

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 7

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

DECEMBER 17, 2020

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Enters the Red Zone

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague has entered the COVID “red zone,” a designation of the state Department of Public Health, town officials announced at Monday’s selectboard meeting. Exactly what the red zone means – and what the criteria are for getting that color – was not entirely made clear, but the general consensus at the meeting was that the red zone is bad news.

After virtually no change in the number of total local cases for most of the spring and summer – the number hovered at around 30 cases since April – the number of positive COVID tests shot up in October and November. Montague public health director Daniel Wasiuk presented a chart which showed 75 positives between October 1 and December 10, with 34 in the previous two weeks.

Ariel Elan asked Wasiuk to explain the abrupt spike in cases. Wasiuk

hypothesized that the problem was not caused by “a few bad apples not wearing masks,” but by “households getting together” during the Thanksgiving holiday. “Most of these smaller outbreaks of clusters have been attributed to households... where all the family members have been infected,” he said.

Wasiuk added that with more holidays approaching, “that trend may go back up.”

Town administrator Steve Ellis showed a chart he had compiled from state data on the towns in Franklin County, which included the number of cases controlled for population and the percentage of positive tests. These are the metrics that have been used to create the state color-coding scheme. Montague was the only town in red despite the fact that a number of other towns appeared to have more positive tests as

see MONTAGUE page A7

Hydro Company Proposes Fish Elevator at Turners Falls



Completed in 1980, the main fish ladder at the Turners Falls dam may be obsolete.

By SARAH ROBERTSON

TURNERS FALLS – As part of its operating license application submitted earlier this month, FirstLight Power is proposing major changes to the way fish navigate around the two hydropower generation stations in town. To improve upstream fish passage, particularly for American shad, the company is proposing to discontinue a fish ladder at Cabot Station, use ultrasonic sound waves to keep fish from entering the power

canal, and build a new \$46 million fish lift at the Turners Falls dam.

“We know the population has been terribly impacted over the century due to loss of access to historical habitat,” said Kenneth Sprinkle, a biologist and project leader with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. “If a fish lift at the dam can achieve our engagement performance targets to our satisfaction, that would be wonderful.”

FirstLight’s application has been
see ELEVATOR page A8

DISPATCH

The Moody Blues in Northfield

By CHIP AINSWORTH

NORTHFIELD – Years ago I was having breakfast with Richie Cook at a greasy spoon called Sully’s in Hadley. Richie and his family are fifth generation farmers who breed Holsteins and operate an ice cream stand behind the malls. Outside the traffic on Route 9 was gridlocked. “Richie,” I asked, “When did this town go to hell?”

“When the selectmen forgot how to spell asparagus,” he said.

I was living on Bay Road, a shortcut between Belchertown and Northampton, and commuters drive over the narrow two-lane road like they’re at Watkins Glen. One afternoon while I was snoozing a police car whizzed past and the cop turned on his siren when he passed my house.

That’s when I decided it was time to move to small-town Northfield, a place without a gas station, bars or fast food, just Mim’s Market and the IGA. There’s not a lot to do here, and residents like it that way.

Chris Kalinowski comes around to plow me out after a storm, Steve Severance mows my neighbor’s lawn better than a Fenway Park groundskeeper, and his brother Milt’s golden amber maple syrup is the best in town. Local honey, fresh sweet corn, local apples, pumpkins: you name it, we’ve got it.

Whenever a property owner goes rogue and invites carpetbaggers into town, the neighbors get together and teach them not to mess with us. When a Dunkin Donuts tried to build here a few years ago, opposing
see MOODY page A5

Police Search Leverett Woods For Missing Man Ahead of Storm

By REPORTER STAFF

At 7 p.m. Wednesday night, Leverett police announced that the search for Richard Drury of Dudleyville Road, last seen the previous Friday or Saturday, had been indefinitely suspended due to an oncoming snowstorm.

Earlier in the afternoon, the department reported that a number of regional and state agencies had joined in the search, which included “K-9s, ATVs, drone, helicopter, and searchers on foot,” and asked the general public to avoid the area.

Drury lives near the Leverett-Shutesbury town line in a house he built in 1988, and managed the Leverett transfer station for 15 years. He was last seen in his driveway, according to police. News of his disappearance was met with an outpouring of concern over social media and the town listerv.

He is described as a “5’5” white male, with thinning white hair and a white mustache and beard,” possibly wearing blue jeans and a brown jacket, according to the department. Police encourage anyone with information as to his whereabouts to contact Shelburne Control Dispatch at (413) 625-8200.

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Will Post For Police Chief Job in January

By KATIE NOLAN

On Monday night, in a four-hour remote meeting, the Erving selectboard advanced the search for a new police chief, discussed the purchase of sludge dryers for the Erving Center wastewater plant, reviewed FY’22 budget requests from a number of departments, heard an update on the Erving sidewalk and road project, and critiqued designs for the town’s letterhead and business cards.

Consultant Mary Aicardi told the selectboard that the police chief search would start with developing a profile of what the town wants in a chief. Aicardi, who works for the UMass Boston Collins Center for Public Management, will meet with selectboard and fin com members, police officers, department heads, and fire chief Philip Wonkka and develop a draft profile by the board’s January 4 meeting.

Once the profile is finalized, the position will be advertised, with applications due January 19 or 25. Aicardi said the board could be interviewing candidates by February 15.

Sludge Dryer Financing

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith reported that town administrator Bryan Smith and the town’s legal

see ERVING page A4

Food Programs Ramp Up, Prepare for a Tough Winter



Cheo Ramos, a food distribution supervisor at the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, and volunteer Peter Albright help unload a vanful of food at the monthly Mobile Food Bank at the Gill-Montague senior center on Wednesday.

By ISABEL KOYAMA

FRANKLIN COUNTY – As the pandemic marches on and winter closes in, more people are taking advantage of free food services than any time in recent memory. Food banks, community groups, and local nonprofits alike are reporting a rise in the number of people accessing their food.

Twenty thousand new patrons and counting have sought food this year from the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, reports Lillian Baulding, the Bank’s communications and engagement officer.

“We really have seen probably about an 18% increase in the

amount of new clients that have been coming to our pantries, and just in general,” Baulding told the Reporter Wednesday.

The increased demand has been met with an uptick in funding from the Emergency Food Assistance Program, as well as food and monetary donations from members of the public, said Baulding.

“We get a lot of donations – we can always use more,” said food distribution supervisor Cheo Ramos as he unloaded a vanful of produce outside the Gill-Montague senior center Wednesday afternoon, setting up one of the organization’s 27 monthly Mobile Food Banks.

see FOOD page A3

New Brewery Opens In Iconic Third Street Garage

By JEFF SINGLETON

TURNERS FALLS – This might not seem to be the optimal time for opening a brew pub, but Steve Valeski, co-owner of Pioneer Valley Brewery on Third Street in Turners Falls, told the Reporter that business has been “great” since it opened on December 2.

Pioneer Valley is located at the bottom of the Third Street hill – the top half of the street is actually called Unity Street – heading into downtown Turners Falls. Once the home of an iconic garage, Cassidy’s and later Chick’s Garage, the building has more recently housed the studio of sculptor Tim de Christopher and a business that repairs vin-

tage motorcycles, Nova Motorcycles. Now it houses a brewery that makes five different kinds of ales.

Although Valeski did not mention it, brew pubs have now shot ahead of cannabis-related businesses in the new post-industrial Montague, although the lead may not last for long. There are now three pubs that brew their own beer: in addition to Pioneer Valley Brewery, Montague hosts the Brick and Feather brewery on Eleventh Street and Element Brewery in Millers Falls.

Cars that pass the new brewery coming down Third Street do not always follow the speed limit, but Valeski says the town is instituting
see BREWERY page A5

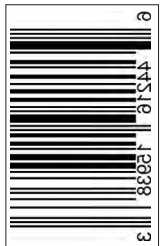


The Pioneer Valley Brewery is now open Wednesdays through Sundays.

Shorter Paper This Week. Hope You Don’t Mind

A Recursive Index.....	A1
Editorial and Illustration.....	A2
Letters to the Editors.....	A2
Local Briefs.....	A3
Wendell Selectboard Notes.....	A4
Our Monthly Children’s Page.....	A6
Valley View: That Popping Sound.....	B1

ArtBeat: Forsaken Landscapes.....	B1
Cursing Up A Storm.....	B1
India Mama Diaries.....	B2
10 Years Ago: Boycott Threat.....	B2
Montague Police Log.....	B3
Rockefeller Record.....	B3
Five Comics and a Puzzle.....	B5



The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Group

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

Production Group

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

Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

Leverage

Living through history is seldom as fun as it sounds.

We all watched videos this week of the first mass-market doses of a coronavirus vaccine being packed onto trucks and delivered to medical facilities around the country, where frontline workers are the first in line to be inoculated. The vaccine's arrival has been emotionally charged, with everyone involved in its development, manufacture, and distribution hailed with a collective reverence rarely seen in peacetime.

Globally, four vaccines have made it to the approval stage so far. Two, known as BBIPB-CorV and Coronavac, have been developed in China, and are shipping to Indonesia, the UAE, Egypt, Bahrain, Morocco, Brazil, the Philippines, and soon Hong Kong, Chile, and Turkey.

And you may have heard of Sputnik V, the Russian vaccine already being administered despite still also being in Phase III clinical trials. Over a billion doses have reportedly been ordered by 50 countries, though some plan to await the official trial results.

Tozinameran, the product everyone is calling the "Pfizer vaccine," was actually developed by a German company named BioNTech, founded by a Turkish-German husband-and-wife scientist team. In China, it is being manufactured and distributed by Fosun, one of the largest private corporations, but it'll be Pfizer everywhere else.

Its development was sponsored in part by Germany and the European Commission, but Pfizer's CEO turned down public research money from the US because he felt there were too many strings attached.

The company plans to make 1.3 billion doses by summer; since effective vaccination takes *two* doses, this would cover a little less than one-tenth of the world population. Pfizer received advance orders to provide 300 million doses to Europe, 120 million to Japan, 100 million to the US, 40 million to the United Kingdom, and 20 million to Canada.

While some have criticized the Trump administration for not initially signing the US up for a larger order, those vaccines will save lives elsewhere. Our government is now reportedly negotiating for another 100 million next summer. Since there are 328 million people in the country, even that additional buy will mean Pfizer covers less than one-third of us next year.

That may be a blessing, since the logistics of the Pfizer vaccine's distribution are challenged by the need to store it at -94° F.

Next up is the "Moderna vaccine." Moderna, headquartered in Cambridge, was co-founded by and chaired by Noubar Afeyan, a Lebanese-born Armenian inventor and venture capitalist whose family fled to Canada when he was a teenager. Moderna's vaccine is very similar to the BionNTech one – modified messenger RNA encased in a lipid nanoparticle. Nearly \$2.5 billion in taxpayer money has been granted to Moderna for its research phase. Our government has also agreed to purchase 100 million doses, and the FDA might approve it as early as this edition's publication date.

And after that is the "AstraZeneca vaccine," actually developed at Oxford University in the United Kingdom by a team of largely British- and Irish-educated vaccinologists, aided by \$1.2 billion in US public money. The Oxford team opted to use a modified chimpanzee virus as a delivery system rather than a manufactured nanoparticle, and as such it is expected to be much cheaper to manufacture. The US has dibs on 300 million doses, but it won't come up for approval here until February.

The contracts with those three companies are nearly enough to cover the US population, but the timeline is still somewhat unclear. To complicate matters, last week President Trump signed an executive order mandating that any company that received funding under "Operation Warp Speed" – which did include Pfizer, at the distribution rather than research phase – must give "priority access" to Americans, apparently regardless of any contracts it has signed with other countries.

This is probably unenforceable, amounting to simple political masturbation by a grifter sewing his golden parachute, but it is nevertheless astounding. These same supposed nationalists who have been so unwilling to underwrite a proper domestic quarantine that we are now clocking a 9/11's worth of COVID deaths a day, for all the world to see, really intend to shove their way to the front of the global line for a vaccine simply because we pitched in on R&D?

By next summer we may be recovering from COVID-19. But it will take years to recover from the shame our leaders have brought



Riley Smith holds a Christmas tree for sale at Ripley Farm, on West Chestnut Hill Road in Montague. The farm has added duck rescue as a project during COVID. They also produce maple syrup and honey.

Letters to the Editors

In Numbers: A Preventable Emergency

"Really bad." That tells me nothing. I need a number. And, I need to understand what the number(s) mean. Prevalence (percentage of the population that is contagious) and growth (new and active cases).

Well, I'll tell you.

As of December 12, in Franklin County, based on the pattern of disease recoveries, there are estimated to be 285 residents with active COVID cases. That means that at least 1 in every 246 Franklin County residents (likely 1 in 89) has the disease today and is contagious.

A month ago (November 12), 1 in 1,392 Franklin residents had an active case. Two months ago (October 13, not that long ago), 1 in 4,921 had an active case. Twenty times more cases are circulating in the population.

For comparison's sake, in Hampshire County, 1 in 331 are estimated to be infected. In Windham County, 1 in 439. In Hampden County, 1 in 112 – much worse.

The daily growth rate in Franklin County over the past week has been 15.6%, far more than the average disease recovery rate of 7.2%, meaning that the disease is spreading and that next week there will be many more than 285 active cases.

It's serious. We were lucky that it had not reached our area like it did elsewhere. That time is past.

We are now in a preventable emergency situation. We have to step up, keeping the discipline of masks, distancing, reduced contact, and our government – local, state, and federal – has to facilitate and mandate the behaviors that reduce the spread.

There is a good argument for complete restriction to homes for a three-week period. (This confidently reduces prevalence of the disease to a more manageable level.)

Thank you to Greenfield Mayor Wedegartner for seeing the extent of spread and temporarily closing municipal buildings.

We should not be opening right now. Because of the high number of contacts, places like schools, churches, non-essential stores, and courts should not be open.

The restrictions and subsequent re-opening should be numbers-driven, responsive, and not political. Our mayor (and city council), our governor (and legislature), our president (and Congress), should have both the information and the backbone to do what is needed to restore the ability of citizens to participate in public activities without health risk.

Transitions of restrictions should be simple and clear, prepared for in advance, knowing that the numbers can dictate either relaxation or increased restrictions.

For storeowners and others working face-to-face, the dilemma we face is that the disease does not disappear by half measures. There is no possible re-opening if the disease numbers are increasing. That is gambling – and the house wins.

I have a blog that reports on COVID status and activity daily by country and state, and every three days by county: www.dailycoronavirusreport.com.

Richard Witty
Greenfield

upon us. And their poor example will have lasting impacts across the planet. According to the People's Vaccine Alliance (peoplesvaccine.org), in the 70 poorest countries, fewer than 10% of the population can expect vaccination in 2021.

The coronavirus is only the first global crisis of the 21st century, and we already know what some of the next ones will be. America's leadership class has shown itself singularly incapable of solidarity, either at home or abroad. Are we getting rid of *them*?

Accusation of Perfidy

I was catching up on my podcasts and found the Montague Reporter Podcast from October 26, speaking about the October 22 edition of the paper. I was shocked to find out that the editor is, in fact, a big ol' stinkin' liar; the specious "apology" for the fart joke headline was transparently insincere.

I do not think you are sorry at all. In fact, I hope you are very pleased with yourself. I remember reading that headline and grinning.

There are many linguistic gems embedded throughout the *Reporter* – my favorites are often in the table of contents. I strenuously encourage all *MR* readers to listen to the podcast for the extra insights into the news stories, the making-of tibits, and (apparently) for the blatant comedic perfidy.

Elizabeth Irving
Montague Center

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

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

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

Advertising and copy deadline is
MONDAY at NOON.

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

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

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

Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376

editor@montaguereporter.org

Sign Me Up!

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

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

Name: _____
Address: _____
Town: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email (optional): _____



By NINA ROSSI

The *Montague Reporter* will publish on Christmas Eve, though certain routes may not be delivered until Saturday, December 26. There will be **no paper published on December 31**. We hope everyone has a very happy and safe holiday!

Our wrapping paper editions are still available at local stores and on our website, www.montaguereporter.org! Get yours today at Red Fire North, Uppingil Farm Store, Food City, Green Fields Market, Montague Village Store, Leverett Coop, Wendell Country Store, and Buckingham Rabbits Vintage.

They are \$5 each or five for \$20 and are a very merry way to wrap your gifts or cover up those cracks in your walls with holiday style. Make you and your loved ones a nifty hat with these decorative pages and send us a picture!

(Or just send us a picture – we miss seeing everyone!)

Santa is coming to Montague! He tours the five villages next Tuesday, December 22 (snow date December 23). The schedule is approximate, and starts at 6 p.m. at Unity Park, leaving via Second Street to go down Avenue A. At 6:10, he'll be at Turnpike Road in Montague City. Millers Falls is going to see Santa circling around Franklin, Newton, and Bridge streets about 6:20 p.m., then banging a left on Mineral Road to circle around Rutters Park in Lake Pleasant at 6:35. He'll take Route 63 to Center Street, and arrive in Montague Center at 6:45 p.m.

