

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 36

also serving Irving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

AUGUST 5, 2021

## Fairbrother, Boody, Jensen File Papers for Open Seat *Lord Hopes for Dem Caucus Nod*

By JEFF SINGLETON

**MONTAGUE** – As of press time this week, three candidates will be on the ballot for the September 21 Montague selectboard election, to fill out the remaining half-term of retiring member Michael Nelson. School committee member Joanna Mae Boody, former building inspector David Jensen, and current conservation commission chair

Mark Fairbrother all handed in their nomination papers, and had their signatures checked, as of the 5 p.m. deadline Wednesday.

Planning board member Matt Lord said he missed the deadline because of confusion about the date. He told the *Reporter* he plans to run in the Democratic Party nominating caucus, scheduled for Monday, August 16. The caucus nominee see **OPEN SEAT** page A5

## Cathedral Truss Gets a Lift From Local Timber Framers



Hank Silver, Alicia Spence, and Phil Galluzzo lent their skills to a hands-on learning project in medieval construction techniques.

By ANNE HARDING

**TURNERS FALLS** – Last week Phil Galluzzo, Hank Silver, and Alicia Spence loaded up their trucks and drove 400 miles from western Massachusetts to Washington, DC to join the Notre Dame de Paris Truss Project. The trio of professional timber framers joined a team of carpenters, professors, students, and fellow timber framers to build a replica of one of the cathedral’s oldest trusses in only ten days.

Timber framing is the traditional craft of post-and-beam construction, relying on wooden joinery held fast by hardwood pegs. The 31-member crew was tasked with building a full-scale replica of Truss #6, one of the 25 main trusses over the choir

section of the famed cathedral, on the campus mall of the Catholic University of America (CUA). They are joined by students from schools around the country, including the North Bennet Street School, a craft and vocational school in Boston, and architectural programs at a number of universities.

The project comes as the reconstruction of the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris, which suffered a devastating fire in April 2019, is still underway. It follows a set of drawings provided by lead architects of the Parisian reconstruction process and methods used by the original 13th century builders. When completed on Tuesday, the truss measured 45 feet wide and 35 feet tall.

see **LIFT** page A6

## Rally Focuses on Solar’s Land Impact

By NINA GROSS

**GREENFIELD** – Dual rallies held on Saturday, July 31 in Greenfield and Wareham, representing western and eastern Massachusetts, are part of a statewide initiative



Bill Stubblefield spoke about what he called our most valued resource in the fight against climate change – trees.

by activists hoping to bring awareness to what they say are the dangers of large-scale solar development.

Organized by Janet Sinclair, the Rally at Energy Park brought together local farmers, activists, and representatives from organizations including Climate Action Now, Sunrise Amherst, and Wendell State Forest Alliance. Presented as an event for all ages “Honoring the Land,” the rally also featured music by local musicians Tom Neilson, Henry Geddes, and Liviu Pop (Neal Vitullo), who took over the stage after the speakers had finished, but the main focus was garnering signatures for H.1002 and H.912, two state initiatives to protect forests.

“We are all for small-scale solar,” said Shutesbury resident Leslie Cerier, speaking at the Energy Park event. “But what we are looking at here is the destruction of forests that are part of the solution to the climate crisis.”

The bills, which can be read at [www.malegislature.gov](http://www.malegislature.gov), call for designating 15,500 acres and 412,000 acres of state-owned land, respectively, as reserves in order to protect biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and help meet the Department of the Interior’s goal of

see **SOLAR** page A5

G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Schools Again Wonder What Fall Will Hold

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – As COVID-19 case counts are again on the rise, school administrators and policymakers are looking to the fall, wondering once again how to ensure safe education of the unvaccinated.

The Gill-Montague school committee met on July 27 and heard late-breaking news from superintendent Brian Beck. “I grabbed a drink just before the meeting at Scotty’s – I went in and grabbed a root beer to keep myself awake – and I heard on WBZ radio that the CDC just adapted their advisory to match that of the American Academy of Pediatrics,” Beck said. The Academy recommendation was for vaccination of all who are eligible, masking regardless of vaccination status, and “the importance of in-person learning.”

Beck said the schools were attempting to survey families for feedback about how to improve communication, and he reminded the school committee members that

see **GMRSD** page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Main Road Sidewalk Requested

By JERRI HIGGINS

The Gill selectboard met Monday night to discuss a potential new sidewalk on Main Road and to hear progress on the Gill Elementary School flooring project, among other business.

