and it was challenging, emotional, and controversial. The same anxiety staff in GMRSD are expressing about re-opening schools was articulated by our teachers and staff. I shared the same feelings of fear, overwhelm, and trepidation about opening my school building of 430 students and 60 staff.

In the end, our school board voted to re-open schools in a hybrid model, with students coming to school in half groups two days a week. Some teachers took early retirement, left the profession, or took a leave of absence. Some families chose to homeschool their students. But the majority of staff and students returned.

I am writing to share what we’ve found here, in hopes that if you open, you will have a similar experience. What we discovered is this: our anxiety before opening, and about opening, was way worse than the actual experience of opening. Teachers who were paralyzed with panic found that once they got into the building with students, they were able to relax into the work they love and the relationships they value. Students are wearing their masks and physical distancing like total champs, and school is a happy place to be despite all the weirdness.

I am not arguing for or against GMRSD’s re-opening; that is a decision for the health and education experts to make, based on community transmission numbers, space requirements, ventilation efficacy, access to PPE, staffing issues, etc. It is a hugely complex decision to make.

My message is simply this, to GMRSD teachers and staff: I have been there. I get it. It’s terribly scary. And if you go back, you might find that the anxiety about going back is worse than the actual experience of going back. You are heroes! May you be safe and well.

Joanna Frankel
Portland, Maine

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or the Thursday closest to 12/25.*

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Way More Letters to the Editors

A Basis for Saving the Farren?

Thanks to Jeff Singleton for his fantastic investigative reporting regarding the 2018 appropriations bond bill that included “money to renovate or create a new building,” as I understand it.

It sounds like this state bond bill that included Farren Care Center in 2018 might have a way forward. I know that these things aren’t magic, and assume that the community needs to make a good case for it going forward, but I am wondering if we can save Farren by doing this. Farren will never be the same if it moves, and that would be

a disservice to the Commonwealth and to the current residents.

I am hoping that perhaps in coordination with Montague and other stakeholders it is possible to use this money to pay for a new building on the site saving the staff, re-building a community workplace, and providing jobs during and after construction.

Is this a possibility? What should we do to make it happen?

Thanks so much.

**Judi Fonsh
Leverett**

Forestry: A Matter of Our Biological Legacy

In response to two recent letters by Miriam Kurland concerning our use of wood products, I would like to call attention to areas of complexity that are being left out of this discussion.

Forest management (which can include cutting) is a systematic process that can be used by foresters and biologists to restore resiliency in a threatened ecosystem. Resiliency is the ability of the forest to recover after a disturbance event. Diversity (variation in species, age, and structure) is necessary to achieve resiliency. While old-growth forests are the most resilient, the majority of our woodlands lack the structural components found in old-growth, which then makes them more susceptible to stressors.

Leaving all of our second- and third-growth forests alone will not necessarily help them achieve this resilient status. We must realize that our woods will be shaped by human forces, whether or not we intervene. Climate change, invasive species, domestication of the land (prevention of fire, flooding), parcelization, and land use history define our landscape.

A variety of management techniques is necessary here. This will allow the land to withstand future climate stressors, which are certainly coming at an increased rate. We must consider the long-term health of the forests when we assume that they will have a continued robust ability to sequester carbon.

Beyond being a useful tool in ecological restoration, wood harvesting, when done sustainably and smartly, is an excellent way to ensure that our forests remain wooded and continue to support diverse habitat. Why is the small farmer revered in our culture, but not the forester or family logger? We need to take a hard look at some of our emotional biases. To harvest wood means to tend to a perennial, long-lived, native crop that supports diverse wildlife, cleans water, and sequesters carbon. We must consider the policies and practices

that keep the woods wooded, which includes both conservation and the use of resources. The biggest threat to our forests is permanent land use change.

Other building materials, such as concrete and steel, have an ecological cost and release carbon. Likewise, there is no perfect form of energy. Hydro-Québec flooded First Nations ancestral trapping grounds and the extraction of fossil fuels continues to wreck our ecosystems.

Policy should focus on where biomass power plants are located, certainly, and systemic racism should be addressed when we build new facilities as this is an opportunity to prevent further ongoing injustice. The use of wood pellets and firewood in places like homes, schools, or hospitals, however, does not raise the same concerns as a biomass plant situated in a densely-populated area.

It should be noted that without reducing consumption, any mandated decrease in local cutting will result in increased cutting elsewhere. (Look around and notice the things made of wood – perhaps and most likely the walls, floors, and furniture you sit on.)

In a paper put out by Harvard Forest titled “The Illusion of Preservation,” it is stated that for every 20 acres of Massachusetts forest not managed, 1 acre of primary forest – forest that has never been logged, which is something we don’t have much of here in the Northeast – is destroyed globally, often in poorer areas that have less regulation, and where it therefore harms the environment and workers more in the process.

Let’s not assume that the solution to the global and monumental problems of systemic racism, environmental injustice, and climate change have a remedy as simple as not using a sustainable resource found in our backyard.

**Kate Lindroos Conlin
Buckland**

Forest Alliance Thanks Supporters

Co-plaintiffs in the lawsuit against the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs and the Department Conservation and Recreation (DCR) answered Assistant Attorney General Kendra Kinscherf’s motion to dismiss the case on September 16.

The co-plaintiffs centered their arguments on the role of forests facing the threat of catastrophic climate change and the “harm” visited upon the citizens of the Commonwealth by commercial logging in our forests. Additionally, the co-plaintiffs challenged the legal basis for logging on public lands and DCR’s non-compliance with rules and regulations, as well as the lack of any meaningful due process

whereby citizens can appeal decisions regarding their public forests. The motion was taken under advisement by the Court.

The Wendell State Forest Alliance would like to thank all who have supported this case. Thank you to all who have attended the hearings since this case was filed in August of 2019 and to those who attended virtually on September 16.

Additional thanks to those who attended the public Zoom following the hearing. Your input and support is essential and very valuable. We will inform you of the Court’s ruling on the case when it is available.

**Miriam Kurland
Goshen**

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ATTN: Erving Residents

Selectboard Seeks Screening Committee for Police Chief Position

The Town of Erving Select Board are seeking to establish a Police Chief Screening Committee for the recently vacated Police Chief position.

Letters of interest for those who wish to volunteer on this committee will be accepted until October 15, 2020 at 5 p.m. Letters should include the reason for your interest and any experience or training in the field and/or serving on a screening committee. You must be an Erving resident.

Once appointed, the commitment to serve on the committee is expected to carry into January 2021.

Please send all letters of interest either by mail to the attention of Bryan Smith, Town Administrator, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344, or via email to administrator@erving-ma.gov.

**Betsy Sicard
Administrative Assistant,
Town of Erving**

**Joy Kaubin and
John Anderson
Lake Pleasant**

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in Montague



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LARKIN-ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

By NINA ROSSI

Kathryn Greenwood-Swanson at Swanson's Fabrics on Avenue A in Turners Falls is offering **Halloween costume consultations**. Her fee will cover an hour-long consultation about design and fabrication, and participants can pick up five yards of fabric at the well-stocked shop for \$20, which should be more than enough for most types of costumes! Sign up for a time slot on her website, www.swansonsfabrics.com, and get a plan before the witching hour is at hand.

MassHire Franklin-Hampshire Career Center wants folks to know about free **certified nursing assistant** and **home health aide** training at Greenfield Community College.

Start a new career with this training, which can serve as a stepping stone to medical assisting, licensed practical nursing, and other health-care careers. Virtual pre-training job readiness workshops and preparation sessions are happening now, for virtual trainings in November.

There are employers lined up to hire directly from this program, and transportation and childcare assistance may also be available. Apply by contacting Donna Harris at (413) 774-4361. Find more job information at masshirefhcareercenter.org.

This month, the Fine Arts Center at UMass presents a centennial celebration of the birth of **Yusef Lateef**, a multi-talented professor of art, music, and life who died in 2013 at 93 years old. This Friday at 7:30 p.m. they are livestreaming

The Golden Thread: A Sonic Love Letter to Brother Yusef Lateef in Five Movements, a live virtual concert featuring five improvisers each playing short solo pieces.

The celebrated UMass professor was creative in many fields including composition, improvisation, performance, ethnomusicology, visual art, and creative writing. Find Friday's event, and additional events celebrating the late Dr. Lateef, at fac.umass.edu.

This weekend, Sawmill River Arts Gallery at the Montague Bookmill Complex is having an **Autumn Artisan Showcase**. Browse the latest creations by member artists Josh Hannon, Chris Pellerin, and Hannah Staiger just outside the gallery entrance from 11 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 10 (rain date Sunday, October 11).

The three artisans are showing off their cutting boards, fiber arts, and silver jewelry, and they hope to raise money through their sales to put towards making the gallery space safer by buying an air filtration unit. Support local art and stop by!

The **Deerfield Valley Art Association in Northfield** is reopening again with a member showcase called "Reawakening." They will be open Fridays and Saturdays from 11 to 4 p.m. starting this Friday, October 9.

Montague artist **John Landino** has an exhibit of new metal sculpture and "Paint-Over" paintings at the Anchor House of Artists in Northampton during the month of

October. Check the gallery website for hours: anchorhouseartists.org.

The **Pioneer Valley Symphony** presents a virtual event, *100 Years of the 19th Amendment*, via Zoom on Saturday, October 17 at 7 p.m. "Andrea Moore, musicologist from Smith College, shares her expertise on current women composers in the United States working on cutting edge music, as we celebrate this milestone in women's history," reads the PVS press release. Tickets and information about attending online are available at pvsoc.org.

Phyllis Lawrence sent notice that the **Wendell Cultural Council seeks proposals for funding grants** for 2021. The funding must be targeted for community-based programming in the arts, humanities, and sciences that is designed for the public benefit.

Applications will be accepted from October 1 to November 15 at the Massachusetts Cultural Council website, www.mass-culture.org. Due to the delays in state budgets, the deadline has been pushed back to mid-November and the exact amount of granting funds is not yet available. Any new information will be posted on the MCC site.

Paper application forms are also available at the Wendell post office and town offices, and must be submitted in triplicate (with postmarked date if mailed) to Phyllis Lawrence, Box 81, Wendell, MA 01079 by November 15.

For questions, contact Phyllis at (413) 367-2175 or phyl.lawrence1@gmail.com.

October is Coop Month. Consider joining a local coop or patronizing one. Find out about starting a coop online at the Cooperative Development Institute resources available at www.cdi.coop.

The **Garlic and Arts Festival is making virtual experiences** available for the whole family this year

instead of their usual weekend-long event on a farm. "We've always said that the spirit of the festival extends beyond a weekend," write the organizers, "and this is an especially important year to uphold the values and actions that keep our communities strong."

They announce the release of a wide selection of virtual experiences for the whole family, an expanded list of exhibitors to shop local this season, and favorite ways to spend a day in the North Quabbin region.

A new YouTube channel and expanded website includes 120 videos where viewers can "get creative with art projects for the whole family, and follow along as the chefs at Quabbin Harvest demonstrate savory garlic recipes," according to a press release. There will be guided meditation videos, self-acupressure instruction, how-tos about making winserts and food dehydrators, and other ideas for conserving energy. You can also visit with farmers, artists, and food vendors as they share information about their craft, or you may want to view performances by musicians and poets.

Find out more at www.garlicandarts.org.

The Art Garden in Shelburne Falls has **coloring pages to share** in their latest email newsletter. The pages are all river-themed and created by local artists, including me!

Director Jane Wegscheider writes, "We hope they inspire you and help you de-stress in these challenging times. There are lots of health benefits to coloring. My hope is that you will share the colored pages you do with someone who might need or enjoy them. Thank you Suzanne Conway, Emily Gopen, Jen Luck Hale and Nina Rossi for sharing your creative work with us." Email csartgarden@gmail.com for a copy of this newsletter, and to get on her list.

Send your local briefs to editor@montagureporter.org.



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FORUM from page A1

The district voted for Hillary Clinton by a narrow margin in 2016 (45% to 43%), but its three largest towns, Athol, Templeton, and Orange, went for Donald Trump. Despite this, both candidates seemed to take generally liberal or progressive positions on the potentially divisive issues that were raised during the event.

Whipps, the incumbent, who was elected as a Republican in 2014 but left the party to run as an Independent in 2017, touted her support for a bill that would ban most logging in state forests, and another that would change the state flag, which currently contains an image of a Native American. (The bill would actually establish a commission to study the flag and seal.)

When asked about the public health response to the coronavirus pandemic, LaRose, the Democratic challenger, spoke of "listening to the experts, listening to science, and making data-driven decisions." He also said he would like to have seen "more movement" on Whipps' anti-logging bill.

Both candidates supported a bill in the legislature that would declare a moratorium on MCAS testing during the pandemic, and both questioned the virtue of what Whipps called "high-stakes testing." Both also said they supported the "Roe Act," a bill that would expand access to abortion, and emphasized support for "a woman's right to choose"; both also said they supported the "End to Life Options Act," which would liberalize policies for patients suffering from late-stage chronic illness.

When asked about their positions on "racial justice," both said they supported it. The 2nd Franklin district is 96% white, according to US Census data. Neither candidate questioned the emphasis on mask wearing, social distancing, or restrictions on businesses, as has been common

in more conservative circles this year.