Thanks to the Turners Falls Fire Department!

The Greenfield Public Library has announced that they are **no longer open for in-person browsing** effective immediately, and will be closed at noon on Christmas and New Years eves and closed all day on both those upcoming holidays. Doorside pickup is still available; see their website for a complete schedule.

Laudable Productions has started a new **world music radio hour** to bring listeners on a musical journey across cultures, genres, and continents. Producers Edo Mor and Sarah Berquist want you to “continue listening, thinking about, and appreciating the vast varieties of music that humans make.”

It's uploaded every week and archived at www.collider.live where you can find links to various listening platforms, or you can listen to the latest show on Valley Free Radio 103.3 FM.

The Authors and Artists Festival continues to run free events leading up to their main offerings in February.

First off, we received notice that the **Nature Photography Workshop** with Marty Espinola has changed its format and cost – it is now free or by donation, and you can send your photos in to be part of a friendly peer critique to be held this Saturday, December 19. Photos must be sent by Friday the 18th, so register at authorsandartistsfestival.wordpress.com to get the email address and specifications. All levels of photography experience are welcome.

The next Authors and Artists book discussion is scheduled for January 3, and is about **Animal and Human Relations**. There will be discussion about two books on animals and their relationships with people: Susan Cerulean's *I Have Been Assigned the Single Bird* (a memoir that includes birding and her father's dementia) and Gay Bradshaw's *Talking with Bears: Conversations with Charlie Russell*. These books are full of stories – read one or both and check in to the discussion that first Sunday in January from 11 a.m. to noon.

Find the link at authorsandartistsfestival.wordpress.com.

The **last Saturday Salon before Christmas** at the LAVA Center in Greenfield is taking place this weekend between 9 a.m. and noon. See a community art show in the gallery and shop local vendors who have set up tables at the 324 Main Street location.

The Shea Theater in Turners Falls announces **Get Down With Your Hometown**, a two-day virtual music festival on January 8 and 9. Artists include Dar Williams, Erin McKeown, Martin Sexton, Naia Kete, Lake Street Dive, Taylor Ashton, Miro Sprague, Suitcase Junket, June Millington, Taylor Fredericks, Mal Devisa, Kris Delmhorst, Wint-erpills, and more!

The online festival will promote musical talent from the North Star learning community and the Institute for the Musical Arts, with ticket sales benefiting the Shea Theater and these two organizations. North Star and IMA students and alumni will be performing, along with local and nationally-known musicians. There will be a sliding-scale tip jar for donations throughout the event, with all proceeds split three ways.

The event starts on Friday, January 8 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. and wraps up on Saturday, January 9 from 4 to 9:30 p.m. Check in on this event at www.sheatheater.org and www.getdownhometown.com.

The lineup and times are still subject to change, and new acts are still being added.

The UMass Amherst Feinberg Series, in collaboration with the local Jones, Lilly, and Forbes libraries, is seeking **submissions for a young people's zine** about themes of the environment, possible futures, and proactive change.

All Western Mass youth are encouraged to write, draw, or otherwise creatively respond to one or some of six prompts, available online at blogs.umass.edu/feinberg/dreaming-the-future/. Submissions are due January 7, and all contributors will receive a copy.

The Northwest District Attorney's office has sent out a **warning about scams** that are proliferating right now. There are reports of calls that pretend to be from an employee of the Hampshire and Franklin County Sheriff's Offices demanding payment for court charges. These can be intimidating, but the best thing to do is hang up. Don't trust the caller IDs on incoming calls – let unexpected calls go to voicemail.

Other scams involve claiming there is a problem with your computer, package delivery notices, credit card problems, fake calls from Social Security – and the latest wrinkle, COVID vaccine scams. Scammers are telling people they can pay to get on a vaccination list, or are demanding payment for the vaccine or other COVID treatments. These can be calls, texts, emails, or even knocks on your door.

“Don't pay for a promise of vaccine access, or share personal information, the DA's office warns. “Instead, report it to the FTC at ReportFraud.ftc.gov or file a complaint with your state or territory attorney general through consumerresources.org.”

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

FOOD from page A1

Ramos has been working for 20 years at the Food Bank, which runs a network of member agency pantries spanning four counties in western Massachusetts. The Mobile Food Banks serve anyone who shows up, without asking for names or income verification.

Yesterday, Ramos and several volunteers gave away cantaloupe, avocados, beets, bananas, and onions. Around 100 to 120 people, many of whom are seniors, typically show up each month to the Turners Falls site.

“I wish more people were coming, to be honest with you,” expressed Charlie Malcolm, a history teacher at Northfield Mount Hermon (NMH) who volunteered in Turners yesterday. “We have a tough winter in front of us.” Malcolm's wife, Kim Malcolm, convinced the Food Bank to add the Turners Falls site two years ago. Many of the volunteers have been NMH students, or otherwise affiliated with the school.

Mutual Aid Offerings

Though the Food Bank is by far the largest organization in the region distributing food for free, it has been joined by several other groups as need has grown.

The Pioneer Valley Workers Center, an organization based in Northampton and Springfield with a mission of “build[ing] power with low-wage and immigrant workers throughout Western Massachusetts,” has been distributing food at four sites in the region. “The majority of our workers are undocumented workers who had the rug pulled underneath them when the pandemic hit,” said Andrea Schmid, co-director and lead organizer at PVWC.

The organization has run a variety of food-justice projects, including a worker

coop farm, since 2019.

“Most people, if they got laid off, would have access to unemployment,” Schmid continued, “whereas a lot of our members were laid off and had no idea when they would get the next paycheck. It was really scary.”

This spring, when the federal government issued stimulus checks, the PVWC started a solidarity fund for immigrant workers. They have now raised \$350,000 – seven times their initial goal – to be distributed in small grants. “That's definitely one way that we've started to provide direct mutual aid support to immigrant folks in the community,” said Schmid.

The group is also providing food and basic-needs items to any community member in need. The offerings include pre-made meals from Haymarket, a restaurant in downtown Northampton. “We have four different sites: Northampton, Springfield, Holyoke, and Great Falls,” Schmid said. “The more time passes, the more people hear about it, the more people show up. We are probably now distributing around 60 shares of food to 60 different families every single time.”

More people now access their food since they started distributing six months ago, she added. Going into the winter, the group will distribute at La Mariposa on Avenue A on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Harvest of Applesauce

With the onset of winter, nonprofits and community groups giving out food will have to adapt to ensure their operations maintain their reach while remaining COVID-safe. Schmid predicts the PVWC will have to shift more toward home deliveries. For others, like the Great Falls Apple Corps (GFAC), it means

possibly relocating to an indoor venue.

“COVID came, and we basically had to re-imagine our whole season,” said Annie Levine, a leader of the small community group, which advocates for edible landscaping and manages the Unity Park community garden.

Though GFAC started off donating to food distribution sites, they transitioned to making produce donated from farms into cooked meals, with the help of Great Falls Harvest. Now, the Apple Corps distributes meals and other items in front of Harvest in Turners Falls on Saturdays, the one day of the week that most food pantries are closed.

This fall, the Conte Anadromous Fish Lab gave the group permission to harvest apples from its orchard. “We gave out applesauce for five weeks straight,” said Levine, who adds that the group aims to begin working with the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts and establish a new local food pantry. “I'm trying to make this table more a community resource for everyone, regardless of need,” she said.

Expanding Access

Despite these available free resources, Baulding pointed out that the Food Bank works best as a supplement to food stamps, or SNAP. “A lot of people think food banks are... the complete solution to food insecurity,” she said. “It's impossible for us. SNAP can provide nine times more food than we can.”

Atlas Farm will be running monthly indoor pop-up winter farmers markets in Greenfield and Turners Falls throughout the winter, at new locations. Farmers market manager Richie Allium says the Deerfield farm will accept Healthy Incentives Program (HIP) credits as payment.

“We accept all forms of payment, but we're really trying to focus on the low-income families,” he said. “We're thankful to be a part of the HIP program so that... access to local organic vegetables is a little wider than just the affluent.”

The Turners Falls market will take place at the Franklin Area Survival Center on the fourth Saturday of each month; Greenfield's will be located at Community Action on Main Street on the second Saturday of each month. Both sites will run until March 2021.

“The end of March will be when we finish these markets. It'll mainly just be potatoes and cabbage and a couple of turnips by then,” Allium told the *Reporter*. “But we typically are able to keep a full-stocked shelf throughout the winter.”

“It's really hard for us to say when we're going to see fewer patrons at mobile food banks, or at our member agency pantries,” said Baulding. “Even with the vaccine, food insecurity is not going to go away. It tends to take a while for the economy to recover, for people to get jobs, and sort of get back on an even keel. Some people will never get back on that keel – they never were in the beginning.”

“We're helping people in need no matter what their situation is in life,” said Cheo Ramos, nodding toward the masked customers lined up on the K Street sidewalk. “I've seen a lot of first-timers come through. I've seen people that wouldn't normally [be here] come up and be like ‘Is it okay if I get some food?’ Yes! You're here – you're no different than anyone in that line. We don't turn anybody away.”

Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting to this article.



Shop locally!
Support
Montague Reporter
advertisers.

Formerly Jay K's – bigger & better!

Connecticut River
Liquor & Wine

Open Mon-Thurs 10am-10pm
Fri & Sat 10am - 11pm • Sun Noon-8pm

123 Avenue A • Turners Falls
863-5066

NANCY L. DOLE
BOOKS & EPHEMERA

20 State Street, Bucklandside
Shelburne Falls
413-625-9850
ndole@crocker.com

OPEN AGAIN 3 days a week
Tues, Weds, Thurs – 11 to 6

WE HEAT FRANKLIN COUNTY

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

(413) 773-3622

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

Tom Goldscheider
AFA Certified Farrier

413-259-7697

tom.goldscheider@gmail.com • Florence, MA

Overwhelmed by stuff? Try Franklin County's Most Convenient

IN-TOWN SELF STORAGE

UPPER END OF WELLS STREET, GREENFIELD

413-883-7323

Easy in-town location
Secure 24-hour access

VARIETY OF SIZES THE BEST PRICES

OFFICE AT 50 CHAPMAN STREET, GREENFIELD, MA

Contractors, Flea Marketers, Tradeshow Vendors and Artists encouraged to inquire

Brian R. San Soucie
Locksmith - CRL
certified - bonded - insured

863-2471
28 Montague St
Turners Falls, MA

Trusted for over 25 years, installing all types of locks & entry devices for business & homes

- Dead BOLTS
- Household Lock Sets
- Master Keys & Re-keys
- Safe Combinations Changed

RECYCLE

PAPER

Week of December 21
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054



THE LADY KILLIGREW:

*Awesome Beer
Amazing Food*



*Amazing, Awesome
Employees!*

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

What have you lost?
Leave a message at
(413) 239-7607



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

Mesa Verde

Eat In or Take Out!

**BURRITOS,
BOWLS,
SOFT TACOS,
QUESADILLAS**
**Now Serving
BBC Steel Rail**

(413) 772-2531
10 Fiske Ave - downtown Greenfield
Hours: Mon - Sat 11:30 am - 9 pm

ERVING from page A1

counsel, attorneys Michael Leon and Matthew Snell of Nutter McClennan & Fish LLP, met with representatives from Erving Industries and the attorney general's office to discuss financing for the sludge dryer project at POTW#2.

ERSECO, the Erving Industries subsidiary that operates the town-owned wastewater treatment plant, wants to install two sludge dryers to allow its sludge to be disposed economically.

Smith gave few details of the discussions, but said, "There were a fair amount of recommendations and opinions of what the town can and can't do."

Under its latest proposal, ERSECO would borrow to pay for the two dryers and related infrastructure, while retaining ownership of the dryers until the loan for their purchase is paid off. Smith said that the infrastructure, as part of POTW#2, would be the town's property.

In an earlier plan, approved at the October special town meeting, the town would have borrowed up to \$17 million from the state's revolving loan fund to pay for the infrastructure.

Selectboard member William Bembury said he was "looking to get out of this the cheapest way possible."

Fin com member Daniel Hammock said he would agree with the latest plan "as long as there are signed contracts that protect the town's interests." The final agreement will be discussed at a future selectboard meeting.

FY'22 Budget Requests

Acting police chief Robert Holst's FY'22 budget request in-

cluded an increase of \$12,668 in overtime pay to cover patrols after the departure of chief Christopher Blair and two patrol officers. He said that new patrol officer hires would need to attend the state academy, also requiring overtime for coverage by other officers. The total budget request is \$9,773 lower than FY'21 because new chief and patrol officer hires are likely to start at lower seniority steps, and lower hourly wages, than the departing officers.

The animal control officer budget was increased by \$2,029 for additional officer hours and vehicle maintenance.

Fire chief Philip Wonkka presented a fire department budget with an increase of \$18,622 over FY'21. Wonkka said his department has received approximately \$340,000 in grant funding in the current fiscal year. He mentioned that the department's fleet is older, and regularly needs maintenance.

The emergency management department request was level-funded with FY'21 at \$34,537.

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory presented a \$362,179 request for highway operations, an increase of \$29,214 over FY'21. He observed that the older diesel trucks were requiring expensive maintenance. For the town buildings and ground maintenance budget, he asked that more hours be allotted for the grounds maintenance worker to do highway work, at a cost of \$30,000.

The solid waste management budget, used to pay Casella Waste Systems, was unchanged from FY'21 at \$195,553. Selectboard chair Smith noted that traditionally, the townspeople have generated 6 to 7 tons per week of solid waste, but

are currently generating 10 tons per week. He said the goal for the town is to reduce the tonnage.

Peter Sanders recused himself as a selectboard member while he presented the water and wastewater budgets as the superintendent of that department. He said that the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) had conducted an audit of the wastewater department and recommended hiring an additional staff member. The budget request included an increase of \$60,138 for the additional hire, for a total of \$845,696.

Selectboard chair Smith and Bembury asked what the DEP would do if the town did not increase staffing. Sanders said they would send a notice of noncompliance, and there might be sanctions or fines, but he said he was aware of neighboring towns that were noncompliant.

The water department request was nearly level-funded at \$103,453, an increase of only \$67 over FY'21.

The tree warden was level funded, as were inspection services for electrical, gas, and plumbing, contracted through the Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

Street and Sidewalk Project

Highway superintendent Glenn McCrory said his department had checked the roadway grades at the street and sidewalk project at River, Warner and Strachan streets, and found variations of 1 inch to 1½ inches from the engineering plans, indicating that the road was not completed as designed.

McCrory and town administrator Bryan Smith had observed issues with the grade of the road in October, and have been discussing possible remedies with contractor Jack Goncalves & Sons since then. Mc-

Crory said Goncalves has not given the town a satisfactory plan for fixing the problem. He asked the board to approve having engineers Weston & Sampson re-check the elevations as evidence that Goncalves should remedy the problem.

Other Business

Planning assistant Mariah Kurtz reported that the electric vehicle charging stations on Arch Street have been activated. She said that National Grid had reduced the amount of reimbursement to the town for installing the stations, increasing the town's share from \$1,100 to \$7,845.50. The board voted to accept the revised reimbursement.

At the request of the conservation commission, and in order to comply with state ethics rules, the selectboard designated the commission's contractor Ward Smith of Wendell Wetland Services as a special municipal employee.

The board approved six liquor licenses for the 2021 calendar year, and appointed Peter Mallett to the public works feasibility committee.

The board also reviewed the final design for town letterhead with the recently-created town logo featuring the French King Bridge, the Connecticut River, mountains, and a rising sun. Board members suggested a minor change to the border, but otherwise accepted the design.

For town employee business cards, the board discussed the placement of the slogan "A Great Place to Live," the background color, inclusion of the town seal, and whether to include department telephone numbers or the main town hall number.

The final business card design will be reviewed at a later meeting.



NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Board Cooks Up Schemes to Slow Down Drivers

By JOSH HEINEMANN

There was no clear way to share holiday cookies at the Wendell selectboard's December 9 meeting, and no cookies were even on display on the Zoom screen. The meeting was short, and the longest discussion concerned the ongoing issue of speeding on town roads. Highway commission chair Phil Delorey was part of the conversation, and former chair Harry Williston weighed in, not in person, but with a letter he sent to the selectboard.

One problem in Wendell is that the speed limits are not always clear throughout the town, as they are not always posted for stretches of the well-traveled, paved roads. Williston's letter started with the proposition that the town have the paved roads engineered for speeds as outlined by state procedure.

Following that thought, Delorey said two types of speed limits exist. Regulatory speed limits are created through the engineering study described in the state document. It involves sight distance, hills, curves, and the number of driveways and intersecting roads per mile. They are enforceable.