Resident David McGrath sent a letter to the selectboard members thanking them for their consideration of his request for a sidewalk to be built from the driveway of Stoughton Place to the intersection with Route 2, a distance of about one-tenth of a mile. Stoughton Place is an elder and disabled housing complex managed by the Franklin County Regional Housing and

see **GILL** page A8

## Pocumtuck Homelands Fest: Finding Older Home Days



Attendees of the 2018 festival browse the booths along the bike path.

By CHARLOTTE MURTISHAW

**THE GREAT FALLS** – “That’s what motivates me, trying to learn,” said Diane Dix, organizer of the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival. “I was lied to. We were all lied to. And I don’t really blame the teachers, or the school systems – this all started 400 years ago.”

Resistance to early schooling led Dix and fellow volunteer staff with the Nolumbeka Project to start the festival in 2014. This weekend, the 8th annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival aims to revise common misconceptions about indigenous people while building community locally and beyond, also generating new associations with an area infamous for its proximity to the bloody 1676 massacre of a Pocumtuck village by English settlers.

Justin Beatty, emcee of this year’s festival, said he hopes the event will remind attendees that Indians exist in the present tense. “The majority of the education around Native people generally talks about us in the historical context,” Beatty said, “and not about who we are today, the things that we do, how we contribute to society.”

On Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Unity Park will be filled with indigenous artists, singers, dancers, speakers, and other performers representing their respective tribes’ cultures through both contemporary and traditional expressions. This year’s guests of honor are Mohawk leader Tom Porter and Wampanoag-Pequot-Narragansett actor and activist Annawon Weeden; the lineup is filled out by dancers, singers, and musicians including the traditional group the Kingfisher Singers and

contemporary Nulhegan-Abenaki songwriter Bryan Blanchette.

Besides performances, the festival will also boast indigenous craft and food vendors, history talks, skill demonstrations, and family-friendly activities from native and local non-native tablers. Because children under 12 cannot be vaccinated, the Northfield Mountain Rec Center and the Great Falls Discovery Center have prepared distanced activities such as a StoryWalk and scavenger hunt to keep younger visitors safely engaged. (Nolumbeka will also be streaming the keynote speakers from their Facebook page, so people don’t have to cluster at the stage to hear.)

“The festival is fun, first of all,” said Janel Nockleby, visitor services supervisor at the Great Falls Discovery Center, “and it’s important to remember that a lot of Native American southern New England tribes are still living their lives and we can learn their stories, we can learn and appreciate their culture.”

### Repairing Relationships

“To bring 35 vendors, and over the years probably almost as many tribes, to this spot on the river – which I think is right opposite the place this horrific massacre happened – is huge, in terms of the Natives returning in a celebratory way rather than as descendants of victims,” said David Brule, who is the president of the Nolumbeka Project and a *Montague Reporter* columnist and board member.

Brule, a Narragansett and Nohantic descendant, is extremely active in local indigenous interests, including as project coordinator of the National Park see **POCUMTUCK** page A6

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Montague’s Mosquito Plan Passes Massachusetts Muster

By JEFF SINGLETON

Montague has been informed that, unlike a number of other towns in the region, its application to “opt out” of a new statewide mosquito aerial spraying program has been approved. The news was announced by town administrator Steve Ellis, who cited a letter from the state Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), at the selectboard’s July 26 meeting.

Montague’s opt-out application, approved by the selectboard and submitted by the board of health in May, would require an ambitious program of local mosquito control to avoid state spraying.

The EEA’S letter states that the application was approved because “the impact of your plan as compared

with mosquito control conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board is rated as minimal or low regional risk.” A number of local officials have said that this criterion, which did not appear on the application form, has come as somewhat of a surprise to them.

The EEA letter also states that “[d]espite approval, there remain substantial opportunities for improvement” in the proposals of Montague and other approved towns. These include “implementation of source reduction methods, data collection and analysis, assessment of efficiency and regional coordination,” as well as “the extensiveness of education and outreach to local residents.” Montague will need to reapply to opt out next year, see **MONTAGUE** page A7



### Big Wheel Keep On Turnin’

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## Pointing Fingers

The US state is in many senses the most powerful institution on the planet. At its center lies a button that can end life. It maintains over 800 military bases spread around seventy other countries. The 4% of the planet’s population that live within its primary borders account for 16% of global economic activity, and it maintains a fairly effective system of internal surveillance, much of it indirect, that helps keep its citizenry more or less inert.

Etc. Etc. Etc.