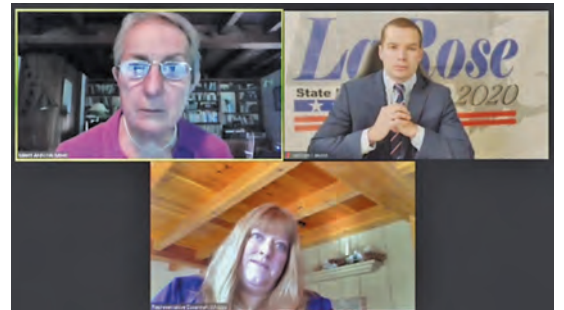
One of the reasons for the debate's lack of partisanship may be that state and local issues often do not reflect the national ideological divide. For example, both LaRose and Whipps stressed the need to review key state funding formulas, such as the Chapter 70 education formula and Chapter 90 highway aid formula, in order to make them more favorable to rural districts. Both called for greater investments in rural infrastructure, particularly highways, bridges, and broadband internet.

Supreme Court appointments, the proposed wall on the border of Mexico, and Trump's call to Ukraine did not come up.

The primary distinction that emerged between the two candidates reflected their recent resumes. Whipps, who has been in the legislature since 2014, frequently described bills she had sponsored and efforts she had made as a legislator to support her constituents. Speaking about the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, Whipps said that "over the past several months we've been inundated with constituent calls helping people get benefits, whether it's unemployment... [or] SNAP benefits, or finding services, fuel assistance and things like that."

LaRose, who served in the Army for seven years, said he had recently been activated by the National Guard in response to the pandemic. "Not only did I see the strategic and operational planning that went into responding to a pandemic in a public health crisis," he said, "but I also had the ability to be boots on the ground, so to speak — whether it was running food distribution sites, or augmenting [COVID] testing sites with civilian agencies."

The first question from the general public, which Palmieri said was the most commonly asked, was, "How will you make yourself avail-



Mary-Ann Palmieri (top left) served as moderator.

able to constituents across the district?"

Whipps said that she had decided to locate the office of her "legislative aide" in Athol, rather than in Boston; she said she constantly meets with residents of the twelve towns. "We've sat in people's dining rooms, and we've met them in coffeeshops," she said.

LaRose answered that "the key part is showing up," mentioning a meeting with Belchertown firefighters who had endorsed him, and attendance at a recent Wendell town meeting.

In her final statement, Whipps stressed the importance of bringing "younger people" back into the district, and said she was "honored to do this job. I absolutely love it. I humbly ask for people's votes."

LaRose told a story of two things Barack Obama wrote on a blackboard when he was a community organizer: "The world as it is. The world as it should be." He said the world as it should be would have more "opportunities for those young people."

He concluded: "And representative Whipps, I couldn't agree more about bringing the next generation in. I'd like to start respectfully with being the next state rep of this district." This brought good-natured laughter from Whipps and the moderator.



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League of Women Voters Holds Virtual Trivia Night

GREENFIELD – The League of Women Voters of Franklin County (LWVFC) holds an annual Civics Trivia Night fundraiser. This year, the event will be held virtually via Zoom, at 6 p.m. on Thursday, October 15.

“Our trivia nights are a highlight of the year for us,” says Marie Gauthier, president of the LWVFC. “This year we’re going virtual, for obvious reasons, but we hope to provide the usual fun.”

Participation is free, though donations are gratefully accepted. There will be cash prizes. To register, email LWVFC at lvwfranklincounty@gmail.com.

The League of Women Voters of Franklin County is a non-partisan grassroots political organization that encourages the informed and active participation of citizens in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League works to provide objective information on critical public policy issues and conduct debates and forums to increase awareness of candidates seeking office. For more information, visit LWVFC online at lvwma-franklincounty.org.

General Pierce Bridge Closed This Friday

MONTAGUE CITY– The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing that the General Pierce Bridge, spanning the Connecticut River from Greenfield to Montague, will be temporarily closed for bridge deck repairs. The closure is scheduled to take place on Friday, October 9, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Traffic will be detoured via Montague City Road, Avenue A, Route 2, and Routes 5 and 10. Message boards will be placed to advise motorists of the closure. The bridge will remain open to pedestrians.

Drivers who are traveling through the impacted areas should expect delays, reduce speed, and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and may be impacted due to an emergency. Dial 511 and select a route to hear real-time conditions.

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VIENNA from page A1

they hide this letter, never thinking about some future date when it might be found?

The letter prompted introspection on Cassell’s part. What would she have done if a stranger asked her for help like this? The United States had put severe restrictions on immigration; memories of the first world war were still very much alive, along with the desire to stay out of the conflict in Europe which was leading inexorably towards World War II. Saving two Jewish strangers might have been too much to ask of an ordinary American family – or not.

Cassell could not let it go. Eventually her search led her across the United States, Austria, the Czech Republic, Belarus, and Israel – but it started with a contact in Israel who led her to Montague.

She flew from California to visit Ferd, who is really named Peter. Ferd is a nickname acquired as a child at summer camp when he “stopped to smell the flowers,” and his fellow campers said he reminded them of Ferdinand the Bull in the children’s story.

In her book, Cassell describes the boxes in the Vienna Room, piled high and stuffed with documents, and she writes of the daunting task of sifting and sorting, reading letters written in fading ink in “Old German” on thin paper. She makes the quest seem both overwhelming and addictive. Her desire to learn what happened to Alfred and Hedwig Berger evolved into the history of a remarkably loving and resilient family.

Peter, known to us as Ferd, was born in the United States and grew up on the Upper West Side of New York City in an apartment

his family shared with his grandparents. That apartment was furnished with the pieces that now fill the Vienna Room.

I asked how his grandfather managed to ship so much, at a time when Jews could not bring money out of the country. He says, “While my mother and grandparents were unable to take money with them, they were able to bring an incredible amount of furniture, lace, figurines, and more.”

Those belongings are now both a museum and a functional space in the home Ferd shares with his wife, Leslie Lomasson. “We have special meals there,” says Ferd. “We use it during the annual card party; we sometimes spread projects out there; I still dabble at my stamp collection there; and sometimes I just organize or peruse the documents, photographs, and letters.”

Before Cassell turned her journalistic eyes to the documents in Ferd’s possession, he had begun tracing his family’s history. “I had gathered information from my mother, from old photos, and from some documents prior to the work on this book,” he says. “I had some stories, but nowhere near the amount Faris uncovered.”

The quantity of information about the Berger family contained in this book can be daunting. It is meticulously researched, but always propelled by the central question of the letter and the dire circumstances of European Jews at that time. Some members of the Berger family were eager to tell their stories once Cassell found them, but others did not want to revisit painful memories.

Of his immediate family, Ferd says, “It was scarcely discussed, even though all my par-

ents’ friends and most of our relatives were Jewish refugees from Vienna. Late in her life, my mother told some very specific stories, but I never felt the full impact of what everyone went through. Much more of the conversation with their friends – at least in my presence – was about the ‘good days’ when they were young, in the 1920s and early 1930s.”

Those good days are evident in the photographs reprinted in the book. They will break your heart with historical hindsight. There are brides and birthdays, family outings and formal portraits. Eyes look hopefully towards the future, but the reader’s view is colored by knowledge of the camps.

Still, there were survivors, and it’s wonderful to read of their accomplishments, and about their grandchildren and great-grandchildren all thriving.

I ask Ferd, “To what extent has the book created new relationships with your extended family?”

“A little bit,” he says. “I have been in touch with cousins in Israel, and I have now made contact with relatives in Brazil.”

The book also brought back fond memories of his grandfather Hermann.

“I remember him quite well, since he lived in the same apartment in NYC with me and my parents,” Ferd says. “We adored each other when I was very young. He would take me to the park and buy me stamps, until he got quite sick for a number of years before he died when I was twelve.”

I wondered if Ferd got to see the book prior to publication, and how he felt when he read it. “The author asked me questions quite a bit in the course of writing the book,”

he says, “and I saw the work-in-progress, as well as the galleys before the book went to press. I cried several times. It made me appreciate, as never before, what my mother, her parents, and other family members went through. They were tough!”

“I also couldn’t help noticing – and feeling – the parallels between the rise of fascism in oh-so-civilized Austria and what we are experiencing here today. Lots of differences, but also similarities. If this book could be a tiny cautionary tale, it would be a good thing.”

Ferd has been in regular contact with the author, and they will be doing an event together in the spring at the Bristol Community College Holocaust and Genocide Center.

The future of the Vienna Room is uncertain. When asked if he would keep the contents in the family, or give them to a museum, Ferd says, “Right now I don’t know how interested our daughter Hannah is, but I know that (as happened with me) that could change. I expect I will reach out to some archives regarding the paper documents.”

He promised that after COVID there might be opportunities for interested people to visit the Vienna Room, where Cassell’s search for the truth about a long-lost letter took off.

I am not going to reveal what Cassell eventually learned about Albert and Hedwig’s fate. Doing so might cause potential readers of her book to feel this is a story they already know, and then they wouldn’t feel the tension as information is slowly revealed about how one remarkable family survived astonishing hardship – and how some, like Ferd, honor their history.

Below: Ferd Wulkan’s Vienna Room is filled with furniture and decorative objects that once furnished the New York apartment where he grew up. They were shipped from Vienna before Ferd’s grandfather fled.



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ERVING from page A1
collateral for the loan.

“How does that collateral help the town if you default?” one resident asked.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith answered, “The burden of payment would be on Erving Paper Mill, not the town.”

“The equipment will have value,” Housen replied, “and by contract, you will be completely covered. There should be zero risk.” Asked by another resident if there was a market for the dryers, Housen said, “The cannabis industry is buying these. They are removable and re-sellable.”

Another resident asked if the reduction to two dryer machines would affect the process, and whether the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)

would disapprove. Housen explained that Tighe & Bond had made the original design for the most extreme sludge volumes, not the weekly averages.

“We’re cheap,” Housen said. “We use Yankee ingenuity and duct tape. DEP will be with us all the way.”

Town accountant Deborah Mero commented that there was a “disconnect” between the requested \$17.9 million authorization and the \$5 million borrowing being discussed.

Housen said Tighe & Bond had submitted the loan application to the state revolving fund (SRF) loan program with the \$17.9 million estimate for an August deadline, and “that’s what SRF is looking at now.” “Part of the application is the borrowing authority,” Jacob Smith explained. “Modifying that is not an option.” He said that the town

would not borrow any more than needed, and that it would not be a problem with the SRF if the town decides “to be more frugal.”

Town administrator Bryan Smith added that the loan application was very technical, and “there is understanding at the state that costs are estimates.”

“You’re not asking us to okay \$5 million, you’re asking us to okay \$17 million,” another resident said. “Is a handshake today worth that much? It’s very scary as a taxpayer to have this bounce back at us – ‘this is what we said, but that’s not what happened.’”

“The application and authorization do need to match,” Jacob Smith said. “You’ve elected us to act in the best interests of the town.”

“There is a history of responsibilities, met over the years, be-



Erving's new, official town logo.

tween Erving Paper Mill and the town,” said finance committee member Daniel Hammock. “It’s not a handshake; this is documented six ways to Sunday... We need Erving Paper Mill, and they need us. It’s been a great relationship.”

The motion to authorize the selectboard to borrow the money passed unanimously.

Other Business

The meeting also approved a transfer of \$75,000 from capital stabilization to pay for equipment and installation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Intercommunication Radio Migration System (CoMIRS) emergency communication system for the fire and police departments.

Articles to move the \$544,029 Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners grant payment into the general stabilization fund, to pay \$1,354 in bills from the prior fiscal year, and to authorize using the funds from the now-obsolete dog fund for the library also passed.

At a selectboard meeting held immediately before the special town meeting, Bryan Smith told the board that the state was in “Phase 3” of “Step 2” of re-opening from the COVID-19 shutdown.

As of October 1, Erving Public Library will be open for 20-minute

appointments on Thursdays and Sundays, from 2 to 5:30 pm. According to the library’s Facebook page, people requesting appointments should call (413) 423-3348 or email library@erving-ma.gov.

Bryan Smith said that the police department will be open by appointment as well.

He also reported that the town had received three bids for the streetlight installation project. The lowest was from a contractor whose previous work did not satisfy the board, and the next two bids were for the identical amount. The town administrator said he planned to ask the attorney general’s office for advice on how to award the bid.

The selectboard discussed a policy on disposing of surplus town property drafted by Bryan Smith after he had investigated policies in other towns. The board asked him to inform town departments about the draft policy, and decided to review the draft at the October 26 joint meeting with the fin com.

The board also gave final approval to the town logo designed by Tiny Town Marketing of Orange. The logo, which includes the Connecticut River, the French King Bridge, hills, and a sunrise, will be used on town vehicles, letterhead, and business cards.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Out-of-Town Police Will Be Tasked With Increased Speed Enforcement

By **JOSH HEINEMANN**

Highway commissioners Mike Gifford and Phil Delorey were with the Wendell selectboard (via Zoom) when the selectboard meeting opened September 30. They were called in for the ongoing effort to get some control over speeding vehicles in town, an issue which was brought to the selectboard’s attention through citizen complaints.

The board has previously discussed gentle approaches like lowering the speed limit in certain areas, putting more speed limit signs up, and using a radar speed indicator in more places. They put a survey on the town website in an effort to learn the extent of the problem, how great the citizen concern is, and if there are particular places where the problem is worst. They sent the results of that survey to the highway commission, and invited them to last week’s meeting.