Statutory speed limits exist "in the absence of special speed regulations." Delorey said they are not enforceable.

Williston wrote that to his knowledge, the last study of Wendell's roads was completed in 1973. He wrote that since then, the town's population has tripled, and several dirt roads have been paved. Montague Road has 17 new driveways, West Street has 25, Locke Hill Road 30, and Wendell Depot Road seven, along with Jackie Lane which is the entrance to the highway garage and fire station entrance, all between Farley Road and the town center. The library is now very active, as is its playground.

Williston recommended that a new engi-

neering study be conducted, and that when new speed limits are set and posted, they should be enforced. He also wrote that the radar sign on the north approach to Wendell Center, where the speed limit drops to 30 mph, shows no speeds over 35 mph. For vehicles faster than 35 mph, the sign merely states, "too fast." Williston said he felt it should read the vehicle's true speed.

Delorey also said he thought a townwide re-evaluation of speed limits was a good idea, and suggested that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) can help. An estimate from Stantec for an engineering study of town roads is \$43,000, and Delorey said he felt Wendell should go through with the study.

The town can place yellow speed limit signs at its discretion, but unlike the white signs, they are only advisory. A yellow "lowered speed" zone should either be followed by a sign to resume speed, or specify a distance.

Finance committee chair Doug Tanner said that Scott Minckler, police chief of Leverett and now also Wendell, told him the default speed limit for paved roads in town is 40 mph.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller suggested that some yellow "25 mph" signs should be put right away, on New Salem Road at the hill and curve by Stones' pond, and where Jennison Road crosses New Salem Road. Other suggestions for yellow sign locations were on Montague Road between the two ends of Wickett Pond Road, and on Wendell Depot Road near John Quist Road.

Tanner suggested that when the speed limits are posted, enforcement can start with a police stop and a warning. Fines, and more severe action, can wait.

Other Business

Ashley Penna was the only person who showed interest in becoming the town's multi-board clerk. The selectboard appointed her, and

appointed Alisha Brouillet assistant town clerk.

They approved a license for Scott's Garage for an automobile salvage yard, and liquor licenses for the Wendell Country Store and Deja Brew.

The road crew has made some limited improvement to Gate Lane, with the thought that an improved road might make it reasonable for the fire department to get large vehicles to #40, a town-owned property, for a controlled burn. Since then, a logging operation has made the road worse. Keller said that another problem with demolishing the building is that the debris would have to be removed, and that requires a large vehicle.

Selectboard member Laurie DiDonato suggested having assistant engineer Alistair MacMartin assess the building for a request for proposals (RFP), because there are some aspects of that building that may be worth salvaging.

Town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said that the town's insurance company, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA), has awarded the town a grant to purchase five room-size air purification units. MIIA will need proof that the units have been installed. Right now the units are backordered.

The dangerous tree survey initiated by former tree warden, Corrine Baker, is being continued with the current tree warden, Cliff Dornbush. The survey cost is covered within the town maintenance budget, and will not need to come from the tree warden's budget. "Any money spent [toward tree maintenance] is well spent," said Keller.

Town engineer Jim Slavas was not able to attend the meeting, and so his assessment of Wendell's IT situation was postponed. An appointment to the board of assessors and a discussion of insulating the town hall floor were also postponed.

Martha Senn asked for, and was given, permission to decorate the gazebo for the holidays.

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

Renaissance Excavating, Inc.



COMPLETE
SITE WORK

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

INFO@RENBUILD.NET
413-863-8316



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



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

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

MOODY from page A1

neighbors drove out the developer before he'd moved nary a shovelful of dirt. When Kinder-Morgan wanted to bury a gas pipeline through the center of the village, the town's resistance helped prompt the company to drop the project altogether.

Now another sheep in wolf's clothing wants to impose his will over us, and he's doing it with the help of the tone deaf folks in town hall. It's called the Moody Center, but really has nothing to do with evangelist Dwight L. Moody.

The Moody Center was incorporated less than five years ago and its office is in Overland Park, Missouri. Flush with recently acquired land and grandiose plans, it beguiled the town fathers into thinking it can turn Northfield into a mecca for the enlightened.

The Moody Center is named for 19th-century evangelist Dwight Lyman Moody (1837-1899), who founded the Mount Hermon School for Boys and the Northfield School for girls. Moody and his wife Emma Ravell Moody (1842-1903) are buried on the Northfield campus, near two towering pine trees and a white birch, on a knoll overlooking the Green Mountain foothills. More than a century after his death, he's become a brand.

After NMH was consolidated into the one campus in Gill in 2003, it tried to sell its Northfield campus, but nobody wanted it. The asking price was dropped from a reported \$20 million to what some say was a token \$1,000, to the Green Family, which owns Hobby Lobby store chain. They tried to open a Great Books college, but when that failed Grand Canyon College gave it a try. Their grandiose plan collapsed from the weight of trying to bring 4,000 students to the campus.

Now Thomas Aquinas College is giving it a go and succeeding – albeit on a much smaller scale. Meanwhile the former NMH property was divvied between the college and the Moody Center.

It's a safe bet that NMH would never try to pull off what Moody Center management is doing. Spencer said the Moody Center wants to refurbish and expand Moore Cottage, which is at the top of the hill next to the south side of campus, and a nearby building on Moody Street for "Moody scholars" to work in solitude.

"A new building is planned to the south where the tennis courts currently reside," Moody Center President James Spencer wrote in a recent two-page letter to residents. it has been carefully designed to complement the classic Queen Anne style of Moore Cottage."

Hogwash. The rendering that was shown on the front page and above the fold in the *Greenfield Recorder* resembles a Holiday Inn or multi-story hotel chain, out-sized and incongruous to East Northfield's present landscape.

Developers would demolish the tennis courts on the west side, and bulldozers would dig up the memorial park between the courts and Highland Avenue. Maple trees that were planted years ago to foster the legacies of NMH souls departed, including Todd Denise (1958-87), Ted Denise (1919-2005), Earl Loomis (1898-1984) and Edward Powell (1892-1965), will be uprooted.

"Construction is planned to begin in 2021," wrote Spencer. "The current plan will be for units to be made available for sale and will be [sic] accepting reservations soon."

It's reminiscent of when Grand Canyon University said it was bringing 4,000 students to the Northfield campus and every business in town saw dollar signs. Or when a rainmaker from France snowed Franklin County Chamber of Commerce chairwoman Ann Hamilton, then slipped out of town as quickly as he arrived.

Last year the planning board approved a luxury campground off Pierson Road up near the state border. It's called a "glampground," which whenever I say it makes me feel like I'm speaking with food in my mouth. It's upscale camping for folks who have Land Rovers but don't do off-road driving. They drink lattes and can't build a fire, which my eight-year-old grandson could teach them.

The Moody Center's utopian campground includes up to 25 A-frame homes, a style that was passé 50 years ago. A one-night stand would cost \$125 and include prayer and nature walks. Alcohol is allowed. "You know those Catholics," said a Moody Center executive. "They like to drink."

Somehow building a ritzy campground on a few acres of old soccer fields and surrounded by overgrown woodlots doesn't fit. Perhaps the new Northfield drive-in owner will invite campers over to watch movies.

If it gets the go-ahead, construction would be six days a week, Monday through Saturday.

After the public hearings, the Northfield planning board railroaded it through faster than the Silver Streak crashed through Chicago's Union Station. Residents who have homes across from the fields said that the planning board skimmed over their letters and barely looked at a petition that was signed by 43 Northfield residents. One of them said, "They made us feel like a small and irrelevant handful of people who didn't like change."

A group has filed suit to stop construction, and the plaintiffs – some of them in their 80s – were deposed for hours at a time by high-powered Boston attorneys.

While the campground project is in litigation, the Missouri boys are focused on putting up a multi-story apartment building on the corners of Highland Avenue and Pine Street.

Insiders tell me that Moody Center COO James Spencer, CEO Emmitt Mitchell, and Clockwork architect Christian Arnold are in cahoots with town officials. Town administrator Andrea Llamas has steered most of nearly \$370,000 in grant money allocated for street improvements up to East Northfield next to the proposed Moody Center apartment building. Llamas said a committee decided where to spend the money, and that Julia Wiggin represented the Moody Center. Her husband Steve Wiggin is who purchased the drive-in.

Meanwhile town clerk Dan Campbell spends a lot of time running up the stairs to Llamas's office. "Where they made their big mistake was tearing down the Northfield Inn," said Campbell, a statement that reveals both his bias and naivety. The Northfield



Bartender Regan (left) and co-owner Steve Valeski (right) demonstrate good social distancing behind the bar at Pioneer Valley.

BREWERY from page A1

a number of "traffic calming" measures to improve safety for both cars and pedestrians entering his business. "Town hall has been wonderful," he told the *Reporter*. "I can't say enough about them."

The location has been given a new coat of red and white paint; parking has been added on the north and east sides of the building; the inside space is very large and airy. On entering the building one actually walks through the brewing area before getting to the room with the service bar and tables. There is plenty of space for the popular new trend called "social distancing" and, according to Valeski, the landlord has not yet leased all of the space on the property.

Pioneer's head brewer, Chris Fontaine, formerly worked at Lefty's Brewery in Greenfield

and Berkshire Brewing Company in Deerfield. The company has a farmer's series pouring permit, which according to the state "allows the licensee to sell and allow samplings of the alcoholic beverages it manufactures on its premises," and Valeski says the hops are sourced locally.

In addition to the five ales, Pioneer makes a stout and a lager, although the latter was only available in cans when we visited. You can order either 16- or 20-ounce beers to drink on premises. Beer to travel is available in cans or "growlers."

Pioneer Valley also offers something called a "Mug Club Membership" which provides a range of benefits including, as you may have guessed, a 20-ounce mug with your own special number, kept on premises at all times, that only you can use. Other benefits include your first beer

in the mug on the house, 20-ounce pours at the 16-ounce price, and a free birthday beer. The annual cost is \$75 or \$140 for a couple, and you do have to sign an "agreement" pledging that you are of the state drinking age and will not transfer your benefits to someone else.

There are also some COVID-19 rules that customers must follow under current state guidelines, according to the brewery's Facebook page. You must wear a mask at your table; each table can only seat six; and customers may only stay for 90 minutes. COVID regs also require that you order food with your drink, which at this brew pub means mandatory chips and salsa (\$2).

Pioneer Valley Brewery is currently open Wednesdays through Fridays from 3 to 9 p.m., and Saturdays and Sundays from noon to 9 p.m.



Inn was desolate long before NMH closed its Northfield campus.

Last week Campbell said to me, "There's a planning board vacancy. It's a five-year term and maybe you should run for it."

"That's been recommended to me and I'm considering it," I replied.

Realizing I was serious, Campbell quickly reversed course. "No, we already have someone lined up for it," he said.

Imagine that.

Those in town hall get their way by engaging in a conspiracy of silence – post it and don't talk about it, people won't look. They won't know what they don't know. It's an insidious strategy designed not to let them in on their secrets until it's too late to do anything about it.

If someone like myself does come poking around like Colombo, Campbell's stock answer is, "It's on the website."

When I twisted his arm for planning board meeting minutes, he charged me \$8 for copies, many of which were duplicates.

Meanwhile, Thomas Aquinas College wants no part of this burgeoning controversy. The California-based college moved onto the former NMH campus two years ago with a freshman class, and by 2022 the student body will be composed of about 400 students, from freshmen to seniors.

The teachers who are living

in East Northfield have become a welcome part of the community. They smile and wave and are friendly. Their young children ride bikes from home to home, including eleven who live in homes that about the proposed project.

Students learn math the way it was taught by Aristotle and read the Great Books, the type of curriculum that kids who want to live in frat houses and host toga parties tend to avoid.

This week I emailed Thomas Aquinas's dean of the New England campus, Dr. Thomas J. Kaiser, and asked him what the college's position is on the project.

"Thomas Aquinas College will remain neutral on the issue of the Moody Center project," said Dr. Kaiser. "I don't think the College has been here long enough to get involved with the town's politics. Our primary goal is the education and well-being of our students and we hope that anything we do will also be beneficial for the town of Northfield."

What's next? The Northfield planning board is having a preliminary informal meeting with the developers on December 17. Planning board chair Stephen Seredynski says public comment will not be taken, but that "prior to the meeting questions can be submitted to the board via email or sent in writing."

Stay tuned for how that



GREENFIELD
FARMERS COOPERATIVE EXCHANGE
Locally Owned Since 1918

269 High Street - Greenfield
(413) 773-9639

Local
Farmer-Owned

Products for the home,
farm, pets, yard & garden

If you
Feed it - Seed it - Weed it
We GOT it!

www.greenfieldfarmerscoop.com

PZ

Partridge-Zschau
Insurance

Protect Your
Future

Since 1891

25 Millers Falls Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376
tel: 413-863-4331
www.pzinc.com

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

FEDERAL STREET BOOKS

8 Federal Street, Greenfield
federalstreetbooks.com

LIC #36550-EL1-413-345-1687

ELECTRICIAN
CHRIS M. STRAKOSE

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

9 SWAMP ROAD
MONTAGUE, MA 01351
EMAIL: CSTRAKOSE.ELEC@GMAIL.COM

FULLY INSUREDFREE CONSULTATION

OrigamiUSA

Origami is for anyone,
anywhere, anytime!

Join us at: OrigamiUSA.org
Email: admin@origamiusa.org
Tel: 212.769.5635

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

The Children's Page

YONDERNOD ILLUSTRATION

PAPER CRAFT

FIRST, GATHER YOUR MATERIALS.

- PAPER
- SCISSORS
- GLUESTICK
- PENCIL
- TAPE



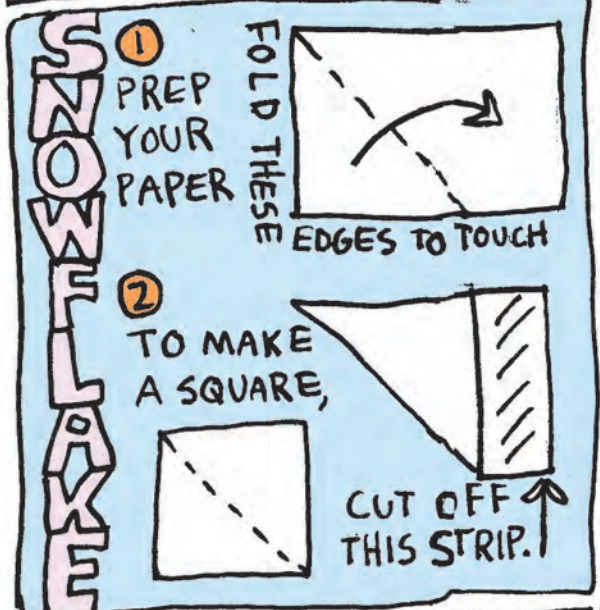
WITH: VIOLA LOVELIGHT

SNOWFLAKE

1 PREP YOUR PAPER

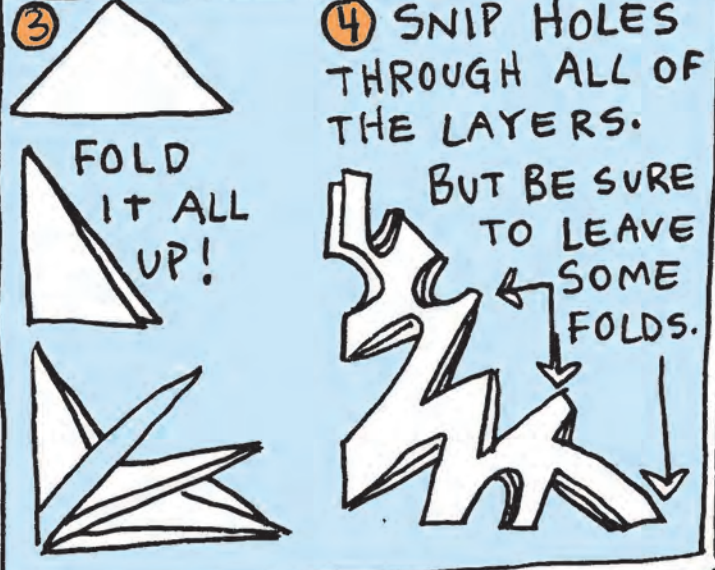
FOLD THESE EDGES TO TOUCH

2 TO MAKE A SQUARE, CUT OFF THIS STRIP.

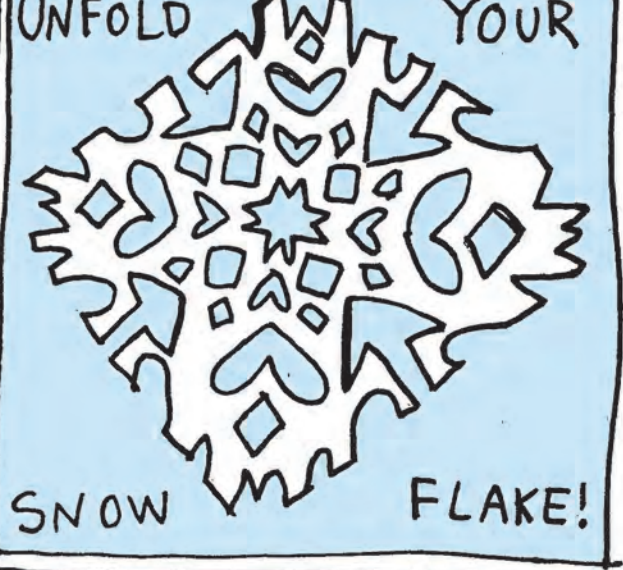


3 FOLD IT ALL UP!

4 SNIP HOLES THROUGH ALL OF THE LAYERS. BUT BE SURE TO LEAVE SOME FOLDS.



UNFOLD YOUR SNOW FLAKE!

