

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 35

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

JULY 22, 2021

EARLIER

The Great Flood of 1936



PHOTO COURTESY JOSHUA SHANLEY

Most of the Montague City Covered Bridge was swept away in the deluge.

By SARAH BROWN-ANSON and MIKE JACKSON

TURNERS FALLS – Joshua Shanley, a firefighter and emergency preparedness specialist based in Northampton, is the author of the newly published *Connecticut River Valley Flood of 1936* (The History Press, 2021). That flood, which is among the worst floods in our region’s memory, caused displacement, deaths, and millions of dollars of damage throughout our valley. It also influenced infrastructure decisions in the aftermath.

Mr. Shanley recently joined us on the Montague Reporter Podcast to talk about the history of flooding in our region, and the potential for serious floods moving forward. Here is an abridged, and edited, version of our discussion. To hear the whole episode, go to montaguereporter.org/podcast/ or subscribe on any major podcasting app!

SR: For someone who’s never heard about the flood of 1936, can you give us an overview of what it was, and why it was important?

JS: In New England, there’s a long history of floods going back. It’s an agricultural community. During the 1800s, the river would rise and the river would fall, and the farmers would just sort of move back and forth.

As the agriculture started to move out and the industry started to move in, the industrialists wanted to control the river more – “commodify” the river is the term they used – and when the river rose, it really became inconvenient. Towns and villages like Turners and Montague and Greenfield were built primarily as industrial towns. And when the rivers came up, it really started to make an impact on the industry and the people that were living close by...

What happened during this period – of about two weeks, by the time it was done – there was a spring freshet, which is a normal event, the winter starts to recede, the temperatures rose; and there was a storm event, a precipitation event, heavy rain. And because the ground was frozen and covered with snowfall, the water had no place else to go except into the river, into the tributaries. And then the Connecticut River started to rise.

All that was pretty much nor-

mal. What happened though, in the immediate aftermath – the first event started around March 9, and then around March 18, March 19, a secondary storm moved in. And that’s when things went from bad to worse. The river hadn’t had a chance to lower, which would be normal, and we had a secondary event that turned out to be worse than the first, so rain upon floodwaters. And that’s where things really started to wreak havoc all up and down the Connecticut River Valley....

SR: I think my favorite chapter, or the most dramatic read for me, was about Vernon, Vermont.

JS: Vernon is one of these huge dams that was built on the Connecticut River. If you think about what was going on – I’ll zoom out for just a second – and realize that this was the middle of the Depression, times were hard, it was cold. And this dam was built, villages were built to put this dam up over a period of years. It was a major project from the New Deal. So it was up, but they realized that if this dam was to fail, you didn’t need an engineering degree to figure out that there was going to be complete devastation downstream.

When it started on March 9, that was the status quo. But as it continued on, and especially as the secondary storm moved in, people started to realize that this was really an unprecedented event at the time. And what ended up happening was, reporters had time to get up to that area. So that’s why we have such a wealth of photos.

This *Contact Magazine* journal really goes through the story about what it took for those men to keep that station not only intact, but operating. They saw their role, maintaining the electrical power grid at that point, for what it was – they took that as a serious mission. They were trying to keep the turbine spinning, keep the electricity going, but also, you know, not get killed in the process. And they were hanging lines across the river and really putting their lives at risk....

The moment came on March 19 and March 20 where the Mass State Police were maintaining contact with the dam, and at one point overnight, the 19th into the 20th, they lost contact. And MSP put out a notice that the dam had failed, see **FLOOD OF '36** page A4

Apartment Rentals Hit Hard Crunch

By SARAH ROBERTSON

FRANKLIN COUNTY – Prospective renters and homeowners in western Massachusetts are feeling the pressure of a ballooning housing market, with soaring home prices and stiff competition for a limited number of open rental units. Demand for housing is far exceeding the supply, for both renters and prospective owners, and local experts point to a number of factors converging to create the unprecedented trend.

“You can tell, from the sales side of things, there’s less homes on the market so that’s pushing prices up,” Alyssa Larose, regional housing coordinator for the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), told the *Reporter*. “We have this phenomenon, anecdotally, of people see **CRUNCH** page A6

INVESTIGATION

Recent Millers Falls Flooding Came from Mountain, Not River

By JEFF SINGLETON

MILLERS FALLS – Extreme rainfall over the weekend flooded Millers Falls last Sunday morning. Water and mud poured down East Main, Franklin, and Bridge streets toward the Millers River, inundating basements and causing a car at 20 Newton Street to descend into a sinkhole.

Six inches of mud were left on key streets in the center of the village, which was closed to traffic Sunday morning. Residents of 20 Newton and a large apartment building on East Main Street were evacuated.

Readers of the *Montague Reporter* have no doubt seen multiple images of the flooding, and the car in the sinkhole is becoming a local symbol of the extreme weather which has marked July of 2021.

When this reporter visited the village on Monday, Angela Wait



Wreckage on Ross Avenue, where water poured down from the woods.

and Kelsey Belleau, residents of the Newton Street building, were retrieving “some stuff” from their apartments. Wait and Belleau said they were staying at Days Inn in see **MILLERS** page A7

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Citing Montague’s ‘Renaissance,’ Town Admin Requests Assistance

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis has proposed a significant increase in the town administrative staff – an assistant town administrator to fill in “gaps” in local government. The idea was introduced at the town selectboard’s July 12 meeting.

“We have a great town with a great staff, and there is a reason why Montague has been enjoying a Renaissance,” he told the board. He said that the staff has “focused a lot of energy on it” and that the state and federal government “have increasingly rewarded communities that invest in planning, grantmaking, and have proven themselves to be effective in grant execution.”

But, Ellis argued, “that has pulled attention away from a lot of other critical focuses.” He suggested that in applying for and implementing

large grants the town is “running at the edge of our capacity,” and proposed a new assistant administrator who would focus on “community and economic development, facilities maintenance management and improvement, and infrastructure maintenance.”

Ellis did not present a job description or propose that the board approve a new budget line yet – next year’s budget process begins this fall – but said “this is a really consequential request, and I think today we just want to place it on the table.”

Retiring selectboard member Michael Nelson said “he really loved the idea,” and that he had suggested “many times that we need to build out capacity.” Chair Rich Kuklewicz agreed and suggested the town also look at a possible part-time position to help administrative assistant see **MONTAGUE** page A7

G-M REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

Principals Hired at High School; Committee Fills Empty Seats

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – A new principal and vice principal have been hired at Turners Falls High School and Great Falls Middle School, and two volunteers have stepped up to fill vacant Montague seats on the regional school committee which no one ran for in the spring election.

At the school committee meeting held July 13, superintendent Brian Beck introduced vice principal Joey Kotright, who has most recently worked as the dean of students at the Paolo Freire Social Justice Charter School in Chicopee.

“You’ll see me along the trails, helping the instructional corps get stronger by supporting the climate of the building,” Kotright told the

committee.

Beck also reported that a new principal would be announced shortly. Following the meeting, an announcement was sent to staff welcoming Christopher Barnes, who has most recently served as associate principal at Mount Anthony Union High School in Bennington, Vermont.

Beck said a search committee has been formed for a new director of teaching and learning, following Christine Limoges’s acceptance of a position at another district.

The school committee has also welcomed new faces, filling two Montague seats left vacant after the spring elections. The July 13 meeting was the first with Jennifer Waryas, and the committee voted see **GMRSD** page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

State Rejects Leverett’s Plan for Mosquito Control

By GEORGE BRACE

Leverett’s selectboard reacted negatively at their meeting Tuesday to the denial of their application for an exemption to the state’s mosquito control plan, which includes aerial spraying, citing a lack of information from the state on the program itself, and on the process used for granting exemptions. The board also held a discussion on steps to improve services for the elderly, which were disrupted by the COVID pandemic.

Chair Julie Shively said she was “really furious” over the denial of the town’s exemption to a statewide plan to spray insecticide to reduce mosquito populations. Shively said she had learned that exemptions had been granted for all towns designated as “low risk,” while exemptions for all towns designated as “moderate risk” were denied.

Board members Melissa Colbert, M.D., and Tom Hankinson joined Shively in expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of information on the

see **LEVERETT** page A5

Four Pull Papers for Montague Selectboard

By REPORTER STAFF

Four candidates had taken out nomination papers for the September 21 Montague special selectboard election as of Tuesday, according to assistant town clerk Kathern Pierce.

The four who have pulled papers are planning board member Matthew Lord, incoming school committee member Joanna Mae Boody, conservation commission chair Mark Fairbrother, who served on the selectboard from 2009 to 2015, and David Jensen, who worked as building inspector from 1988 to 2018.

Papers must be taken out by August 2, and returned by August 4 with the signatures of 36 registered Montague voters.

How’s Your Summer Going?

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The Montague Reporter

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Heads or Tails

It's easy to think of COVID-19 as being *mostly over*, in a place where it is not spreading in the community, in a place where most adults are vaccinated, but the sad fact is that only 26.7% of the world's population has received a single dose of vaccine, and only 13.3% is at full vaccination. For the 1.3 billion people in the continent of Africa, those figures are 2% and 1%.

This thing is proving to be a pretty good test of our capacity for collective action, and the results are... not good. Globally speaking, there have been two large peaks of sickness (December and January; April and May) and the trend line is quickly curving up into a third. The more it is allowed to spread, the more it will mutate; the more it will

mutate, the less sure we are about the relative efficacy of existing vaccines. One or the other will win.

Why global vaccination is not the highest – let alone the only – priority of every political party in every country is a real head-scratcher. Why are people in rich countries not lining up to buy vaccine bonds, the way we helped fund wars? Why is the US military not lending its 800 bases around the world to a global distribution initiative? Why was that guy's private spaceship permitted to land? Do people think they can escape what might happen by buying houses in the woods?

It's *very* nice to safely gather in crowds again, for now, and to see each other's faces, but let's not kid ourselves about any back to normal.



Sizzling temperatures don't slow down FedEx Express driver Brian Lempke on his delivery route in Montague. The East Longmeadow resident has been dropping off packages for 20 years and professes to love the job, in spite of the heat and the hustle. (Smoke from fires in the US and Canada has turned both the sun and moon an eerie red color lately.)

Letters to the Editors

Candidate's Intro

Hello to all of my neighbors in Montague. My name is Joanna Mae Boody, and I would like to connect with you regarding the special election that is happening on September 21. A seat will be open on the Selectboard and I would like to fill that position. My nomination papers were recently verified with Town Hall, and have secured enough signatures to make the ballot for this special election. I hope you will consider getting to know me more and supporting me in this election with your vote.

I have lived in Millers Falls since August 2018, but have been coming to Montague for many years as a Western MA native. There have always been things going on along, with a number of vibrant businesses in this community as well, that have driven me here. After living here for a year, I became a Town Meeting member for Precinct 2.

Recently, I saw that our school district was in need of someone for the School Committee, and I reached out to join. Again, it is important to me to support the community in ways that I am able, and I was happy to step up for this role. When we are collectively aware of what is going on in our communities, the more we are able to best assess needs and grow.

I currently work at UMass-Amherst as an Institutional Review Board (IRB) Analyst, where I focus on ensuring ethics and participant safety in Human Subjects Research (HSR). This position gives me in-

sight into many different aspects of society, as well as a strong understanding of ethics, research, and data analysis. In addition to reviewing HSR, I teach Research Ethics as needed, and have held adjunct faculty positions teaching Research and Design in the past. At UMass-Amherst, I am a Union member in PSU-A and I'm on the collective bargaining team. In the Spring of 2019, I completed a post-master's certification in Higher Education Administration.

Before working with IRBs, I have held a few different roles. I have worked directly with schools and families in the field of Early Intervention. This position gave me a unique lens for looking at early childhood development, our school systems, and our relationships with the community. Oftentimes, I would work with both parents and school staff to develop an Individual Education Plan (IEP) that would work best for all once children were of school age.

In addition to these roles, I have held management roles in the hospitality industry at restaurants, breweries, and large-scale event planning services. I really enjoy the role of manager as I find collaboration and working with others to be essential to growth. It is natural for me to want to learn, share, and continually grow, and I am happy to support others in this endeavor! This shines through in my management style, as I hope to support and uplift those in their roles so that we

Flooded With Gratitude

Hip hip hooray for the Montague Center Fire Department members who started responding to home flooding calls at 5 a.m. on Sunday, July 18 and were still bustling around town as of this writing, Monday evening.

In dripping humidity, crawling through dank, cramped and dark basements, they nonetheless labored with alacrity and good humor. Our house, and most on our street, was pumped out twice by some of these friendly, efficient and hard-working volunteers.

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

**Jane Stephenson
Montague**

may all rise together.

This election is an exciting experience for our town, allowing us all to come together and have some discussions. I look forward to meeting more of you as we move through this process. If you would like to discuss any of these topics further, please reach out to me directly at jmboody@gmail.com or (413) 281-9597.

Take care!

Your neighbor,

**Joanna Mae Boody
Millers Falls**

Solar Land Use Rally

The time is here to revisit our public policies around solar energy. Can it be a good idea to clear cut forests for large solar projects, all in the name of saving us from climate change? Should our young farmers be competing with solar arrays for land to grow food on? Can we expect our rural towns, with volunteer boards, to quickly sort through the permit applications submitted by professional solar developers – developers who go from town to town, and state to state, who are so expert at cashing in?

And can townspeople make their voices heard? Or dare to speak while the threat, perhaps empty, that their neighborhoods will be torn apart with suburban-style subdivisions is aimed at them? Or whatever else they are told looms over them if they resist these projects?

And could all these millions upon millions of public dollars be better spent in these challenging

times?

Please join us on Saturday, July 31 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Energy Park in Greenfield for our Statewide Rally to Honor the Land. Take action to protect our forests, our water, and our farmland from inappropriate solar development.

The event is free and open to the public. Our speakers include Joe Graveline, Bill Stubblefield, Susan Theberge, Don Ogden, Fred Beddall, and Leslie Cerier.

Our musical guests are Neal Vitullo featuring Steve Bigelow & Liviu Pop, Tom Neilson, and Henry Geddes.

The hosts are the Herring Pond Wampanoag Tribe, Save Massachusetts Forests, and Save the Pine Barrens. For more information, contact savemassforests@gmail.com or see savethepinebarrens.org/events/.

**Janet Sinclair
Shelburne Falls**

Pleading

We are in the midst of a climate emergency.

We are in the midst of a climate emergency!

What can we do? Plenty.

Do not run your AC until you absolutely have to. Plant shade trees. Use less water – in every way possible. Use ride shares, public transport, biking, walking – all of it helps.

There are so many things I do not know about – write about them, and please share them in this newspaper, and elsewhere.

Contact your local, state, and na-

tional leaders and ask them to work on getting more electrical vehicle infrastructure now, and to make all public transportation electric. Support those who are helping to minimize this crisis in whatever ways you can.

We are in hard times, folks. We do not come back from this to anything moderate unless we all help out. I am pleading with you all to do whatever you can.

With gratitude,

**Jerri Higgins
Montague Center**

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Tonight (Thursday) at the bandshell in Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls, the **Shea Summer Series** kicks off at 6 p.m. with **High Tea**. The duo, comprised of Isabella DeHerdt of Kalliope Jones and Isaac Eliot, are presenting “sweet and soulful harmonies with dig-in-deep guitar strumming and percussion.”

Friday night sees **Home Body** with Eric Hnatow and Haley Morgan performing their fever-pop blend of electronic, new wave, and experimental pop music, from 6 to 7:30 at the bandshell.

She Said, an all-female five piece band playing all original tunes, plays in the same time slot Saturday. Our music draws from traditions of blues, rock, jazz, and country infused, at times, with a bad ass, punk vibe. On Sunday another performance, geared toward kids, is headed up by **Carrie Ferguson** at 12:45 p.m. with special guests the **Rocking Puppies**.

The concert series is sponsored by the Shea and RiverCulture. Bring your picnics and blankets and chairs! Sliding-scale tickets go to support the arts, but no one will be turned away from lack of funds.