“Limits without enforcement are useless,” Gifford told them. Because the Leverett police department will begin coverage in Wendell for a 90-day trial period on October 15, Gifford said the board should tell them to patrol in Wendell, even during the trial period of their timeline, and give tickets if necessary.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said there might be pushback to increased speeding enforcement, and that tickets could lead to resentment, so the enforcement should ease in and residents should be warned of the coming change.

She agreed that drivers traveling 40 miles per hour over the limit should be ticketed with no question, and said that dirt roads should have their speed limit posted.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato said she had no issue with ticketing people driving over 50 mph. She wondered about the cost of including patrols during the first 90 days, and said that the details of how Leverett officers will police during that time need to be publicized. She added that she has seen roads painted in other towns in ways that make it seem necessary to slow down.

Delorey had seen painted zig-zags also, and said they seem to

work. But he added that speeding seems to be escalating in Wendell, and that he had been passed while traveling the speed limit, or even a little over, and been shown the finger by the passing driver.

He continued that Leverett has one speed limit throughout town, 35 mph, but that in Wendell, limits vary from 25 to 40 mph.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller said he saw no harm in more enforcement, and that Wendell’s overall speed limit could be dropped to 35 mph, but that a mailing should go out to residents as a warning.

Town-Owned Property

Board members went on to discuss with treasurer Carolyn Manley, and Delorey in his role as building inspector, the four properties scheduled to be auctioned October 3. One of those, 40 Gate Lane, has a house considered uninhabitable.

One thought was to offer the structure to the fire department for a practice burn, but Gate Lane is not a town road, is narrow and poorly maintained, would be difficult to get Engine 1 through, and has no turnaround.

DiDonato said the 5-acre property is surrounded by conservation land and may be of interest to the open space committee. Delorey said the existence of a structure would give a buyer the potential right to move in, and the town would be remiss to hand the property over. Only the board of health can condemn the building.

The board voted to remove 40 Gate Lane from the auction.

Manley said the property at 120 Wendell Depot Road has generated a lot of interest. Budine asked if the minimum bid could be the amount of taxes owed. Manley said that figure is more than the property’s open market value, but the property, now with a legal 3-acre building lot and room for both a septic system and a well, has generated a lot of interest.

Swift River School

With overhaul of exterior doors and windows at Swift River School accomplished under budget and looking good, principal Kelly Sullivan and Wendell fin com chair

Doug Tanner brought up the interior doors. Tanner said they are compromised, and should be replaced.

Sullivan said fire doors are not something that an ordinary contractor could do, and the estimate for replacing 33 doors and frames is \$105,000. There is money left from the exterior work borrowing, because the cost of that work was less than the state-subsidized loan taken out, but interior work is not allowed under that loan; while the extra expense might be snuck in, Sullivan said, “We don’t operate that way.”

Tanner said New Salem had voted down more borrowing.

Sullivan said that no immediate action is needed, and the work may be done on vacations, on a nighttime schedule, or during the summer. They were just at the meeting to give the selectboard information. She invited people to come and see the school’s new look.

Other Business

Leverett police officer Meghan Gallo has shown interest in taking over the position of animal control officer as Wendell’s longtime officer is ready to retire.

Multi-board clerk Nicolette Eicholtz has resigned.

Budine brought up a community compact grant that is needed to upgrade Wendell’s computers and its network. She said Robert Heller thought the software is adequate, but the hardware is not.

Tanner disagreed and said the software also needs upgrades so the assessors, tax collector, and treasurer can interconnect better.

Budine asked whether the town has money for a consultant to define the town’s needs, but Tanner said a better first step would be to get town engineer Jim Slavas to look first. The grant application to FRCOG is due October 15, and an exact list of needs is not necessary.

Keller announced that the Leverett police will start covering Wendell on October 15, even if no formal contract is signed by then.

The selectboard plans to appoint a municipal light plant board at its next meeting on October 14. Keller said he will know when the town’s new fiber-optic system is complete because his house will be the last one connected.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL TOWN CLERK

Wendell Election Notes

The Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3. The polls are open 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. The polls are also open for Early Voting over a two-week period described below. There are three options on how to submit a ballot for the Presidential Election.

Option 1: Voting by Mail is in full swing and a good percentage of the voters in Wendell have chosen this path. Those voting by mail must first fill out a *mail-in* application. If a voter chose to fill out a mail-in application for the Primary, they are considered approved for the Presidential and do not have to send in a new application.

Mail-in voters can anticipate receiving their ballots in mid-October. In addition to the ballot, each voter receives an instruction sheet, a ballot envelope, and a postage paid return envelope to mail back the ballot. Voters must sign off on the sealed ballot envelope for it to be accepted. Include your signature and print out your name and address.

To speed things up, you are encouraged to use the drop box in the parking area of the Town Office Building to deposit your completed application and/or ballot. Completed ballots must be received in the

drop box by 8 p.m. on Election Day to be counted.


Option 2: Voters may choose to *vote early* and *in person* at the Town Office Building over a two-week period that begins on Saturday, October 17 and continues until Friday, October 30. On most days, voters can vote at their convenience between 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. On Wednesdays, the two-hour slot is in the evening, 6 to 8 p.m. There is no need to fill out an application to vote in person. Just come in and vote.

Option 3: Vote in person at the Town Office Building on Election Day.

The deadline to request a *mail-in* ballot application is Wednesday, October 28. The deadline for Voter Registration is Saturday, October 24 and the Town Clerk Office will be open from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. to accommodate these voters.

All *in-person* voters must wear masks and maintain social distancing while in the Town Office Building. Gloves, hand sanitizer, and masks are all available for voters to use as they see fit. For more information on any of these details, please contact the Town Clerk at (978) 544-3395 x2 or wendelltownclerk@gmail.com.

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BALLOTS from page A1

expanded opportunity for early voting at the Gill-Montague senior center on Fifth Street in downtown Turners Falls. Early voting will take place on October 17 through 22, and October 24 through 29. Voting will primarily take place in the morning hours, but times vary, so check the town website or call town hall.

In-person voting locations on November 3 will be identical to those used for the September state primary. Precinct 1 will vote at the Montague Center fire station on Old Sunderland Road; Precincts 2, 3, 4 and 6 at the Franklin County Technical School gym in the industrial park off Millers Falls Road; and Precinct 5 at the senior center on Fifth Street.

The selectboard approved the town’s official election warrant for the election on Monday night. Elections will be held for President/Vice President, Senator and Representative in Congress, State Senator and

Representative in the state legislature, Councillor (the obscure “Governor’s Council”) from the Eighth District, and the executive committee of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

There will also be four initiative petitions voters can weigh in on. Two would become law by majority vote, unless the legislature fails to implement them: one requiring auto manufacturers to add technology expanding consumer access to mechanical data in their cars; and the other for ranked-choice voting, whereby by voters may list their choices in order of preference.

The other two are advisory, or “non-binding”: one calling on the state to establish a goal of 100% renewable energy in the next two decades; and one to ask the legislature to make all committee votes available on the state website.



NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Very Gradually Reopening

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard, in conjunction with the board of health, voted on Monday to extend a number of deadlines on permits to allow restaurants to continue to serve outdoors in November and December, and discussed loosening state regulations as a “lower risk community.”

Following an order by governor Charlie Baker, the majority of the state falls into this category, and may enter “Phase III, Step 2” of reopening from the COVID-19 pandemic this week.

According to town administrator Steve Ellis, the governor is allowing local liquor licensing authorities to extend the existing permits allowing outdoor seating until the end of the statewide emergency, whenever that may be, plus 60 days. “I think it is a much better approach than the ‘pick a date when we think it will all be better’ approach,” Ellis said.

The board voted to extend these “temporary licenses” to the Alvah Stone in the Montague Bookmill, the Rendezvous on Third Street in Turners Falls, Element Brewing Company in Millers Falls, and Riff’s North on Avenue A.

Ellis said there needed to be “some conversation” with the public works department about the outdoor seating if snow arrives early this year.

Chris Janke, co-owner of the Rendezvous, which uses a portion of the municipal parking lot on Third Street for outdoor seating, said that if the arrangement continues into December, the business might eliminate some tables to allow for a potential snow pile. “We are very new to this,” said Janke of the late-fall outdoor seating, “We are not sure what the need or demand is going to be.”

Next there was a discussion of the Governor’s guidance for those communities that qualify for “Phase III, Step 2” of reopening on the basis of low reported incidence of COVID-19. This includes 322 of the state’s 351 municipalities, but not Boston, Worcester, or Springfield. The focus is on “occupancy limits” for

entertainment venues, according to Montague public health director Dan Wasiuk, which have been increased in these communities to 50% of capacity, or a maximum of 250 persons.

Nick Waynelovich of the Ja’Duke Center for the Performing Arts, which operates a 540-seat theater in the airport industrial park, pointed out that both singing on stage and the playing of brass and wind instruments are still prohibited, “so from a performance point of view, it is going to be difficult to do shows in that regard.”

Monte Belmonte of the Shea Theater Arts Center board said that the Shea had been in touch with other performing arts venues in the region. “Those venues are not planning anything until at least the end of this year,” he said, “and I wouldn’t anticipate anything until the spring of 2021.”

Belmonte said the Shea, with a capacity of 300, was “following that lead,” but might have the potential for “some small creative events” in the meantime.

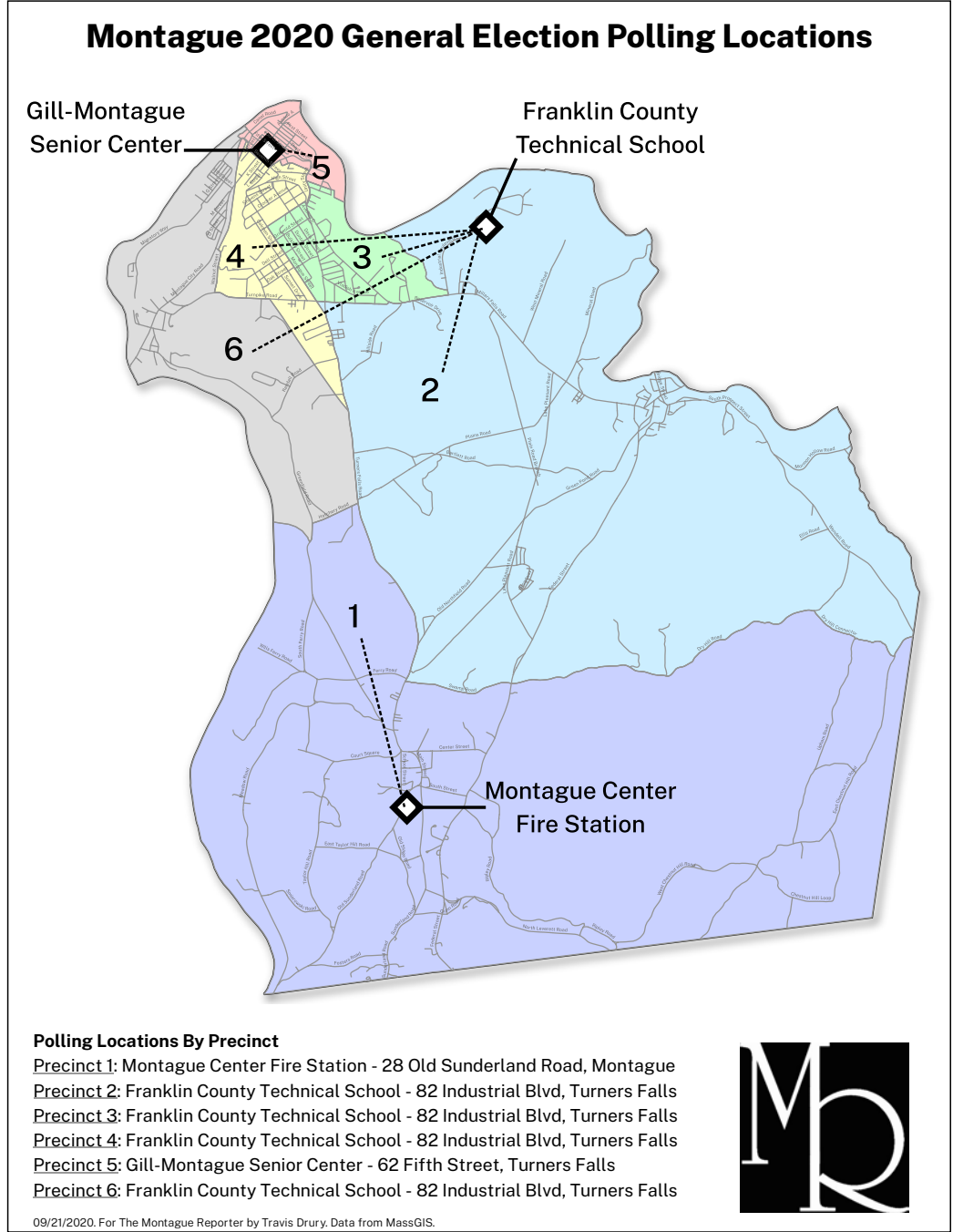
The selectboard approved a request by Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority to transfer \$33,000 to the county Community Development Corporation, which is administering a fund to give forgivable “micro-enterprise loans” to small businesses struggling with the the pandemic.

Public Works

McHugh also gave an update on the Spinner Park restoration on Avenue A, which has been delayed by the discovery of an unknown electrical conduit requiring a redesign.