Its government is rooted in the oldest active codified constitution, at 224 years old. Most people update their constitutions to meet the times, and the average one lasts 19 years, but not Americans – we just nervously add to ours, trembling, hesitant to look it directly in the face when we are in its chambers.

The US state has a dysfunctional relationship with the poor within its borders. It had once claimed they were extinct, each one uplifted, or at least that such a situation was just around the corner. For the last 40 years, it has steadily withdrawn material support from this this population in order to punish them for continuing to grow, and making it look bad on the geopolitical stage. To the US state, the poor, collectively, are on drugs, pathological, needing of tough love and austerity.

COVID-19 was a shakeup... at least, at first. A global pandemic. The clear solution was to pay as many people as possible to stay in their homes, and give the rest hazard pay to maintain a survival economy, until the virus fizzled out from lack of hosts.

Do people not working have any value? The US state’s two main ideological brands, democracy and capitalism, were probably at some tension, but the machine shook and sputtered and agreed to sponsor a degree of mass social lockdown. This wasn’t a foregone conclusion, especially as our head of state had originally been picked for the job because he excreted into a gold-plated commode and mocked those who saw value in the poor beyond their ability to work...

You can put a capitalist economy on ice for a little while and then bring it back to life, as long as you are prepared to flood all its veins and arteries with money so all the staggering debts accrued flush out. And here is where things are really going wrong.

The US Congress listened to the calculations of technocrats and duly ordered up, among a good many other line items, \$47 billion

to give to tenants to give to their landlords. But the US state is allergic to handing resources to its burgeoning underclass, so it did what it usually does and handed that \$47 billion to the 50 *states* to disburse.

Now, one of the main reasons the federal government loves administering resources through the states is that the states do such a slow and bad job at it. Remember, these people are to be punished. The states, in turn, have been modernized to outsource much of the work through subcontractors – you basically want as many institutional layers as possible between elected officials and poor people who can at least theoretically mobilize to vote them out.

Here in good old liberal-technocratic Massachusetts, 90% of applications for rental or mortgage assistance have been *rejected*. It’s the same story around the country. And of that \$47 billion, only \$3 billion has actually made it to tenants to give to their landlords.

That’s the underlying basis of the eviction bomb everyone knows is about to go off: the chickens of our government’s hatred of the poor coming home to do... whatever... chickens do at home. And the landlords of our great nation would *never* ally with *tenants* to demand the government do its job.

And then the Biden administration, fecklessly kicking an executive eviction-moratorium can down the calendar year in hopes that the states would hurry up and disburse the damn rent money and the people would hurry up and take damn the vaccine, ran smack into a Constitutional challenge.

In a 5-4 decision, the Supreme Court agreed on June 29 to allow the “final” moratorium to continue through July 31 – with a footnote by newbie justice Kavanaugh essentially saying that he had sided with the libs *just this once*, and only because it was *just* for another month.

And this dilemma apparently caused the entire executive branch to rock back and forth in a dissociative state for four weeks before finally deciding to ask Congress to extend the moratorium by legislation... a day before Congress was going to take a seven-week break.

America, folks! Totally rational, powerful, nimble state. Totally not governed by a group of clerics with lifetime appointments selected through an arcane patronage structure. Totally going to make it through this pandemic. Totally fine that at its icy center lies that button.



Letters to



the Editors

### Trampling Out the Vintage

I just read *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck. For the fourth or fifth time.

Every time I read it, I get angry. Damn angry.

There’s a lot of talk about “reparations” these days. How about reparations for the descendants of them Okies? You know, those dirty shiftless no good migrants, willing to live in squalid conditions and work for practically nothing just to be able to feed their kids?

Well, who would pay for that? It’s been 80 some-odd years and the big money boys and their agree(dy) business haven’t changed a bit!

This country’s full up? I say Bullshit! We could take in one *million* immigrants per year, for *300 years*, before we even *double* our population.