The **Great Falls Discovery Center** begins “Art Naturally,” a series of free family programs, this Saturday morning, July 24, at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.

Enjoy reading the bilingual Story Walk *Agüita, Agüita / Water, Little Water* by Jorge Argueta on the grounds, then try your hand at wet felting at the free workshop. Using inspiration from the colorful illustrations in Agüita’s journey, you may create small art pieces from dyed fleece, pre-felt, and specialty fibers that are suitable for framing.

For adults, teens, and children ages six and up accompanied by an adult. Call to register at (413) 863-3221.

Silverthorne Theater will hold an **online play reading** this Saturday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m. *The Foxfinder*, by Down King, is described as “a study in power, in suppressed sexuality, in a fascist mindset manifested in a young boy sent on a mission to force compliance, deny feelings, and to eradicate foxes, which we cannot see but which are everywhere.”

This taut drama will be brought to life as a fully-produced radio play under the direction of Ellen

W. Kaplan, and the cast is donating their time to this fundraiser for Silverthorne. Find out how to attend, and make a donation, at silverthornetheater.org.

Community members are invited to participate in a **community design workshop** to envision a pocket park on Avenue A in Turners Falls, between Loot and Gary’s Coins. Participants will help define the park’s uses and functions, and explore aspects of its design, like pedestrian circulation and the siting of elements such as benches and planters.

This “drop-in” event will occur this Sunday, July 25 from 12 to 6 p.m. in the alleyway where the park is proposed. Architect and coordinator Pete Wackernagel explains that “community design” is a grassroots strategy for city-building and place-making that focuses on the needs of the local community, creating change in the built environment through participatory decision-making.

Locals are also invited to complete a brief survey about priorities for the **Downtown Turners Falls Local Rapid Recovery Plan**, a program funded by the state Department of Housing and Community Development intended to help towns identify critical projects to accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Montague planning department has completed a diagnostic phase of the project, and is now seeking community input to prioritize projects. A link can be found on the front page of the Montague town website at www.montague-ma.gov.

The **Coalition Connections** is chock full of information including where to find safe local swimming spots, tips for avoiding tick bites, a list of free meal sites, and more. Email ilana@frcog.org to subscribe.

The LAVA Center **Open Screen Online Film Festival** ends this Sunday, July 25. Check out this showcase of filmmaking talent from students to professionals, including short films by local filmmakers Daryl Beck, Elizabeth “Buffy” Cautela, Matt Demko, Rocco Desgres, Ian Hamilton, Theo Janke, JuPong Lin, Brandon Macey, Robert Markey, Wally Marzano-Lesnevich, Gloria Matlock, Jean Minuchin, Michael Nix, Vanessa Query, Maria Servellon, and Four Rivers Charter Public School Class of 2021.

Find out more at localaccess.org.

A **Virtual Job Fair** has been announced for July 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. This is an opportunity to chat live with hiring representatives from dozens of companies. Go to www.masshireshcareers.org for more information and to pre-register.

Meet in the Discovery Center courtyard at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, July 30 to explore “**Who Lives in a Tree?**” with a story, activities, and a craft. This program will mostly be outdoors, and is designed for ages three to six, with siblings and friends welcome.

A new **Story Walk** will be installed on the grounds from July 30 to August 18 featuring the children’s book *The Busy Tree* by Jennifer Ward. Just follow the path on the lawn to laminated book pages posted

along the route. A wonderful story celebrating trees is waiting for you!

Return to the Center on Saturday, July 31 for **Bike Path B-I-N-G-O**, an outdoor exploration game with field guides and binoculars. Participants are advised to bring water, bug spray, and sturdy shoes.

Just Roots farm in Greenfield is starting a free monthly **Kitchen Intuition Cookshop** series next Friday, July 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Learn how to pickle and ferment your own vegetables at home with Real Pickles, and share a meal highlighting fermented foods. Register at www.justroots.org.

Antenna Cloud Farm presents internationally acclaimed folk singer, songwriter, and multi-instrumentalist **Sam Amidon** on Saturday, July 31 at Peskeomskut Park in Turners Falls. Sam Amidon is familiar to Western Mass audiences, hailing from just across the Vermont border. The free performance begins at 5 p.m. with a rain date of August 1 at 3 p.m.

An online panel of Indigenous leaders and allies will discuss the importance of recognizing **Indigenous Peoples’ Day** over Columbus Day on Sunday, August 1 at 1 p.m. “Living Presence of Our History, Part IV: Indigenous Peoples’ Day” will inform viewers about the current movement to pass state legislation, and give suggestions for appropriate ways to observe the day.

This is the fourth in the Living Presence series. To watch previous episodes, find out about upcoming forums, and get links to attend, see ohketeau.org.

Join the Leverett Historical Commission for a **virtual visit to the Chestnut Hill mill** site on Friday, August 6, at 7 p.m. Built in the 1850s, this dam powered a turning mill and shop, and saw many owners during its many years in operation.

Historian Pleun Bouricius and members of the Commission will virtually visit the site, interpret what’s still there and what was once there, talk about the families involved in building and running mills in Leverett, and discuss the inventiveness of making energy out of very small streams.

The “visit” will be followed by conversation, and an in-person site visit on Sunday, August 8. Details are available at signup – register at eventbrite.com by searching for the “Chestnut Hill Mill” event.

A previous virtual visit to the Federal Mill in Leverett was the subject of an article by Donna Petersen in our May 27 issue. The events are part of the ongoing project “A Sense of Where You Are, Finding and Interpreting Mill Foundations in the Landscape.”

Fire + Embers Yoga in Turners Falls is looking for folks who might want to **work in exchange for yoga**. Light cleaning and organizing, or other skills in carpentry or marketing, are sought; email hello@fireandembers.com if you are interested in trading.

The **Musica Franklin FunFest**, scheduled for last Saturday, July 17, was canceled due to rain and has been rescheduled for September 18.

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OBITUARY

Joan Audrey Englehardt
9/30/1931 - 7/10/2021

TURNERS FALLS – Joan Audrey (Bartley) Englehardt, 89, of 138 Montague City Road, passed peacefully at home on the evening of Saturday, July 10, 2021 with family present. A native of Montague, Joan was born on September 30, 1931 to Edith (Marley) and James Alexander Bartley.

Joan attended Montague Public Schools and was a graduate of Turners Falls High School in the Class of 1949. She was employed for the former Forbes Camera Shop in Greenfield, MA, as photo finisher, clerk and bookkeeper from 1949 to 1959 and later part-time.

She married Donald G. Englehardt on September 6, 1958 in the former St. Anne’s Church, Turners Falls, MA. They celebrated 48 years of marriage prior to his passing on January 6, 2007.

Joan was active in the Great Trail Council of Scouting, as she served as a Den Mother and secretary for Cub Scout Pack 46, and acting secretary for Boy Scout Troop 6 as well. An avid computer game enthusiast, Joan was also a talented crafter and dabbled in oil painting and photography. She so enjoyed taking trips with Donald throughout the US to visit family and friends.

She leaves her two devoted children and grandson to cherish her

memory – Audrey Joan Zakrzewski (Michael) of King City, Oregon, and Curt J. Englehardt and Shawn D. Englehardt of Gill, MA. Additionally, she leaves her brother-in-law Robert Bitzer of Erving, MA, as well as several nieces, nephews and grandnieces and grandnephews. Joan was predeceased by her father James in 1962, her mother Edith in 1973, her sister Gloria Bitzer in 1999, her brother-in-law Peter Miner in 2006, and her sister Beverly Miner in 2019.

At Joan’s request for simplicity, services in celebration of her life were conducted on Monday, July 19, 2021, with graveside services officiated by Rev. Fr. Stanley J. Aksamit, Pastor, of Our Lady of Peace Church, Turners Falls, at St. Mary’s Cemetery, Turners Falls. Visiting hours were omitted.

Expressions of affection in the form of a charitable contribution in Joan’s memory are suggested to Overlook Hospice, 88 Masonic Home Road, Charlton, MA 01507 or to the Turners Falls Fireman’s Relief Association, 180 Turnpike Road, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

The McCarthy Funeral Homes of Greenfield and Turners Falls have been entrusted with Joan’s care and arrangements. A guest book is available at www.mccarthyfuneralhomes.com.

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VOL. 19 #37: AUGUST 19
VOL. 19 #38: SEPTEMBER 2

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FLOOD OF '36 from page A1

because when they lost contact, they thought the worst case had happened – the dam had given way. And they gave an evacuation order.

MJ: “All persons in the Connecticut Valley move out at once.”

JS: Yeah! And you think about it now – I mean, what were people thinking? What did they do? Where were they going to go? I mean, that was the order. I wasn’t able to really find any detail in terms of what happened in the aftermath of that, but that was the order given, and as it happened, they were wrong. The dam did not fail – it held, amazingly.

And that was probably the most compelling moment on the major river as far as the dams go, but there was a lot of drama on the Deerfield as well. And the Millers, frankly. That whole area was really the center of the storm.

MJ: And it held because people held it – it wasn’t just the structure. This was an active battle. Including people coming in, “25 men from the Keene American Legion post,” people just sending labor into this fight all up and down the watershed. This book does an amazing job of capturing and cataloging that aspect of this event.

JS: It was a battle.

SR: Can you talk about some more of the impacts on Montague and its villages?

JS: Montague is interesting, because it was such a small hub, but so much damage all at once – with the three rivers coming together, that was I believe one of the first bridges to go in 1936.

There were three bridges going across, really close together... the trolley bridge and then a rail bridge, and then the Montague City bridge,



Detail from an illustration in the April 1936 edition of Contact Magazine.



Crowds surveyed the floodwater in Athol.

which was this huge wooden structure built in 1870. It was 770 feet long, and it was actually a double-decker bridge, where they had trains going across on the top level, I believe, and then cars and walking traffic and horses and wagons going across on the lower level. And all these were businesses – they were built as toll bridges. And the Montague City bridge, the big bridge, this happened to be the fifth bridge built at this particular location. So this was no surprise that the bridges were getting washed away; that’s just what happened.

When the Montague City bridge got washed out, however, in this case, it floated downstream – all the reports I read describe it “in torpedo-like fashion.” It did some damage to one of the railroad bridges downstream from Deerfield, took out two or three spans, [and] just shattered the Sunderland bridge at that point, a couple miles down. The Sunderland bridge had been destroyed 10 times since they were first built, going back into like the 1600s.

Another case that came across in the research was a tributary to the Deerfield up in Colrain...

MJ: The North River.

JS: The debris was building up behind the bridge and flooding out

the areas upstream of it. So they decided that they were going to burn the bridge off the foundation – I guess the idea was that if the bridge is burned, it would give way and release the flood and all the debris, and stop the flooding.

Well, what happened was that they burned the bridge, in this one case, and it caught on fire; it finally was released from its foundation, along with all the floodwater, the ice chunks and the tree debris, and it floated down afire and headed towards one of the Deerfield power plants.

They were having a similar battle, you know, trying to keep the dam protected, electricity flowing, and the workers looked upstream. And sure enough, coming around the bend was a flaming covered bridge, like a torpedo coming at them, and they decided that was a good time to abandon ship....

Joshua Shanley blogs at newenglandfloods.org. His new book, Connecticut River Valley Flood of 1936, is available locally and online, including on Kindle.

Check out our podcast episode for a longer version of this conversation, including the present and future of flood preparedness in our region.



OP ED

The Climate Emergency is Real. Let’s Act as if We Believed It.

By **BART BOURICIUS**

MONTAGUE – In response to Chris Egan’s recent reply to my earlier opinion piece in the *Montague Reporter*, I would like to point out that Mr. Egan is the director of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance. MFA is not a forest preservation group, but a trade association that does lobbying and public relations for the wood product and logging industries. As such, it fights anything that might decrease commercial logging in the state.

So, it is not surprising that Mr. Egan accuses me of “demonizing” the MFA’s membership. But is it demonizing to point out that the MFA practices lobbying and PR? Is it demonizing the MFA for me to advocate for protecting our public lands from commercial logging, as is done in the Adirondack Reserve in New York and in our national parks? I think not.

My position is that the 20% of forests in Massachusetts that are publicly owned should not be run as tree farms for the benefit of commercial loggers. They should be allowed to mature into old growth forests so that they can absorb the maximum amount of carbon from the atmosphere. Logging should be

kept at a minimum and then only for human safety and true forest health based on science.

For instance, in a 2010 paper published in *Forest Ecology and Management*, Jared S. Nunery and William S. Keeton conclude that “Mean carbon sequestration was significantly ($a = 0.05$) greater for ‘no management’ compared to any of the active management scenarios.” In other words, all logging decreases forest carbon.

Mr. Egan disputes my claim that logging is the largest cause of tree death. To support his position, he adds together several other causes including weather, invasive species, and overcrowding, to produce a larger total.

But even this position is not supported by science. In a 2013 article in *Ecological Applications*, forest ecologist Dr. Charles Canham and his colleagues state that “Logging is a larger cause of adult tree mortality in the Northeastern US than all other causes combined.” More recently, in his 2020 book *Forests Adrift*, Canham states that in the Northeast, “logging accounts for 58 percent of the mortality of adult trees.” He also notes that in our region, “harvests in at least some states are now at unsustainable levels.”

Even so, in my piece I should have stated that logging is the “single” largest cause of “adult tree mortality.” I was not factoring in the millions of tiny saplings that are eliminated during natural succession, in which generally the most robust reach adulthood. This overcrowding is desirable, as it favors trees better adapted to local conditions.

Considering mortality among mature trees, there are several more peer-reviewed articles in which logging is overwhelmingly cited as the main culprit. In a 2018 *Ecosphere* article by M. L. Brown et al, the authors state that “Harvesting is the leading cause of adult tree mortality in the northeastern United States,” and that logging “comprises more than half of all mortality (on a volume basis), making logging the predominant disturbance – natural or anthropogenic – affecting ecosystems in the region.”

Mr. Egan also ignores the fact that even partially logging an area increases the likelihood that the sudden increase in exposure to sun and high winds will damage remaining trees, as evidenced by the extensive death and blow-down following logging on public lands in Hardwick and in the Montague

Wildlife Management Area.

Mr. Egan pivots around my proposal that we should protect more state-owned lands from logging by focusing industry efforts instead on the 80% of forested lands in the state that are privately owned.

I do not oppose logging on private lands except in cases where several acres of forests are cleared for large solar and/or battery storage installations. (Locally, the worst example of this is AMP’s proposed solar project in Shutesbury.) In addition to eliminating forests’ carbon-sequestration services, these projects use up the government subsidies intended for use by homeowners and at more environmentally appropriate sites, such as parking lots, buildings and some highway medians where they won’t destroy our natural carbon sinks.

Landowners should not be penalized by higher taxes if they choose to keep some of their forests forever wild. We are in a genuine climate emergency. In Massachusetts and around the world we must start taking this fact seriously. We need local and global policies that stop the wasteful overuse of wood products, as well as tax incentives for private forest preservation.

Bart Bouricius is a retired canoe researcher, arborist, and member of the Wendell State Forest Alliance. He lives in Montague Center.

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NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Don't Flush Wipes

By KATIE NOLAN

On July 12, Scott Bastarache joined his first meeting as selectboard member since winning the seat at the town election in May. Bastarache ran unopposed. He had served from 2016 to 2019 and was re-elected to a second three-year term in May 2019, but resigned that August.

Jacob Smith, who has served as selectboard chair since 2019, welcomed Bastarache, saying, "Glad to have you back with us."

With Bastarache added, the board re-organized and elected Jacob Smith to continue as chair.

According to meeting minutes, the board had held an unexpected meeting on June 24 to address repairs to the sewer collection system on Flagg Hill Road. After a resident reported seeing sewage there, chief water and wastewater operator Peter Sanders investigated and confirmed that the system was clogged and backing up.

The Montague public works department helped clear the line with a jet truck, and removed towels and wipes. A sanitary service was hired to remove additional material, and a line-clearing service then removed more wipes and tree roots.