“The park is not going to be done this fall,” McHugh told the board. “It’s looking like a spring completion date on this, and we’re going to be asking the contractor to give us a change order.”

Public works director Tom Bergeron gave an upbeat report on the project to stabilize a collapsed embankment along Millers Falls Road and lay a new pipe to carry runoff from nearby



streets. Bergeron said the DPW had laid down 10,551 tons of rock and stone, the recent rain had stabilized the embankment, and that if the FirstLight power company does not require an engineering report, he anticipates returning over \$70,000 to his Chapter 90 highway aid money.

The board approved sending a proposed subdivision plan for town property at 500 Avenue A, on which the current highway garage sits, along to the planning board, as well as a request by town planner Walter Ramsey to issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the disposition of that property.

Ramsey explained that the planning department had decided against an auction, as he had recently suggested to the board. The suggested minimum sale price was set at \$50,000, although he said the property was assessed at \$300,000. He discussed the criteria that would be used for awarding the sale under the RFP.

Other Business

At the request of police chief Chris Williams, the board transferred \$15,000 from the 111F insurance reimbursement account to the police budget. 111F is a provision of state law that regulates local policies for police officers temporarily out of service due to injuries on the job. The town is reimbursed by its insurance provider for some of its budget losses under these circumstances.

Joanna Mae Boody resigned from the po-

lice advisory review committee, and was replaced by Colin Mitchell.

The board made four appointments for part-time positions at the library, and voted to increase the library substitute pay rate form \$13.00 to \$14.00.

Ellis presented the board with an addendum to a lease agreement with Kearsarge Energy, which is capping the old burn dump off of Sandy Lane. The addendum is the result of an expansion of the scope of the project when an unknown dumping area was discovered last summer.

Ellis also reported to the board that the South Street Bridge in Montague Center has in fact been added to the famous state “bridge list.” He said state engineers have been inspecting the bridge recently, and construction, initially estimated to cost \$2.94 million, could begin in the summer of 2023.

The town administrator shared a floor plan for the October 13 town meeting, which will be held at the new highway garage on Turners Falls Road. He said funding for additional costs for the meeting will come from the federal CARES Act.

American Medical Response, an ambulance company that serves Montague, has approved the move of its emergency dispatch services to Shelburne Falls.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for October 19.

Special Town Meeting Takes on Budget Cuts, Easements, Spring Election

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE – The warrant for a special town meeting next Tuesday, October 13 has been approved by the Montague selectboard, and contains a grand total of fourteen articles. These range from a \$109,000 reduction in the FY’21 budget approved by town meeting in the spring to transfers totaling \$486,951 into various town stabilization funds to a change in the date of the annual town election.

Perhaps the most complex article on the warrant – and the last at number 14 – involves the acquisition and transfer of easements to property of the FirstLight power company, in order to enable the town to relocate the

Fifth Street pedestrian bridge across the power canal in Turners Falls to the other side of the auto bridge, which is owned by the state.

The pedestrian bridge needs to be moved from its current location because the original reconstruction design would have blocked access to Canal Road. The new location, however, requires rights or “easements” for construction on FirstLight property. FirstLight owns the canal and the property adjacent to it. An easement, in a legal sense, is generally defined as the right to cross or use the land of an adjacent property for a specified purpose.

To further complicate the negotiations with the town, FirstLight has requested an exchange in easements

with another bridge – the Third Street pedestrian bridge to the Strathmore, which is closed but currently carries sewer and water to the former mill complex. The town is also requesting the right to construct a new bridge at the former Third Street location, and requesting further easements along Canal Road to replace the potential loss of that bridge.

All these complexities are addressed in the proposed town meeting warrant. Town administrator Steve Ellis told the *Reporter* that a final agreement with FirstLight has not been reached, but the warrant gives the selectboard the right to negotiate the easement exchange. A final agreement will not need to be approved by town meeting, Ellis said.

Two other articles – not so complex, but perhaps confusing if the fine print is noticed – would change the date of the annual town election from the third Monday of May to the third Tuesday. The article would provide for a petition to the state legislature, called the “General Court,” to make this change. Town clerk Deb Bourbeau said the many town residents found the traditional Monday date confusing.

Those who carefully read the actual motions that embody this change will notice that the wording strongly implies that the annual town meeting, rather than voters at large, actually votes for local town offices. Bourbeau was unsure of the origins of this language – it may be a relic

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FACES & PLACES



DAVID HOITT PHOTOS



Turners Falls High School athletes have limited opportunities to play during the pandemic; in the “Fall I” season, only golf and field hockey are active. Last Wednesday, the Turners golf team held its season opener against the Mahar Senators at Thomas Memorial Golf Club. Pictured: Turners’ Taylor Greene tees off on the third hole (left), and Joey Mosca putts into the cup at the second (right). Taylor contributed 3 points towards the Thunder’s 13.5 to 10.5 win, while Mosca came in first place with 4.



MITCH MULHOLLAND PHOTO

We want to believe: Leverett resident Mitch Mulholland took this photo of a rare hole punch cloud, or fallstreak hole, Sunday morning over Leverett Pond. The phenomenon occurs when mid-level clouds at below freezing temperatures encounter ice crystals, brought by something like an airplane, to cause rapid freezing. “The cloud took about an hour to pass from the west to east side of Leverett Pond, drifting slowly with the cloud layer it resided in,” Mulholland said. “You could see snow or ice within the hole.” Also known as a cavum, skypunch, or cloud canal, the opening appears most often in cirrocumulus or altocumulus clouds, and expands outward as neighboring droplets start to freeze.

STORM from page A1

Asplundh out there, cutting and clearing.... Highway is out in full force, with payloaders. I have a lot of devastation in Lake Pleasant, and the crews will be sent there shortly.”

Zellman reported that sections of Greenfield Road and Turners Falls Road had been closed to traffic due to downed trees and wires.

Despite the widespread blackouts, hundreds of area residents were able to post photos of the destruction to social media, and compare notes. The consensus was that there had been hail in West County, and intense straight-line winds with updrafting debris, but no tornadoes were spotted.

Zellman compared the local impact to a microburst that tore through Montague Center in July 2019, destroying a barn. “It was more toward Lake Pleasant that got hit hard,” the chief said of Wednesday’s storm. “That’s a cluster of houses close together, whereas last year it went through a lot of farm fields.”

Zellman said that no injuries had been reported, and the town had not yet been requested to provide emergency services to any residents. “Over at the Lake everybody seems to be okay at this time,” he said. “They know they’re going to be out of power for a while.”

“I’m in shock,” said Linda Emond, who lives in the north section of Lake Pleasant. Emond and her husband were just returning home from Turners Falls when the storm hit. “The trees were bending over, the leaves were blowing, and I said ‘hurry up and get to our yard, so we can get in the house quickly,’” she said.

“I jumped out of the truck, and went to grab the door handle to open it, and the wind almost took me off my feet. It was so scary!”

According to Emond, trees – for some residents, multiple trees – landed on yards and houses throughout the village, and everyone without a generator was without power.

Substantial damage was also

caused to the Bridge of Names, a sturdy wooden walking bridge which spans a gully and connects the village’s north and south sections. It was built in 1975 by the newly incorporated Lake Pleasant Village Association, whose constitution vows to maintain the structure “in perpetuity.” The bridge is the third in its place, with previous bridges failing in the 1920s and 1950s.

Emond said she watched trees toppling from her back deck. “It was like a big blur,” she said. “My neighbor’s trampoline is on her neighbor’s fence.... The generator at the [sewer] pump station is running, but all of the trees are smashed down around it. Huge trees.”

On Fourth Street in Turners Falls, a piece of aluminum roofing tore loose from a triple-decker building and caught on a branch of a tree, where it hung ominously, 40 feet above the sidewalk. At about 7 p.m. the building owners were marking off the area with caution tape; they told the Reporter that the fire department had thus far been unable to send a ladder.

“When things like this happen, people shouldn’t be out and about with downed wires,” Zellman warned. “I saw a lot of people tonight out and about, and I understand that everybody’s curious, but they were very close to wires and trees... Be safe out there!”

A Montague police dispatcher reported at 4 a.m. that things on her overnight shift had been “going well,” and that all roads had been cleared and opened except Lake Pleasant Road.

“Last I knew, most of downtown [Turners Falls] still has no power,” she added, “and Eversource has not been giving any ETAs as to when the situation will be fixed.”

A quick check before sending this edition to the printer indicated that the Seventh Street traffic light was out, but the one at Third Street was on. Everything south of Fifth and K streets appeared to still be dark.



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Above: This Montague City garden enjoys a late fall bloom.

BOOK REVIEW

Richie Davis, *Inner Landscapes: True Tales from Extraordinary Lives* (2020, Haley’s, Athol)

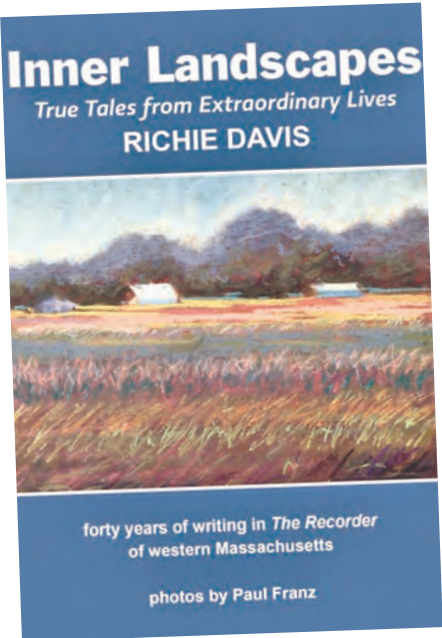
By DONNA PETERSEN

LEVERETT – Those of us who have lived in Franklin County long enough and have read the *Greenfield Recorder* are probably familiar with that paper’s long-time columnist Richie Davis. Richie retired – sort of – about two years ago after writing about people, places, and events in the Valley for almost 43 years.

Earlier this year, Richie published a book containing some of his columns about the most memorable and interesting people he interviewed and introduced us to. The stories start in 1976, and the last one was written in 2017. Some of the people in this book are known to many of us, while other stories may be a welcome discovery.

The forwards and introduction reveal Richie’s purpose and inspiration for the columns and the book. Simply, he felt that the Valley is a very special, unique place and the subjects led lives that were committed to some purpose or idea, and so he presented the opportunity for readers to meet and learn about those folks.

In the earliest story about Minnie Richardson, “I Dare Not Stop,” Minnie, born in 1889, talks about her no-nonsense Yankee work ethic. She grew up as a farm tomboy and continued into her nineties with her gardening and community work, and generally continued to outwork younger folks. Minnie passed away in 1991, leaving behind numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



The section of the book called “The Human Landscape” has a varied cast of characters, each one unique. There is the interview with the well-known and missed couple, Juanita and Wally Nelson, who inspired so many with their commitment to peace and justice. They did not pay taxes that they felt were going to finance wars, and they lived frugally and carefully in our valley.

The story of Carol Purington of Colrain really touches the heart. Stricken with polio in 1955, Carol had become increasingly paralyzed and spent years in an iron lung. Now there is improved technology to help her breathe but she spends her days at home attached to devices. She has found a world in writing, though. She told Richie that “words are wings,” and she has been using those wings to write haiku poetry, and then found Japanese tanka poetry and has published in numerous publications.

The stories in *Inner Landscapes* are all evocative and touching, from that of a wife who lost her newly-reconciled husband in the 2001 9/11 attack, to musician Lorre Wyatt’s healing collaboration with Pete Seeger, to the moving tales of those who lost their homes and communities in the flooding of four towns to create the Quabbin Reservoir.

In the section called “The Creative Landscape,” numerous artists or creative explorers explain their journeys. Each person has their take on their work and creative process.

If you enjoy reading stories about your neighbors see **BOOK REVIEW** page B5



GREENFIELD – Fall this year has been pretty spectacular in terms of color. Lots of vivid reds and oranges have made my drives around the Pioneer Valley thoroughly enjoyable even after 15 years as a transplant. I cannot begin to count the number of times I have had to pull over and take yet another photo of yet another stunning view to

send to my peeps back on the west coast, where their roadside color comes from towering billboards on the freeway.

Speaking of color, my wife’s favorite food is “orange grease.” You know, something that comes out of the oven bubbling with puddles of glistening orange grease? Think enchiladas, pizza, and finally, the

family of Parmesans: Chicken, Veal, and the wonderfully earthy, creamy Eggplant, which is popping out of gardens and farms right about now. Those voluptuous purple curves hide a tender white flesh that can be transformed into many savory dishes when paired with cheese, tomatoes, and herbs, or with tahini, lemon juice, and garlic for a Middle Eastern flavor.

The larger shiny purple fruit – yes, eggplant is a fruit – isn’t the only variety around, although it is the most common. There are also long, thin, Japanese eggplants and the plump purple and white-striped Sicilian or Graffiti varieties, along with Thai, Chinese, and Indian eggplants, and even a white-skinned variety that is mild and super creamy.

For Eggplant Parmesan, I typically use the common purple variety of eggplant, but in a pinch I’ll use see **HEARTFELT** page B4



Slices of eggplant covered with breadcrumbs, ready to be baked or fried.



POLLY FRENCH ILLUSTRATION

WEST ALONG THE RIVER
AUTUMN SKETCHBOOK

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT – This is the season that links late summer to early fall. The promises of that summer season have faded, and we’re suddenly into the first of the four months that end in “-ber.” That could be spelled as *brrrrr*.