Michael D. Joyce  
Wendell

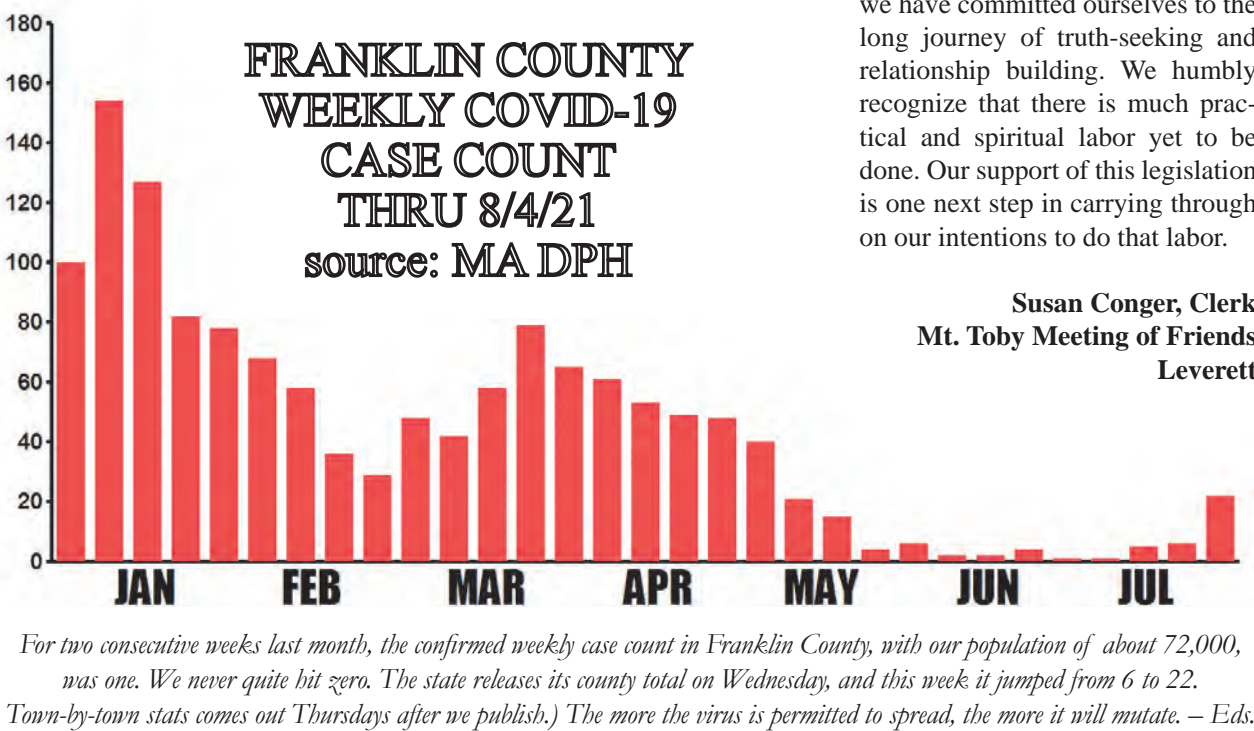
### Friends Back Statewide Mascot Bill

Mt. Toby Meeting of Friends (Quakers) urges the Massachusetts legislature to adopt S.294 and H.581 – “An Act Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascots by Public Schools in the Commonwealth.”

We affirm Indigenous identities in our communities today and the vibrant cultural legacy they carry forward. We acknowledge that our meetinghouse is built on colonized ground – originally the land of the Pocumtuck – appropriated through a series of actions intended to destroy, seize, or diminish Indigenous people, culture, and resources.

As we consider how profit and harm still derive from these and like events throughout the region, we have committed ourselves to the long journey of truth-seeking and relationship building. We humbly recognize that there is much practical and spiritual labor yet to be done. Our support of this legislation is one next step in carrying through on our intentions to do that labor.

Susan Conger, Clerk  
Mt. Toby Meeting of Friends  
Leverett



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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

About a thousand people, including myself, gathered at **Unity Park last Sunday afternoon** for a free concert celebrating the 40th birthday of “The River” WRSI radio station. A stage set facing the ball fields on the other side of the playground presented And the Kids, Winterpillars, and Rubblebucket.

With food trucks vending off of Second Street, and shaved ice and cold brew available, folks enjoyed a lovely afternoon with plenty to see and do. The skies held a variety of light and dark clouds with exciting sprinkles of rain now and then, and the nearby playground, sprinkle park, skatepark, pavilions, and bike path were full of happy humans.

It felt like a dream come true for this long-time resident – I landed here, quite frankly, because the housing was cheap, and never really expected things to turn about to the extent that it felt like they had on Sunday afternoon. I used to compare living here in Turners Falls to being in an abusive relationship, where each little improvement could be followed by a slap back of vandalism, burglary, fire, or some other type of crappy disappointment...

There’s still quite a list of improvements that might be made, but these kinds of special events and the everyday beauty of riverside recreation are a big plus for the area. Many thanks to The River, Signature Sounds, and the Shea Theater for a superb day at the park.