Sanders told the board this was the third time in the past year that the sewer line needed to be repaired because of clogging with fabric and wipes. He proposed installing a new line along Flagg Hill Road because of the root infiltration.

Selectboard chair Smith and member William Bembury decided to have the highway department replace the line, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 to \$15,000 in materials, rather than hiring an engineering firm for an estimated cost of \$100,000. Work will begin in the fall or spring.

Town administrator Bryan Smith was asked to draft a letter to Flagg Hill Road residents about the cost of repairs, and the necessity of only flushing paper products into the sewer system.

Public Access

At their July 12 meeting, the board discussed plans for opening town hall to the public. Jacob Smith said the building should be re-opened once UV filters had been installed in the air handling system.

Bryan Smith told the board necessary parts were still on order, and reported that most staff members were back in town hall at least part time, and are ready to resume public office hours, but want changes in how the building is used, with a clearer distinction between public and non-public areas.

Also, Bryan Smith said, the town clerk, tax collector, and assessors were not planning to hold open office hours on Monday nights as they had before the pandemic. "Nobody has been asking for or demanding those late evening hours," he said.

Board members asked him to plan for opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays for four hours each day after the UV filters are installed. He said he would consult with other town hall workers to decide the exact hours of operation. Appointments would still be available.

Town Properties

The board considered questions prepared by town planner Mariah Kurtz and Bryan Smith about the development of the town-owned former International Paper Mill property and the Pleasant Street grade school building.

All three board members agreed the town should sell the properties rather than lease them. They preferred commercial/industrial use for the former IP Mill and residential use for the Pleasant Street property, but would not rule out mixed use for either property.

The board also agreed that the town should maintain right of first refusal if a developer decides to resell a property.

The board asked Smith and Kurtz to draft a request for information to gauge interest in the IP Mill, and a draft request for proposals for the Pleasant Street property. Kurtz will also apply for funding for technical assistance in preparing a request for proposals for the former IP Mill after interest responses are reviewed.

Complete Streets

Last October, the state approved a \$399,566 grant for a Complete Streets project at Central, Gunn, Park and Pratt streets. According to MassDOT, a complete street is "one that provides safe and accessible options for all travel modes – walking, biking, transit and vehicles – for people of all ages and abilities."

Bryan Smith reported that he had been working with engineers Weston & Sampson to develop a scope of work for the project, had mailed information about it to residents of the streets, and would schedule a site walk to solicit their input.

The board decided that the walk will be held on a Saturday, date to be determined. Jacob Smith and Bastarache said they would attend.

Other Business

Superintendent Glenn McCrory said the highway department had used magnesium chloride on wintry roads "as a trial run." He reported no issues with the product and said the town used less sand, resulting in less street sweeping, less sand in catch basins, less vegetation burn, less tracking of sand into buildings, and lower sodium levels in the town's drinking water.

Sanders presented draft permit applications for the town's two larger wastewater plants. He said little had changed since the last permits were granted in 2008, and that no upgrades to POTW#1 and POTW#2 should be necessary, but noted the state has added a requirement to test for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

The board asked him to have town counsel and consultant Tighe & Bond review the applications.

According to meeting minutes, the board met June 28 for two hours and twenty-three minutes, with two hours and nine minutes spent in executive session for the purpose of discussing the town's strategy with regard to town administrator Bryan Smith's contract and bargaining with the New England Police Protective Association. They reconvened in open session to ratify a new contract with Smith ending June 30, 2024.

LEVERETT from page A1

program's specifics, and the state's reasoning for denying Leverett's exemption. Colbert said the board didn't know if the application would have been denied all along if Leverett had been determined to be at moderate risk.

Hankinson asked, "Why are we at moderate risk, rather than low?" saying he'd like to know what the criteria were. He was joined by others in saying if Leverett knew which towns were designated as low-risk, something more might have been done to gain that status. He said his impression from the application was that the state was emphasizing education in combating the problem, and as Leverett and surrounding towns already have mosquito plans in place, they responded to the announcement with an increase in education and other efforts.

Shively said she was alarmed by the short notice for the program and lack of information on the criteria for an exemption, but also on particulars of the program itself, such as when the spraying would take place, and where. Others commented on the lack of information on the chemicals being used.

Shively said the board was in contact with the town's state representatives, and would be reaching out to surrounding towns to see if they were also outraged. "I've never seen the state act so forcefully," said Shively.

Council on Aging

Council on Aging co-chair Fay Zipkowicz appeared before the board to provide a status report on services for the elderly and seek help in charting a course forward in the wake of the COVID epidemic. She reported that new data show the number of residents over 50 years old was higher than previously thought, saying that of the town's approximately 1,800 residents, 741 are over 60 and 249 are between 50 and 59, totaling over half the population.

Zipkowicz spoke of the popularity of the "Mature Yoga" program prior to the COVID outbreak, noting it had become a social event, and the disruption of that program and others had left a void which needed to be addressed. She said one helpful avenue would be to create a senior center, which would give focus to efforts at re-establishing and improving services to seniors, but also that she'd like to see the public get more involved.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Police Station Renovation

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At the Wendell selectboard's July 7 meeting, the board learned that some items need to be removed from the police station before work can start on its renovation as a substation for the joint Leverett-Wendell police department. The board did not make a list or set a date to auction those things. Finance committee chair Doug Tanner asked if records may be stored in an unused attic space which the Leverett police will not need, and selectboard chair Dan Keller said he would check.

The police station lot extends only one foot behind the building, which makes any repair to its exterior difficult. Keller drafted a letter to indemnify the owner of land behind the station lot for any possible damage to the land during renovations. "My father was a lawyer," Keller said, "so I just inherited a desire to write documents."

Wendell is set to get between \$260,000 and \$270,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money, based on rate of approximately \$194 per resident. Half of that, \$130,000, is expected up front, and the other half will come some time later, disbursed to the towns that are not inside a county government.

Of the \$130,000, Wendell actually received \$47,000. It came with a 134-page document, which town coordinator Nancy Aldrich did not read aloud at the meeting, detailing what it may be spent on.

Keller suggested using a consultant to let the town know how it may spend that money. The \$260,000 must be spent by the end of 2024.

Recent continuous rain has thrown off the regular schedule

of mowing town properties. Each mowing costs \$300 to \$400, and the board considered extending the period between mowing. Blame the finance committee this year, or the weather, but the pollinator group, which has asked for half the north common to be allowed to grow long, did not voice an opinion this year.

Rehab Fund

A public hearing was held for the town's Community Development Block Grant program, which aims to bring houses up to code. Brian McHugh of the county housing authority, which administers the grant for Wendell and Shutesbury, attended, but no residents joined the meeting.

McHugh gave an update of the continuing program. The rehab loans are 0% interest, are not due unless a house is sold. After 15 years they are forgiven. Any loan payments returned to the fund can be used for new loans.

Wendell's repayments total \$69,417.75, and though the town had approved \$30,000 of that to subsidize connections to the new fiber-optic broadband network, no one applied for that money. At this meeting the board voted to return it to the loan fund.

The current round of grants was scheduled to be done by the end of September, but due to insufficient supply of building materials following the COVID disruption, the grant may be extended to the end of 2021.

The round of grants was expected to cover 18 units, but some cost less than the \$40,000 budgeted per project, so more can be done. Between Wendell and Shutesbury, 28

Hankinson said it seemed like "we should be advertising for people to run things" and take the responsibilities of providing individual programs like the yoga program.

School committee member Becky Tew said she and interim school principal Anne Foley Ruiz had a meeting scheduled with elder services provider LifePath, and invited Zipkowicz to join, noting that the school had a cafeteria and there could be a way to overlap programs. Shively agreed that the school came to mind as a location for a more permanent senior meeting place.

It was also suggested Zipkowicz meet with town administrator Marjorie McGinnis to brainstorm. Zipkowicz said she would also be meeting with the board of health and emergency planning people.

Other Business

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that construction on the Teawaddle Hill water line project will begin next week, and is estimated to be completed in November. McGinnis said two residents affected by the project had not yet signed a waiver agreeing to their post-construction legal rights. Shively suggested having the town counsel meet with them for further discussion.

A resident requested something be done about an overflowing culvert, which "probably wasn't an issue 50 or 60 years ago" but had become a problem due to a change in the channel of a stream in recent decades. Highway superintendent Matt Boucher said the fix was likely a simple matter. "I'm not afraid to do some work," he said, but added that he was unclear whether the town had fiscal responsibility for what needed to be done. The board decided the next step was for the property owner to discuss the matter with the conservation commission.

A request from the Rattlesnake Gutter Trust to waive the \$25 fee for the use of town hall for meetings was presented. Board members pointed out that other groups pay the fee, and said they were unclear on the length of time the group was requesting a waiver.

Liam Placek was appointed as a volunteer firefighter, and an oil contract with Kieras Oil was approved.

A hearing on changes to utility poles on Montague and Long Plain roads was continued, as no representative from Eversource was present.



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CRUNCH from page A1

coming from outside the region and purchasing homes. Which isn't a bad thing – we want people living in Franklin County – but it does put this upward pressure on people already working here and living here."

The median price of a single-family home in Franklin County has risen 23% since June 2020, according to statistics from the Realtor Association of Pioneer Valley (RAPV).

Houses are being sold quickly, often for tens of thousands of dollars over the asking price, and many buyers are choosing to forgo pre-purchase inspections, or buying homes outright without a mortgage. The high demand is prompting bidding wars that are in turn driving up prices, according to Karen Tonelli, director of assessing for the town of Montague.

"There's kind of a desperateness to it that I wonder, as an assessor, if it can be sustained," said Tonelli. "I'm sort of sitting back and waiting to see if the second half of 2021 is as crazy as the first half."

Tonelli begins each year assessing the value of all the homes sold the prior year in Montague. In the 2020 data, she saw families from the Boston suburbs, New York, and New Jersey buy homes in town. To newcomers Franklin County might seem affordable, but Tonelli warned that homes sold at inflated values this year will eventually increase the tax burden for the new owners.

"I don't think it's any one thing, but certainly it does seem to be pandemic-related," Tonelli said. "From my standpoint in 2020, yes, things were starting to go up – but in 2021, things got crazy."

Larose, who also serves as the FRCOG's senior land use and natural resources planner, described a growing gap between the income of the average Franklin County resident and the rising cost of homes.

Last month, according to the RAPV data, the median price for a home was \$270,000, which is \$55,000 more than what is considered an "attainable" price for a household earning the area median income of \$60,950.

"COVID has exacerbated issues that were already here before," Larose said. "There was already a growing gap between home prices and median income." Larose said FRCOG is working with a coalition to coordinate local housing redevelopment efforts with affordability in mind.

"It really is upsetting the whole apple cart of housing," said Tonelli. "There has always sort of been a housing problem, particularly out east. I think it's an issue that has sort of been simmering for decades, and now it's

just gotten crazy."

A Landlord's Market

Finding an apartment in Franklin County has become increasingly competitive over the last year as well, and rents have risen.

At press time, a search of Craigslist and Facebook Marketplace shows no available apartments in Turners Falls; four 1-bedroom apartments in Millers Falls, Greenfield, and Montague Center ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,300; one 2-bedroom and one 3-bedroom in Greenfield for \$1,250 and \$1,450, and a 3-bedroom house in Montague Center for \$3,300 per month.

"In general it's hard to find apartments," Larose said. "Prices are kind of high, and there's not a lot of turnover right now – there's just not a lot out there."

"You'd be hard pressed to find a 1-bedroom for under \$1,000 a month, and that's often not even including utilities like heat," said one Turners Falls woman currently seeking housing nearby, who spoke with the *Reporter* on condition of anonymity.

A musician in her early twenties, she said providing a rental history, proof of income, and move-in expenses are barriers for young people seeking stable housing. "Those rates are nearly impossible to afford under normal times, and pretty much out of the question in post-pandemic times," she added.

"There has always been a housing problem, particularly out east. I think it's an issue that has sort of been simmering for decades, and now it's gotten crazy."

**Karen Tonelli,
Montague director of assessing**

Furthermore, she said, she believes she lost one housing opportunity this month to gender discrimination.

"I was first informed by the person who was most recently occupying the apartment that I was the only person who had looked at the place, and that I seemed to be a good fit," she said. But when she called the contact she was told would be handling the lease, she found herself "in the uncomfortable position of explaining that my voice was low because I am a trans woman."

"I didn't intend to even explain that much, however the landlord seemed angered that he couldn't tell if a man or a woman was looking

at the apartment, so I reluctantly clarified," she continued. "Soon after this phone call was when I received another call that the apartment was already going to be occupied with a different person. It just didn't add up."

The rental market is so tight that she is now looking at places as far as Northampton, Shelburne Falls, and Brattleboro even though she works in Greenfield and wants to stay local. "I love this area, and I feel safe and supported in this community," she said. "I don't want to be forced to leave."

No Room to Grow

"I've heard that some folks are getting 50 or more applications for apartments now," said Christopher Janke, a local landlord and co-owner of the Rendezvous restaurant in Turners Falls. "I know somebody renting single bedrooms for \$1,000 and that's far, far above what I've heard before."

"I have a number of employees living a half hour's distance from the Rendezvous," Janke added. "In a time when it's already hard to hire people, it's becoming another factor."

Janke, who also works as a business assistance coordinator at the Franklin County Community Development Corporation, expressed wonder at the recent news that plans for a new commercial building at Avenue A and Second Street were reportedly scaled back to eliminate two upper floors of apartments, due to a lack of financing for the residences. "If rents were so high, it would be affordable to build the building," he said.

"When you look at the cost of living in a rural area, the wages people are making in this area, and the lack of development in recent years – that all adds up to a lack of affordable, decent housing," Larose said.

"We need a variety of housing types.... How can we encourage smaller house sizes, more multi-family options, and things like that? That type of effort obviously doesn't produce housing right away – the results may not be immediate, but the goal is to create more housing opportunities."

Without a Net

Adding to the uncertainty of the situation, a nationwide eviction moratorium is set to expire at the end of this month, and many local residents could lose their housing as cases stalled by the federal mandate begin to move through the court. About 200 summary process actions, the first step toward an eviction, have been opened since October, with only a small handful of evictions carried out.

The *Reporter* reached out to a number of lo-

cal people served summary processes in recent weeks. One Greenfield woman – one of 11 residents served processes by Greenfield Gardens on May 12 – said she had lost her rental subsidy after failing to promptly report income from a new minimum-wage food service job.

"During [the pandemic], I had so many increases and decreases of my income that I didn't report it," she said. While she said she did report her ice cream-scooping income to the state unemployment department, by the time she submitted her pay stubs to Greenfield Gardens, it was too late – she was informed her monthly rental contribution rose from \$25 to \$500. "Not reporting it caused them to basically overcharge me," she said, "and my rent was way too high for the amount I was working."

Now almost \$6,000 in arrears, she is waiting for the next bad news to arrive in the mail – as are a number of her neighbors. "None of us have gotten a court date yet," she said. Repeated attempts to reach Greenfield Gardens for comment were unanswered as of press time.

Musical Chairs

"The thing about the moratorium that's really discouraging is now these landlords are going to take action, and go to court, and start getting people out of their houses because they haven't paid their rent," said Stacey Langknecht, director of parent and family services at the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls. "They're going to evict these people – then all these people who need housing are going to knock on their doors."

The Brick House, a nonprofit community center on Third Street, serves as an educational hub and liaison for local families to find essential social services. Langknecht said she and her co-workers help families through housing issues "all the time."

"Housing has always come up, it always does.... I think the need for it has increased in the last couple years," she said. "It's much harder for families with multiple children. It's certainly harder when you're brand new to the community, and it's even harder when you don't speak the language."

Langknecht said that while it would be difficult to prove, she believes some residents the Brick House serves have been discriminated against for their race, economic status, and even family size.

"It's illegal, but it still happens," Langknecht said. "As a society, when we can't provide affordable housing and shelter for our citizens, it almost guarantees a rise in the chronic stress level of many of these citizens, and that leads to other problems."