On *September 15* I found myself still waiting for my morning glory strands to put out their flowers. Now, I’m a patient person, but by that date my patience was wearing thin. These morning glories were testing me.

My attempts at gardening were a disaster. Moles and voles have ruined my pumpkin crop, tomatoes have frustrated me. Plum tomato vines have produced a grand total of three green fruit, the single beef tomato has split its skin and been nibbled at by some creature; only the cherry tomatoes have cooperated, lucky for me.

Lucky also that Cousine Annabelle from across the Flat keeps us supplied with surplus basil, kale, beans, and those delicious red fruit that have frustrated me, and which I shall no longer name.

I do have the most vigorous morning glory vines I could wish for, yet they stubbornly refuse to bloom. They climb higher and higher up the trellis of the new porch, mingling with the trumpet vine and wisteria, sending finger-like tendrils into the sheltering cherry tree, whose early summer fruit now ripens and swells in mason jars of vodka.

My summer growing season will be saved, will be a triumph that will lift me into the coming cool season, if only these capricious blue ladies will come forth. Their sisters, the sunflowers, now nod in the 40-degree temperatures. They follow the waning sun each day, with radiant yellow petals emanating out from the hearts laden with the promise of seeds that the goldfinches will soon harvest.

You may or may not remember the morning of *September 19*. It all depends on the time you rose

up from a warm bed. I found myself sitting out in the cold already, steam rising from the morning cup of coffee, wool beret hovering over my head, scarf around my neck. Just beyond my chair a bright spray of goldenrod outshone the fading Joe Pye weed. A myrtle warbler with bleached-out colors skulked through the low bush. I knew this would happen. Once in a while it happens too soon at the beginning of autumn. Alas, we’ve been hit with an early frost.

I can forget my morning glories. I did try to save them last night by covering them with an old sheet salvaged from the closet. Maybe that will have saved some. But I was not expecting this final blow. Most of my spindly tomato plants are shrunk, green tomatoes still on the vine. All during the dry summer I faithfully watered them along with the pampered morning glory strands, but it wasn’t enough. Ever the optimist, I never anticipated an early mid-September frost.

Luckily the nighthawks are gone, ahead of this September surprise. The last hummingbird whirled through the yard a few days ago, finding no more bee balm blooms. She’s gone too, avoiding a night of torpor for herself, a survival technique induced by the fall in temperatures. So now it’s a waiting game: will the pale blue ladies have survived to bloom for me?

By *September 22*, we’ve had three nights of frost, and most of my morning glories have been shriveled by a coat of dew turned to ice around 3 a.m. Their faded and blackened leaves add a tinge of sadness to my month. But we’ll get over it.

Catbird in the pokeweed berries won’t let me linger in melancholy mourning over my pale ladies that weren’t meant to be. This bird is stuffing herself with the wild fruit that will help sustain her see **WEST ALONG** page B4



Last rose of summer: A “Marie-Rose” blooms in the author’s garden.



CHRISTOPHER CARMODY COLLAGE

“SABEL, OREO & PEANUT”

Guinea pigs are social creatures, and if we’re already paired up here at the shelter, we need to stay together. We are three 2-month-old females. Our average lifespan is 5 to 7 years.

We need a spacious habitat equipped with hiding and napping spots, things to climb on, safe wood to chew, and toys. Our diet should consist of grass hay at all times, with a small amount of timothy pellets. We don’t make our own vitamin C, so we must get it daily from our diet.

Snacks like red pepper, kale, mustard greens, dandelion greens, and other leafy greens will do the job nicely!

Animals at Dakin are available for adoption by appointment only, and only at Springfield currently. Call (413) 781-4000, email springfield@dakinhumane.org, or see www.dakinhumane.org for more information.



Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 12 THROUGH 16

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 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.

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.

WENDELL

Wendell senior activities have been canceled. The Wendell Senior Center is closed. The Senior Health Rides program is also suspended until advisories change. For more information, 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.

Big Y:	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 772-0435
Foster’s:	Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m.	(413) 773-1100
Food City:	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	(413) 625-2548
Stop and Shop:	Senior hours from 6 to 7:30 a.m.	(413) 774-6096

Homeschooling And the Pandemic

By **MISHEL IXCHEL**

TURNERS FALLS – How’s homeschooling going, you ask?

For me, it feels like playing hot potato with my co-parent. The music, of course, doesn’t stop, so on we go, passing the child-potato back and forth, all the while trying to anchor ourselves in these times of cholera. So homeschooling has been this, with a music and art class thrown into the mix.

Pre-pandemic, we were considering sending our child to the Center School in Greenfield. All these months later, with uncertainty still in the air along with a thin and frail-looking bank account, that’s no longer an option, though if money wasn’t an impediment, I’m fairly certain I might have continued to consider it.

The roughest part about parenting during pandemic over the spring and summer was experiencing the anxiety that comes with having to parent non-stop. Anyone out there who is a parent understands how taxing it is to always be “on,” and sometimes even throughout the night. How much it wears one down to have to say the same thing, on repeat, while doing all the chores and providing most of the entertainment. And this is without even considering one’s own selfcare or livelihood.

As the world opened up in recent months, so did the options for babysitters, which in theory should have been the end of my struggle. But it wasn’t, because as a business owner, I do not have steady income, and my business until recently was

closed for months. I couldn’t hire babysitters – I couldn’t afford to. I knew I needed to bring in support in the form of child care, so that I could continue to build my business, and therefore win our bread and butter. And anyone out there who owns their own business understands that it takes time between showing up for your work and actually getting paid.

Isn’t that a heck of a Catch-22?

Such has been the conundrum: a string of days with my child, during which time I can’t work, followed by a string of days without my child, during which I collapse of exhaustion, get back up, dust off my computer, and get the engine revved up again. Only to stop it altogether in what seems like moments later, when it’s my turn to catch the potato.

Sometimes I feel like this would be less chaotic if I were more like some of my Brattleboro mom friends, who make every meal from scratch, are crafty and always making something with their children, with what seems never-ending Mary-Poppins-patience as they teach their young ones everything from math to reading.

I’m so not like that.

And so I play to my strengths. Instead, I’m teaching him street smarts, how to navigate socially, communicate clearly, and trust his instincts and intuition in any situation. But that’s woven into our day-to-day, which requires everything I’ve got from sunrise to sunset.

So when it comes to traditional teaching, I’m trying to be creative and outsource as much of it as I



can. I find it amusing that this parenting ride has mainly been one of figuring things out along the way, and as we were getting our bearings, the pandemic began and then off to the drawing board we went once again.

While it would have been great to send him to a good school, not being able to do so makes me re-think about how I really feel about traditional schooling. Truth is, whether private or public school choices, I’ve always been somewhat repelled by the idea of sending my child down that road. I think about my own schooling, and if I could choose for myself, I would have followed my passions, found a master in that craft, and become their apprentice. In this way, I am certain I would have stayed focused and sharpened my strengths, on my way to master whatever that passion might have been.

What if I scrape together a well-rounded education for my child, tune in to his passions, and find people who are equally passionate and open to teaching him?

This idea of master and apprentice might be a trail of crumbs to follow, and perhaps in this way I might find the support that I so badly need in the times we’re living in.

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

MOVIE REVIEW

Alone (2020)

By **SEAMUS TURNER-GLENNON**

CHARLEMONT – The cat-and-mouse thriller isn’t exactly a new concept, nor is it one with much room for expansion or innovation in a way which doesn’t take the film out of the micro-genre altogether. The idea of “elevating” the genre to an even higher plane of quality has been single-handedly rendered irrelevant by David Fincher. What there is room for, though, is for new films to enter its canon, not for expanding the genre’s horizons or for innovative storytelling, but for displaying a deep, fundamental understanding of exactly what makes the cat-and-mouse thriller work.

Alone, the latest effort from cult-favorite director John Hyams, is one such film.

Hyams’ previous efforts for which he has gained the most recognition are his entries in the Universal Soldier franchise: *Regeneration* (2009) and *Day of Reckoning* (2012). These grandiose, high-budget action epics showed an acute aesthetic and visual sense as well as a passion for the truly decadent not rivaled in the world of action filmmaking since the late, great Tony Scott. While excellent, they were drastically different from *Alone*, an exercise in the mixture of Hollywood aesthetics with the naturalistic and the minimalist.

Alone follows the fairly straightforward plotline of a young woman who decides, after her husband’s passing, to move cross-country, seemingly to escape her traumatic memories of his death. Along the way an increasingly less-affable mustached man follows



her, harassing her more and more until he eventually runs her off the road and ties her up in the basement of a cabin in the woods, where he presumably plans to murder her.

She escapes, and we move into the main body of the film: the story of him chasing her throughout the woods, forcing her into more and more dire circumstances until things, as they tend to do, come to a head. It’s a tight plotline, one which wastes no time, yet manages to build a slowly-mounting feeling of dread so deftly crafted that the viewer is

white-knuckled and jaw-clenchingly tense before they even know what hit them.

And fittingly for a film as barebones and as lean in style as *Alone*, the elements seem to be as menacing an antagonist as our mustachioed serial killer. Our protagonist, Jessica, is pelted by rain, impaled by the roots of trees, beaten by the natural world to such a degree that Hyams almost makes us forget the looming and imminent threat of the killer (referred to in the credits only as “Man”). Mr. Man becomes almost as much a force of nature as the forest which surrounds her, and in turn, Jessica becomes closer and closer to the natural landscape.

And this is what Hyams understands about the genre, and utilizes to his full advantage: that the cat-and-mouse thriller works best as a recontextualization of humanity’s hunter-gatherer roots.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Bulky Waste Day Canceled

The Franklin County Solid Waste District’s fall “Clean Sweep” bulky waste recycling day, previously scheduled for October 17, has been canceled.

Residents can take most items that are collected at Clean Sweep to the Greenfield Transfer Station, which is open to non-residents for a \$5 fee per load, plus specific disposal fees per item. For hours and pricing, see: tinyurl.com/GreenfieldTS.

Residents are encouraged to recycle computer equipment and television at their own town’s transfer station, if an e-waste collection program is available there, or at Greenfield Transfer Station. Residents can go to the District’s website (www.franklincountywastedistrict.org) to find town-specific information on the 17 transfer stations in the District, which remain open for proper disposal of many items.

Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call your local store for details. Various charities and non-profits also accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

Additional questions about proper disposal of trash, bulky waste, recyclables, hazardous wastes, yard waste, or food waste can be directed to the Franklin County Solid Waste District at (413) 772-2438 – leave a message with your phone number and town of residence – or by email at info@franklincountywastedistrict.org.

MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.



The Ship of Tolerance



SHIPOFTOLERANCE.ORG IMAGE
The 2011 ship, in the United Arab Emirates.

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I found out about the Ship of Tolerance due to International Peace Day coming around on September 21. It kind of showed up on the internet because of that. It is like the AIDS quilt, only at the beginning, 300 youths’ paintings were on the sail. The official website, shipoftolerance.org, mentions that in the beginning, “hundreds of local schoolchildren from different ethnic and social backgrounds” contributed. Youth learn through this, and are shown a lesson in tolerance.

The whole concept is rather cool looking. If people wanted this to become widespread, then their wish was granted. “Interpretations” – at least that’s what the official website said – have previously been made in Siwa, Egypt; Venice, Capalbio, and Rome, Italy; San Moritz and Zug, Switzerland; Sharjah, UAE; Miami, New York City, and Chicago, USA; Havana, Cuba; and Moscow, Russia.

The first place to have the honor of doing this project was Siwa, Egypt. It’s been going strong for 15 years through an organization called the Ilya & Emilia Kabakov Foundation. The ship’s mission is to “educate and connect the youth of different continents, cultures, and identities through the language of art.”

I learned from a video on a YouTube channel called Fine Art Biblio that the project won the Cartier

Prize award for best art project in 2010. They have a special opening ceremony for each ship which includes a special concert.

The video let me get a look at some of the artworks the kids had done on one of the ships. One kid painted a picture of the Earth on one square. Another painted a square with religious symbols on it, which included a cross and the Star of David among them. One or two squares had hearts on them.

It’s rather fitting for such symbols to be on the squares on many of these ships. I would connect them to trying to spread a message of tolerance. Who wouldn’t connect these things to that?

In an article by Andrea Michelson in the Chicago Reader about when it was done in Chicago in 2019, one person mentioned in connection to the ship being there that the location was ideal due to Chicago being a “community-oriented” city. Apparently this meant the project had tons of support there. I also found out that in Chicago, one of the people behind the foundation that created the ship, namely Emilia Kabakov, for the first time used paintings from other cities that have participated.