The **Pocumtuck Homelands Festival** is at Unity Park this weekend on Saturday and Sunday, August 7 and 8, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be Native American music, crafts, dancing, demonstrations, and history presentations as well as kids activities and food. The weather forecast looks pretty good so far for this free event hosted by the Nolumbeka Project. See our story on page A1 for details!

Also on Sunday, August 8, check out the **Lovelight Sisters Third Annual Fairy House Day** at Peskeomskut Park. There’s going to be a mermaid picnic, green-screen acting, fairy-house building, a butterfly release, costume trunk, and *plein air* painting from 3 to 6 p.m. This is a celebration of fairies and friendship. Find out more about the magical Lovelights at [www.Lovelightstv.wordpress.com](http://www.Lovelightstv.wordpress.com) and on our Children’s Page in this issue!

The Great Falls Discovery Center hosts a **new exhibit in the Great Hall**. “Light, Breath, Form” opens on August 6 featuring paintings and sculpture by Christine and Bill Copeland. The art is described as showing “pensive and playful human and animal figures surrounded by renderings of vernal pools, waterfalls and a seasonally changing landscape. Abstract pieces and geologic tiles suggest deep time and evolutionary processes.”

A reception for the show will be held Sunday, August 8 from 1 to 3 p.m., with light snacks and live music in the courtyard.

The Mass Mentoring Partnership is looking for **AmeriCorps Ambassadors of Mentoring** for August 2021 to June 2022. Ambassadors serve mentoring and youth service organizations across the state to build program capacity, recruit and train mentors, and strengthen community partnerships. The position comes with a stipend and an education award, healthcare and childcare benefits, and much more. Visit [www.massmentors.org](http://www.massmentors.org) to learn more.

The next family-friendly **Movie in the Park** at Peskeomskut Park is *Raiders of the Lost Ark* at 8 p.m. on Friday, August 13. Some refreshments are available while supplies last, and bring your own chairs and blankets to sit on. The movie is rated PG 10+.

There will be a **Sidewalk Sale and Summer Bazaar** on Saturday, August 14 from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. The Summer Bazaar at Peskeomskut is from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. with over 30 craft vendors displaying jewelry, clothing, toys, quilts, and more. A 50/50 raffle to benefit the Brick House Community Resource Center is planned. Shops on Avenue A will be having special sales from noon until 6 p.m.

The action moves indoors at the Shea Theater at 8 p.m. for their first live, indoor event presented by Egg-tooth and Madhouse Productions. The play, written by Mike Bartlett, is called *An Intervention*. It is described as a “fast-paced and funny two-hander which examines the limits of friendship and responsibility.”

Those interested in vending at the park can contact [simplycolorfuldesigns@gmail.com](mailto:simplycolorfuldesigns@gmail.com).

The next **Second Saturdays Artisan Market** will take place on August 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Leverett Village Co-op. Featuring handmade goods, herbal concoctions, tarot readings, massage, henna, live music, and fresh food, the market is a family-friendly stop on the way to Lake Wyola in North Leverett.

Little House Blues will rock this month’s market from 12 to 2 p.m. with harmonica-driven original music and classic blues covers. Free and open to the public.

**Barbès in the Woods** comes back for the second year on August 21 at the Bartlett Farm in Montague Center. This historic farm is owned by Kathy Lynch and Dean Garvin, who have teamed up with Laudable Productions to create this open air festival inspired by the popular Brooklyn bar and music venue called Barbès.

The day-long festival event features two stages on 12 acres along the Sawmill River, a short walk from the Book Mill. There will be local food, craft beverages, a bonfire, and river splashing. The music is described as “omnivorous, authentic, non-commercial and international.”

Tickets for Montague residents are half-price, and available at the Village Store. The lineup and other information is at [www.barbesinthewoods.com](http://www.barbesinthewoods.com). Festival organizers are also seeking volunteers for the event,

so if you want to earn free admission sign up for a shift on their website.

The Village Store is also hosting free **Suds & Songs** events on Thursday evenings from 5 to 7 p.m., pairing local singer-songwriters with local beer tastings. August 5 features Lexi Weege, JJ Slater, and Pioneer Valley Brewery; August 12 is Tom Carroll, Craig Cornett, and the People’s Pint. Burgers and hot dogs are available, too!

Kathryn Swanson of Swanson’s Fabric shop in Turners Falls has a call out for people who have made clothing out of her fabric to model their creations at an **open-air Fashion Show** at the Pioneer Valley Brewery on Friday, August 20 at 8 p.m., at a pre-party for Barbès in the Woods. If you want to strut your stuff on the catwalk, registration is at [swansonsfabric.com](http://swansonsfabric.com).