**NOTES FROM THE GILL SELECTBOARD**

Dump Truck Debt Exclusion Passes by 2/3 Margin

By **JERRI HIGGINS**

Highway superintendent John Miner joined the Gill selectboard meeting Monday evening as it formally approved the purchase of a new dump truck, following a July 12 townwide vote allowing a Proposition 2½ override. A snag in the bidding for the project to remediate asbestos flooring at Gill Elementary School was discussed, as was an update on the town's alternate mosquito control plan, and a decision to not exercise the town's "right of first refusal" for a Dole Road property.

The decisive 68–23 vote in favor of a Prop 2½ debt exclusion allows the town to borrow up to \$205,000 to purchase a new dump truck. Miner said he had previously "spec'd out" a 2022 International truck which will include an all-season body, a plow, and a wing plow.

"We are still on schedule for getting the truck delivered to [Allegiance Trucks] in November," said Miner, "and then six to eight weeks for outfitting the truck with the body and plow, and the wing. We are hoping to have it at the beginning of January."

Asked by selectboard chair Greg

Snedeker what to do with the old dump truck, Miner said he was waiting to hear back on whether Allegiance will accept it as a trade-in, and if not, Miner wondered if it would be worth trying to sell it by auction.

"I would be more in favor of the auction than I would of a sealed bid," said selectboard member Randy Crochier, "just because I think it takes a lot of the headache away from us. They do a great job for not a lot of money, in my opinion." Snedeker agreed with him.

Plan B for School Floor

Town administrator Ray Purington told the board that bids were received for the asbestos abatement and flooring replacement projects at Gill Elementary. Town meeting had approved borrowing of up to \$300,000 for both.

Compass Restoration Services, LLC of Ludlow will abate the asbestos floor tiles in two classrooms, the all-purpose room, and principal's office. Purington said the cost is about \$7,500 less than budgeted for.

However, the only bidder for the flooring replacement was not on the state Division of Capital Asset Man-

agement and Maintenance certification list. According to *Mass.gov*, "Contractor certification is required when an awarding authority (any Massachusetts public agency) solicits bids... with an estimated construction cost of at least \$150,000."

"That puts us into the Plan B mode," Purington said, "so we do not have to go through another multi-week, advertised, bid process." Cummings obtained an emergency waiver allowing the project to be split in two, reducing the cost enough for the district to contract with non-certified companies.

Classic Seamless Floors by Chapdelaine, Inc. of Huntington will replace epoxy flooring in a section of the building and Purington said he expects that the remainder of the project will go to bid in January, for completion next summer.

"Between Heath and [GMRSD business manager] Joanne [Blier], I can completely say that, without their work, it would not be happening this summer," he said. "They have really helped.... I think we are in good shape on it," he added. "The important part is that the work is getting started, so we should have all

the areas back in service."

Snedeker expressed concern about a price increase next summer, as well as the amount and availability of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. Purington said that the ARPA funding will likely be available through 2024, and voiced his hope that costs would not greatly increase next summer.

Mosquito Plan Approved

Purington received a letter from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs approving Gill's alternate mosquito control plan, which was a requirement to opt out of a new statewide aerial spraying program.

Town meeting voters unanimously approved joining the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control District in June. The fee-based governmental organization provides education and outreach to its member towns, traps mosquitoes, and tests them for arboviruses such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus.

Joining a control district does not eliminate state aerial or ground spraying should a town be judged to be at a "high risk" for arboviruses.

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MILLERS from page A1

Greenfield, but believed they might be “kicked out” the next day. Belleau showed the *Reporter* a picture of the flood approaching a window in her apartment, but believed the interior had not been damaged.

According to Wait, the large sinkhole which now contained the car had been slowly developing during the wet weather of the previous weeks. The building’s owner, Aleksandr Agapov, had not yet appeared on the scene. The Montague assessors’ database lists a Greenfield address for Agapov, but Wait said she

thought he lived on Block Island.

Residents were also evacuated from an 11-unit apartment building at 38 East Main Street owned by local developer Robert Obear. A resident of another of Obear’s buildings, relaxing with a very large novel behind the evacuated building, said the flood waters appeared to be coming from a broken pipe under the railroad tracks to the southeast. Large grooves in the mud suggested the running water had surrounded 38 East Main on its way to the center of town.

Bill Elmore and Rae Wilder, sit-

ting in front of a Bridge Street apartment building, said they had spoken to numerous reporters and sightseers over the previous two days. “It’s a tourist location,” said Elmore.

Wilder gave this reporter a brief tour of the area, which included a side trip to a culvert under another Newton Street house. Water was gushing from the tunnel down to the Millers River. “It’s usually only a trickle,” Wilder said.

Similar floods over the weekend have received significant press attention. The *Greenfield Recorder* cited street closings in Orange, Northfield, and Warwick as a result of the “relentless rainfall.” Nash’s Mill Road and the Green River recreation area in Greenfield were also closed. The *Hampshire Daily Gazette* highlighted the collapse of a “20-foot-long section of East Street” in Belchertown and a fire caused by a bolt of lightning at Mount Holyoke in South Hadley.

Floods are not a new phenomenon in Montague, a town virtually surrounded by rivers. A 1936 flood on the Connecticut River destroyed several bridges linking the town to Greenfield, one of which floated down the river and demolished a bridge in Sunderland. A 1996 flood on Spaulding Brook and the Sawmill River produced major flooding in Montague Center and Leverett.

A stream along Montague City Road, so small it does not have a name, overflows and makes the road nearly impassible at least once a year. Montague has received a \$237,000 federal “pre-disaster mitigation grant” to address the Montague City Road problem, but needs to come up with significant supplementary funds to complete the work.

Recent flooding is often attributed to climate change, the rationale for the Montague City Road grant. “Throughout Franklin County, communities are experiencing more extreme weather events – especially heavy rains and flooding – along with higher temperatures and other climate related conditions,” reads a recent Montague “municipal vulnerability” report prepared with the assistance of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments. “These types of conditions are expected to increase as a result of cli-



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colleen kennedy letourneau

Colleen Kennedy Letourneau of Highland Street took this photograph early Sunday morning, showing deep water flowing down the hill at Ross Avenue.

MONTAGUE from page A1

Wendy Bogusz, particularly given the increased responsibility caused by hybrid and virtual meetings.

“It’s definitely true,” said member Chris Boutwell. “Everything’s definitely getting more complicated out there.”

The board did not vote on the issue, but approved a variety of grant-funded contract awards, including to Baltazar construction company for sidewalk improvements; Wright-Pierce to update the plan for the town’s combined sewer overflow system; Samantha Couture, for a town-wide preservation assessment, and the UMass Collins Center, extending a contract for developing the town’s financial policies.

Town planner Walter Ramsey announced a grant award from MassDOT to upgrade temporary sidewalk and pedestrian safety improvements on Third Street and Unity Park.

Summer Events

The board heard an update on “parking and event management” for the Barbès in the Woods festival in Montague Center on August 21. The festival was considered a great success two years ago, but was canceled last summer during the pandemic.

Cassandra Holden of Laudable Productions in Easthampton, which is producing the event, presented the parking plan and a

proposal to close a portion of Center Street during the afternoon of the 21st. The plans were developed in collaboration with police chief Chris Williams and Montague Center fire chief David Hansen. “We’re working on decongesting Center Street,” said Holden, noting that there would be at least two large parking sites on property near the center.

One glitch emerged when it was discovered that a field on Center Street proposed to park up to 200 cars is located near an aquifer and well used by the Turners Falls Water District. Holden said there was a plan to “walk the property” with Ramsey and water district superintendent Mike Brown.

Reached later by this newspaper, Brown said the walkthrough with Holden and Ramsey had taken place, and they were aware of his concerns about the “optics” of so much parking near a water source. However, the proposal did not violate town bylaws. “My hands are tied,” he told the *Reporter*, noting that the coordinators agreed to put up signs dissuading attendees from parking “junk cars” on the property, and that the field would be inspected two days after the concert.

In a related development, an application by the Montague Center Congregational Church for the use of public property for its annual “Mug Race,” also on August 21 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., was also approved by the board. Ann Fisk, who presented the application, was

assured by Williams that Center Street would not be closed to parking prior to the race.

The board heard an update from Mark Lattanzi on a free concert on Sunday, August 1 at Unity Park to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the radio station WRSI. The board granted a one-day liquor license to the Berkshire Brewing Company.

Speeding Vehicles

The board continued a discussion from a previous meeting of a request by residents of Country Club Lane to reduce the speed limit on that street, which provides access to the Thomas Memorial Golf Course, from 25 to 15 miles per hour.

Although no residents on the street attended the meeting, a July 22 letter stated that “we have no grievance with the golf course,” but that drivers accelerate down the road and do not stop at posted stop signs, endangering children.

Kuklewicz noted that 25 miles per hour was the norm on similar streets in Montague, and said it would be “quite a process” to change the limit for one street.

Williams said the town is required to “reach out” to MassDOT and conduct a “preliminary study” of traffic conditions on the street, including “speed calculations on a curve, speed observations, recent crash history and trial runs at the location.” He

said changing the limit would be a “lengthy process.” “We can’t just put up a new speed sign,” he said.

Kuklewicz said he did not feel that lowering the speed limit “would change anything,” but suggested putting a temporary electronic indicator that displays speed and stores data “during the warm weather.” The town could then revisit the issue in the fall based on the data. The board voted to endorse the move.

Other Business

Town administrator Steve Ellis told the board that Montague’s two-week COVID case count stood at only 1, with no new cases in the latest week.

He also reported that the “mobilization” for the Chestnut Hill Loop Bridge Project would begin July 19, and construction the following week. Work on the Gill-Montague Senior Center roof began the week of July 12.

Ellis also reported on recent efforts by Republic Services to address recent problems with weekly trash and recycling pickups. “Few things rile people more than a missed trash pickup,” he said, noting that Republic “has had difficulty training and retaining their workforce,” but is “taking the situation very seriously,” and now has a “full complement” of drivers.

The next selectboard meeting will be held July 26.

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GMRSD from page A1

unanimously to appoint Joanna Mae Boody, who attended the meeting and introduced herself.

The school committee continued to reorganize itself for the coming year, and Waryas offered to join two subcommittees, the groups tasked with negotiating union contracts with both Unit A, teachers, and Unit C, paraprofessionals and secretarial staff. "I'm a huge fan of negotiations in general," she offered, by way of explanation. Her assistance was welcomed.

School committee chair Jane Oakes, who will also sit on both subcommittees, noted that both contracts are coming up for renewal soon. The Unit A group will be chaired by Michael Langknecht, and Unit C by Cassie Damkoehler.

Negotiations are currently underway with the district's custodians, another bargaining unit. Oakes, Damkoehler, and Carleigh Dlugosz will remain on that subcommittee.

It was agreed that a budget subcommittee did not need to be appointed. Langknecht explained that the compact between the district and its towns, under which the towns identify their "affordable assessments" in advance, obviates the "extra step" of having a separate subcommittee strategize over what the district should ask for.

"We don't have to go through all the back and forth between which items are going to get subverted or moved and all of that," he said.

Oakes, Gill member Bill Tomb, and Montague member Heather Katsoulis will constitute the policy committee, which Damkoehler described as "an awesome way to learn about the policies in the district."

Tomb also agreed to continue serving as a liaison to the six-town regionalization planning board, and reported that the group expected to receive a major report from a consultant shortly and would plan a public forum in coming weeks. Damkoehler signed up to join him as a liaison from Montague.

"It doesn't seem like there are that many people on our full committee, once we get down to trying

to populate subcommittees," Oakes observed.

Pupil services director Joanne Ellis reported that 187 students were participating in summer programming through the district, including programs at Sheffield Elementary and the high school aimed at alleviating learning loss during the pandemic.

Beck praised Ellis for her extra work since Limoges's departure. "She's been here sometimes until 9 or 10 o'clock at night, contacting families endlessly," he said.

"People are excited that we're offering the enrichment opportunities to students, and that we're offering a fuller day of programming [this year]," Ellis said.

"We're really trying to also find out who we're not connecting with," she added. "Our kids have sort of developed, you know, just some interesting hobbies or traits while they have been at home learning."

A discussion of "equity" is currently a permanent fixture on the committee's meeting agendas, but the topic was not discussed in any depth on July 13. Beck noted that Kotright was fluent in Spanish.

"We've managed to add a couple of staff members over the course of this year who have fluency in another language, so that's helpful to diversify the cultural makeup of our faculty," he said. "We've added four staff members over the course of the last few months who help us in that cause."

The committee continued its ongoing discussion of whether and when to start meeting in person. "I think the time for us to start meeting in person is definitely approaching," Tomb said, "and I'll support it when it happens."

Oakes said technology director Tina Mahaney has been working to set up a meeting space with better pandemic protocols, including separate microphones for each member and more space between seats.

Beck reported that the district had not yet received any guidance on COVID safety for the fall from either the state or federal government.

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MoRe

ED GREGORY PHOTO

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OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER

JULY 22, 2021

Above: A visit by photographer Ed Gregory in late June to the Griswold Cotton Mill site – known more recently as the Railroad Salvage – revealed the cleanup project nearing its completion. “This shot looks to the north from the southeast corner of the site entrance,” Ed writes. “The remaining west wall at the northwest corner is reminiscent of 14th-century Roman architecture.”

NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

BY TROUBLE MANDESON

GREENFIELD – Now that I work on a farm, one of the benefits is being able to take home as many vegetables as I can use. I’ve been known to drive the mile down the road for a bunch of curly kale after receiving a request from my wife for my now-perfected kale chips. Or I may get a craving for a pot of cooked greens swimming in rich, delicious pot liquor only to find one limp, slightly yellowed bunch of collards in the vegetable drawer and off I run for some kale or Swiss chard to fulfill my craving. It makes for a very satisfying cycle of meals when so many of them are sourced locally, either from the farm or my own garden.



MANDESON PHOTO

The author’s small, but purposeful, kitchen herb garden.

It’s true, even with a plethora of farm-fresh veggies available, I still keep my own gardens. I have my kitchen herb garden right outside the door for a quick snip of rosemary to brighten up a beef stew, or some plucked basil leaves to garnish a sweet tomato slice drizzled with olive oil.

Just about everything can be enhanced by the addition of fresh

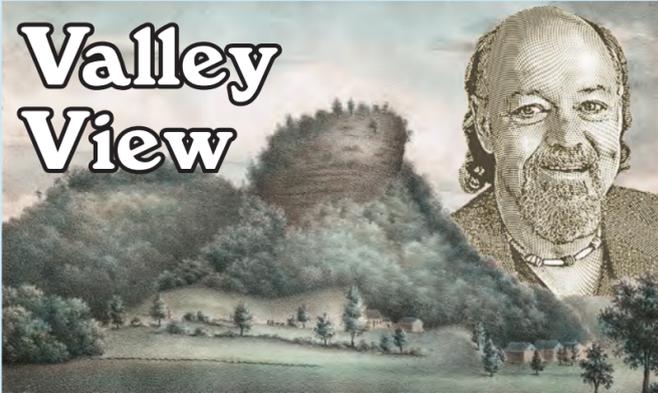
herbs. Even with no outdoor space, a sunny window in a kitchen can be all you need to set up an indoor potted herb garden that you’ll use over and over again. If you grow an abundance of herbs, dry them for

use during the winter. They’ll impart the flavors of summer when it’s cold and wet outside.

One of my favorite green foods are the youngest, tenderest, baby greens. For that I keep three raised beds full of lettuce, kale, and arugula plants whose little heads I twist off once a week for a salad. I might add in slivers of hakurei turnip – aka salad turnip – with their sweet, crunchy white flesh. Maybe a chopped bell pepper, some sliced radishes, or grated beets for color, and then I’m enjoying a meal from ingredients that came straight from the earth. Does it get any better than this?