I hope that this individual’s thoughts on where this ship was at the time, along with what I have learned about its history and my own thoughts, have presented a well-rounded view of this art project.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Dental Pain; Door Pounder; Bad Socks; No Huge Mess; Floating Firebombs; Bush Hider; Porn Noise Complaint

Monday, 9/28
10:17 a.m. Report of female party walking down middle of Route 2 approaching Factory Hollow; described as wearing turquoise tank top and no shoes. Greenfield PD and Shelburne Control advised; GPD out with party near town line.
3:36 p.m. 911 caller reporting disturbance on West Street. Units spoke with involved parties. Male stated he was yelling due to dental pain. Services refused at this time.
4:45 p.m. Report of large male party wearing blue basketball jersey, walking a medium light-colored dog, possibly attempting to steal mail out of mailboxes by the paper mill bridge on Canada Hill Road. Caller states party just crossed over into Turners. Unable to locate.
6:56 p.m. Report of four suspicious young kids sitting behind a dumpster near the Canal Street pedestrian bridge. While on the line, the kids took off towards the river; three males and one female. Area checked extensively; unable to locate.
7:56 p.m. 911 call reporting possible gunshots in North Leverett Road area; caller hears what she thought was a gunshot, then heard a vehicle at the end of her driveway, then heard a second gunshot before hearing the vehicle speed off. Shelburne Control states Leverett PD is in area and can assist if needed. Officer reports that caller has vehicle on video and can see something being either fired or thrown from the window; believes it to be some sort of state vehicle; requesting inquiry with Shelburne Control and Environmental Police. Called both agencies; both advised no knowledge of any units in that area. Officer believes sounds were fireworks being thrown from vehicle; checking wooded area for evidence.
Tuesday, 9/29
4:17 p.m. Report of disturbance being caused by a motor home parked on the corner of Eighth and T streets. Caller states too many people hang around the motor home, and it is loud when they work on it at night. Issue has been reported on at least two earlier occasions. Officer confirms motor home is registered; nobody with vehicle at this time.
6:16 p.m. Officer found door open by loading dock at Strathmore/Indeck. Units went as far inside building as they could. Nobody found inside. Door secured.
7:30 p.m. Caller from Lake Pleasant Road reporting male who is highly intoxicated and won’t stop

pounding on doors. Male has an active warrant. Units checked basement as well as perimeter and length of Lake Pleasant Road; unable to locate, and no leads with K9 search. Advised caller to call back if party returns.
8:24 p.m. Owners of Ja’Duke Center for Performing Arts requesting to speak with officer re: someone gaining access to their building today without permission. Officer advised. Report taken.
Wednesday, 9/30
3:25 a.m. Caller from Turnpike Road reports he just scared off two male parties who broke into his barn. Caller advises parties ran off to the west, heading into a wooded area. Caller called back advising he found one of his security sensors in the neighbor’s yard. Investigated.
5:02 a.m. First of five reports of trees, limbs, and wires down around town.
5:47 a.m. Report of blown transformer on Hillside Road. Second caller advises something red is glowing on her front lawn. TFFD and Eversource advised.
9:39 a.m. Report of vehicle stolen from a Lake Pleasant Road residence. Caller just saw vehicle tucked in by the railroad tracks; provided name of possibly involved party. Officer obtained plate upon arrival. Vehicle did not have any damage. Parties advised to call if/when subject returns; also advised how owner can press charges should he choose to do so.
12:58 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that as he was trying to repair a fence that blew over from the storm this morning, his neighbor was harassing him. Caller is about to leave the house to get supplies and will be repairing the fence later today. Officer spoke with caller and placed a call to the neighbor.
1:54 p.m. A 56-year-old

Lake Pleasant man was arrested on a straight warrant. Party asked that officers throw his socks away due to their condition. Socks disposed of.
5:40 p.m. Walk-in reporting that some people are working on an unregistered vehicle on Eighth Street and making a huge mess. Vehicle is being worked on, vehicle is registered, and there is no huge mess.
8:19 p.m. Caller states that his sister was driving and hit a propane grill that was lying in the road. Front end damage to car from hitting grill. Grill moved out of road; message left for DPW to pick up tomorrow.
Thursday, 10/1
6:52 p.m. Caller from K Street states that three large pumpkins and six small pumpkins were taken from her porch in the last two hours. Officers advised.
7:24 p.m. Caller states that some people are lighting “Chinese lanterns” down near the river off First Street, and they are a fire hazard. FD responding as well. Responsible parties advised that items are not legal.
Friday, 10/2
10:11 a.m. 911 caller reporting that her car was hit by a public transport bus at Third Street and Avenue A. No injuries. Citation issued.
11:41 a.m. DPW supervisor would like an officer to respond to look at some items found while cleaning the sewer. No items of concern.
4:19 p.m. Caller from L Street requesting extra police patrols between the hours of 7 and 10 p.m. due to a few homeless parties who have been sleeping on the property and breaking and entering. Area checked; nobody showing.
4:50 p.m. Walk-in party from Whitney Way requesting to speak with an officer re: a large bone he found in his driveway. Investigated.
8:41 p.m. Two reports of male party causing disturbance at North Village Smokehouse. Party leaving with girlfriend for night.
9:05 p.m. Report of what sounds like a woman screaming for help on Highland Street. While on line with caller, got another call stating that the male party from the North Village Smokehouse is back outside screaming. Units advised.
9:05 p.m. Units off with male party from previous two calls. Male party picked up by father.
11:01 p.m. Caller from East Taylor Hill Road states that a female is yelling and screaming down the street from her. Involved female party states she was having an animated conversation with a friend.
Saturday, 10/3
3:01 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road reports that a car just hit her house. Officer advises pole is snapped and wires down across the road. Eversource contacted and *en route*. Officer requesting K9 for a track. Second caller states that a female is hiding in his front yard; he can hear her on the phone stating “I am hiding in the bushes.” AMR on scene. One party located down the street. Water Department requested to look for water lines for Eversource to replace pole. Vehicle towed. A 22-year-old Greenfield man was arrested and charged with operating under the influence of liquor, second offense; leaving the scene of property damage; and a marked lines violation.
Sunday, 10/4
12:44 a.m. Second call reporting parties being loud behind a building on L Street. Officer spoke with parties, who agreed to quiet down for the night.
8:47 a.m. Caller from Federal Street reports that her mailbox and her neighbor’s mailbox were struck overnight. Report taken.

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 for editing assistance or filmmaking questions.

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or infomontaguetv@gmail.com between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. We’d love to work with you!

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HEARTFELT from page B1

whatever is available, as many different varieties are grown locally. I first slice and heavily salt my eggplant, leaving it to sit for half an hour while I prepare my other ingredients. This draws out the moisture so it will soak up the oil in cooking. I rinse and pat each slice dry with a paper towel.

The basic ingredients in a Parmesan are layers of eggplant, chicken, or veal; a tomato-based sauce; and cheese, lots and lots of cheese. Typically, it's a combination of mozzarella, Parmesan, and ricotta, but in my kitchen it's just as likely to be shredded string cheese and cottage cheese if that's what I have in the fridge. It



MANDESON PHOTOS

Shaving some Parmesan.

all melts, and it all gets gooey.

It is definitely a time-intensive dish, but the effort is well worth it. Each layer requires some preparation before assembling and baking. The eggplant, or protein, is dipped into beaten egg and pressed into breadcrumbs, and then fried in hot olive oil until tender. Or, for those who want to avoid frying, baked in the oven at 375° for about 30 minutes until tender.

My mother taught me to cook from scratch and I still feel like I'm cheating if I open a jar or a can, but feel free to use store-bought tomato sauce, as I sometimes do. The cheeses must be grated, shredded, and/or mixed, with some people beating an egg into the ricotta as a binder. Or you can squeeze the ricotta in cheesecloth to make it firmer, and omit the egg.

I'm likely to get halfway through a recipe before discovering I don't have all or enough of my ingredients. Being willing to substitute and experiment is always part of the fun of cooking. Of course, you'll have kitchen disasters and hopefully you'll learn from them, but you'll always have good stories to tell around the dinner table.

Trouble Mandeson is a West Coast transplant who lives with wifey and cat in Greenfield. She is a talker, writer, artist, and all-around mensch. Find her at trouble-mandesoncopyediting.com for your grant-writing and copy-editing needs.



EGGPLANT PARMESAN

Preparing the Eggplant:

- 1 large purple eggplant* or several small eggplants, washed and sliced 1/4" thick
- Kosher salt
- 1 or 2 eggs beaten with some water
- 1 cup breadcrumbs, add more as needed
- *or use boneless and skinless chicken or veal cutlets

Liberal cover sliced eggplant with salt and let sit for 30 minutes. Rinse, then pat dry each slice. Dip each slice (or cutlet, if using chicken or veal) into egg, press into a plate of breadcrumbs, covering all of it, and set aside.

Heat up vegetable oil and fry each slice on both sides until browned and tender. Check by inserting a toothpick or skewer which should pass through eggplant without effort. Set aside while you heat up your sauce and prepare your cheeses.

Sauce:

You'll want at least two cups of sauce, maybe more. I like mine very saucy. Use pre-made or make your own sauce, depending on your taste. It adds to the process to make it from scratch, but it is very satisfying to create a good sauce, no two are ever alike.

During summer I make up some basic tomato sauce for the freezer, and I freeze the tomato paste in ice cube trays and then store in bags to use as needed. Really, when have you ever used an entire can of tomato paste in any recipe? Exactly! So I make and freeze them in two tablespoon servings and they're perfect.

For this dish, I started with my basic sauce, a tomato paste cube, fresh chopped herbs from my garden (oregano, parsley, rosemary), garlic, onion, salt, and pepper.

Last time I made this I added sweet Italian sausage and ground beef to the sauce, and it was a rich, heavy dish that was satisfying in a big way.



Eggplant Parmesan, fresh out of the oven.

Cheese:

If using fresh mozzarella, slice in thin circles; if using store-bought, open a 2-cup package and have it at the ready.

Grate a cup of Parmesan cheese, or use store-bought.

Beat an egg into one half cup of ricotta cheese (or strain and skip the egg).

Assembly:

Have all of your ingredients ready to layer: your coated and cooked eggplant or cutlets, sauce, and cheeses. Put some sauce in the bottom of your baking dish.

Place a layer of eggplant or cutlets down, and rub a dab of ricotta cheese on top of each slice. Cover entirely with sauce and lay or sprinkle your mozzarella and parmesan cheeses on top.

Repeat for 2, 3, or 4 layers, depending on the size of the baking dish. End with a layer of mozzarella on top.

Bake uncovered in a 350° oven until hot and bubbling with orange grease, about 30 to 40 minutes. Serve with garlic bread and a green salad. This dish makes fantastic leftovers.

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was September 30 and October 7, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Bringing Broadband To Rural Leverett?

Tuesday's Leverett selectboard meeting began with a feisty dialogue between the board and broadband committee members Rob Brooks and Connie Peterson.

Following the rollout of the Massachusetts Broadband Initiative's proposal to build a 1,100-mile open access, publicly owned "middle mile" fiber-optic network to connect underserved communities in western and central MA, the selectboard has been poring over maps and dialing up MBI consultants to find out just what the millions in state and federal money will do for Leverett. Only a small sliver of the southern part of town has access to high-speed internet services.

"They don't know what they're doing," said board member Julie Shively. "They're putting trunk lines in the same places that already have high-speed service."

Town administrative assistant-Marjorie McGinnis said she was pressing for MBI to include the North Leverett fire station, which she referred to fondly as "that pile of bricks," as a "community institution," which by definition would trigger the routing of a loop of fiber to at least that section of North Leverett Road.

Chair Rich Brazeau said he wanted to know why MBI was

wasting time and money, reportedly \$50,000 a mile, to run fiber-optic cable along Route 202 in Shutesbury. "No one lives there!" he said.

Peter d'Errico suggested researching what it would take for the town to pursue hooking up every household through a municipal effort, paid for by the town itself.

Time Extended for New Pumpkin Festival

The Montague selectboard extended by an hour the time Michael Nelson would be permitted to block off Avenue A for the upcoming Franklin County Pumpkin Fest. The inaugural event, a year in the planning, will feature jack-o-lanterns from near and far, as well as a beer tent, food vendors, and live music.

The event will take place October 23 at Peskumskut Park from 3 to 9 p.m., but Nelson told the board he might need an extra hour to keep the main drag blocked off after it officially ends, in case thousands of pumpkin lovers take a while to disperse.

"How will you light all those jack-o-lanterns?" Pat Allen wanted to know.

Nelson said that once volunteers begin lighting the lanterns, the crowd would join in, and the rest of the pumpkins would start to glow as if by spontaneous combustion.



WEST ALONG from page B1

on the flight to the south. After a summer's worth of mewing and calling from the tangle of lilac and mock orange, flouncing from hedge to birdbath, pouncing on insects in the grass from her perch on the back of the Adirondack chair, it's time to close her season with us.

One of these mornings she'll be gone without even saying good bye.

By September 30, the warm weather has returned. That precocious early frost did its damage, but ironically, now the mild Indian Summer has appeared, as if nothing like a freeze ever happened.

And now this morning the sun is shining gold on our maple's leaves, bright glowing into the upstairs bedroom window. Is it possible that those leaves have actually changed overnight? I don't remember seeing that old gold tinged with red on the 90-foot maple. I do remember that a choice branch held the oriole's woven basket. Wasn't it just yesterday in early summer?

The shining goldenrod, at the end of its one-week star attraction for a myriad of bumble bees, honey bees, and swarms of pollinators, is already growing old, brown-tinged. Yet one of our roses, the Marie-Rose, challenges the coming cold as every year. She is our Last Rose of Summer.

We cannot mention the rose's name without fondly remembering our Breton grandmother's first cousin of the same name. Marie-Rose (the flower) blooms a second time each year, each mid-October. Marie-Rose (grandmother's cousin) lived 100 summers, then no more. She dwelled just up the country lane from our grandmother's house where she kept a small village café, even when she was 98. That was back in Brittany, in the

summers of our now fleeting years.