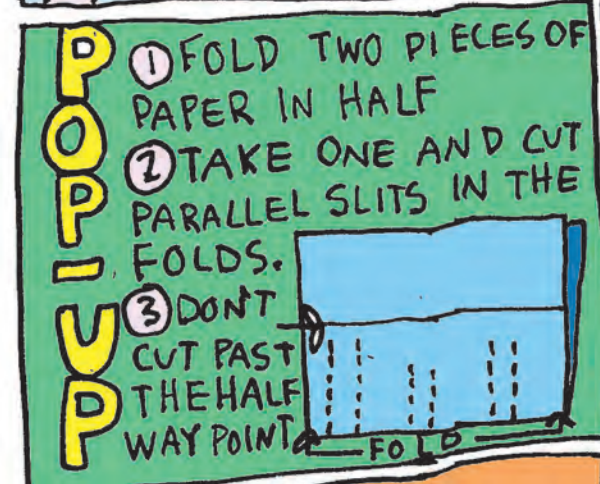


POP UP

1 FOLD TWO PIECES OF PAPER IN HALF

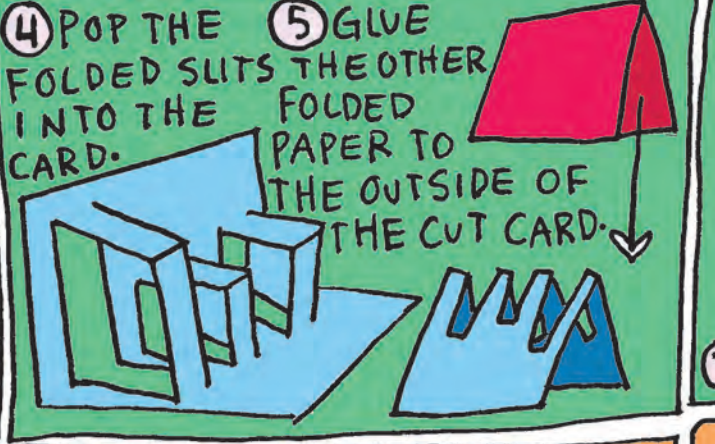
2 TAKE ONE AND CUT PARALLEL SLITS IN THE FOLDS.

3 DON'T CUT PAST THE HALF WAY POINT



4 POP THE FOLDED SLITS INTO THE CARD.

5 GIVE THE OTHER FOLDED PAPER TO THE OUTSIDE OF THE CUT CARD.



6 DECORATE YOUR CARD!

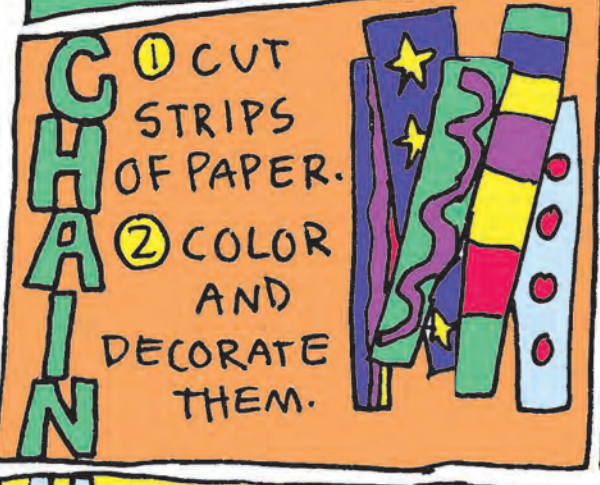
7 PUT IT IN THE MAILBOX!



CHAIN

1 CUT STRIPS OF PAPER.

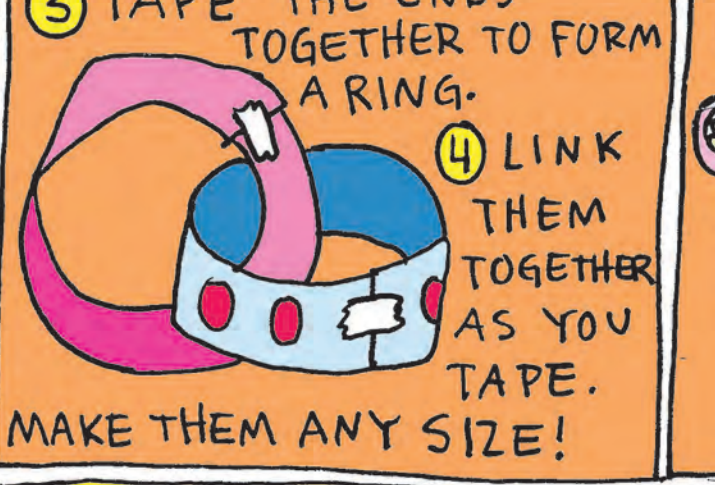
2 COLOR AND DECORATE THEM.



3 TAPE THE ENDS TOGETHER TO FORM A RING.

4 LINK THEM TOGETHER AS YOU TAPE.

MAKE THEM ANY SIZE!



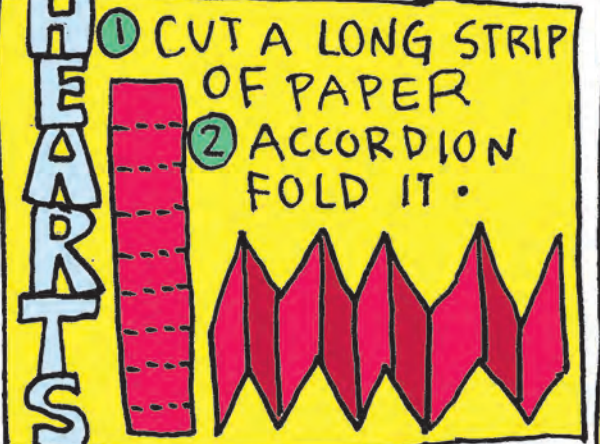
MAKE A LONG CHAIN!



HEARTS

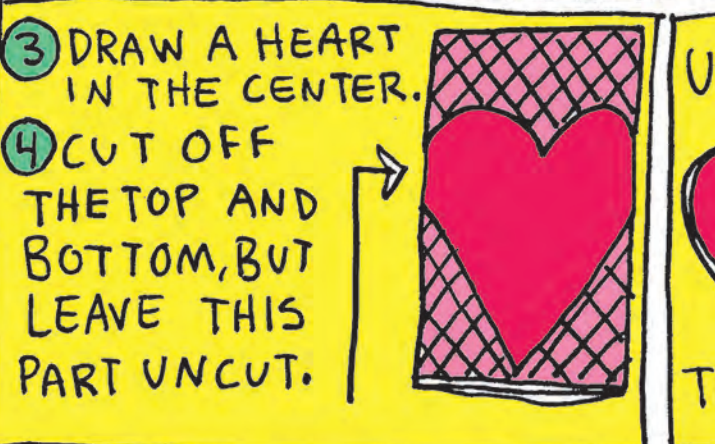
1 CUT A LONG STRIP OF PAPER

2 ACCORDION FOLD IT.



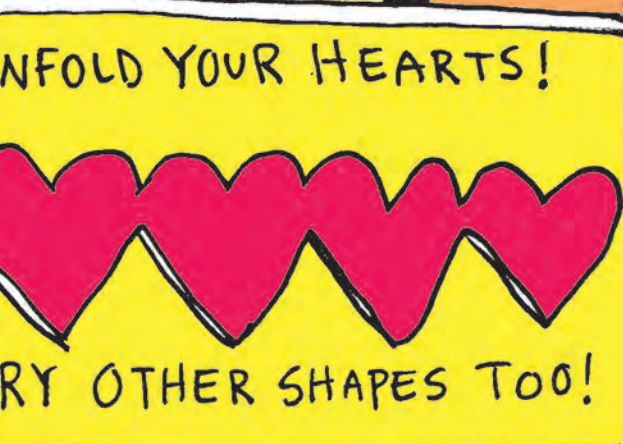
3 DRAW A HEART IN THE CENTER.

4 CUT OFF THE TOP AND BOTTOM, BUT LEAVE THIS PART UNCUT.




UNFOLD YOUR HEARTS!

TRY OTHER SHAPES TOO!



BY: HANNAH BROOKMAN

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



Amherst Books
NOW OPEN NEW HOURS

Tues – Sat
10 AM – 4 PM
8 Main Street

413-256-1547
books@amherstbooks.com



BUCKINGHAM RABBITS VINTAGE

OPEN FOR IN-PERSON SHOPPING AGAIN!
WE MISSED YOU!

SATURDAYS & SUNDAYS 12-4
102 AVENUE A TF MA



MUSIC & MOVIES

BOOKMILL | MONTAGUE CENTER | 367.0309

MONTAGUE from page A1

a percentage of their populations.

“What will always be evident is that it is really complicated to throw a lot of communities that have a tremendous number of dissimilarities into one algorithm, and come up with a reliable and easy to explain formula as to why one community is coded one way or another,” Ellis said. But he went on to say that the data showed “widespread community transmission” in Montague, and Franklin County as a whole, that needs to be taken seriously.

Ellis announced that the previous week he had ordered all town buildings, which had been open on a limited basis over the past few months, closed to the public. The operation of the various departments, however, will continue. “My job is to make certain the trains keep running,” he said. The selectboard voted to approve this decision.

There was some confusion about whether the board’s motion applied to the curbside book borrowing program at the Carnegie Library and the two branch libraries. Ellis thought last week’s order also ended the curbside program but later, as a result of a communication with library director Linda Hickman, announced that the program would continue.

In other COVID-related news, RiverCulture director Suzanne LoMonto told the board that the annual Turners Falls “It’s a Wonderful Night” Christmas celebration “will obviously not be happening.” She said she had talked to Russ Brown, who she said knows both Santa Claus and some people at the Turners Falls Fire Department. They had agreed to transport Santa on a tour of the various villages on December 22, with a rain date of the 23rd. (The route, approved by the board, is described in Local Briefs on page A3.)

Town planner Walter Ramsey requested that the board approve an application for funds from a Local Rapid Recovery Planning Program to develop a COVID economic recovery strategy for downtown Turners Falls. The grant, which is not competitive, is part of a state program called the Massachusetts Downtown Initiative, under the direction of the Department of Housing and Community Development. The agency will choose a consultant and, according to Ramsey, the project envisions a “quick turnaround,” to be completed by June.

The board authorized the request for technical assistance.

Hydropower

In non-COVID news the board held a lengthy discussion of the FirstLight Power Company’s final application for a 50-year license, which was covered in last week’s *Reporter*.

Ramsey reviewed the company’s response to Montague’s proposals for recreation enhancements, including increased access to the Connecticut River. The company has focused on improving white-water rafting access and river flow during the summer months below the Turners Falls-Gill dam, but ignored proposals for improvements at Cabot Woods, Unity Park, and the building at Cabot Camp on the Millers River.

Andrea Donlon of the Connecticut River Conservancy reviewed the company’s proposals to increase river flows and other measures to enhance fish migration and spawning. She described the company’s plan to build a new fish lift at the Turners Falls dam, and to dissuade fish from entering the canal at the Cabot Station Hydro plant. She also pointed to a non-public report that the company is submitting to state and federal agencies about historical and archaeological sites on its property that is “something [Montague] might want to think about.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted the estimated 11% reduction in hydropower production in the proposal, and asked what its economic impact might be, since FirstLight is Montague’s largest taxpayer.

Ramsey replied that “there are a lot of unknowns” and that this was an area where Montague might ask for some technical assistance from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG). Ellis said that director of assessing Karen Tonelli had already “reached out” to colleagues in her field to find out “to what extent, if any, these [estimates] might affect property valuations.”

Messes

Ramsey requested that the board send a review of the Millers Falls embankment collapse project, which discusses a “delta” below the project that extends into the Connecticut River, to several state and federal regulatory agencies. Ramsey said that attempting to reduce the delta might cause more environmental damage than the problem it would remedy. The board approved the letter.

Ramsey also discussed the

town’s effort to find a buyer for the former Department of Public Works (DPW) building at 800 Avenue A. He said that none of the ten “parties” that had attended the initial site visit put in a bid to purchase the property. The main reason, Ramsey said, was “the unknowns of the environmental status.”

Ramsey reminded the board that the town had not conducted a recommended “Phase II” environmental assessment, hoping the low sale price would attract buyers. He reviewed a range of options for the future, including a new request for proposals in the spring, an appropriation to fund a Phase II assessment.

“Something for the board to chew on,” he concluded.

Other Business

Ellis said he had planned to report on the results of the survey of town meeting members about the venue for the upcoming winter meeting, but had not yet been able to review the results with assistant Wendy Bogusz. Ellis and Bogusz reviewed options for holding a virtual town meeting, including hiring a company to oversee the technical aspects.

Police chief Chris Williams reported on the progress being made in connecting his department’s communication system with a statewide 800-Mhz system, an effort currently underway for law enforcement, fire departments, ambulances, and emergency responders throughout the county.

Williams said his department had received a grant of \$29,825 to purchase “upgraded” handheld and cruiser radios, as well as a new computer for one of the cruisers. He also said that FRCOG had toured the Montague dispatch department, and he had received a “verbal commitment” from the state to fund the \$25,000 cost of linking the town dispatch into the new system.

Ramsey asked the board to authorize a subdivision of the lot on which the new DPW building sits. The new 15.5-acre lot, on the west side of the building, snakes around the public safety complex and has frontage on Turnpike Road. Ramsey said the property could be used for commercial or residential construction, or for “municipal use.”

The subdivision plan will be sent on to the planning board for approval.

The board appointed Joshua Lively to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Joe Mazeski to the Airport

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

TURNERS FALLS HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT (FERC NO. 1889)

NORTHFIELD MOUNTAIN PUMPED-STORAGE PROJECT (FERC NO. 2485)

PUBLIC NOTICE

FirstLight MA Hydro LLC, owner of the **Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project** (Turners Falls Project, FERC No. 1889), and Northfield Mountain LLC, owner of the **Northfield Mountain Pumped-Storage Project** (Northfield Mountain Project, FERC No. 2485) filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on December 4, 2020, Amended Final License Applications (AFLA) for each Project. In this notice, FirstLight MA Hydro LLC and Northfield Mountain LLC are collectively referred to as FirstLight. FirstLight is located at 111 South Bedford Street, Suite 103, Burlington, MA 01803.

The **Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project** is located on the Connecticut River and consists of two hydroelectric facilities, Cabot Station and Station No. 1. The **Northfield Mountain Pumped-Storage Project** uses water impounded by the Turners Falls Dam (Connecticut River) for its pumped-storage operations. Each Project is located in Franklin County in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

FirstLight is pursuing new licenses for each Project in accordance with FERC’s Integrated Licensing Process (ILP). The current licenses for each Project expired on April 30, 2018, and each are operating under annual licenses issued by FERC.

The AFLA describes each Project’s facilities and operations, summarizes the results of resource studies and assesses the potential effects of the proposed action on environmental, cultural, recreational and socioeconomic resources. FirstLight has proposed several protection, mitigation and enhancement (PM&E) measures in its AFLA related to aquatic habitat, fish passage, recreation resources, terrestrial resources, two federally-endangered species and cultural resources. FirstLight’s proposal in the AFLA reflects careful consideration of various power and non-power values of each Project, the diverse interest of stakeholders, and the results of over 40 scientific studies.

FirstLight is making public portions of the AFLA available to resource agencies, Indian tribes, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and members of the public. Electronic copies of the AFLA will be available on FirstLight’s public relicensing website at www.northfielddrelicensing.com/Pages/default.aspx, or via FERC’s online e-Library at elibrary.ferc.gov/eLibrary/search by entering P-1889 or P-2485 into the “Enter Docket Number” box. The AFLA can also be viewed during normal business hours at the Carnegie Public Library at 201 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 (available starting on 12/14). In addition, paper copies of the AFLA can be reproduced at a cost of \$0.10/page, plus postage (both prepaid), by contacting Justin Trudell at 111 South Bedford Street, Suite 103, Burlington, MA 01803 or at (781) 653-4247. Upon acceptance of the AFLA for filing, FERC will publish subsequent notices soliciting public participation. Any questions regarding this notice or the AFLA can be directed to Justin Trudell at the contact information provided above.