Greens, whether garden, farmed, or wild-grown, are more than just something to steam or add to a salad. Each plant has many beneficial properties that go beyond simple nutrition. Although beets themselves are full of vitamins and minerals and help to reduce inflammation and blood pressure, their greens are equally as potent, full of copper and manganese and with no saturated fat or cholesterol. Like see **HEARTFELT** page B4

Valley View



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Finally, a breakthrough concerning a long-standing, personal and vexing lamprey question – that is, did Northeastern indigenous populations utilize anadromous sea lampreys as a food source during the eel-like creatures’ annual, upriver, spring spawning runs among millions of American shad, Atlantic salmon, striped bass and river herring?

This mystery I explored at length and was unable to solve coming down the stretch of my four-decade run as sports editor/outdoor columnist for the local daily newspaper. More recently, in retirement over the winter of COVID isolation, I was queried out of the blue on the topic by a third party, passing on the question from a Happy Valley author who occasionally writes guest columns in the Northampton paper.

I had no answer, other than admitting that my search had come up empty despite a strong suspicion that our Native populations had indeed valued lampreys as an abundant and valuable spring food. Why not in a culture that valued rattlesnake as part of its diet? Nonetheless, no written proof that I could uncover.

Oh yes, I found many online lamprey recipes, and even a website featuring a Merrimack Valley vendor in New Hampshire who offered deep-fried, crosscut lamprey steaks. I also knew that our familial, freshwater, American eel was a Native American delicacy. Still, nary a word about lampreys as Native food. Just one more case, I suppose, of not so “benign neglect” by colonial chroniclers more interested in removing “pagan savages” from the landscape than understanding their lifeways.

Now, let’s fast-forward a few months to a more recent, unrelated, personal search that led me to a quick rereading of a book I store upstairs in the Gov. Winthrop desk and bookcase formerly owned by my maternal grandmother. Be it irony or just simple coincidence, this tale will bring us back to Winthrop. But I won’t go there yet.

First, the book, written by Herral Ayres, published in 1940 and now pricey. Titled *The Great Trail of New England: The Old Connecticut Path*, it’s probably the best

available source for anyone trying to understand the makeup of Native footpaths that traversed the land during North America’s 16th- and 17th-century colonial Contact Period. Readers gain insight into Native paths that can be applied to others, such as our own Mohawk Trail.

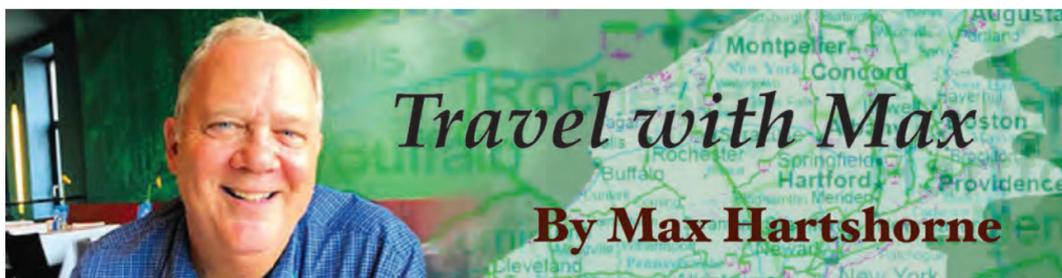
I was probing Ayres’ book in what seems like a never-ending study of the August 25, 1675 Hopewell Swamp Fight, a skirmish at the foot of Mount Sugarloaf between colonial soldiers and Indians that kicked off King Philip’s War in the Connecticut Valley. My goal was to get a better feel for the so-called Pocumtuck Path, which was the most-traveled Contact Period route from Hatfield to Deerfield – and the trail upon which the Swamp Fight unfolded.

Ayres’ fine book traces the deeply trodden footpath that led the first Massachusetts Bay Colony explorers to the Connecticut River at a location that later became the town of Windsor, Connecticut. That’s where the path crossed the river and continued south to Hartford, Wethersfield, New Haven, and beyond.

At its eastern beginnings, the trail had two legs that merged into one trail in South Framingham. One leg began in Cambridge, the other in Boston. From South Framingham, the path led to Hopkinton, where it again split before reconverging into one at the Chaubunagungamaug Crossing across the narrows of a body of water now known as Webster Lake. From there, the path split again. The southern leg led through northern Connecticut to Windsor. The north fork, which came to be known as the Bay Path, went to Springfield, Westfield, and the Hudson River.

Enough about the Great Trail, though. That discussion could go on indefinitely, and Ayres’ book covers nearly 450 pages. Our focus is the question of whether lampreys were a traditional spring food of our indigenous people, which brings us back to South Framingham and a body of water straddling the Ashland border in the Sudbury River Valley, not to mention Gov. Winthrop.

Today known as Waushakum Pond, Indians knew it as *Ous-chankamaug*, which Ayres translates as “lamprey-eel fishing place” in the Eastern Algonquian, see **VALLEY VIEW** page B5



SOUTH DEERFIELD – As a frequent day tripper and regular business traveler, I find myself more often heading north, or south, than east or west. But one of last year’s trips sent me west, and beyond my usual

comfort zone of the Berkshires. This time I was headed the length of the long, boring, and mostly straight New York Thruway. I reached the very end, in Buffalo, then headed south, and our first stop

was in the vast region that is called New York’s Southern Tier.

There are so many interesting highlights here in this big region to me, it was an undiscovered zone. Among them are the National Comedy Center and the Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz Museum in Jamestown.

Jamestown isn’t the nicest city I’ve ever seen – it’s a bit down on its luck. But it does have something that no other city can boast about. Perhaps the most influential female comedian and TV producer who ever lived was born there. Today she and her husband have their own museum in the city.

The Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz Museum is a treasure trove of memorabilia, original sets, and costumes from one of the longest-running sitcoms in TV history, *I Love Lucy*. A tour of the spacious museum takes you through the lives of both the Cuban politician’s son and future see **TRAVEL** page B8



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

The “I Love Lucy” kitchen is preserved at the Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz Museum.

Pet of the Week



CARMODY COLLAGE

“CRICKET”

Do you love giant dogs and their exuberant energy? Cricket may be the dog for you!

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— he’s already made a lot of progress! — as well as walking well on a leash.

Adoption fee is \$425. Interested in adopting? 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.

Senior Center Activities JULY 26 THROUGH AUGUST 6

WENDELL

Wendell Senior Center is open for a foot care clinic the first Wednesday of each month. Call Katie Nolan at (978) 544-2306 for information or appointments. Senior Health Rides are now available. Contact Susan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information call 863-9357. Messages can be left on our machine when the center is not open.

Monday 7/26

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 7/27

1 p.m. Movie “Grumpy Old Men”
3:00 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 7/28

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

Thursday 7/29

10 a.m. Chair Yoga
1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch

Friday 7/30

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

Monday 8/2

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

1 p.m. Knitting Circle

Tuesday 8/3

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/4

9 a.m. Veterans’ Services

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

Thursday 8/5

10 a.m. Chair Yoga
10:30 a.m. Brown Bag
1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch

Friday 8/6

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and billiards. Fitness room also open. Exercise classes will be limited to 15 people per class.

No lunch will be served. We will continue with Brown Bag the first Thursday of each month. For any questions or concerns, please call Paula at (413) 423-3649. Masks are optional. Proper handwashing and social distancing are still required.

Mondays

9 a.m. Stretch & Balance
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold Floor

Tuesdays

9 a.m. Stretch & Sculpt
10:30 a.m. Line Dancing

Wednesdays

9 a.m. Chair Class
10:30 a.m. Zumba Gold Chair

11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursdays

9 a.m. Restore & Re-Emerge
10:30 a.m. GOOD for You

Fridays

9 a.m. Quilting Workshop

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.



MARY AZARIAN WOODBLOCK PRINT

THE GARDENER'S COMPANION

Midsummer Heat and Rain

By LESLIE BROWN

MONTAGUE CITY – During dry weather we have been watering daily, but watering from the top down is not as beneficial to the plants as a good rain from which the plants can feed themselves as they wish. After a good inch of rain, things in the garden look lively and plants are actively growing again.

After all, not all plants want the same amount of water. Cacti, for example, prefer to dry out completely before taking in water again. We have an old cactus in the sunroom named Jose. He much prefers to dry out fully and not to be overwatered, which just seems to make him sulky.

Overwatering the heat- and

sun-loving tomato plants tends to encourage mildew and mold. Your garden plants will let you know when they need watering. If the plants look droopy, stick your finger in the dirt and see how far down it is before you can feel the dampness. If the weather man has promised rain later that day or at night, you can leave the plant alone.

Lately we seem to be in a warm and humid spell. The dehumidifier down cellar needs emptying every morning. This should be great tomato growing weather but no longer good weather for green crops like lettuce and spinach which much prefer cool temperatures overnight. On the other hand, late in August will likely be a good time for a new seeding of green crops which can even tolerate a light frost.

We have given up growing green peas and beans. We leave the peas to the farmers markets. It's hard to grow enough plants for a good feeding of fresh peas, and the green

and yellow beans we've grown have overwhelmed us. I've taken the surplus down to the community garden, but most folks have access to their own or just plain don't care so much for fresh vegetables. We have frozen some beans: they do well and hold their freshness when thawed and cooked lightly.

Fresh vegetables are delicious and good, healthy eating. They are our preferred choice although in the winter we are happy to eat fresh-frozen produce. We also keep a stash of new potatoes and winter squashes as long as we can.

When it's apple picking time we store a bushel basket of McIntosh for eating out of hand. Pie apples like Cortland and Northern Spy are tart and crispy and store well too. If you have a cat, you can store apples in a cool cellar free of mice for a good part of the winter and enjoy pies and apple crisp at Christmas and New Year's.

Happy gardening and eating!



Surviving Breast Cancer

By Julie Cunningham

Part V: Let's Just Talk

AMHERST – I have always found human behavior extremely odd. What motivates people to do what they do, when they do it?

I have recently been catphished, although it isn't your normal catphish situation. This person was familiar, empathetic, and concerned for my well being. This person was so concerned about my well being that I swear we were in love at one point. This person was one of my exes, but not just an ex – they were one of the three that I said “I love you” to.

Of course, like any catphish there were grains of truth and many, many, lies to sort through. I developed theories and investigated and played the game for a while in the hopes of discovering his true identity. Eventually he disappeared, which I figured he would, probably to protect himself from being discovered.

Human behavior is so odd. Why did this person pick this moment to check in on me – why did he need a fake account, and why was the idea of it so attractive? I think it was the sheer vulnerability of it. I needed someone to listen to my fear, hear my sadness, and soothe my heartache.

The anonymity almost made it easier. I could pour my heart out without fear of judgment. Whoever it was was a good listener for a while, and my poor heart did feel a temporary sense of relief. We all need someone to care about us, especially when we are going through a cancer diagnosis, and I guess he knew that.

But I had questions. Why the need to create a fake profile? Was this person safe? There was a sharp juxtaposition between wanting someone genuine to be there and listen on the one hand, and a good healthy dose of fear on the other hand about who this random person might be. How long would this last? How long could it last? Did I really care who it was?

Loneliness is a powerful motivator, and can create errors in judgment. After a while I questioned him on his intentions, questioned exes on whether they were behind this fake profile, and eliminated people one by one.

As the list dwindled, my fear grew. It wasn't any of the people I thought it could be – people who I thought I had a deep enough connection with where they would create a fake profile to check on me. All that was left,

at some point, was a list of random people I had disconnected from, and some dangerous people I wanted nothing to do with.

That was a scary moment. I don't downplay my safety or the safety of my son, ever. I'm part of the “me too” movement, and I know how dismissive people can be of a dangerous situation out of fear. It's this “it couldn't happen to me” mentality. I never thought I would be catphished in any real capacity. But here we are.

The qualities this person had that I liked didn't match anyone I've been in a relationship with. He seemed like a lovesick puppy remembering whatever we had that I had left behind. At times, he seemed heartbroken.

But he was also purposefully vague. It was a real eye-opener for me about how I feel about what I am going through. Sometimes I do feel so lonely in my experience because of how the chemo impacts my body. Most women have their real hair. Most women my age can still have kids. Most women my age aren't deciding between a lumpectomy or a complete bilateral mastectomy.

Most men my age are working on their careers and raising their families and are not even thinking about cancer. That isolation made me more vulnerable to this kind of catphish.

There are times when I am gripped by the fear of the unknown. Logically, I know that all of us face our mortality at some point. Some people die in an instant and have no warning. Some people are diagnosed with a terminal illness and have years to plan. No one knows what it's like after death. We all have our best educated guess, but you're not gonna know until you get there.

I hate that. When I think about it too much, I get pretty freaked out. The honest truth is, like most people, I want more time. I want more sunny days, more days by the beach, more summer thunderstorms, and more beautiful moments. I want as many of these things as I can get. I want 100 years' worth of sunny days. Not 36.

That's why it's so important to me to find a cure for cancer. I don't want my kids or my grandkids to go through this.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Peace, Justice Programs

GREENFIELD – Join a conversation about alternatives to current policing this Monday, July 26 at 6:30 p.m. Racial Justice Rising and the Traprock Center for Peace & Justice have arranged a special Zoom event with the Holistic Emergency Alternative Response Team (HEART) which seeks to organize around these alternatives in Cambridge, MA.

The Black and Brown community has been calling for change for many years, especially with the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Tony McDade. Twenty-three-year-old activist Queen-Cheyenne Wade, one of the founders of HEART, will discuss its holistic response that works outside of policing systems to address harm and conflict in marginalized communities. For more information and to register, see racialjustice.org/events-calendar.

On August 6 and 7, Traprock remembers the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki with calls to support the UN Treaty on the Prohibition of

Nuclear Weapons (see www.icanw.org). This year they focus on meeting urgent climate and social needs by cutting the military budget.

On Friday, August 6, people will meet at 7 p.m. at the Emily Williston Library in Easthampton, and walk to Nashawannuck Pond with candles, followed by speeches, performers, and lantern-floating. Sponsors include the Nuclear and Carbon-Free Future Coalition, the Resistance Center for Peace and Justice, Traprock Center for Peace & Justice, and Franklin County Continuing the Political Revolution's peace task force.

Closer to home, join the weekly peace and democracy "Standout" vigil on the Greenfield Town Common 11 a.m. to noon on Saturday, August 7. Signs, banners, and information will educate and call for banning nuclear weapons and the many threats they pose.

Contact Anna Gyorgy, traprock-info@crocker.com, for further information on these events.

CONCERT REVIEW

The Freedom Music Fest

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – It looks like the Franklin County Fairgrounds is really getting back into having events besides the fair. First was a Roundhouse Walk for Halloween. The second was a drive-thru Christmas Lighting Display Contest. On July 11 an event called Freedom Music Fest happened with local bands to listen to and foods as well. Donations from the event went to help with the problem of a mudslide near the Fairgrounds.

I arrived early and ended up looking around at some of the food and craft vendors, which the flyer on Facebook said there would be. I was surprised to see, among the art vendors, a stand for the Friends of Franklin County Regional Dog shelter, a motorcycle club called Mohawks Ramblers with motorcycles to see, and a place for Massachusetts Motorcycles Association. The food vendors were mostly food stands and food trucks, and I was also surprised to see two of the locations used by food vendors at the fair were in use for this.

Of course – because of the name of the festival – someone started it by singing the Star-Spangled Banner.

I really liked the first band I saw from the start. They were called Alana & DUH Band. The singer, Alana Martineau, was good, and the guitarist accompanying her was equally good. I would say the same about the drummer on the drum set, too. I believe they were a rock'n'roll band. At one point they played "Redneck

Woman" by Gretchen Wilson.

Alana didn't sing the entire time – one of the guitarists did, and he did a good job, too. I would be happy to hear him or Alana anytime. The audience seemed to agree with me when it came to this group, and enjoyed the atmosphere of the festival and the food there.

At another point in the festival, the guy who was in charge of the music played his guitar, while his son played one too. I believe he thought it was a nice idea to entertain us between bands. His guitar playing and singing were nice, but I liked his singing a little better than him on the guitar. His singing voice sounded very unique to me.