Almost stooped over double when bringing us our *bolée* of cider and a glass of grape juice for our son, she was charming and courteous as country people always were, or at least were those born two centuries ago back in the 1890s.

As an erstwhile historian, I was always fascinated to listen to the two nonagenarians talk about the times they had lived through during the turbulent histories of Brittany and France. Both elderly ladies were born during the Third Republic, and survived the Nazi Occupation, *la Résistance*, the Fourth Republic, the Fifth Republic of Charles De Gaulle, and the Socialist reign of Mitterand.

All through the political turmoil of their years, they raised their children, saw their husbands go off to WWI, their sons to WWII and German work camps. The terror of the Nazi Occupation of their village, the march through Brittany of General Patton. All through those years Marie Rose kept her country kitchen café up the lane.

At 100 years of age, she chose to go quietly to sleep one night and not wake up. When we returned to our Breton home the following summer, her aged nephew told us in the simple poetry of speech common among the peasant folk of the last century: "*Un soir, elle s'est éteinte, comme une fleur.*" ("One evening, she faded away, like a flower.")

We still have her namesake, our Marie Rose, who comes back to us every October, blooming just there at the edge of the porch – just beyond the sleeping snowdog who is clearly enjoying the crisp air and the sunshine warm on his deepening new winter coat.

Visit David's journal at riverstoriesdavidbrule.com.



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BOOK REVIEW from page B1

here and gone – hard-working farmers, peacemakers, and artists of all kinds – this book should be a must-read. It is a slim volume, but it is packed with heartfelt true stories, and yes, they are pretty extraordinary!

I met with Richie two weeks ago under a red oak in my yard. We discussed his book and more, while acorns rained down on us. We survived the assault and Richie shared his thoughts with me.

Richie worked at the *Recorder* from 1976 until 2018. During that time he interviewed many Valley residents and about various topics. The two forwards and Richie’s introduction at the beginning of the book tell readers why Richie wrote the stories with so much feeling, and how he wants to share the stories again.

He said that while looking for a writing job in the Northeast, he felt drawn to western Massachusetts and the Valley. He said “I sought out something like this area – it resonated with me, and I couldn’t imagine a place like this.” Its uniqueness and creativity still amazed him.

I asked how he chose the people for the initial interviews way back when. Richie said in the beginning he was assigned the subjects, but as he gained experience and familiarity with Franklin County and the Valley, most were “people I chose.”

After retiring, Richie thought about a book of select-ed stories, and *Inner Landscapes* is the result. I asked how he decided which stories to include in the book. He said “that was the hardest part.” “I chose from people whose profiles spoke to me,” he said, while trying to keep the book as local as possible.

Richie talked about Wally and Juanita Nelson, interviewed in 1980, commenting on how their ideals were so valued and rooted in the way they lived their lives. He also mentioned Rob Ripley, an old-time Yankee farmer in Montague who mentored a 16-year-old black youth who was part of a group of city kids film-ing a documentary on his farm.

Talking to Richie, it seemed everyone he spoke with was memorable in their own way. I asked if he ever felt skeptical or judgmental when listening to people. He said that as a journalist, “I always went into an inter-view questioning,” and that is how he approaches ev-erything and asks real questions. Asked if he felt that when people told their stories or saw them in print they got some insight about themselves, he revealed that

some said “I never thought of myself that way,” and that that was gratifying for him to hear.

I asked Richie if there were stories or people he could have revisited, and he seemed to think revisiting all of them would be great.

Any people he wished he had interviewed and never got the chance, I asked? He mentioned Michael Metelica of the ‘60s Brotherhood of the Spirit community, later called the Renaissance Community. *Inner Landscapes* does have an interview with Elwood Babbitt, the Community’s resident psychic medium.

He also said he wished he could have completed an interview with the late Loril MoonDream, director of Medicine Mammals, the Wendell wildlife rehabilita-tion organization.

And “the interview that got away” would have been with Michael and Rebecca Muir-Harmony, the founders of the Full Circle School in Bernardston. Richie said “they were wonderful teachers,” and he was “so impressed with their creativity and dedica-tion to an innovative education model,” but they were too shy to be interviewed. Richie finished the topic by saying there were so many interesting people he would have liked to talk to, and that “there is really a story behind every tree.”

I was interested to find out if he saw any traits that the people of *Inner Landscapes* had in common. He felt that all of them had “so much conviction that guides them” and that they push themselves to the ex-treme in doing what they do and they live those values and convictions. And he also credits good old “Yankee independence.”

Richie feels strongly that creativity and commu-nity ties in Franklin County and the Valley are very unique and that we are lucky to live here, especially during the COVID pandemic. He expressed the hope that reading about people committed to something, be it hard work, an ideal, creativity, or being a peacemak-er, would give readers examples of how a life can be lived. He also said that “I was lucky my job let me do what I did for over 40 years.”

Yes, Richie will be working on another book such as a novel or maybe another collection of interviews. We can look forward to that, and yes, there is a story behind every tree. I think it is safe to say that Richie’s tale is that of an extraordinary life and his work has informed and entertained us while helping to shape the community he treasures.



MR Wrapping Paper Edition

Artist Profiles: #5

By REPORTER STAFF

Back in August, we invited people to submit design proposals for a special Wrapping Paper Issue to be printed in November. This fund-raiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full-color designs printed on double pages of news-print, meant to wrap presents in. Seven of these pages will feature the work of local artists chosen from the proposals we received, with an in-house, MR-themed cover design as the outer page.

The seven winners are Lahri Bond (Lake Pleasant); Hannah Brookman (Turners Falls); Emma Kohlmann (Northampton); Cecely Ogren (Turners Falls); Peter O. Zier-

lein (Northampton); Steve Schmidt (Amherst); and Jeanne Weintraub (Montague Center). The themes they proposed range from Christmas Chard to Holiday Botanicals to Grandma Moses does Turners Falls.

This special issue will go to press on Thanksgiving week.

We have asked each artist the same three questions, and are running their answers separately each week. **Peter O. Zierlein** proposed pattern designs for his wrapping paper. He answers our three questions this time:

MR: *What would you want your wrapping paper to say and feel like for the person it is being gifted to?*

PZ: I want my wrapping paper design to speak of my impeccable style and overall good taste as I’m presenting a gift.

MR: *What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?*

PZ: I would want big gifts and little gifts, heavy or light gifts, expensive or homemade gifts – as long as they’re wrapped in this pretty paper...

MR: *What other gifts have newspapers given you over the years?*

PZ: Newspapers have given me the gift of contributing to the public discourse as an artist. I worked as an editorial illustrator for the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and other national and international newspapers until many of them folded (pun intended)...



MONTAGUE LIBRARY NEWS

The Libraries Go Outside

MONTAGUE – Looking for fun fall activities?

Connecting children to books is more important than ever, with the COVID-19 pandemic and virtual learning in local schools. Although the Montague Public Libraries offer curbside pick-up and the Carnegie Library is now also open two days a week, by appointment (Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) it will be some time before in-person programs are possible.

Until then, youth services librarian Angela Rovatti-Leonard is finding creative alternatives to encourage children and families to read.

StoryWalk

Families are invited to bring their children to read outside at the Fall Story-Walk®, a page-by-page reading and walking activity. In early October, have fun looking for brightly colored leaves as you read *We’re Going On a Leaf Hunt* by Steve Metzger.

“The outdoor atmosphere allows families to stay a safe distance from each other while enjoying fresh air and an interactive story, as they read aloud about three friends enjoying a leaf-finding adventure through the woods,” says Rovatti-Leonard.

Each page is numbered



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Montague Center and Carnegie libraries have set up harvest-themed photo booths outside. The Millers Falls branch has a window display backdrop instead.

and positioned outside at least 6 feet apart. The library plans to keep the StoryWalk active, changing the book two more times, through at least November. StoryWalk® was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, Vermont and was developed with the help of Rachel Senechal at Kellogg-Hubbard Library.

Photo Booths

Thanks to the Friends of the Montague Public Libraries, there are also three Fall Photo Booths! The Carnegie and Montague Center libraries have outdoor photo booths, while the Millers Falls library branch has a window display as backdrop.

Fall is Rovatti-Leonard’s favorite season. She shares that “it was really fun to think of all the families who might visit the Photo Booths as I put them together. We miss our patrons of all ages and are looking for more ways to connect with them.”

Rovatti-Leonard invites patrons to have a seat and take a selfie or a group photo. Mid-October she will add Halloween decorations and invite patrons to dress up in costumes to take and share more fun photos. She encourages people to post photos on the Montague Public Libraries Facebook page, or email them to arovatti-leonard@cwmars.org.

FirstLight Volunteers Pitch In for 24th Annual “Source to Sea” Cleanup

By CARTER WALL

FRANKLIN COUNTY—Seven tires, three mattresses, 500 pounds of scrap metal, a couch, and 24 trash bags’ worth of bottles and cans.

Those were just some of the thousands of items of trash collected by 50 volunteers organized by FirstLight Power along the Franklin County stretch of the Connecticut River for the 24th annual “Source to the Sea Cleanup” held on September 26.

In all, FirstLight’s Gill-Montague team collected enough trash to fill a 22-foot-long, 20-cubic yard dumpster. The group of 16 young people and 34 adults visited and cleaned up a dozen sites in six towns and villages: Erving, Greenfield, Millers Falls, Montague, Northfield, and Turners Falls.

Beth Bazler, FirstLight’s senior land and compliance specialist and team leader, said, “Some members of our crew have spent decades collecting dirty diapers, muddy mattresses, and literally thousands of ‘nip’ bottles, and return every year because of the great feeling of making a positive difference.”

“With our social sched-

CARTER WALL PHOTO

Susan Sharbaugh and her granddaughter Gracie have been teaming up for the Source to Sea Cleanup for many years.

ules reduced this year by COVID-19,” Beth added, “the reuniting of outdoor-loving kindred spirits – with proper masking, precautions, and social distancing – was even sweeter in 2020.”

The Source to the Sea cleanup, organized by the Connecticut River Conservancy, every year engages thousands of volunteers who collect trash along 174 miles of the Connecticut River’s banks, from the Canadian border to Long Island Sound.

Many thanks to the Town of Montague for providing safe disposal of the trash, and FirstLight would like to

offer special thanks to USA Hauling and Recycling, which provided dumpsters, and the Wagon Wheel, for feeding our volunteers with delicious sandwiches.

One piece of advice from Beth that we love to share: If you couldn’t make it for the Source to the Sea cleanup, the next time you go out for a walk along the river, bring along a trash bag. We can all do our part to preserve and protect our beloved river and the land along its banks.

Carter Wall is the manager of government affairs and community relations at FirstLight Power.

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Esta es la página en español del periódico **The Montague Reporter**. Aquí podrán encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias en español. Si quiere colaborar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a: spanish@montaguereporter.org. Esperamos su participación.



Center for New Americans: 18 años trabajando por los inmigrantes y refugiados

Por **VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA**

GREENFIELD – La organización sin ánimo de lucro, Center for New Americans se fundó en 1992. La idea surgió entre algunos profesores del departamento de ESOL de Greenfield Community College, pero la primera sede fue Amherst. Empezó como parte del componente de inglés en el Proyecto de Reasentamiento tibetano.

A partir de ese momento se dieron cuenta de la efectividad del programa y lo importante que sería para otros grupos de refugiados e inmigrantes que no fueran procedentes del Tibet la posibilidad de aprender inglés. Actualmente ofrecen servicios a todas las personas que viven en los condados de Hampden, Hampshire y Franklin en sus tres sedes de Amherst, Greenfield y Northampton.

CNA está financiado y posee la licencia del Departamento de Educación Elemental y Secundaria del Estado de Massachusetts (conocido como DESE). Alrededor del 60% de sus fondos provienen de ese Departamento y se sienten afortunados de no haber visto dichos fondos recortados durante los tiempos de pandemia. Así mismo, obtienen fondos de los programas de subvenciones en bloque para el desarrollo comunitario en Northampton y Amherst y también de la Bete Family Foundation en Greenfield, sin olvidar a miles de donantes individuales y algunas empresas locales. CNA realiza eventos cada año para recaudar fondos, como **30 poemas en noviembre** y **Voces In-**



Tres estudiantes en clase de Tamara Kaplan.

migrantes en la primavera.

Center for New Americans ofrece tres tipos de servicios: Ayuda legal a inmigrantes, ayuda para conseguir la naturalización y clases de inglés.

Dentro de la ayuda legal a inmigrantes, entre otros servicios CNA ofrece apoyo, entre otros, con la renovación de la tarjeta verde, reagrupación familiar, cambio de estatus no-migratorio a inmigrante, y cambio de dirección en USCIS.

CNA ofrece todo tipo de ayudas para la naturalización de residentes poseedores de la tarjeta de residencia simplemente pagando un pequeño cargo como pago de tramitaciones burocráticas y copias. CNA proporciona un tutor, y da clases para pasar la entrevista que forma parte del proceso de adquisición de la ciudadanía estadounidense además de ayudar con todo el papeleo.

Otro servicio es informar acerca de cómo escribir un CV, y solici-

tudes para encontrar trabajo.

La organización ofrece también clases de inglés totalmente gratis en dos modalidades: de lunes a jueves clases de dos horas o en el caso de que esto no se adecue a su horario, una vez por semana una única clase de dos horas con el profesor y tareas para realizar durante la semana.