Last Call for

Our Wrapping

Paper Edition!

The Wrapping Paper is our main fundraiser this year, and we still have some left. Seven great pieces of local art, cheap (\$5 each or five for \$20). Look for it at Food City, Green Fields Market, Red Fire North, the Montague Village Store, Wendell Country Store, Leverett Village Coop, Upinngil Farm Store, and Buckingham Rabbits Vintage, or order it at www.montaguereporter.org.



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



Bringing Peace to Tired Muscles

Please stay safe!

Re-Opening in Late July

Gretchen Wetherby LMT

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

gretchenwlmt@gmail.com 413-824-7063



EDWARDS TREE SERVICE

Matthew Edwards
Certified Arborist

Tree Climbing Specialist • Pruning And Removals
Stump Grinding • Practicing Fine Arboriculture

Residential / Commercial / Municipal
60 Ft. Aerial Lift • Brush Chipping
Fully Insured With Workers Comp. • Insurance and Liability

WWW.MATTEDWARDSTREE.COM
Wendell, MA

Serving Hampshire And Franklin Counties

413-325-7823 or 978-544-7452



Rau's Auto

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIR

(413) 367-2475

531 Turners Falls Rd. Montague

24 hour emergency towing
Best service licensed Mechanics

HAWKS & REED

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
IN DOWNTOWN GREENFIELD

MUSIC - THEATER - PRIVATE EVENTS
FOR INFORMATION AND RENTAL INQUIRIES,
EMAIL US AT
INFO@HAWKSANDREED.COM
FULL SCHEDULE AVAILABLE AT:
WWW.HAWKSANDREED.COM
289 MAIN ST. GREENFIELD, MA 01301 **413.774.0150**

Dudek Tax Service

10 Masonic Ave
Turners Falls
MA 01376

Frank J. Dudek

413.863.5394 - Office
413.775.3327 - Cell
frankd_74@yahoo.com



STONEDWORK

BUILD. REBUILD. MEND.

R. SKELTON, WALLER
(413) 367-2435 • skelton.rob@gmail.com

TNT Productions

DJ & Karaoke specialists



413-522-6035
www.tntprodj.net



413-256-6217

*fine instruments
bought and sold
repaired and restored*

Fretted Instrument Workshop

49 So. Pleasant St., Amherst, Mass. 01002

DOLAN & DOLAN

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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

PERSONAL INJURY, WILLS & ESTATES, WORKER'S COMP

ELEVATOR from page A1

in the works for nearly a decade, and was submitted to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on December 4. The company has been operating on an extension of its previous license, which expired on April 30, 2018. It is requesting a new 50-year license.

FirstLight also proposes to install a \$42.5 million barrier net to keep fish from being sucked into the hydraulics at the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project, the largest operation of its kind in New England.

Swimming Upstream

Dams have impeded fish passage in the Connecticut River watershed since the colonial era, when water power was harnessed to power small mills and fuel New England’s eventual industrialization. The first dam at what is now Turners Falls was built in 1798, and was the first mainstream dam across the Connecticut.

In 1865 Massachusetts became the first state to establish a fishery commission, a response to the obvious impact that dam building had on migratory fish. “That was the end of the salmon,” Sprankle said. “By the early 1800s there were no more salmon because downstream had already been blocked.”

The goal set in 1992 by the Connecticut River Atlantic Salmon Commission (CRASC), a coordinating agency established by the 1965 Anadromous Fish Conservation Act, is to see 1.7 million shad enter the mouth of the Connecticut River annually. Successful fish passage would mean 75% of the shad that come within one kilometer of the Holyoke, Turners Falls, and Vernon, VT, dams successfully make it through them. At Turners Falls, that would mean 400,000 shad each year.

In order to bypass the Turners Falls hydropower projects, all fish travelling upstream must use two fish ladders: first to enter the canal, either at Cabot Station or at the spillway below the Turners Falls dam, and then to pass the gatehouse into the river above the dam. Fish that opt to travel up the Cabot Station ladder find themselves swimming up a two-mile power canal with difficult currents. The company proposes to eliminate this route.

“I think the overall plan is a good one. I just think their plan to retire the Cabot fish ladder before we know how the new scheme will work is probably preliminary,” said Andrea Donlon, a river steward for the Connecticut River Conservancy. “There needs to be some sort of stipulation in the license that they need

to build a second ladder,” she added, if the plan doesn’t work.

On average, Donlon said shad now spend one week in the power canal, far too long for a species with limited time to spawn. “The canal is not good spawning ground,” she said. “It’s got weird hydraulics. You see all this swirling water – it’s got to be confusing for the fish.”

The longest ladder leads up to the gatehouse from the dam’s spillway. It was completed in 1980 during a failed attempt to reintroduce salmon to the Connecticut River which was discontinued in 2012. Its design is not suitable for shad, which are not as strong as salmon, and can’t navigate strong current or sharp turns in the existing fish ladder.

“They spent a lot of money putting in fishways to the specifications we asked,” Sprankle said. “Through no fault of their own, they had fishways that never did the job.”

“Through no fault of their own, they had fishways that never did the job.... The hydraulics of the fishways, as we’ve learned, are important.”
– Ken Sprankle, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Water flowing into the power canal is controlled by the gatehouse, which features the final ladder all fish must now navigate. With the help of researchers from the Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Laboratory, also located in Turners Falls, this ladder was improved in 2010, resulting in a significant increase in fish successfully navigating up and out of the canal.

“We’ve been doing tweaks, retrofits and fixes – anything short of ripping them out,” Sprankle said. “The hydraulics of the fishways, as we’ve learned, are important.”

Exact plans for the new fish ladder have not been made public, as the massive hydropower project qualifies as “critical infrastructure” by the federal government.

“The new fish passage facility is effectively a fish elevator similar to the structure at the Holyoke Dam,” said FirstLight spokesperson Leonard Greene. “Fish are attracted into a large hopper, which is then hoisted to an elevation above the dam and the fish are released into the river on the other side of the dam.

“Generally speaking, the scientific com-

munity is in agreement that fish lifts are preferred, as shad and herring do not expend as much energy to ascend the dam.”

With the planned closure of the Cabot Station ladder, fish swimming upstream will have to be deterred from the outflows from the station’s large turbines. FirstLight’s proposed solution is a \$11.6 million ultrasound array to repel fish sonically. Neither the US-FWS nor the CRC would comment on the efficacy of the sonic strategy, but a 2013 assessment by the US Army Corps of Engineers casts doubt on whether the strategy is effective or if it harms the fish.

“The intent of the ultrasound array is to use sound to ensure the fish keep swimming upriver past Cabot station to the new fish lift being built at the dam,” Greene explained. “Our studies during the relicensing process have shown this practice is effective, and it has been used at other projects.”

Downstream Amenities

FirstLight’s application claims the company would spend \$130 million on habitat restoration and recreational enhancements to the river, which includes \$78 million on fish passage. The company has also proposed building a \$1.68 million “eelway” alongside the new fish elevator, and a \$6.1 million rack structure to keep fish from entering the smaller Station No. 1 on the power canal.

To better protect downstream habitats, FirstLight has offered to increase the minimum flows in the river. The changes are expected to double potential spawning habitats for American shad, according to data from the CRASC, and allow over 14,000 additional shad to return to the river as adults. More consistent flows are also expected to help the endangered shortnose sturgeon, Puritan Tiger beetle, and several state-listed species of Clubtail dragonflies.

To improve the passage of fish back downstream, FirstLight plans to construct a \$12.5 million “plunge pool” below the first dam gate, requiring the construction of a smaller containing structure on the rocks below, as well as \$1.5 million in upgrades to keep the dam gate heated.

“Certainly we want to improve downstream passage survival rates for these adults, because they have evolved to come back to the river to respawn,” Sprankle said.

The life cycle of an American shad begins and ends in the rivers of the eastern United States. While the anadromous fish spend

about 90% of their lives at sea, they travel back up rivers to reproduce where adults often die in large numbers at once.

“It’s not unexpected to have dead fish; when they enter the river, they’re not feeding,” Sprankle said. “They’ll have maybe 40 days to get in and out.”

Any delays due to inefficient fish passage push the fish closer to exhaustion, and death. Fish can also die passing through the hydro turbines, making safe downstream fish passage an important piece of the dam relicensing.

The fish ladders currently close in the summer, leaving fish traveling back down the Turners Falls dam with no option but to swim back through the gatehouse ladder, power canal and out a bypass channel by Cabot Station, or through the turbines.

“Why they think more fish will opt for the spill at the dam, I’m not sure,” Donlon told the *Reporter*. “Seems that the dominant flow will still be through the gatehouse and into the canal.”

Donlon also pointed out that under the new agreement, FirstLight would utilize Station No. 1 more often than they do currently. To prevent fish from dying in the smaller, faster turbines located there, the power company would spend \$6 million building a “rack structure” to keep ocean-bound fish from exiting the power canal through the generator, funneling them toward the Cabot Station bypass instead.

“About half the adult shad did use the bypass when we were doing studies,” Sprankle added, “but a high percentage go through the turbines, and the adults that go through the turbines get killed at a rate that’s unacceptable to us.”

FERC must now review FirstLight’s proposals, and is expected to publish proposed licenses for the Turners and Northfield projects early next year. At that point, the state of Massachusetts begins a process of issuing a “water quality certification,” which will require a public process. Both Fish and Wildlife and the CRC have official “intervenor” status before the FERC.

“I think what the proposal doesn’t do is provide for better protection for entraining fish at Cabot,” Donlon said. “It’s safe to say they didn’t propose anything better there – that’s still something the CRC will push for.”

“You can leave the door open for things to be done,” said Sprankle. “We don’t know if we can fully meet our management and restoration goals, with those as the only passage facilities.”



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



Corinne McFadden
Financial Advisor

55 Federal Street Suite 260
Hayburne Building
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-773-8063

Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
edwardjones.com

Start the Future Today!

- Wealth Management
- Trust Services
- Estate Settlement



GSB
Wealth Management & Trust Services

(413) 775-8335 • greenfieldsavings.com



FRANKLIN COMMUNITY CO-OP

144 MAIN STREET GREENFIELD, MA 01301 (413) 773-3567

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

About-Face
Computer Solutions



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

Dennis L. Booska
Dennis L. Booska, Jr.

Phone & Fax
413-863-3690

Booska’s Flooring

169 Avenue A, Turners Falls

Member
The Flooring Network.

Tile Lino Carpet

Turners Falls Pizza House



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

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

www.turnersfallspizza.com

119 Avenue A, Turners Falls ♦ (413) 863-8000

GREAT FALLS HARVEST
fresh • local • creative

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

**NOW TAKING RETAIL
AND PREPARED ORDERS
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Pickup: 5 to 7 p.m.

863-0023
50 Third Street
Downtown Turners Falls

Professional Painting & Decorating Contractor Since 1900

Celebrating Our 120th Anniversary!

COUTURE BROS.

Christian S. Couture, President

- ★ Commercial
- ★ Residential
- ★ Industrial

Tel: (413) 863-4346 Fax: (413) 863-3740
400 Avenue A – PO Box 270 – Turners Falls, MA 01376
www.couturebros.com | HIC Lic. 100326

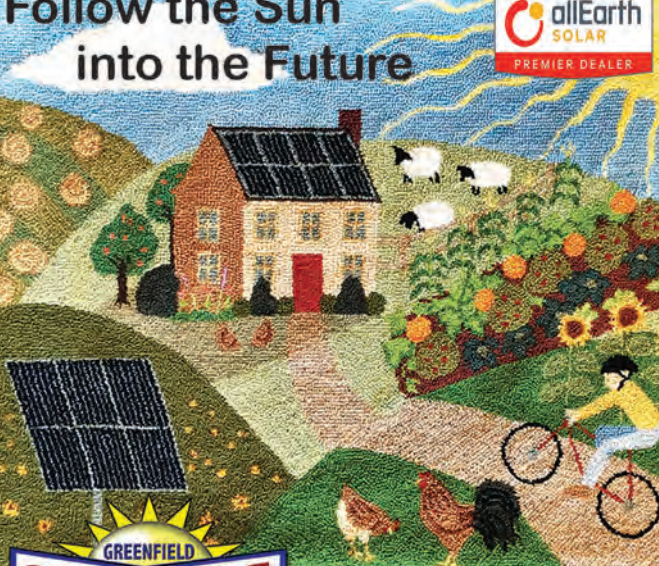
Geri Johnson, Realtor
ABR, CRB, CRS, GRI, SRES
413-863-9736 • GeriJohnson@Realtor.com



Geri Johnson & Associates
REALTORS

66 French King Hwy., Gill WWW.GJAR.COM
GERI JOHNSON, CRS 30 years of experience.

Follow the Sun
into the Future



allEarth SOLAR
PREMIER DEALER

GREENFIELD SOLAR STORE

2 Fiske Avenue, Greenfield
solarstoreofgreenfield.com
413.772.3122

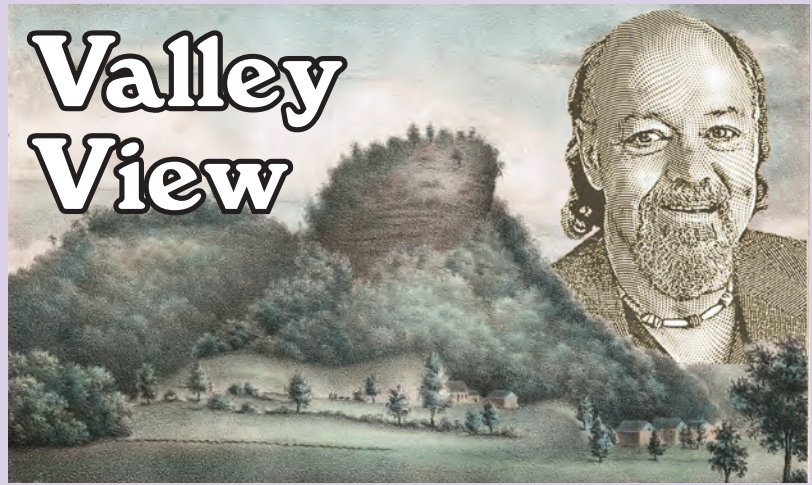
Local, residential and small commercial Solar PV Installers
for 14+ years in Franklin, Hampshire and Hamden counties.

Panasonic Solar
AUTHORIZED INSTALLER

Call for free site assessment.
Artist: Christine Pellerin



FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER DECEMBER 17, 2020



By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD— Fuller Swamp isn’t a welcoming type of place that invites you in for coffee by the kitchen fireplace. No, not quite. The call from Fuller is more like a challenge or foreboding taunt. Something like, “Come on in if you dare and give it your best shot.”

No promise of success, never an apology to weak-willed, mud-splattered, burdock-covered retreaters, of which there have likely been too many to count.

A spring-fed, late-Pleistocene, relict channel of the Deerfield River located between Mill Village Road and Route 5 & 10 in Deerfield, the deep, dark swamp is tucked along the eastern base of a tall, steep land shelf known in Deerfield parlance as Long Hill. The wooded, cattail jungle is traversed by a power line along its southern perimeter and has, for the few hunters who venture in, grown nothing but more difficult to maneuver over the past 50 years.

Though historically a haunt for bird, waterfowl, and rabbit hunters, it can also attract the hardest deer and bear hunters as well. Why not? Wildlife gravitates to such rich, fertile swamps where the eating’s good.

As a young man, the place referred to in townie local lingo as “Fuller’s” was part of my weekly valley pheasant-hunting itinerary west of the Connecticut River. The well-worn path led me from Little Naponset at the south end of Hatfield to the North Meadows of Deerfield, mostly in swamps bearing names such as Mill, Cow Bridge, Bashin, Hopewell, Stone-crusher, Savage’s, and Pogues Hole. Also, of course, intimidating Fuller’s, thus named because of its history as part of the old Fuller Farm, where nationally recognized Deerfield artist George Fuller (1822-1884) was born and raised.

Today, an octogenarian Fuller descendant, the widow Mary Arms Marsh, lives there, selling seasonal produce at her roadside Bars Farm Stand, one of my regular summer vegetable stops. Mary and I carry the same Arms DNA, so I view it as family.

As captured on 19th-century canvas, the Fullers harvested cranberries in the bog behind their hipped-roof, Federal home across

the street from the even earlier Allen Homestead. They also cut hay in fields that in my day served as marshy Melnik cow pasture, now overgrown wasteland populated by alders and poplars, thorns and vines, cattails and hummocks hiding treacherous pockets of black, sticky mud that can swallow a careless, freewheeling man in a jiffy.