The other band I saw was called Jimmy Just Quit. It had two guitarists, a bassist, and a drummer. When they started I found one guitarist's singing voice was all right, but the guitarists were great, and the drummer kept in sync with them wonderfully. Nobody seemed off-key when it came to singing or playing guitar.

One of the guitarists sang a song so well that a couple of people danced to it. I believe this band was also a rock'n'roll band.

The turnout of people at the event turned out to be quite large. I would've been happy if just one food vendor had something I liked, but it turned out a couple of them did – I was quite pleased with the variety of choices of food there. One craft vendor, Josie Glabach, had paintings for sale that I liked rather nicely. Of the music, I liked Alana and DUH Band the best. I enjoyed this event!



Alana and DUH Band.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Chased By Bear Cub; Four Men At Bus Stop; Blood Trail; Four Assaults; Skunk Stuck In The Skatepark; Floods

Monday, 7/5

1:26 p.m. Caller from Seventh Street reporting that new tenants in the building have been "tapping in" to other people's electricity, and are riding motorized bikes up and down the streets with no helmets. Referred to an officer.

2:22 p.m. Passerby reporting three vehicles parked by the Water Department. He assumes they are trespassing and are swimming or fishing. Vehicles located. Two females moved along; unable to locate a third person.

8:17 p.m. Caller reporting fire in kitchen at Ce Ce's Chinese Restaurant; states they are trying to put the fire out. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

10:12 p.m. Caller from Greenfield Road reporting that his dog broke loose due to the fireworks; later called back to advise dog was located.

Tuesday, 7/6

5:40 a.m. Caller states it appears that someone has broken the gate at the Silvio O. Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center on Migratory Way; it looks like it was jimmied, and there is some wood/wire holding it open.

2:10 p.m. Caller would like it on record that she went to the family gravesite at Ste. Anne's Cemetery and found more evidence of vandalism; ongoing issue.

5:45 p.m. Officer checking on report of deer injured on side of Center Street. Officer advises one round was used to dispatch the injured deer. DPW will come by to pick it up first thing in the morning.

8:38 p.m. Motorist locked inside gate on Migratory Way.

8:48 p.m. Caller states that her son was chased by a bear cub near the Little League fields at Sheffield Elementary School. He ran home but believes there are still other kids up there. Area checked; no bears seen.

10:11 p.m. Caller from Oakman Street states that a man was trespassing in her backyard. When she confronted him, he became belligerent and made some threats towards her. Last seen walking toward Bourdeau Avenue. Unable to locate.

Wednesday, 7/7

2:32 a.m. Caller states he was driving home and noticed someone going through a car with a flashlight on High Street near Montague Street; when he circled back around, the person took off. Area checked; nothing found at this time.

11:10 a.m. Caller concerned about the signs at the Canal Street intersection; advised one of the signs is square and is con-

cerned that some drivers may not realize it is a stop sign. Referred to Mass-DOT.

11:28 p.m. 911 caller from High Street states he was just jumped near his house and punched in the face; advises he knows who did it and where they live. Refusing EMS at this time. Officer provided courtesy transport home for caller and spoke with involved male, who stated he had not seen the caller tonight.

Thursday, 7/8

12:30 a.m. Report of ongoing harassment by an upstairs neighbor on East Main Street. Advised of options.

7:44 a.m. Caller from Third Street reporting her iPad stolen. Advised of options.

12:21 p.m. Caller reporting that a man was going door to door at the Cutlery Block asking people for their utility bills. Caller states she lunged at him and he punched her in the face; advises she is not hurt; declined medical attention. No soliciting applications/permits on file for either male; both have been spoken to before by MPD for soliciting without a permit. All parties spoken with. Males denied hitting the caller. Caller admitted to chasing the males. None wanted to pursue the matter.

3:35 p.m. Caller states there are four men in the house by the bus stop on Seventh Street and she thinks it's suspicious. When asked what was suspicious about it, she couldn't give an answer besides "there's four of them." When asked to describe them, she said she didn't want to answer any more questions and disconnected. Unable to locate.

Friday, 7/9

7:17 p.m. Caller states that some younger men are taking apart a stone wall on the Cabot Camp property on East Mineral Road. Officer spoke to a male party who was fishing and saw some kids messing with the property. Report taken.

Saturday, 7/10

9:35 a.m. Caller from Walnut Street states that her mother's purse has gone missing from the house; her mom has in-home caretakers, and the company has been advised. Several charges have been made from different dating sites on her mother's credit card since 6/16. Investigated.

11:02 a.m. Caller from Hatchery Road reporting that there is a lot of blood in her garage; not sure if it was from animals that got in overnight since the door was open. Caller states that all of her own animals appear to be fine, and there is no evidence of animal parts left behind, just the blood. Officer ad-

vises blood appeared to be from an animal that was dragged out from the barn.

1:56 p.m. Caller reporting that this morning one of his female employees was followed from Greenfield into the Food City parking lot by a male driving a dark blue vehicle. Caller states they have it on camera, but you can't see the license plate. Caller states the employee drove back out of the parking lot and the vehicle again followed her for a while until turning onto another street. Report taken.

Sunday, 7/11

3:05 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street states he was just assaulted. Male party had a black eye with a small amount of blood under the eye. Medical attention declined. Officers spoke with involved male. One party arrested.

9:35 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road states that her son's mountain bike was stolen from the backyard last night. Referred to an officer.

8:14 p.m. Caller from FL Roberts states that she has asked a male multiple times to leave the property and he won't. Caller states male is harassing customers. While on phone, caller stated male left heading up Third Street.

Monday, 7/12

6:30 a.m. First of several reports of trees down around town.

Tuesday, 7/13

4:39 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that a man, his son, and the son's friend just jumped out of their car and assaulted a party who is now bleeding from the face but denies needing EMS. Officer spoke with caller, who will fill out statement form and return it to MPD.

Wednesday, 7/14

7:39 a.m. Caller requesting animal control for a skunk who was stuck in the skate park and can't find its way out. Animal control officer contacted and en route.

Thursday, 7/15

8:08 a.m. Report of a goat on the side of Federal Street creating a hazard. Goat gone on arrival.

7:27 p.m. Caller states that a blue mountain bike has been placed on the side of the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge near an old bouquet of flowers. Bike removed and placed into storage at the old police station garage.

Friday, 7/16

9:19 a.m. A 46-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

9:30 a.m. Report of male party walking around caller's house on Dry Hill Road holding an 8- to 10-foot pole. Officer located party, who is with a roofing company and is there

to do an estimate for a job. Confirmed that caller had contacted that company for a roofing job; he was unaware that they were coming today since he had not heard back from them.

2:57 p.m. Gill PD requesting MPD close Turners Falls-Gill Bridge on the TF side for a disabled vehicle with a fluid spill. Services rendered.

4:32 p.m. Caller requesting officer respond to Canal Bridge area to assist with a major traffic backup.

10:03 p.m. Following a foot pursuit on Fourth Street, a 20-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a default warrant and charged with unlawful possession of ammunition and resisting arrest.

11:07 p.m. Caller from downtown Millers Falls states that it sounds like a group of teens are screaming and running up and down the road; states they are going from Carroll's Market to the railroad tracks and back. Has been going on for approximately 30 minutes. Second caller reporting same disturbance; while on the line, a group of people started yelling at the caller to get off the phone. Caller advises they took off as officers were arriving. Nobody seen in area by officers.

Saturday 7/17
3:56 a.m. Trooper requesting traffic be blocked at the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge; a tractor-trailer unit is blocking both lanes of travel on the Route 2 side. MSP on scene.

12:15 p.m. A 23-year-old man, address unknown, was arrested on a default warrant.

5:23 p.m. 911 caller from East Main Street reporting that a female from downstairs tried to push her way into his apartment and was accusing him of stealing mail. Officer spoke with involved female, who was outside on the porch. Not as reported; female has agreed to stay away from caller tonight.

5:38 p.m. A 57-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on two default warrants.

6:59 p.m. Caller states that the house they are building on Bernardo Drive looks like water is flowing out of it and running across the road, causing a hazard. Officer checked area; no flooding noted at this time.

7:05 p.m. Caller reporting East Main Street is flooded. Officer states approximately six inches of standing water. Mass-DOT notified and will have someone check area.

Sunday, 7/18
3:50 a.m. Caller states that Highland Road is flooded and not passable. Officer requesting DPW block

see MPD page B4

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MPD from page B3

road; there is approximately one foot of standing water. DPW en route.

4:16 a.m. Officer out on Newton Street checking a water problem possibly eroding one of the buildings away. Requesting fire be toned due to water eroding the building with people inside. Control contacted. PD and FD evacuating residence.

4:38 a.m. Requesting MassDOT be contacted re: flooding on Route 63 at Wonsey Road; road and area under railroad overpass are completely flooded. MassDOT notified.

6:05 a.m. Report of mudslide across Federal Street; caller states road is passable but very slick. Officer states it isn't terrible but requests Mass-

DOT be notified.

7:57 a.m. Caller from Davis Road states that the small bridge around the corner from his home is washed over with 3 to 6 inches of mud. DPW supervisor notified.

8:31 a.m. First of several reports of flooded basements and properties including locations on Broadway, North Leverett Road, and East Chestnut Hill Road. DPW and MCFD notified.

9:53 a.m. MCFD advising of a large hole in the middle of Wonsey Road near the bridge over the stream. Entire area washed out. DPW notified.

10:51 a.m. Caller from Craig Avenue states that the retaining wall behind his home has crumbled. The wall is connected to the underside of South

Prospect Street to help hold up the road. DPW notified.

6:12 p.m. Caller from Bangs Street states that there is a clogged storm drain in front of their home and they are getting water in the basement. Caller also said that there is a sinkhole forming at the end of the street. Made contact with DPW supervisor; he will get someone out there to look at it.

10:04 p.m. Caller states that Montague City Road near the golf course is flooded up and over the sidewalk on both sides of the road.

10:21 p.m. Caller reporting flooding in multiple places along Turners Falls Road in the area of Field of Dreams.



Learning to Fly Fish: Part XII

Ariel Jones, who passed away in March, penned a series of 14 articles in the Montague Reporter in 2005 on her experiences learning to fly fish. This is the twelfth. Jones was a pioneer of the local art scene when she moved to Turners Falls from NYC and opened a photography studio on Avenue A in 2000.

By **ARIEL JONES**

MONTAGUE – July 4th weekend was looking perfect. We finally had a glorious weather forecast, warm and dry. I decided to take a long weekend and immerse myself in fly fishing.

Holidays can be tricky for people who live alone. You might be perfectly happy, then suddenly you wake up right before a big holiday and the Lonely Gremlins are sitting there looking smug and satisfied.

“Get up, get up! Ooh, it’s a big holiday. Families, couples, relatives are all out today having fun! Oh, I forgot. You’re all alone here, aren’t you? Too bad. Of course, it’s your own fault. Made some unfortunate decisions along the line, didn’t you? I heard, by the way, that ___ has a really nice boat now. Probably taking it out today with the family. And of course ___ is a big city lawyer, very successful too. Probably spending the holiday on the Cape. Well, you could always call ___. Oops, their kids are coming in for a couple of days...”

“Shut up! Shut up! I hate barbecues!” I got up and left the gremlins cackling to themselves, realizing that taking a few days off might be tricky.

Gremlins never go fishing, and I had made some progress in explorophobia. I remembered something very important. If I think about myself it can often turn morbid, so I called Tom and discovered that the Swift River was being stocked as we spoke. To hell with gremlins; I’m going fishing.

I decided to try a new route to the Swift. The old one took an hour, and I was certain there must be a quicker way. Checking the map I went by way of Route 9 and cut ten miles off. This was a good start to the outing.

Walking up to the Y Pool, I had a great sense of



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

A photo by Jones of a trout with food in its open mouth.

well-being. There was only one other person fishing at the pool, and within the hour I had caught a nice Rainbow.

It is not unusual for experienced fly fishers to catch ten or more fish in an afternoon. I have been thrilled to go from zip to one or two. For weeks I spent hours on the river and caught nothing. I probably caught only about five fish all of last summer!

Tom showed up and we worked our way downstream a little ways to fish the banks overhung by trees. It was getting dark and suddenly trout were rising. We were getting a lot of strikes on sulphurs. Tom caught some but I wasn’t setting the hook quickly enough.

It didn’t matter. It was a blast knowing that I was using the right fly, the trout were big, and they were biting. It was nearly 9 p.m. by now, and I hadn’t caught one, so I waded back up to the Pool before it became completely dark. Almost immediately I got a strike and landed a twelve- or thirteen-inch Brookie. That is rather unusual there, as most of the Brookies are from four to about ten inches. This was an old one with lots of teeth.

It was dark by now and we walked back through the path in the woods with our flashlights on. I felt great, and knew the bedposts would be empty of gremlins. They hate happiness.

RIVERBOAT DISPATCH

The Flash Flood

By **GALEN HUCKINS**

MILLERS FALLS – In the middle of the night we woke up to the sound of the raging water. We were anchored in the Millers River just around the bend from the Connecticut River, the rain from the last few days had been on its way down from the hills, and around 3:30 a.m. the normally sleepy river was turning into a rapids.

We didn’t want to get in the way of any of the uprooted trees and other debris that was starting to show up, so we pulled the boat over to the side of the river, safely in an eddy of the current, and watched as the water developed into a roaring torrent with four-foot standing waves.

We’ve seen some wild rivers and tidal streams in our travels – and even weathered Hurricane Matthew in Charleston – but never such a *small* river brought up to such a fever pitch.

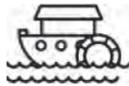
Meanwhile, upstream in the town of Millers Falls, residents were waking up to flooding alarms, evacuations, and a downtown-wide power shutoff. A nearby culvert had been overrun and sent floodwater down

Main Street. A sinkhole appeared and swallowed up a perfectly serviceable Toyota 4Runner.

Some folks came down to the nearby bridge to witness the force of the water and we shouted back and forth, sharing news of what we’d been seeing over the course of the night.

We tied up to a piling on shore to make sure our anchors wouldn’t slip in the force of the current. The water here was quite calm, despite being only 20 feet from the main channel. From our vantage point near the mouth of the river, the narrow channel funneled the water into a frothy mess with entire tree trunks racing downstream and shooting out to the broader Connecticut like a giant waterslide.

By now the sun was coming up, and there was little hope of sleeping. We set up our hammock on the front deck, brewed some coffee, and watched in exhausted silence as the flash flood emptied out, spectacularly, past our doorstep.



You can follow the riverboat and its travels at www.riversignal.com.



HUCKINS PHOTO

The Channel Princess avoids the main action.

HEARTFELT from page B1

beets, Swiss chard is also a great source of vitamins and minerals and supports bone health and helps fight stress-related diseases.

Kelp, a variety of seaweed eaten throughout East Asia, is rich in minerals and iodine that help with brain function and energy levels. They also contain antioxidants, which offer many beneficial health effects. In addition to its healthy properties, seaweed adds taste, texture, and flavor to foods. It is considered a superfood. Superfoods are generally plant-based foods that are densely packed with nutrients, although some fish and dairy are also included in that category.

Many wild greens with positive health benefits can be picked right from your own yard or neighborhood including dandelion, purslane, elderberry, wild garlic, and wild onion. Some of these plants can have all of their parts consumed, even the flowers. Edible flowers include nasturtiums and forget-me-nots, and even “squash blossoms” from squash plants, which can be stuffed with fillings like cheese or seafood, dipped in egg, and deep fried.

Other flowers add coloring to dishes, such as calendula flowers, which will turn food yellow, earning it the nickname “poor man’s saffron.”

Making teas and tinctures with wild greens and herbs is also beneficial to any diet. Tea, of course, requires steeping the leaves, flowers, or roots in hot water; tinctures require a little more work, but are really just plant parts that are soaked in alcohol for some weeks before consuming.

It’s important to correctly identify any wild plant before even considering eating one. Make sure you know what you’re doing be-

WILD GREENS FRITTATA

2 Tbsp. butter, ghee, or oil

2 cups fresh spring or wild greens, such as dandelion greens, nettle, chives, garlic leaves, and garlic bulbs, cleaned and chopped.