Debido a las medidas adoptadas por la epidemia de COVID-19 las clases se enseñan a través de Zoom. CNA proporciona iPads y hotspots para poder acceder a las clases y un departamento de tecnología con apoyo para los estudiantes. Las clases son totalmente gratuitas, y la única condición es ser inmigrante mayor de dieciocho años. Si usted quiere conocer más acerca de cómo matricularse en estas clases de inglés puede comunicarse con Biani Salas en el (786) 450-9621.

CNA ofrece también clases de auxiliar de enfermería (NA) para los estudiantes que se hayan graduado de sus clases de inglés o estén estudiando actualmente y tengan interés en proseguir una carrera en el campo de la salud. Estas clases son impartidas en colaboración con Smith College durante el semestre de primavera.

Si quiere participar en el evento **30 poemas en noviembre** en el que se escribe un poema cada día del mes, y crear una página donde sus amigos puedan contribuir para conseguir fondos para CNA. Hay más información en www.cnam.org donde está toda la información bajo “30 Poems in November.”

OPINIÓN

El traje nuevo del emperador

Por **VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA**

TURNERS FALLS – Hans Christian Andersen escribió la famosa fábula *El traje nuevo del emperador*, que cuenta la historia de un líder con un gran ego que gastaba muchísimo dinero en su aspecto físico, especialmente en carísimas telas para hacer sus trajes. Un día unos pícaros haciéndose pasar por famosos sastres le dijeron que habían encontrado la tela más bonita, suave, y maravillosa del mundo con la que le confeccionarían un traje. Susurrando le dijeron que dicha preciosa tela tenía un secreto: ningún idiota podría verla y apreciarla ya que era invisible para los estúpidos y los que no estuvieran capacitados para su profesión o cargo.

Cuando los pícaros le comunicaron que su traje estaba lista, el emperador, hizo que primero fueran a ver su traje nuevo sus dos hombres de máxima confianza que, conociendo el secreto de la tela, no pararon de alabarla por toda la ciudad. Después los dos pícaros falsos sastres hicieron como que ponían su traje al emperador que, temeroso de hacer ver a los otros su propia incapacidad salió a la calle completamente desnudo. Y así se paseó por las calles de la capital de su país, tal y como había llegado a este mundo, mientras todos los habitantes temerosos de reconocer su propia estupidez, cantaban y alababan la belleza de la tela del traje del emperador.

Hasta que de repente un niño desde su inocencia gritó: “¡El emperador va desnudo!”

Ustedes se estarán preguntando la razón de traer a estas páginas esta famosa fábula. Y la respuesta es que veo muchas coincidencias entre el cuento de Andersen y la situación de las bases políticas, congresistas, senadores republicanos que apoyan a Trump.

Sus votantes tienen una fe ciega en sus palabras, y creen a pie juntillas todo lo que dice o *tweetea*, aunque haya analistas que refuten con pruebas fidedignas las palabras del presidente.

En los últimos meses uno de los temas de debate en este país completamente polarizado ha sido la crisis del COVID-19. Sus

bases creyeron ciegamente lo que su líder contaba acerca de que el virus no nos afectaría porque el virus era chino, hasta que llegó a Estados Unidos. Creyeron que la enfermedad podría ser atajada con un coctel bebibible de lejía. Y algunos lo llevaron a cabo pese a los consejos de los doctores y casi mueren por ello. También creyeron que sería como un leve catarro, algo que él mismo presidente negó en unas declaraciones grabadas en las que calificó al virus como mortal.

Dijo que no era necesario usar mascarillas y entonces, el presidente se contagió y con ello otras 50 personas de su entorno.

Así mismo, Trump se presentó como un exitoso empresario y recientemente la publicación por el *New York Times* del pago de sus impuestos ha revelado que sus negocios arrojan pérdidas millonarias. Sus seguidores simplemente dicen que son noticias falsas creadas por sus rivales políticos y siguen demostrando y siguiendo con vendas en los ojos las opiniones de su líder.

Aprovechándose de la credibilidad que despierta entre su base, la ha usado para esparcir rumores falsos sobre sus rivales, como que Biden estuvo drogado en uno de los debates.

Y no podía dejar de mencionar en estas líneas las teorías falsas de QAnon que dicen que el mundo está gobernado por una secta de pedófilos y adoradores de Satán, que son propietarios de una red de tráfico de menores con fines sexuales e implican directamente en esta trama a sus rivales demócratas, añadiendo que Trump va a ser el único capaz de llevar a estos criminales ante la justicia.

Al igual que los ciudadanos en la fábula del traje del emperador sus bases no tienen problemas en creerlo, y tampoco los miembros de su equipo, senadores y congresistas dudan en seguir sus directrices sin atreverse a negarlo, quizás porque como en el cuento del emperador, sería confirmar que no están capacitados para sus cargos.

Queda menos de un mes para las próximas elecciones presidenciales. Por favor, comprueben los hechos y lo más importante: ¡Vayan a votar!

• **Food Bank de Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. La próxima distribución de comida será el miércoles 21 de octubre de 1:30 a 2:30 p.m.

TABLÓN DE ANUNCIOS

Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas, así como mascarillas.

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T-RUMP

by denis f. bordeaux

SIR, YOU PROBABLY LOST THE MILITARY VOTE WHEN THEY HEARD YOU CALLED THEM LOSERS SUCKERS AND DOPES.

YEAH, STRAIGHT UP IT SOUNDS BAD, BUT LET ME EXPLAIN WHAT I REALLY MEANT....

LIKE WHEN I CALLED THEM LOSERS I ONLY MEANT VIETNAM VETS, CUZ, YOU KNOW, THEY LOST.

AND WHEN I CALLED THEM SUCKERS, I WAS TALKING ABOUT IRAQI WAR VETS WHO WERE FIGHTING THE WRONG ENEMY. SHEEZ!!

AND THEN THERE'S THE DOPES WHOSE PERSONAL DOCTOR COULDN'T FIND THEM SOME BONE SPURS. I THINK MINE CAME FROM A COW, OR A CHICKEN MAYBE...

Cool Cats on the Ave

Sygeth

Apollo are we getting old?

Why do you ask Luna?

I heard the humans trying to figure out our "cat years".

Hmmm A human year is = 7 cat years.

I think that is "dog years".

I don't know but I think "cat naps" are better.

Where you enjoy every minute?

THREE DEGREES OF WARMING

By JANICE ROWAN

So you switched pesticides?

Right. But the guy said these run off too!

LILLY MOSS COMIC

ALL AROUND TOWN 100,000 CRICKETS ARE ANNOUNCING THE FALLING OF THE LEAVES.

STAY GROUNDED IN THE MUSIC OF THE CRICKETS

OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark

Such hypocrites. They'll try to rush a vote through, won't they, Harry?

Yup.

I thought Justices were supposed to be apolitical.

Good luck with that.

Somewhere in Heaven, RBG must be having a good laugh, Thelma.

No, Harry. More like a good cry.

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THE AUTHORS' CORNER: ENOLA HOLMES

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

TURNERS FALLS – Happy October! This month, I watched the *Enola Holmes* movie on Netflix, and read the first book in the *Enola Holmes* mystery series by Nancy Springer, *Enola Holmes: The Case of the Missing Marquess*. In today's article I'm going to be reviewing both the first book of the series and the Netflix movie. Enjoy!

The *Enola Holmes* movie starred Millie Bobby Brown as Enola Holmes. This movie was so, so amazing! All the actors played their parts perfectly, and the movie reminded me a lot of some of the mystery books I read, which I loved!

The plot of the movie is about a girl named Enola, whose mother (Helena Bonham Carter) has just gone missing. Enola calls her older brothers, Sherlock and Mycroft Holmes, to help her find her mom. (Sherlock Holmes is played by Henry Cavill, and Mycroft by Sam Claflin.) On her journey, Enola meets Tewkesbury (Louis Partridge), a marquess who has run away from home. Together, Enola and Tewksbury work to find Enola's mother, and hide from their futures.

I loved that this movie was set in London, because it's so beautiful there, and the whole cast had such pretty costumes. Netflix did a perfect job with this movie, and the whole cast, set, and plot were so well produced! I also really liked that in some scenes, Enola would talk to the audience about something she discovered, or what she was doing, which was really fun, because it felt like we were kind of in the movie.

Before I review the first *Enola Holmes* novel, I wanted to talk about a specific scene in the movie. I don't want to give too much of the storyline away, but when the famous Sherlock Holmes is looking for his missing mother, he meets Edith (played by Susie Wokoma), who is a jiu jitsu teacher in London. When they are talking about his mother's disappearance, Sherlock brings up the fact that he isn't interested in politics. Edith counters with, "Because you have no interest in changing a world that already suits you. You don't know what it is to be without power."

I absolutely *love* this quote, because it applies so much to our world today. People who are being benefited by a politician's decisions aren't particularly interested in changing other people's views for the better.

The movie and *The Case of the Missing Marquess* share roughly the same plot, but the scenes were very different. I enjoyed them both equally, though! The overall plot of the book is the same: Enola's mother goes missing, and she sets off to London to find her, with help from Tewksbury – Tewky, as she calls him!



Our correspondent with the first book of Nancy Springer's mystery series, which has been adapted for Netflix.

She meets Tewksbury later in the book than she does in the movie, and under different circumstances, and the ending is slightly different.

Since the book and movie are different from each other, I would suggest watching the movie first, so you can visualize the characters better and to see if you would enjoy reading the book! That's what I did, and it didn't reveal too much of the book.

I think readers of the *Truly Devious* novels by Maureen Johnson (which I reviewed in another column) or the *Wells & Wong* mystery series by Robin Stevens (I reviewed these, and interviewed Ms. Stevens in another article) would really enjoy these books. There are also many other *Enola Holmes* books in this series, if you like the first one.

Thank you so much for reading my review of the *Enola Holmes* movie and novel. I reached out to the author, Nancy Springer, and also many of the actors in the movie, but none of them responded so far. It's okay – they are probably having a lot of publicity due to the movie! If any of them write back, I'll be sure to review the second *Enola Holmes* novel, with an interview included.

I also want to remind my readers that the fourth *Dragonwatch* book is coming out this month! (In previous columns I've interviewed the author, Brandon Mull, and reviewed his *Fablehaven* and *Dragonwatch* series.)

I hope everyone is continuing to practice social distancing, and is having an amazing start of Fall!

400 Years: Truth and Healing For the Next Seven Generations

FRANKLIN COUNTY – From time beyond memory Native People were living sustainably on these lands. Beginning in 1620 European colonial powers and settlers overran Native homelands, changed the names of many places, deforested the lands, polluted the waters, and sought to extinguish the languages, cultures, practices, and the very identity of these First Peoples. No full amends can ever be fully made for this.

Many community and faith groups are taking the opportunity of this important anniversary to partner with Indigenous leaders in a common project. The goal is to learn from our Native neighbors in the region, build connections in a spirit of mutual respect, and act in support of Native-led projects and concerns.

A live online gathering will be broadcast on YouTube and Facebook on Sunday, October 18 at 2 p.m. – to listen to Native voices, build connections, and act together in support of issues like the bill to remove demeaning imagery from our state flag and seal. This program will feature Indigenous speakers, musicians, and interfaith prayers. It will be broadcast live on YouTube and Facebook.

Although the pandemic prevents us from gathering in person, we are planning for some of our program to be broadcast from Unity Park in Turners Falls. Unity Park is near the site of the Great Falls Massacre on May 19, 1676. Our gathering builds on the historic Reconciliation Ceremony held on this site on May 19, 2004.

Indigenous speakers and singers on October 18 will include: John "Jim" Peters, Jr., Mashpee Wampanoag, Massachusetts Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Rhonda Anderson, Inupiaq-Athabaskan, Western Mass. Commissioner of Indian Affairs; Larry Spotted Crow Mann, Nipmuc author, cultural educator and singer; Bryan Blanchette, Nulhegan Abena-

ki singer and musician; David Brule, Nehantic, president of Nolumbeka Project; Stephanie Morningstar, Oneida, executive director of NE-FOC Land Trust; and Doug Harris, preservationist for Indigenous Ceremonial Landscapes.

Interfaith allies participating in the program include: Sr. Clare Carter, New England Peace Pagoda; Dr. Mohammed Saleem Bajwa, Islamic Society of Western Mass.; Rev. Kelly Gallagher, United Church of Christ Justice & Witness Ministries; John Sheldon, musician and activist; and others.

This project is being planned by two interfaith associations, in close collaboration with key area Indigenous leaders and the Nolumbeka Project, a Greenfield-based nonprofit devoted to education, cultural preservation, and reconciliation with Native Peoples of the Northeast. Many other community and faith groups in the valley are partnering in this project to recognize the past, be responsible in the present, and create hope for a future of Truth and Healing.

For tickets, information, and more, see riseupandsing.org/400years.

As another act of repair and restorative justice for the taking of Native lands and cultures, we are raising funds for four projects devoted to Indigenous cultural preservation and land restoration: the Native Land Conservancy, Ohketeau Cultural Center, Nipmuc Cultural Preservation, Inc., and the Northeast Farmers of Color Land Trust.

Checks can be made out to: Interfaith Council of Franklin County ("ICFC") and mailed to PO Box 1171, Greenfield, 01302. (Note that the donation is for the "400 Years Project.") Donations can also be made via credit card at the above website. 100% of funds collected in either way go to the Native projects listed above.

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