How could I ever forget the day when, hunting with dear late friend and former Frontier baseball coach Tommy Valiton, I stepped on a thin, silty, harmless-looking trickle of a spring stream exiting the swamp’s interior and quickly found myself submerged to my chest? I stopped the slide to oblivion by reaching out my arms and shotgun and eventually hoisting myself back to my feet. No place for the weary or weak of spirit – Tommy was thoroughly amused. His mischievous smile said it all. Yes, he was humored to have borne witness the type of next-step’s-a-Lulu tale that’s told and retold for decades.

Then, of course, there’s another old hunting and softball buddy who’s often accompanied me to Fuller’s over the years. I call him Cooker and it was he who coined the term “Fuller Swamp Music” for the loud, humorous profanities inevitably uttered by shotgun-toting hunters who brave the Fuller brambles. His pronunciation of the word swamp rhymes with ramp or camp, his best attempt at a backwoods, hillbilly dialect.

Yes indeed, the place can draw loud, nasty cussing from even the pious, which fits neither of us. We have both sung Fuller Swamp Music to vent rage brought by wet, mucky misfortune of one little misstep. We know coming in that it’s almost impossible to avoid such catastrophes when focused on a gundog hunting fresh scent and a flush.

Still, we keep coming back for more. It all comes down to finding dense, semi-penetrable coverts where wise, late-season pheasants reside. That description fits Fuller Swamp to a tee, and brings us to my most recent, disastrous Fuller’s adventure that could well be my last. Yeah, I suppose it’s possible, yet not very likely.

The tale unfolded late in the day on November 24, two days before see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

Above: Seasonal preparations are underway...

ArtBeat

by Trish Crapo

A Painter of Forsaken Landscapes

LAKE PLEASANT – Painter Sue Fontaine grew up in what she describes on her website as “a post-industrial mill town in Massachusetts.” The phrase would aptly describe Turners Falls, but Fontaine’s hometown is Holyoke. She lives in Lake Pleasant now, and has lived roundabout in Franklin County for twenty years, drawing inspiration from the area’s “forsaken landscapes and places unnoticed.”

Fontaine works in acrylics, often layering the canvas with old dress patterns and other paper elements such as torn photographs to create a textured surface that echoes the physicality of her subjects. She’s intrigued by the jumbled geometries of falling-down ruins like the remains of the old Railroad Salvage building, and by the boarded-up storefronts on rundown Main



“People travel to go see ruins,” Fontaine points out, equating the subject of her painting, Railroad Salvage Ruin, with ruins from more ancient times.

Streets, spindly water towers criss-crossed by electrical lines, and the stark lines of Turners Falls’ bridges. “I work to expose the sense of place and the uniqueness of the everyday that lives among us,” she writes on her website, in a blog post

entitled “The Evolution of Being Invisible.” “Lines, paint and a surface that contorts like topography, to bring the invisible into view. To me it’s the beauty of the past, a place that no one visits, a forgotten gem, or a see **ARTBEAT** page B4

Profanity, Strong Language, and Swearing: A Montague Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING

Illustrations by NINA ROSSI

Monday, 8/5/13
6:33 p.m. Rough language on Avenue A.
Friday, 10/18/13
5:55 a.m. Call regarding unsafe operation of a vehicle by a newspaper delivery driver in Montague Center. When approached, operator yelled and swore at caller.
Monday, 2/3/14
1:34 p.m. Caller’s four-year-old daughter and her grandmother encountered a male party threatening people and using profanity at the Greenfield McDonalds.
Friday, 3/14/14
4:48 p.m. Complaint regarding group of kids yelling and swearing behind building on Fourth Street.
Monday, 4/28/14
12:33 p.m. Party into station to report that while at the Turners Falls Post office, a male party thought she was cutting in line, began yelling and swearing at her and threatened to follow her home and beat her.
Thursday, 5/15/14
4:15 p.m. Complaint regarding loud group of juveniles riding bikes on Third Street; when asked

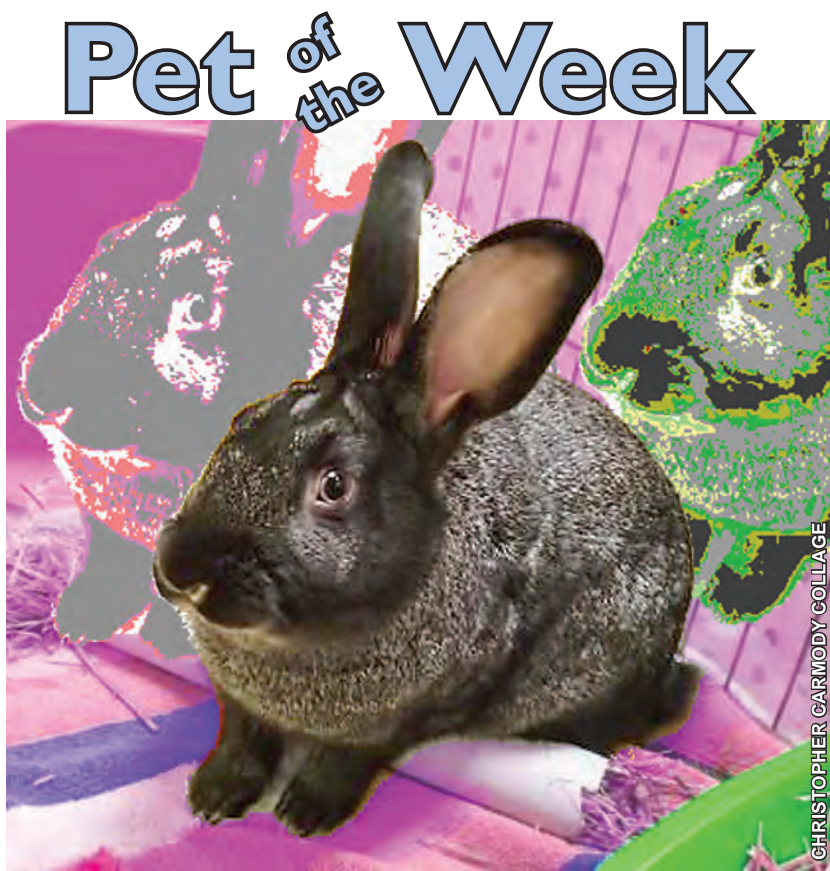
to quiet down, they reportedly began swearing and yelling at caller’s son.
Sunday, 6/1/14
11:30 a.m. Request for officer to respond to Wentworth Avenue, where female Hallmark students were playing loud profane music and racing cars up and down the street.



Friday, 6/13/14
7:11 a.m. Caller reporting that each morning, a group of kids waiting for the school bus on East Main Street ride their skateboards, yell and scream, and spit all over the sidewalk. They have also written swear words on the walls of the building. Caller is concerned because when the little kids go to the bus stop,

they have to see the profanity and try to avoid the spit everywhere.
Tuesday, 6/17/14
10:15 p.m. Complaint regarding two possibly intoxicated males leaving FL Roberts with open containers. Parties were loud and swearing in front of caller’s child.
Sunday, 7/20/14
6:59 p.m. Multiple reports of male on bike path yelling and swearing on a cell phone.
Friday, 8/1/14
10:47 a.m. Female party reported yelling and swearing on Avenue A; caller advises that this has happened several days in a row.
Monday, 9/29/14
10:36 a.m. Report that a vehicle passed two cars in a no passing zone on Montague City Road. Caller tried to speak with operator about his driving, but the driver began cursing at him.
Thursday, 10/9/14
8:28 p.m. Caller from L Street reports that her in-laws contacted her to say that they had taken some of her belongings to the Salvation Army. Officer

advised caller of options; caller swore at him and hung up.
Thursday, 11/27/14
11:46 a.m. Caller reports that the janitor in his mother’s apartment building just swore at him because of where he parked his vehicle; requests assistance mediating situation.
Monday, 1/12/15
10:53 a.m. Officer reports vehicle parked on Avenue A with the stereo blasting music; could hear a lot of profanity.
Monday, 3/30/15
2:52 p.m. Caller reports that she brought her vehicle to a local repair shop to be worked on, but found that there was still an issue with it afterward. Caller had words with employees and reports that one of them yelled, swore, and threatened her.
Friday, 5/22/15
7:18 p.m. Caller advises that he was just threatened by the operator of another vehicle, who yelled profanities at the caller before heading toward Erving.
Sunday, 5/24/15
7:29 p.m. Report of see **LOG** page B6



“DUTCH”

Dutch’s previous person described him as “sassy and loveable” and says he is “adorable and demanding.” He’s demanding about getting his fresh veggie and greens, because he loves them so much!

He was good with dogs in his previous home, but pushy with rabbits – now that he is neutered, he will find it easier to get along with other bunnies.

Minimum requirements for rabbit enclosures include 8 square

feet, plus 24 square feet of exercise space outside of their enclosure where they can run and play for at least five hours per day.

Interested in adopting, or have questions about adopting, or about “Dutch”? Animals at Dakin are available only in Springfield currently. Contact adoption staff at springfield@dakinhumane.org and include your name and phone number. For more information, call (413) 781-4000 or visit www.dakinhumane.org.



By MISHEL IXCHEL

TURNERS FALLS – For almost a week now, I’ve been waking up and doing the impossible: I’ve been meditating every morning as soon as I rise. I’ve flirted with this practice just about my whole life. Actually, “flirted” isn’t even accurate. Like online dating, when meditation comes up as a thought of something I should engage in, I more often than not swipe left.

The thought of meditating, of actually showing up to this practice daily, has been coming up more often during these last few months. And naturally, I manage to find every excuse in the book to avoid acknowledging it, let alone do it. Part of me knows there’s something there for me, patiently waiting, but mainly, I put it off for the proverbial Monday.

Why? Because meditation is scary as f***. You want me to sit quietly and breathe? Don’t you even know how terrifying most of my thoughts are? I’d rather be distracted any day of the week than attempt to hunker down with those incessant, pestilent, impossibly loud and persistent sons of b*tches – okay, I promise, no more cursing, but you catch my drift.

Then why all this talk about meditation? Mostly because it feels like a last resort. Surprisingly, parenting has become easier in the last month.

On the one hand, there is an amazing parenting book my co-parent and I are reading together. It’s got 20-something tools to imple-

Meditation: ‘Cause Some Questions Can’t Be Answered by Google

ment, and even though we’re just on Tool #3, the difference we’re seeing in ourselves and in our child is quite amazing. For those of you who are interested, the book is called *If I Have to Tell You One More Time: The Revolutionary Program That Gets Your Kids To Listen Without Nagging, Reminding, or Yelling* by Amy McCready.

On the other hand, my kid is in love with my new partner, who has spent more and more time with us recently. Having a partner while parenting is new to me, and I am truly shocked to feel only mildly (as opposed to utterly) exhausted as a result.

So parenting, despite everything else going on, has felt surprisingly easier. The other morning upon waking up my kid grabbed a pillow, sat next to me, closed his eyes, and meditated for a whole minute.

It’s everything else that’s stinking real hard, and it’s because I catch myself spinning out of control in my mind that I have decided it’s time to do the one thing I am dreading the most: sit quietly and attempt to meditate.

Also, ain’t gonna lie: I was wildly inspired by Dan Levy when I watched the documentary on his show, *Schitt’s Creek*. Behind the scenes, he could be seen showing up to everything. It was when he said something like “I have thought about the show every day for the last six years” that a chord was struck within me. The consistency, presence, and love with which he and his team showed up every day produced an endearing and powerful show.

The word “consistency” stayed with me, following me around for a

day or two, and amidst all the noise in my head, I knew the time had come for me to fully embrace the meaning of this word. I, too, yearn to show up every day for something I believe in. Show up for myself and my son and my life work. No excuses, no procrastination. Just a commitment to show up.

First things first, though. I need to clear up a few cobwebs in my head. Commitment and focus feel hard when there’s a million thoughts tripping me up right and left. Hence, my daily morning meditation practice.

This column doesn’t have a happy ending. It’s not as though I’ve suddenly gotten all the answers and awakenings from one week of meditating. On the contrary, I was right: attempting to sit down and breathe only magnifies the thoughts in my head, and these thoughts are not very pleasant.

And then – then it hit me. It’s not about all the answers or all the awakenings. It’s about staying calm, breathing deep, and being still when those thoughts come pounding. ‘Cause they do. All day long.

There are triggers galore, my friends, even more so now with this upside-down holiday season we’re entering. It’s about not staying stuck in those thoughts. Not allowing them to paralyze me like they do (‘cause they do).

To be continued.

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.

Senior Center Activities DECEMBER 21 THROUGH 25

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@erving-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 November 30; 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

Green Fields Market: Senior hours from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday and 10 to 11 a.m. on Sunday. Curbside pickup available. Order by 8 p.m.; order ready for pickup between 1 and 5 the following day. Delivery also available. (413) 773-9567

McCusker’s Market: Curbside pickup only 10 to 11 a.m. Order between 12 and 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop (413) 625-2548

Stop and Shop: Senior hours from 6 to 8 a.m. (413) 774-6096

— LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK —

Here’s the way it was on December 16, 2010: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Coop Removes Painting Following Complaint

“Please remove the painting of Jesus Christ dragged by the lion. Very offensive... and I love coming to the coop. Please! Thank you.” That was the anonymous note handed to Wendell artist Adrian Montagano by a cashier at the Leverett Village Coop on Sunday night, when he stopped in for his nightly cup of coffee.

By Monday, Pastor Douglas Macleod of the North Leverett Baptist Church, a Leverett firefighter and a regular shopper at the coop, had heard about the painting hanging among eight other works by Montagano in the coop’s café, and stopped by to see it for himself.

“I heard there was a painting hanging in the coop which was just an absolute perverted display of Jesus Christ and the church, and I went up there and I looked at it, and I actually took some pictures of it,” Macleod said. “I was offended by it as a Christian, and I asked the coop if they would consider taking it down.”

Coop manager Paul Rosenberg recalled the conversation as a bit more heated. He called MacLeod’s vehement statements about the painting to customers dining in the café space a “diatribe,” and said the pastor “demanded we take the painting down.” Rosenberg said MacLeod alluded to economic consequences if the coop continued to show the work. By the end of Monday, several community members had stopped in and stated they would not shop there while the painting was up.

By Tuesday morning, Montagano had removed the painting. Following a special meeting of the coop’s board of directors, called on an emergency basis by Rosenberg, Rosenberg said Montagano made the decision to remove the painting himself. That meeting was held in the presence of Montagano, the coop’s art show coordinator Lauren Shey, and other customers. Rosen-

berg said the coop board did not take a formal vote to tell Montagano to remove the painting.

Board chair Pamela Stone confirms no formal vote was taken, but maintains the board came to a unanimous “consensus” agreement that the painting should come down prior to Montagano’s arrival at the meeting.

Montagano said it was clearly the board’s decision to have the painting taken down.

Three Rescued In Small Plane Crash

Leverett police chief Gary Billings praised the quick response and cool decision making of emergency responders to the crash of a single-engine Cessna U206G in the East Leverett Meadow Conservation Area field on Sunday afternoon. The crash claimed the life of one man – Robert Lothrop, of Lakeville, MA, aged 62 – after the pleasure flight from Keene, NH to Long Island took a fatal turn due to apparent engine failure.

An eyewitness to the crash, William Vanna, of Amherst, said he was riding down Shutesbury Road when the plane came in low over his head. “It was low enough it startled me,” he said. Fifteen seconds later, Vanna heard a two-part boom from the direction of the field, and shortly arrived on the scene.

The pilot was trying to climb out of the plane, disengaging himself from his safety harness, and dialing 911 on his cell phone at the same time. Vanna said the Leverett police were on the scene within five minutes; three Leverett fire trucks responded in rapid succession immediately thereafter.



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

BestLocalBank.com

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

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

GREENFIELD Cooperative Bank

NORTHAMPTON Cooperative Bank

Avenue A, Turners Falls | 413-512-5012

MEMBER FDIC

MEMBER DIF

OPEN DAILY

LUNCH and DINNER

24 Federal St., Greenfield

773-0333 / thepeoplespint.com

The Pint Says: TURN THE KEY!

When you idle your car's engine for more than 10-20 seconds, you're wasting fuel.

Save on Gas - Save our Climate

REAL PICKLES

Locally grown vegetables
Fermented & raw
100% organic

A worker co-op in Greenfield, MA

www.realpickles.com | (413) 774-2600

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

GMEF Annual Gala Canceled

TURNERS FALLS – The Gill-Montague Education Fund Annual Gala, “The Legend of Johnny Cash,” has been cancelled.

“It is with extreme sadness that we learned that Philip Bauer passed away on November 24, 2020 of stage 4 colon cancer,” said Joyce Phillips, Executive Producer. Bauer had been scheduled to perform on April 20 for the 2020 GMEF Annual Gala. It was postponed to 2021 due to the pandemic. Philip Bauer was known worldwide as the number one tribute artist of Johnny Cash. He brought the sound and charisma of “The Man in Black” to life in his 90-minute stage show. W.S. Holland, Johnny Cash’s only drummer, recognized Philip as “the best I have ever seen.”