8 eggs

½ cup milk (dairy or non-dairy)

Salt/pepper

Preheat the oven to 350°. Heat 1 Tbsp. butter/ghee/oil in a pan, and sauté greens for 3 to 4 minutes until wilted, then set aside.

Whip the eggs and add in the milk. Mix the greens into the egg mixture. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Heat up a cast iron deep-dish skillet on the stove, and warm up the remaining butter/ghee/oil.

Add in the greens/egg mixture and cook over medium heat for five to seven minutes until the mixture sets. Put the skillet in the oven and bake for another 15 to 18 minutes.

If you prefer a quiche, just pour the mixture into a pie crust and bake. Feel free to add in any chopped herbs such as thyme, parsley, or rosemary for added flavor.

Borrowed from the Just Roots Vegetable Guide, Vol. 2, Summer 2021.

fore gulping down that tea or giving Granny a dropperful of your newest tincture to help with her sciatica. Consult an expert, read a book on picking wild plants, or join a class or workshop that will educate you on how to identify, harvest, and cook with them.

Nettle and Japanese knotweed are just two species that don’t seem friendly, but I recently learned that both have redeeming qualities: while nettles will sting you, it’s true, they are chock-full of nutrients and help to reduce inflammation in the body. The invasive Japanese knotweed has been found to improve heart health, lower risk of cancer, and even lower blood pressure. Again, consult an expert before you experiment with any of these plants that may be potentially dangerous.

Many of our farmworkers make their midday meal from greens plucked from the fields on their way in for a break. Sometimes they are eaten raw; other times they are stewed or sautéed and sprinkled with seasonings like tamari sauce, edible yeast, or parmesan cheese. It’s inspiring to see these young, healthy bodies not just putting in the energy to make the harvest happen, but also deriving energy from the very plants they are tending. It really is one big cycle of life.

Trouble lives in Greenfield with Wifey and Mama Catt Elliott and volunteers at many local agencies working with food insecure populations. She loves to talk, read, write, garden/farm, cook, and make art.



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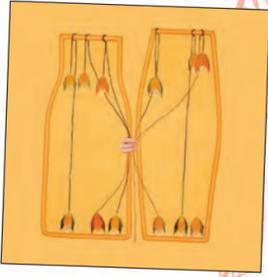
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Noah Wall,
Boyfriend Material:
Lost Tapes 2010-2020
(Self-released cassette, 2021)



**MYSTRA
REVIEWS #4**

By JOSH B.

TURNERS FALLS – Noah should be known by some of you out there, for his cool projects like “Jukeboxer” and other solo recordings that go back almost 20 years now! His stuff is usually filed in the “underground rock” categories, but as time has gone on, he is getting away from categories... and pushing sounds into a great and unique orbit. (But take note – it’s an orbit with “rock drums.”)

These recordings are all instrumental and seem to all be investigations in different inner/outer/electronic worlds. Yes, there are reminders of Eno, and also of the great Arthur Russell – though definitely more of Arthur’s weirdest/most out-there stuff.

Even though this is a collection of “lost” recordings, it really

sounds like a new and complete album... not “lost” at all! It might be my favorite Noah release yet. It is also similar to Eno’s ambient albums, in the way it can work as “background” music to play on repeat as you work on other projects... but meanwhile never totally being forgotten about. There are wild parts that keep your brain buzzing, so there’s no chance of zoning out or falling asleep for sure, and more playful sections, and even classical music zones.

It’s still available on Bandcamp if the cassette has sold out, so I recommend checking it out ASAP. And make sure you check out his stuff on Youtube. Most have amazing imagery by the talented Daniel Brantley.

I’m not sure what Noah has up his sleeve next, but some of us eagerly awaiting the next BRICK in Noah’s great musical WALL.

VALLEY VIEW from page B1 or more specifically Nipmuck, tongue. His reference to the site describes a lamprey feast stumbled upon and joined by three important Connecticut Valley Indians journeying from Windsor to Boston on a diplomatic mission in the spring of 1631. They intended to meet Gov. John Winthrop the elder and pitch their fertile valley to pioneer English settlers.

So, according to the Ayres, our indigenous populations *did indeed* savor lampreys as food. Or did they? Could not Ayres have been mistaken due to incorrect translation or some other form of misunderstanding? After all, has there not always been and will there not always be great disagreement among “experts” regarding the pronunciation and meaning of New England Indian words?

Ayres knew the problem. Thus, a detailed footnote I may have missed during my first reading of his book. This is what that footnote has to say about twisted translations, pronunciations, and phonetic spellings of Indian words from now-extinct dialects:

Indian names *become corrupted into so many forms it is hard in this day to trace many of them back to their Indian form and meaning.* Ouschankamaugs, “lamprey eel fishing places,” were common. Lampreys were among the first freshwater fish in spring. At all seasons they appear to have been a favorite food.

Near that beaver dam, the word prevailed for a time as Washakamaug, and finally degenerated into Shakum Pond. The word is in the records at Lancaster, Mass., as We-shakin. Hubbard gave the name of the Dorchester tract at Windsor, Conn., as Cufchankamaug. Trumbull located it indefinitely as somewhere in ancient Windsor.

There was such a fishing place on the Hockanum River in East Hartford. Roger Williams (1643) ren-

dered the word Qunnamaugusuck – apparently “place of the long fish.”

In my mind, that’s pretty convincing evidence that Indians ate lampreys. It has always made sense that they would have taken advantage of such an easy spring food source after long, cold, barren winters. And although freshwater American eels were also harvested, lampreys would have been easy picking for a couple of months each spring when Indians built seasonal riverside camps to catch and process anadromous fish by seine, dip-net, trap, weir, bow and arrow, and spear. Would they ignore lampreys, discarding any caught by accident? That’s very unlikely, even preposterous, considering that they still find their way onto dinner plates in the modern world and are easy to prepare.

Today lampreys are even sold from mobile, roadside restaurants of the “clam-shack” genre.

Huden’s *Indian Place Names of New England* and Bright’s *Native American Placenames of the United States* both translate close variations of Ayres’ *ouschankamaug* as “eel-fishing places,” which is helpful but leaves open for conjecture exactly what type eel they’re seeking. Plus, lampreys are not eels – a scientific fact that would have been unknown to Indians and early New England settlers alike. They sure do look like eels, and are ubiquitously still referred to as such by laymen who call them “lamprey eels.”

Of course, there was another key element of Ayres’ story that had to be confirmed. Was Waushakum Pond accessible to anadromous fish before dams and development blocked their path? Well, a step in the right direction are the online profiles identifying the pond as a Sudbury River tributary. If so, migratory fish had access.

Nonetheless, curiously, not one state or federal fishery biologist queried could confirm that yes,

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Boyfriend Flipping Out; Stolen Strawberries; Jet Ski Key Fobs; Rabbit Running In Circles

Tuesday, 6/1
1:08 p.m. Caller reporting a problem with a Main Road business.
8:08 p.m. Report of a possible suicidal person en route to the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge from Avenue A.
Wednesday, 6/2
9:58 a.m. Caller from West Gill Road requesting a welfare check on male subject in a red Jeep at the former golf course.
12:07 p.m. Passerby on Main Road reports an elderly male pushing a bicycle on Main Road northbound past Upingil. Same may be confused: stated he was going to the dentist when a passerby checked on him. Unable to locate.
5:51 p.m. MassDOT foreman advises he witnessed a group of five or six kids headed under the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. They are having graffiti issues and would like an officer to check on kids.
Thursday, 6/3
12:27 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway and Main Road reports a small tank-type item in the roadway leaking unknown fluid.
10:13 p.m. Caller from Main Road states there is a boxer mix in the road.
Friday, 6/4
3:19 p.m. Caller from West Gill Road reported an issue with a barking dog.
4:40 p.m. Caller from Oak Street reported his neighbor is using a grinder on a boat in their yard. He just wants to sit on the patio after work and relax in quiet.
5:15 p.m. Two-vehicle crash on Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. No injuries.
6:12 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported her dog slipped out of her vest and took off. She would like an officer’s help. Dog captured by owner.
11:25 p.m. Probation requesting check on an ankle bracelet alarm.
Saturday, 6/5
11:45 p.m. Caller from Chappell Drive reported an unwanted person.
Sunday, 6/6
10:26 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with motor vehicle accident with injury on Millers Falls Road.
Monday, 6/7
1:22 p.m. Assisted with a medical emergency on South Cross Road.
2:36 p.m. Crop and property damage reported at Lyons Hill Farm.
Tuesday, 6/8
1:41 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with 911 call, Old State Road.
Wednesday, 6/9
7:34 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a motor vehicle rollover on Huckle Hill Road.
7:35 p.m. Stopped four mini-motorbikes at River and Lyons Hill roads.
Thursday, 6/10
11:06 a.m. Greenfield dispatch requested an officer close their side of Bascom and Hoe Shop roads. Large tree down with wires, completely blocking the road.
4:37 p.m. Requested FD for dog rescue, Main Road.
6:37 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance, French King Highway.
Friday, 6/11
8:25 a.m. Loose cows, North Cross Road.
1:13 p.m. Short-hair German Shepherd mix with collar found on Main Road.
Saturday, 6/12
10:27 a.m. Caller from French King Highway reported three chickens, and possibly one goose, taken from property.
Sunday, 6/13
12:30 a.m. Alarm went off on Main Road. Breaking and entry.
12:59 p.m. Caller from French King Highway reports boats, vehicles backed up at boat launch due to low water levels.
1:03 p.m. Caller from Mountain Road advises a bear cub is in their duck coop. Environmental police given info.
2:15 p.m. Report of people shooting up by the high-tension lines on Mountain Road at night.
8:23 p.m. Investigation on Mountain Road.
Monday, 6/14
10:30 a.m. Assisted citizen with a past assault and battery complaint.
1:52 p.m. Missing wallet located, Ben Hale Road.
2:10 p.m. Caller reports past incidents of firearms being shot on Mountain Road.
5:09 p.m. Caller from Main Road reported receiving threatening letters.
6:37 p.m. Caller advises she had a “really large” bear in her yard on Franklin Road.
10:09 p.m. Caller from Barton Cove campsite reported boyfriend flipping out.
Friday, 6/18
1:17 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a 911 call from Eden Trail Branch Road.
7:32 p.m. Assisted Montague PD on 11th Street. PD requested an ambulance for a mental health evaluation.
Saturday, 6/19
8 a.m. Missing cell phone located by passerby in area of Gill Tavern.
3:17 p.m. Caller from Center Road reported stolen strawberries to Deerfield PD.
Sunday, 6/20
11:36 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from Main and Mount Hermon roads. No answer on callback.
8:55 p.m. Caller from Barton Cove parking lot reported his vehicle was struck by something that came from another vehicle. Same states he stopped and exchanged information with the party, but did not get his number or policy information.
9:31 p.m. Conducted a welfare check on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge. Subject taken for mental health evaluation.
Wednesday, 6/23
9:56 a.m. Caller from South Cross Road reports a black-and-white boxer walking down the road.
Thursday, 6/24
10:14 a.m. Caller from Main Road concerned about missing neighbor.
4:09 p.m. Caller from South Cross Road reports a loose black-and-white boxer across from his house, again.
4:14 p.m. Daughter called from out of state requesting a welfare check on her mother on Main Road.
Friday, 6/25
1:09 a.m. Assisted another agency by administering a breath test on Chappell Drive.
7:04 a.m. Caller advises a male party came into the store on the French King Highway looking to purchase alcohol, was advised they could not sell alcohol until 8 a.m. Caller noted the party was unsteady on his feet.
Saturday, 6/26
7:07 a.m. Served a warrant on Chappell Drive.
10:29 a.m. Medical emergency on West Gill Road.
10:53 a.m. Caller from French King Highway reported he lost two key fobs for a pair of jet skis on Wednesday in the area of the public boat launch.
Monday, 6/28
5:50 p.m. Caller reports finding two license plates along the side of the French King Highway.
Tuesday, 6/29
5:43 a.m. Caller from West Gill Road states a 12- or 13-year-old child came to her door looking for directions to Greenfield.
7:29 a.m. Car vs. deer accident on Pisgah Mountain Road.
Wednesday, 6/30
7:25 a.m. Conducted a welfare check on a vehicle in the rest area on the Gill side of the French King Bridge. Male party was resting in the back of his van with the door wide open. Same out here for vacation, is headed home shortly.
7:57 a.m. Report from West Gill Road of a rabbit running in circles.
4:48 p.m. Caller from West Gill Road reported a tree and wires down, and a vehicle that got stuck in a ditch trying to go around.

absolutely, anadromous fish had access to Waushakum Pond before 19th- and 20th-century obstructions. Even a source from the watchdog conservation outfit OARS – the acronym for what started as the Organization for the Assabet River but now covers the Sudbury and Concord rivers as well – did not know if anadromous fish ever had access to the pond.

The Sudbury, Assabet, and Concord rivers are all tributaries of the Merrimack, and thus would have supported the same spring anadromous-fish runs as the Connecticut River. The outflow from Waushakum Pond trickles out along the mid-east side and runs into Beaverpond Brook, which empties into Lake Cochituate, a manmade reservoir that provided Boston with drinking water for some 100 years until 1951. The reservoir was creat-

ed by damming Cochituate Brook, an important Sudbury River tributary fed by Beaverpond Brook, which accepted Waushakum Pond outflow. The Indian word *cochituate* meant “swift river,” so the flow would have been right for migratory fish runs.

The most likely site of the trail-side, 1631 Indian eel feast noted by Ayres seems to be somewhere near the ancient wetland confluence of the Waushakum Pond outflow and Beaverpond Brook. Ayres describes the site as, “By the beaver dam and the little primitive lakes nearby,” where “the eel season was at hand.”

Although the old migratory-fish passageway from the Sudbury River to Waushakum Pond has been sealed off by the Lake Cochituate dam, you can take it to the bank that it once existed, and Indians did indeed harvest lampreys there. Regardless of

the river system, Indians did their fish-gathering where the fishing was most productive, and narrow, tributaries with beaver dams would have been ideal. And while we’re at it, you can bet similar fishing stations for lampreys existed at suitable tributaries up and down the lower Connecticut Valley, likely as far upstream as Bellows Falls, Vermont.

It has for many years been my opinion that Indians harvested lampreys for food. Now, finally, after years of searching, the first trace of confirmation appears in an obscure, scholarly book. Not about Indian diet or fishing technique, it describes an important New England trail that passed or crossed many lakes, ponds, and streams where fish were gathered and celebrated.

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del **Montague Reporter**. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a spanish@montaguereporter.org.



OPINIÓN

Protestas en Cuba: La revolución contra la revolución

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

TURNERS FALLS – Muchos cubanos con familia en la isla estaban al tanto del desencanto que se estaba fraguando en Cuba. La falta de abastecimiento se había hecho regular, los apagones cada vez más largos y frecuentes, y por último llegó la pandemia con sus víctimas y la ausencia de turismo, fuente principal de divisas durante estos últimos años.

Desde hace unas semanas se están produciendo en la isla caribeña las manifestaciones de protesta más grandes de la última década. La situación se ha hecho insostenible en los últimos meses debido a la escasez de recursos alimenticios, a la falta de vacunas e incluso de las agujas para inyectarlas.

Cuba ha basado su economía desde hace años en el turismo extranjero y por lo tanto la crisis del Covid-19 ha repercutido muy negativamente en la situación económica del país. Durante la primera parte de la pandemia, en el año 2020, Cuba fue capaz de controlar la epidemia y las cifras oficiales hablaban de una cifra de solamente 1.500 personas muertas, así como de la creación de una vacuna propia producida en la isla. En las últimas semanas no se conocen cifras oficiales, aunque los opositores al régimen comunista ante la falta de cifras oficiales hablan de un sistema sanitario colapsado y un gran número de muertos.