Because of the pandemic, the GMEF was unable to raise money with the Gala which results in the support of student enrichment. Phillips said the GMEF will continue to award three scholarships in June, and their annual “roses for the seniors” at graduation.

Anyone who purchased advanced tickets for the 2020 Gala may wish to donate their ticket money towards student enrichment. Please contact us via our website, www.thegmef.org, or email info@thegmef.org. We will send you a letter recognizing your 2020 tax-deductible contribution.

Otherwise, patrons may return their tickets to The GMEF – TICKETS, PO Box 383, Turners Falls, MA 01376 for a full refund.

Our Annual Galas will return when it is safe for everyone to gather. Thank you for your support.

TREE PROFILE

The Rockefeller Christmas Tree



Thronback: The 2013 tree at the Center.

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – The Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree Lighting is one of the most well-known Christmas events across the country to take place each holiday season. It started in 1931, according to the history off the official Rockefeller Center website, the first tree was put up by construction workers. It also mentions this year’s tree, like the previous ones, will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

This tree also inspired a children’s book called the Carpenter’s Gift written by David Rubel and illustrated by Jim Lamarche, who collaborated on it with Habitat for Humanity. In connection with having inspired a book, I feel I should also mention a movie that the tree has been a part of. It’s called The Christmas Tree, made in 1996, and it featured of course a tree being picked to be put up in Rockefeller Center for Christmas. People appeared to have enjoyed the movie very much.

Speaking of a tree being picked for this, a librarian who wishes to remain anonymous out of the New York Historical Society said a man named David P. Murbach did the selection of the tree until 2010. He was the manager of the Garden division at Rockefeller Center.

“He wanted trees that were between 70 and 80 feet tall,” she wrote. I also learned from her that “In 2015, it was a 78-foot Norway from Gardener, New York.” The donation of a tree can be made through a section off the official website. The Wikipedia page about the tree in the Center told me that in the early years of this,

it was Bruce Fir, Balsam Fir, and white spruce, instead of just always being a Norway Spruce.

As for the name of the person who donated a tree one year, it was Carol Schultze. I got that from a New York Post article online. It also told me that was last year’s tree out of Florida, Orange County, New York.

As for other things connected to this tree, they put a Swarovski Christmas tree star on top of it. I know Swarovski sells some very nice jewelry, so this must be a very nice-looking star. The librarian also told me that “They have continued to use a Swarovski Christmas star on the tree.” I also was told, “In 2016, there were 45,000 LED lights on the tree.” Despite the major health crisis going on, I have been informed there will be a lighting of the tree in the Center this year, which is enjoyable to see even if it’s on TV.

I don’t really know much about the selection process for choosing the Rockefeller tree, except that it’s done out of New York. Before the choice was official, I got info from an article written by Libby Cudmore, the manager editor of The Freeman’s Journal in Oneonta, New York, that one possible choice was out of there. She mentioned, when I spoke to her for a quote: “In 2016 Oneonta had a tree that belongs to Craig and Angie Eichler. There is a tree in Oneonta being prepared.”

On November 11, the Today Show made it official that this tree will be the one. The spruce arrived at the center on November 14 to be erected. This year’s tree was the 88th one to be lit up at Rockefeller Center.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Maskless Doofus At Food City; Trash Bag Drama; Prescription Theft; Airport Hunters; Keith Creep

Monday, 12/7
10:23 a.m. First of two callers reporting that their information was used in an unemployment fraud or scam.
11:30 a.m. Aubuchon Hardware store manager reporting that a man has come into the store pretending to be from a company that has a charge account there. He has made off with store merchandise. Report taken.
1:18 p.m. Caller states that she was walking her dog by a house on Federal Street and a Rottweiler dog that lives there came after her and her dog. The dog was off leash and chased her down the street. Animal control officer notified and responding.
5:59 p.m. Report of smoke alarms going off for past 15 minutes on Avenue C; caller states there is a sulfur odor; no one complaining of sickness or dizziness. No smoke or flames observed. Caller states she has already contacted landlord. TFFD advised.

Tuesday, 12/8
1:56 p.m. ACO advising he responded to a G Street address today to investigate a complaint of animal neglect. No answer at the door.
2:59 p.m. Food City employee requesting officer for male party who is refusing to wear a mask; not causing a disturbance at this time. Male party gone on arrival; last seen heading toward Avenue A and Fourth Street. Units will be on lookout.
8:11 p.m. Officer detaining one party following a motor vehicle stop on Millers Falls Road. Mutual aid requested for getting disorderly female into cruiser. Chief of Gill PD responding. A 29-year-old Johnson, Vermont woman was arrested and charged with failing to stop for police, unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, miscellaneous motor vehicle equipment violation, assault and battery on a police officer, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest.

Wednesday, 12/9
7:54 a.m. Caller reports that at around 5:30 this morning a couple of men were talking near his property, which abuts the airport; advised he has never seen hunters in that area; unsure what they were doing there. Parties no longer there. Caller requesting extra patrols periodically throughout the day. Officer advised.
12:23 p.m. Report of a sofa that has been on the sidewalk in front of a Federal Street residence for at least a week. Caller requesting officer attempt to make contact with residence to have it moved ASAP. Officer advises no answer at door of apartment building; located building owner’s contact info; voicemail left advising to move it ASAP.
4:56 p.m. Four reports of slippery roads around town. DPW out with sanding trucks.

Friday, 12/11
12:24 a.m. Officer checking on a vehicle that has been parked at Unity Park for several days. Called registered owner, who advised that his daughter drives this vehicle; she is in town visiting a relative, and did not want to park on the street. He will contact her tomorrow and have her move the vehicle out of the park.
4:58 a.m. Caller making multiple calls to MPD business line, harassing in nature, including referring to dispatcher as derogatory names.
7:13 a.m. Report of bag of trash in road on Oakman Street. Caller found mail with a party’s name on it inside of the bag. Officer placed call to party named on mail; no answer; message left. Officer requesting message be left for DPW answering machine for Monday. 11:02 a.m.: Second resident called reporting several bags of trash in the road; believes they fell off the trash truck; advised some of the bags opened up and debris is blocking a driveway. Officer requesting DPW employee on call be contacted. Called foreman; no answer; message left. Officer advising he was informed that there are two trash trucks on Oakman Street now picking up the trash that was dropped off the trucks yesterday. Second caller called back advising one of the trash trucks stopped, looked at the trash bags, and then kept going. Contacted DPW superintendent, who advised contact was made with Republic Services; they checked the bags in question and determined they did not come off their truck. DPW has another worker coming in to clean up the remaining bags/debris.
11:01 a.m. Abandoned vehicle in Third Street parking lot; no plates on vehicle. Officer requesting tow. Tow on scene. Owner called to argue about the vehicle being towed. Explained to owner reasons for tow and offered several times to take his contact number and have the officer call him back. Owner refused several times and hung up. Officer advised.
11:35 a.m. Officer advised of expired boat trailer with boat on it in the Third Street parking lot. Officer spoke with last owner of record, who advised he sold it several years ago and will follow up.

11:36 a.m. Report of shoplifting at Cumberland Farms; suspect left in a vehicle then returned and was confronted by the staff. Male then left behind his backpack containing the stolen items and left again in the same vehicle. Last seen heading toward Avenue A. Stolen items removed and given back to store. Officer will bring backpack containing paraphernalia back to station. Caller called back with suspect info; advises she reviewed store records, and he is the same subject from previous shoplifting incidents. Report taken.
6:07 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports that someone stole a package containing a prescription drink he receives by mail. Officer spoke with caller, who would just like the incident on record for now.
9:36 p.m. Caller states there is a man walking around the parking lot at Highland Street Apartments “checking vehicles.” Area checked; nothing found.

Saturday, 12/12
9:28 a.m. Caller reporting that a blue vehicle with

New Hampshire plates is parked in the Sunrise Terrace parking lot and has been there since 8:30 this morning. Caller states vehicle has been coming there every day and has kids in it; states it is usually there around 3 p.m. Caller would like an officer to check on it. Officer checked all three parking lots; unable to locate.
9:57 a.m. Caller from West Mineral Road reporting hunters parked at the end of her road. When her boyfriend confronted them about going onto airport property, they stated they have permission from someone at the airport. Advised caller to contact airport on Monday; officer advised as well.

Sunday, 12/13
8:42 a.m. Caller states that recently there has been a man in a dark hoodie walking on the back porches at Keith Apartments. Caller states he will tap on people’s windows, and may even have checked apartment doors to see if they are locked or not. Caller was advised to tell other residents to call right away if they see or hear him again.
11:01 a.m. Caller from Third Street states that three packages delivered by FedEx have gone missing. FedEx says that they were delivered, but caller states that she never received them. Caller was just looking for this to be on record as proof that she called about the situation.
3:08 p.m. Report of suspicious male driving an older-style light blue truck around Park Street asking people to get in his truck and do drugs with him. Officer checked areas of Park and Central streets and Unity Park; unable to locate.
3:49 p.m. A 56-year-old Lake Pleasant man was arrested on a default warrant.

(413) 863-9200

34 Second St., TF, MA 01376

MCTV

MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION

montaguetv.org

vimeo.com/mctvchannel17

Now is a great time to get involved! MCTV is still providing public access to filming and editing services and equipment! Cameras are sanitized and available for pick-up Monday through Friday 10am-4pm.

If you have an idea for a video, please get in touch!

MCTV is seeking new Board Members for the Treasurer position and more.

If you are interested, please contact the station to set up a meeting.

MCTV is also hiring for a Spanish Language producer.

To apply, please send a cover letter to infomontaguetv@gmail.com

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

B. RUBIN & SONS INC.

COMPLETE AUTO REPAIRS

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

194 MILLERS FALLS RD. • 413-863-2236

10% SENIOR DISCOUNT FREE ESTIMATES

MASS INSPECTION STATION: NO. 13051

BOOK MILL

440 Greenfield Rd.
Montague, MA 01351

413-367-9206 www.montaguebookmill.com

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

HUGE
WASHERS!

HOT
DRYERS!

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

SUZEE'S THIRD STREET
LAUNDRY

TURNERS FALLS

ARTBEAT from page B1

ramshackle wreck that is alluring.” Fontaine first started exploring the mill town experience in her work while completing a Bachelor of Arts degree at UMass Amherst in the late ‘90s. She experimented with incorporating fabric onto her canvases, both to reference women’s work in the mills and to try to create some volume and add a relief effect to her paintings. Over time, she transitioned to using paper, also a product of our area’s mills.

“Then, about twenty years ago, I started laying down these clothing pattern skins on the canvas,” she says. “It just feels really good to me.”

She likes the “ancient look” that the patterns’ tan color provides, and their lines and arrows interact in interesting ways with her subject matter. Sometimes she paints those lines out, sometimes she incorporates them into the piece.

In the painting *Railroad Salvage Ruins* the lines call to mind blueprints, reminding me that a dress pattern is, after all, a kind of blueprint. That reference seems appropriate for the rugged geometry of the building. But some of the pattern lines can also be seen as background elements in the scene itself



Fontaine says *Black Crow, Red Water* was “a way of exploring a landscape with me in it.”

– fence lines or electrical wires. The delicately-drawn moths Fontaine layered onto the painting’s surface with gel medium suggest the passage of time. And perhaps the ethereal quality of everything, including buildings.

Sticks and Silhouettes

In addition to wrecked, offbeat urban landscapes, Fontaine also likes to explore the stripped-down natural landscapes of winter.

Broken and Blue, a painting Fontaine discusses in a blog post entitled

“COVID Blues,” is a portrait of part of a spiked, thorny tree, one of many created by recent drought conditions.

“I wonder about the relation between the thorny trees and painting during COVID,” Fontaine writes on the blog. “And the blue that falls down the trunk. I think it adds to the mood of the work.”

On the phone with me on a white, foggy day that some might describe as “featureless,” Fontaine says happily, “This is my favorite time of year. The dead tree season. I love the white backdrop with these stark, dark lines against it. To me, it’s like a canvas. I walk around and I see all this beautiful work in front of me – instead of just a walk in the woods.”

She also has become obsessed with drawing dried, dead weeds.

“My friends laugh at me,” she says, “because everybody is painting these beautiful florals and I’m drawing these dead weeds. But I’m fascinated with the silhouettes that are sticking out of the ground.”

Black Crow, Red Water is an older painting that Fontaine made when she lived in Shutesbury. The crow fills most of the canvas, dominating the grayish-white sky. Fontaine collaged bits of a photograph into two of the painting’s corners.

When she lived in Shutesbury,

Fontaine says, “Every day I would get up and see this murder of crows.”

Their regularity and proximity contributed to her fascination. But she also came to identify with them, rather just observe them the way she observes songbirds or fish, or other creatures in the landscape.

“Whenever there’s a crow in my work, I’m the crow,” Fontaine says firmly.

Asked why, she responds, “That’s a good question. I don’t know! I’m not a cute little bird. I’m a little dark, maybe. But beautiful.”

She laughs.

“And part of a group, and maybe a little tenacious.”

Right now you can see Fontaine’s work not only on her website, but as part of the 2020 Virtual Hosmer Gallery, an inclusive community exhibit hosted by Forbes Library in Northampton. The exhibit is a smorgasbord of varied works from artists working in many styles and genres. Residents of western Mass can contribute up to three images of original artwork to the exhibit, though, since 2020 is almost over, it’s not clear when the cut-off might be.

For more information, see suefontaine.com and forbeslibrary.org/gallery/virtual-gallery/.



VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Thanksgiving and four days before the end of pheasant season. I was hunting with a buddy I affectionately call Killer because of his uncanny ability to be in the right place at the right time and hit his mark. Accompanying us was Rex, a 15-month-old dynamo of an English springer spaniel gun dog, owned by Cooker and bred to attack punishing cover.

With stocked pheasants getting tougher to find coming down the stretch, we had first ventured into Fuller’s a week earlier. On that maiden voyage, we nearly turned back at the midpoint when unable to find even the hint of a trail to follow and were thus forced to break our own. Mind you, breaking such a trail is no easy task for two spry young lads, never mind two old diehards with a combined age of 143 years.

Complicating matters was a nagging cramp Killer had been experiencing in his right calf since September. He’d been treating it with overnight muscle relaxers prescribed by his doctor and daytime ibuprofen to limit inflammation, but the medicine brought only moderate relief and he couldn’t shake his nagging issue. Physically compromised in his 76th year, he was nonetheless ready and willing to go daily, oozing painful enthusiasm through tough cover. Problem was that his discomfort and concern only waxed as the season endured. Maybe it was unwise to continue pushing it if he wanted to get through deer season. So, yes, it was high time to start balancing his love of wing-shooting with his love of the looming deer season and tender venison backstraps, sizzled rare in the bacon fat of a black Griswold skillet.

We parked separate vehicles after 3 p.m. in the Long Hill shade under the power line overlooking the southwestern corner of Fuller Swamp, just below the site of a recent fatal automobile accident. Partly cloudy skies were

graying and the temperature was dropping into the low 40s, perfect for Fuller’s.

We figured it would take us about an hour to hunt the familiar, rectangular, 20-some-acre covert that has always been productive. We knew Rexxie would be up to the task. The question was: could we stay with him and reward him with retrieves for his flushes? A tall order for even a young man, it helps to know the game and the swamp.

We passed under the power line and descended down a steep 15-foot escarpment to the wetland, crossing a decayed pallet snowmobile bridge into the old pasture. From there we plowed east along the edge of a long, tall alder stand leading to a north-south game trail that would take us where we wanted to go. About halfway to the thin trail used by deer, coyotes and even pheasants, Killer halted to admit he could go no farther. His freakin’ calf was killing him, and he didn’t want to push it.

No problem. I told him to position himself in an opening with shooting lanes and just stand there as Rexxie and I circled west, north, and back south toward him. I knew there was at least one cackling rooster in there, one that had eluded me, Cooker, and Rex the previous day. Given that we were already there, I might as well take a quick loop and call it a day? Who knew? Maybe a wild flush would pass him.

Ole Killer was a little cranky but still game, more than willing to take a strategic stand. The man loves to hunt, to shoot, to watch athletic flush-and-retrieve gun dogs do their thing. Plus, we’ve hunted together for many years and he was confident I could stir up a little action.

I reached the end of the alder row and followed its northern perimeter west before angling toward a productive plateau overlooking a muddy ditch and marsh. Rexxie was all business, bouncing over dense cover out in

front of me. I felt a sudden urgency to reach high ground 25 yards away in case he flushed something. Crossing a small patch of low, viny cover to reach my intended destination, my boot got tangled in the vines. I stumbled forward and immediately knew I could not avoid my second fall of the season – not bad for a battered old warhorse. I extended my elbows, forearms, and shotgun in front of me to cushion a low-impact, controlled fall. On my way down, I felt my Achilles tendon pop: not a comforting development.