Respecto a la situación económica, el gobierno a principios de año tuvo que lanzar un paquete de medidas económicas que dio como resultado la subida de las pensiones y los salarios, pero también de los precios. La ausencia de turistas ha provocado que las divisas extranjeras disminuyan y actualmente el gobierno no está aceptando el cambio de dólares en las tienditas habituales.

Lo que ha hecho diferente a esta última crisis de las anteriores, por ejemplo la de los balseros, es que ha sido retransmitida ampliamente a través de las redes sociales, antes de que el

gobierno pudiera hacer nada para evitarlo.

La última gran crisis en Cuba tuvo lugar después de la caída de la Unión Soviética, en 1994, en aquellos años no existían ni Internet, ni teléfonos móviles, ni las redes sociales. La crisis de este 11 de julio ha sido retransmitida en directo al mundo entero desde las calles y las casas de Cuba.

Las protestas de los intelectuales, artistas, profesores, economistas, y blogueros en principio eran contra la situación económica y sanitaria, pero pronto se empezaron a transformarse en proclamas políticas reclamando la democracia y la libertad. El lema más coreado durante las manifestaciones en estas dos últimas semanas ha sido "Patria y vida." Se basa en el eslogan revolucionario promovido por Fidel Castro "Patria y muerte" y ha sido publicitado por raperos cubanos en una canción, Yotuel, Osorbo y El Funky, ayudados por Gente de Zona con un vídeo musical en el que entre otras imágenes se quema un dólar y una foto del poeta cubano José Martí, que fue usado como símbolo por los revolucionarios de Fidel Castro.

Estas protestas contra la falta de libertad de expresión y la censura del gobierno, así como la lucha contra las encarcelaciones de los disidentes se vienen realizando desde noviembre del año pasado. La más grande tuvo lugar el 27 de noviembre de 2020 realizada por los artistas e intelectuales miembros del colectivo San Isidro que pedían la puesta en libertad de un rapero. La policía entró por la fuerza en el local y los activistas fueron detenidos por unas cuantas horas y puestos después en libertad. El gobierno de Díaz-Canel dio como excusa las medidas sanitarias impuestas por el Covid-19 para esta intervención por la fuerza.

Es después de que las protestas del 11 de julio llegasen a todos los lugares del planeta cuando el gobierno cubano se dio cuenta del alcance de la protesta y llamó a los revolucionarios a sofocarlas, provocando heridos

y hasta una persona muerta. El presidente Miguel Díaz-Canel ha negado estas acusaciones y culpa de todas las penurias al embargo de los Estados Unidos.

En las tiendas en las que se paga con moneda local y no con dólares hay largas colas para conseguir alimentos y artículos de primera necesidad. El gobierno ha colocado policías en todos los lugares donde se suele reunir la gente, como plazas y jardines, para



José Martí, poeta cubano.

poder sofocar cualquier intento de protesta organizada. No hay Internet o funciona muy mal y se ha restringido el uso de VPN que los cubanos usan para comunicarse a través de Internet con el exterior.

En estos momentos el gobierno cubano está tratando de realizar algunas reformas, que algunos ven solamente como poner un trapo para tapar un gran socavón. Una de ellas es levantar la prohibición anterior y que los viajeros que lleguen a la isla puedan introducir alimentos y medicinas sin aranceles.

Yoani Sánchez, una de las blogueras contrarias al régimen más conocidas, cree que la calma que reina en estos momentos en la isla es totalmente fachada. Se queja en su blog del miedo de la gente, de las detenciones de corresponsales extranjeros, las desapariciones de personas contrarias al gobierno de Díaz-Canel, arrestos domiciliarios de periodistas cubanos independientes y los cortes de Internet.

Una "youtubera" muy conocida, Dina Stars, fue detenida cuando estaba hablando en directo con el programa "Todo es verdad" de la cadena de televisión española Mediaset. Stars estaba diciendo a la periodista que la entrevistaba en directo que hacía responsable al gobierno cubano de cualquier cosa que le pudiera suceder. En ese momento manifestó a la periodista de la televisión española que las fuerzas de seguridad del estado estaban fuera y la iban a detener de inmediato y cortó la conexión.

También el Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores español pidió a través de un tuit que la periodista Camila Acosta, corresponsal del diario ABC, fuera liberada inmediatamente.

Otro bloguero cubano, Frank Calzón, que escribe desde Miami ha escrito en su blog usando la ironía y explicando ocho medidas que se pueden seguir si queremos ralentizar el colapso del régimen comunista y la liberación de once millones de cubanos entre las que destacan las siguientes:

- No envíe denuncias, cartas o correos electrónicos a Amnistía Internacional y conveza a otros que no lo hagan

- Insista en que la solución es una invasión militar estadounidense de la isla y que las protestas en la isla no lograrán nada.

Por último, otro bloguero residente en La Habana, Reinaldo Escobar, afirma que el 11 de julio, algo en Cuba cambió para siempre. Piensa que la mayoría de los cubanos tiene una nueva percepción sobre el grado de inconformidad con lo que sucede en la isla. Cree que el gobierno cubano podrá negar que el 11 de julio hubo un estallido social, pero no podrá negar que ese día se hizo grande en una plaza el murmullo que hasta ahora solamente existía entre las paredes de una vivienda.

José Carlos Melo Gonzalez, desde la plataforma Instagram, transmitió en directo en inglés que no tenía información más que las cifras oficiales, pero que amigos suyos habían sido detenidos. Cuenta en su vídeo que quiere vivir en una Cuba donde pueda ser libre, que pueda hablar en libertad, y por eso decidió salir a la calle a manifestarse. Pide un cambio, aún siendo un hijo de la revolución, y que la intervención militar no puede durar para siempre, ni el corte de Internet tampoco y la necesidad de un cambio de política del gobierno.

Voces más oficiales dicen que algunos de los manifestantes estaban pagados para desestabilizar al régimen comunista, y también es cierto que algunas de las protestas terminaron en vandalismo y robos, pero, en mi opinión, está claro que una parte de la población está descontenta y pide un cambio drástico del gobierno respecto a la economía y la libertad de expresión.

- **Food Bank of Massachusetts** sigue ofreciendo alimentos gratis cada tercer miércoles de mes en el parking del Senior Center en Turners Falls cuya dirección es 62 5th Street. Por favor, asegúrense de traer sus propias bolsas, así como mascarillas. Este programa se realiza en alianza con FCCMP y Montague COA. Si tienen preguntas, contacten con *The Food Bank of Western Massachusetts* en el teléfono (413) 247-9738.

- **Dispensa del pueblo.** Reparto de comida y ropa gratis cada jueves de 2:30 a 4 p.m. en La Mariposa en 11 Avenue A.

- **Great Falls Apple Corps** ofrece cada sábado comida y ropa gratis delante de la casita de Unity Park en Turners Falls de 12 a 3 p.m.



- **RiverCulture.org** está organizando y promoviendo diversas actividades a lo largo de este verano. Estas son las que podrán ustedes disfrutar durante estas últimas semanas de julio:

22 de julio al 25 de julio, The Shea

organiza estos espectáculos en Peskeomskut Park. **Jueves:** A las 6 p.m., *Zoe Lemos*. A las 7 p.m., *High Tea*. **Viernes:** A las 7 p.m., *Home Body*. **Sábado:** A las 6 p.m., *She Said*. **Domingo:** A las 12:45 p.m., *Rocking Puppies* y *Carrie Ferguson*, rendimiento de los niños.

Viernes, 30 de julio, No String Marionette. "The Adventures of Sharp Ears, A Sly Fox." A las 10:30 a.m. en Peskeomskut Park. Gratis.

Sábado, 31 de julio, Sam Amidon. A las 5 p.m. en Peskeomskut Park. La música del multiinstrumentalista Sam Amidon es una profunda síntesis personal basada en canciones populares y en la improvisación. Gratis.

Sábado, 31 de julio, Skate Night, skate bajo luces y música. 6 a 9 p.m., Unity Skatepark.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, JULY 22

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Khalif Neville*. 5 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *High Tea, Zoe Lemos*. \$. 6 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Selah haleS, Austin & Elliott*. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, JULY 23

Pulaski Park, Northampton: *Editrix, Thee Arcadians*. Free. 5:30 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Home Body, Holy Basil*. \$. 6 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Kevin Morby, Waxahatchee*. \$. 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 24

Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Dan Strauss*. 4 p.m.

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *She Said*. \$. 6 p.m.

SUNDAY, JULY 25

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Carrie Ferguson, Rockin' Puppies*. Kids' show. 12:45 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *Janet Ryan Band*. 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY, JULY 26

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Sunny War, Sam Moss*. \$. 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28

Montague Center Common: *Farley Five*. Free. 6 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 29

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Nate Martel*. 5 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Stephanie Marshall, Roland LaPierre Band*. 6 p.m.

FRI & SAT, JULY 30-31

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Bang on a Can* feat. *Kronos Quartet*, many more. \$.

FRIDAY, JULY 30

The Palladium Outdoors, Worcester: *Bright Eyes, Lucy Dacus*. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, JULY 31

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Sam Amidon*, folk singer and banjo player. Free. 5 p.m.

Unity Park, Turners Falls: WRSI 40th Birthday Party with *Rubblebucket, Winterpills, And The Kids*. Free! 2 p.m.

Mesa Beach, Greenfield: 10F Sunday Sessions #4 with *Loculus Collective, Son of Earth, Liam Halvorssen, Sara Smith, Dan Cashman & Ben Hersey*, and many more. Free. 3 p.m.

John Doe, Jr. Records, Greenfield: *Mentaldrift, Cruudeuces, Sweetness the Point of Song*. Free. 3 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Japanese Breakfast, Mannequin Pussy*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Lexi Weege, JJ Slater*. 5 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jim Eagan, Sheryl Stanton and Bobby*. 6 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Bill Nace, Julie Bodian, Ko T.C., DJ Quillz*. \$. 8 p.m.

SAT-SUN, AUGUST 7-8

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Pocumtuck Homelands Festival*. A celebration of Native American art, music, and history. Free.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: *Fairy House Day on Avenue A*. Free. 3 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Green Sisters*. \$. 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Greenfield Skatepark benefit feat. *Lou Barlow, Moxie, Power Trousers, The Feldons*. \$. 5 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Look Park, Northampton: *Back Porch Bluegrass Festival* feat. *Del McCoury Band, Sierra Hull & Justin Moses, Tony Trischka*, and many more. 12 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

Center Street, Montague Center: *Barbès in the Woods* festival feat. *Liraz, Son Rompe Pera, Kaleta & Super Yamba, Los Cumpleanos, Bigyuki, Arooj Aftab*, and more. \$. See barbesinthewoods.com for more information.

Brewbakers, Keene, NH: *Thalia Zedek, Dredd Foole*. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22

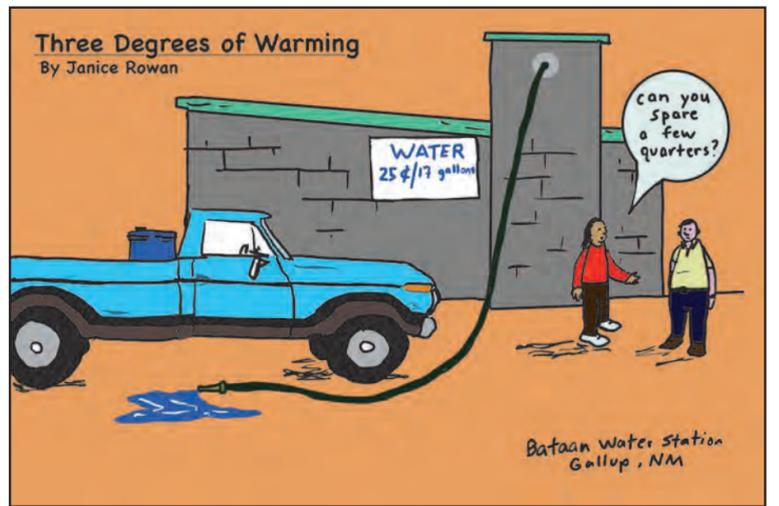
Iron Horse Music Hall, Northampton: *John Gorka, Lisa Martin*. \$. 7 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *The Roots*. \$. 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24

Look Park, Northampton: *King Crimson, The Zappa Band*. \$. 7 p.m.

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A map of the Southern Tier region of New York, with major cities, highways, and airports.

TRAVEL from page B1

band-leader, Desi Arnaz, and the girl who grew up wanting to be a model and not a red-head, who turned out to be a talented television show producer and movie mogul.

Shows like *Mission Impossible* and *Man-nix* and many, many others were produced by this dynamic duo, and they brought innovations to television like multiple cameras and a live studio audience, that hadn't been done before.

The museum tour even includes the actual sets used in the TV show, both the New York apartment and their Hollywood home. Anyone who still loves Lucy will be in heaven here. Get details at www.lucy-desi.com.

But Wait. There's More

In the same burgh as Lucy's place is another extraordinary shrine devoted to the art and science of comedy. It's the National Comedy Center, and the huge multipurpose complex doesn't disappoint. I've visited twice and each time found it super fun and enjoyable. Interactive displays allow you to really become immersed, and there is something here for everyone.

The world of comedians has been waiting for decades for such a center to be built. It's a cavernous building located right near the river in Jamestown, right across from another arena. The center wasn't built as a comedians hall of fame, but more a history of how stand-up and all forms of comedy evolved over the decades.

The center incorporates some interesting high-tech methods to ensure that the visitor has the best time possible, such as having guests fill out a quick multiple-choice survey about the kind of things that make you laugh. Then, as you move through the hundreds of exhibits, you are presented with screens filled

only with the comedians whose routines you know you already like. It's ingenious!

From the earliest newspaper comic strips to the present-day antics of Amy Schumer, the center is so full of fun that I'd highly recommend it to anyone who enjoys comedy.

So What Else is Up There?

The small ski town of Ellicottville turned out to be one of the funnest small towns I've ever visited. It's the home of a small ski hill called Holiday Valley, which turns out to have the most ski days of any resort in the state, out of 43 ski resorts in total. The *New Yorker* called the village the "Aspen of the East." I found out why.

We enjoyed the local tradition of bar hop-

ping one enjoyable Saturday night, hitting many clubs, saloons, and cafés buzzing with outdoor music and revelers. There is something about having so many adjacent music clubs, outdoor patio bars, and welcoming saloons that attracts people from all over. As we sipped craft beers at the Villagio, one of the clubs, a killer rockabilly band was blasting out from a second floor balcony.

Local tourism chief Brian McFadden said you just never know where all of these people come from, or what they do for a living. "They could be a billionaire, they could be homeless, but here, everyone is welcome and out to have a good time," he said. "It's an unusual little town. People come here and pack these bars, even with such a small ski hill."

In the same village, at the aforementioned ski hill, Holiday Valley, you can enjoy a thrilling ride by jumping on the Mountain Coaster for a rush at any age. Shooting down a steep slope on rails, hanging on as you experience both terrifying curves and the rush of speed. Super fun!

We headed west again, this time all the way to the tip of Chautauqua Lake, one of the eleven Finger Lakes that stretch from north to south in the region. There were a few interesting places to check out, the first was the Lawson Boating Heritage Center, to Bemus Point, right on the big lake.

After amassing his own personal wooden boat armada from his family, Dave Lawson, Jr. donated land to put them all into a museum, and got some of his fellow boaters to donate their own gorgeous Chris-Crafts and dozens of antique boat motors. The museum has photos and models of some of the glorious steamships that plied the lake as well as Lake Erie in the days when huge wooden hotels lined the shore. Sadly, all but one succumbed to fire.

Today you can sit on the long wooden front porch of the Hotel Lenhart in Bemus Point, open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, the last standing grand lakefront hotel in the area.

This just scratches the surface of this wide open part of New York that for some reason often eludes New Englanders. Head west for fun, adventure, and who knows what else?

This new column by local travel editor Max Hartshorne is about traveling around our region, and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel, a website published since 2000 in South Deerfield. Find him online at www.gonomad.com.



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

Inside the Villagio Club in Ellicottville, NY a band rocks out over the crowd from the second floor.

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