Uh-oh. I knew what I was dealing with as I lay on my belly, unsure if I’d be able to get back on my feet. If the answer was no, it may have taken a helicopter to get me out of there. I laid my gun to the side, used my arms to prop myself to my knees, unloaded the gun, dropped the shells into my vest pocket, wrapped my hands around the barrels, and used the gunstock to push me up onto my feet. Unsure what would happen if I put weight on my injured leg, I took a cautious step and was surprised that it could support my weight without collapsing. Whew! Maybe I had dodged a bullet.

As I carefully exited my viny tangle, I heard the telltale cackle of a cock pheasant behind me, looked to my left and, sure enough, a rooster passed me 40 yards out. Facing turmoil, I had momentarily forgotten all about Rex, who obviously was still on a mission.

It’s unlikely I would have shot even if my gun had been loaded. Distracted by the injury, I was not prepared. That’s the bad news. The good news was that the bird flew toward Killer, who I could not see. I yelled loudly that a flush was coming his way but received no response from him or his gun before the rooster landed between us, maybe 100 yards south of me.

I walked 10 yards, picked up a game trail and slowly followed it toward the pheas-

ant. Once in the neighborhood, I whistled to Rexxie, who soon appeared, blowing past me with a noseful of excitement. It’s fun to watch.

“Killer?” I hollered.

“Yeah,” he growled from about 50 yards away, t’other side of the tall alder screen between us.

“Heads-up. The bird’s between us, and Rexxie just went in there.”

Seconds later, I heard the “cuck-cuck-cuck-cuck” of another rooster flush, followed by the deafening roar of Killer’s trusty old Remington.

“Didja get him?”

“Yup.”

“Attaboy, Killer!”

Rexxie quickly retrieved the dead bird. I rejoined Killer and told him of my injury. He dropped the rooster into his gamebag and we embarked on our perilous journey back to my truck. Using our unloaded shotguns as expensive walking sticks, we carefully limped a quarter-mile out of that thorny, slimy hellhole fully aware that our season was over.

Finally, two weeks later, after limping around the house between icy then hot soakings, and avoiding medical establishments during the COVID scare, I found my way to the orthopedic surgeon for bad news. I had ruptured my Achilles tendon, which I can’t say surprised me. That’s what the telltale pop screams when it happens. The question was: How had I been able to walk away? Luck, I guess. Maybe even friendly swamp spirits.

So now, here I sit, confined to a walking boot and sentenced to a potentially long, tedious winter recovery. Have I experienced my final Fuller Swamp hunt? Maybe so, but don’t bet on it. I’ll likely return because I love it. So do Killer and Cooker, buddies who’ll come along for the ride, chasing wet, thorny cackles to Fuller Swamp Music that ain’t gospel.



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

SALES • SERVICE • INSTALLATION
RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL
DOORS & OPENERS

Devine Overhead Doors

Gerry Devine

106 West Street
Hadley, MA. 01035

Hampshire: 586-3161
Franklin: 773-9497

Fred Holmgren
Piano Tuning & Repair

Stay
tuned!

(978)544-5494
fredholmgren@gmail.com

French King

Restaurant & Motel

OPEN BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
FRIDAY, SATURDAY, AND SUNDAY

SPIRITS, BREWS & FINE WINES

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

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

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

THE
SPIRIT SHOPPE

Pipione's

SPORT SHOP

Fishing supplies; Live bait
Fishing & Hunting Licenses
Paintball & CO₂ Refills
Guns & Ammo

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

Doug's Auto Body

Doug Smith - Owner

PRECISION
REPAIRS

MA Reg. #RS2190

Ph. (413) 863-2785
Fax: (413) 863-0120
FREE ESTIMATES

39 Center Road
Gill, MA 01354
FREE LOANER CARS
REPAIRS ON FOREIGN & DOMESTIC CARS AND TRUCKS

Comics

and


Puzzle

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

BORDEAUX WHINE

by denis bordeaux

"VIRUSES ON THE RUN"



12.16.20

Cool Cats on the Ave

Segeth



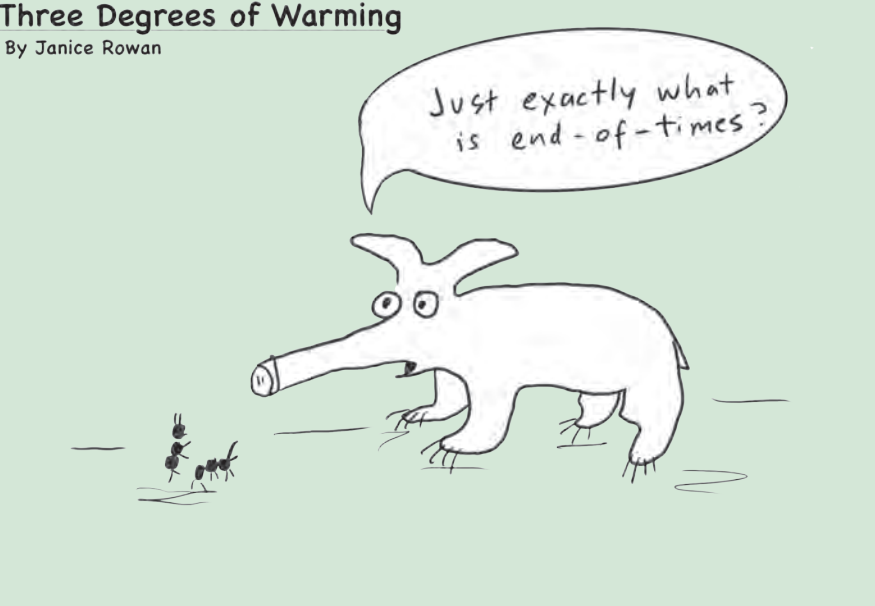
OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



Three Degrees of Warming

By Janice Rowan





25 episodes are now available!
Look for us on Apple/iTunes, Spotify, Stitcher, Anchor, Castbox, and elsewhere...
The Montague Reporter Podcast

LILLY MOSS COMIC



MONTAGUE CRYPTOJAM!

ILANG RAM FLAM HAMRVOMALEG

RBN CLIMAXES HORB IM HOUBD.

- WMRB-CRES GRAHAM

CRACK THE CODE? SEND YOUR ANSWER TO: INFO@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

Submit your comics and puzzles to editor@montaguereporter.org.
Original & local creations only, please!

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

Edward J. Terault
(413) 223-5494
www.REILCLEAN.com



• Complete Custodial Services •
• Bonded and Insured •

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

Cleaning Franklin & Hampshire Counties since 1972

BKONFONQEQWIYSS . IPY
HMZGESCGQVQFHJW . MMO
FONTLVPEAXQAHD0 . SHC
LJKEVOBFBFNAPGR . RED
SECRETBROADCAST . NET

a weekly secret message podcast

RIVERSIDE RADIATOR

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

Propane Filling Station

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

ED L.

Dealer in used Home Furnishings

SMALL FURNITURE • COLLECTIBLES • DECORATIVES

374 Deerfield Street • Greenfield
Featuring: Lamps Mirrors Chairs Baskets

Call (413) 834 - 3128 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT

MASK REQUIRED • EXCLUSIVE SHOPPING!

enrich the soil, rebuild lives

curbside pickups of food scraps

now serving greenfield & turners weekly and every-other-week service
(413) 376-8076
www.thecompostcooperative.com
thecompostcooperative@gmail.com



Bryan Hobbs Remodeling LLC

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

Email: bryanhobbsremodeling@gmail.com
Now Accepting Credit Cards

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



Bryan G. Hobbs
PO Box 1555
Greenfield, MA 01302

LOG from page B1

verbal altercation on Davis Street. Officers spoke to involved parties about the language that they were using in front of kids.

Thursday, 5/28/15
10:29 p.m. Report of disturbance on Randall Road; kids yelling profanities at caller.

Saturday, 7/25/15
8:40 p.m. Request for officer to speak to a couple of fishermen sitting on the old bridge abutment at Unity Park; they are swearing at boats involved in the Christmas in July party that are making noise and disturbing their fishing. Caller states that there are a lot of kids around and hopes an officer can settle the fishermen down.

Thursday, 8/6/15
8:42 p.m. Caller advises of shirtless white male standing in the middle of the road near Avenue A and Fourth Street yelling profanities and threats at someone inside an apartment. Second caller advises of same.

Thursday, 8/27/15
1:45 p.m. Report of ongoing suspicious activity, including drug transactions and people being loud and swearing in the parking lot, at a recently renovated apartment building on L Street.

Sunday, 8/30/15
9:02 p.m. Caller reports that a male is walking around the area of Griswold Street swearing to himself. Officer out with male, who stated he is going home for the night. Nothing unusual observed.

Friday, 9/4/15
2:04 p.m. Officer requested for a male causing a disturbance

outside of Food City: swearing, pushing shopping cart into things, etc.

Thursday, 10/8/15
1:22 p.m. Caller reports that a female on Fourth Street is yelling and cursing in her apartment.

Sunday, 12/20/15
9:26 p.m. 911 call from Between The Uprights; male party inside bar threatening to go behind bar and pour his own beer. Caller stated he is screaming and yelling profanities at employees.

Sunday, 1/3/16
8:28 p.m. Caller advising there were two or three males walking down the alley near Fifth and L Streets swearing and “carrying on”; on occasions a vehicle will meet these men, and there is some sort of exchange that usually ends with more yelling.

Tuesday, 4/12/16
1:24 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street complaining of three or four males outside her building speaking loudly, using “foul language,” and disturbing the peace.

Thursday, 4/28/16
8:29 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street complaining of a group “fighting” out-

side, screaming and using profanities.

Tuesday, 5/10/16
7:56 p.m. Caller advising of belligerent male yelling and swearing inside Rite Aid.

Thursday, 7/28/16
3:36 a.m. Report of man who appears to have set up camp in the patch of woods between Second Street and the Discovery Center parking lot. Male is yelling and screaming profanity at people walking in the area.

Thursday, 9/15/16
7:54 p.m. 911 caller from Davis Street states that his female neighbor is yelling into his window, calling him names, and swearing at him.

Friday, 9/16/16
8:35 a.m. Caller from Davis Street states that a party is outside on his cell phone yelling and swearing extremely loudly while young children are in the area walking to school. Ongoing issue.

Sunday, 10/23/16
11:07 p.m. Caller from Third Street reports a small group of males were banging on the crosswalk sign outside her residence. Caller asked them to stop and was met with yelling and curse words.

Thursday, 11/10/16
11:30 a.m. Caller from Unity Park states that two teenaged males are

being disruptive on the playground and using vulgar language.

Tuesday, 2/24/17
2:20 p.m. Caller requesting extra patrols at the skate park; advising that a group of girls there are using foul language and harassing other people in the park.

Thursday, 3/9/17
7:52 p.m. Caller from Eleventh Street reporting that her neighbor is continuously setting off fireworks tonight. She came outside and asked if he would stop, but he became confrontational and was swearing at her.

Wednesday, 5/31/17
5:22 p.m. Caller reporting that while crossing the old metal bridge by the Erving paper mill, he saw a car parked in the middle of the bridge. When he stopped, he saw a man hanging off the bridge railing and being held up by two females. Caller got out to see if they needed help. At that point, the male climbed back over the railing and started swearing at the caller and coming towards him in an aggressive manner.

Wednesday, 7/26/17
1:02 p.m. Caller states that a man is at the Sheffield Elementary School playground, swearing loudly. When he was asked to quiet down, he threw something at the caller.

Sunday, 7/30/17
6:20 p.m. Caller from Second Street reporting that a light gold colored vehi-

cle pulled up out front with small children in the car; male driver was swearing and yelling at a female who had come outside, and female was yelling and swearing back at him.

Tuesday, 10/3/17
2:06 p.m. Caller from Rendezvous reports

Investigated.

Friday, 5/24/19
3:44 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that he is sitting in the courtyard with his grandson and a group of kids is swearing at him and he is becoming agitated. Officer *en route*.

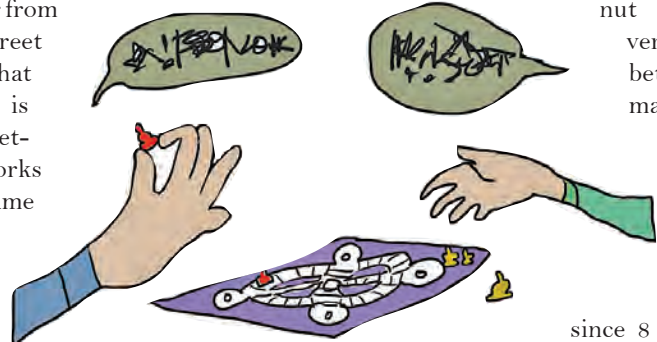
Sunday, 9/2/18
11:39 p.m. Caller from Chestnut Street reporting verbal disturbance between male and female in house across the street. Nothing seen, only yelling and swearing between male and female

since 8 or 9 p.m. tonight. Patrol units *en route*. Residents had a couple people over and are playing board games. They got a little loud. Advised of complaint.

Friday, 10/18/19
9:57 a.m. Shelburne Control received a call for a male party walking/yelling/swearing in the area of Bridge and Crescent streets. Officers located subject; male was rapping/singing but is OK.

Sunday, 8/4/19
12:26 p.m. Caller from Federal Street reporting that neighbor is being very loud, revving engines, swearing, and has cars parked on the sidewalk. Officer advises no cars in driveway or on sidewalk and garage closed.

Thursday, 1/9/20
3:39 a.m. Caller states that she is in a car and four males are beating up on a female on Fourth Street. While caller was giving information to officers, some swearing could be heard, and then the line went dead. Officer advises all parties have been separated for the night.



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

Celebrate the Season!
We've got you covered through the holidays!
SINCE 1888
A.H. Rist
INSURANCE AGENCY, INC.
159 Avenue A | Turners Falls MA | 413.863.4373 | ahrist.com

MASSIVE BOOKSHOP
EST. 2020
YOUR LOCAL ANTI-PRIME BOOK SERVICE
VISIT US AT: **MASSIVEBOOKSHOP.COM**

DIEMAND FARM
WINTER IS COMING
DIEMAND FARM SOUPS WILL KEEP YOU WARM.
THIS UNPRECEDENTED YEAR IS ALMOST AT AN END.
WE THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT.
THEDIEMANDFARM.COM
126 MORMON HOLLOW RD. MILLERS FALLS, MA 01349

SHANAHAN CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CO. INC.
SCSC "Rock solid service with level advice"
Complete Masonry Supply
Offering a complete line of pavers, wall stone, retaining wall block and more. **Idéal**
298 Avenue A., Turners Falls 413-863-4322
and at our new location 529 S. Main St, Brattleboro or 802-579-1800
www.shanahansupply.com

A BEAUTIFUL Smile Starts With Healthy Teeth
GEETU SHOKEEN, DMD
Montague Dental Arts
General Dentistry
300 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376 • 413-863-2288

Peter Waters Painting Services
Interior/Exterior Custom Residential Fully Insured
Office: 978-544-6534
Cell: 413-461-5172
Wendell, MA
peterjwaters88@gmail.com

Reward Yourself with the FREE GSB Debit Card BUZZ Points Program.
Greenfield Savings Bank
buzz POINTS
2X POINTS LOCALLY
Earn Rewards with Every Purchase!
\$10 BUZZ Points Sign-up Bonus**
(413) 774-3191 • (413) 584-4441
greenfieldsavings.com
*Double points earning offer (2X points) applies only to locally-owned businesses which are in the GSB-Buzz Points Database at time of purchase and is not applicable at local outlets of national or regional chain stores or businesses.
** Must open account and sign up for BUZZ Points by 12/31/2020 to qualify.
Member FDIC/Member DIF • Equal Housing Lender

Ariens Snow Blowers \$549 & up
Backed by 50+ years of service & parts experience!
SIRUM
FARM • TURF • INDUSTRIAL
413-367-2481
MONTAGUE, MASSACHUSETTS
Local pick-up & delivery available! sirumequipment.com
Rte 63, Montague 413-367-2481

TURN'S LAWN CARE
Landscape Design & Maintenance
Accepting New Plow Customers
Within 7 Miles of Montague Center
522-2563
www.TurnLawnCare.com

"WE HAD A WONDERFUL AND INFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE, START TO FINISH. SO HAPPY WE CONTRACTED PV SQUARED TO SEE IF SOLAR WAS A VIABLE OPTION FOR US. THANK YOU!"
PV SQUARED
HEART & SOLAR
413-772-8788
PVSQUARED.COOP
GREENFIELD, MA
MA ELEC. LIC. A13764 MA HIC 140077