The **Barbès in the Woods pre-party** starts after the fashion show at 9 p.m. with DJs Bosq, Bobby Ganache, and Bongohead spinning at the intersection of Afro-Latin with disco, funk, reggae, house, and hip-hop. Santo Taco will be serving tacos. No cover.

I recently looked at a **list of free wi-fi hotspots and personal care resources** for the Franklin County and the North Quabbin area. I found a helpful link to this list in the latest Coalition Connections newsletter. There are five locations in Greenfield where there are public bathrooms or port-a-potties and a place to clean your hands, but none are listed in Montague.

With people coming to town to use our parks, bike path, and other recreation, it sure seems like there should be something available, or our parks may get a backline of bad-smelling bushes.

Also in the Coalitions Connections newsletter is a helpful article by Jen Audley on **how to use the FRTA bus system**. Did you know all rides are free until the end of the year? Just hop on and ride – no ticket is required, but you must wear a mask. Every fixed route will stop at the transit center in downtown Greenfield.

You can figure out the routes on their website, [frrta.org](http://frrta.org), put their Route Shout app on your smartphone, or call the dispatcher at (413) 773-8090 x. 103 from 4:45 a.m. to 7:45 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

To get this newsletter in your inbox, email [ilana@frcog.org](mailto:ilana@frcog.org).

Because of the rise of **breakthrough COVID-19** cases due to the Delta variant, Massachusetts public health officials now say that vaccinated people who have weakened immune systems, who are at an increased risk of severe COVID-19 because of age or health conditions, or who live with anyone who is unvaccinated or at increased risk, should wear a mask or face covering when indoors and not in their own homes.

Parents of young kids could be among those most affected, since no one younger than 12 is able to get a COVID-19 vaccine, and may not be until November. With rising COVID-19 cases, the CDC this week recommends universal mask-wearing in schools.

Send your local briefs to [editor@montagureporter.org](mailto:editor@montagureporter.org).

## Mark Bander

5.22.54 — 5.28.20

A Memorial For Mark will be held on August 29, 12 to 4 pm at Will Bander’s home, 178 Eden Trail Rd, Leyden, Leyden. 413.325.1404

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# FACES & PLACES



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Some of the Rising Star Youth Leaders who worked for the Gill-Montague Regional School District's "ReBoot Summer 2021" program, which finished up this week. These older students helped elementary school students in the program with their schoolwork and enrichment activities. Pictured: top row from left, Khrystinalyn Gomez Thorne, Antonia Prizio, Yolvin Ovalle Mejia, Shayly Martin Ovalle, and Matthew Gobiel. Bottom row from left, Izzy Vachula-Curtis, Erin Banister Potter, Elsee Galvez Martin, and Amelia Brusca.

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## BOTTLES &amp; CANS

Week of August 9

## PAPER

Week of August 16  
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OP ED

The River Belongs to Everyone —  
*Please Don't Build Docks that Discriminate*

By PAGAN KENNEDY

**TURNERS FALLS** — In a series of Youtube videos, a kayaker who calls himself Wounded Warrior demonstrates how he gets his boat out of the water. He paddles up to a dock that he invented for himself — it's made out of interlocking blocks, a pulley system and some wood rails. Hauling himself hand over hand on rope, he inches up toward a dry platform, where he is able to use his arms to hoist himself out of the kayak. Once he's out of the boat, you can see that his legs have both been amputated above the knee. Because so few public boat ramps are built for disable people, Wounded Warrior has had to MacGyver this entire system on his own.

I'm thrilled that the town of Montague has drawn up a plan to build more docks and portage areas so that kayakers and paddleboarders can drop into the river at lots of different spots. And I'm so glad that activists are pushing First-Light to increase accessibility for non-motorized boats.

But in order to ensure true accessibility, let's make sure that the new amenities cater to all different kinds of people and all body types. Right now, the assumption is that everyone should be able to lift their boat on top of a car, drive it to the river, and then unload it and carry it down to the water. That assumption is just plain wrong, and discriminatory.

The car-top boat launch was no doubt designed by a tall man with an expensive truck. Clearly, many disabled people can't use the car-top system. And many of us who are able-bodied struggle with it too.

I'm short — five foot three inch-

es on a good day — so almost every stage of the kayak-launching process is incredibly difficult and a bit dangerous for me. It begins in the driveway near my house, as I try to hoist a boat on top of my hatchback car. Quite often, I'm not strong enough or tall enough to lift the kayak up onto the roof in one go, and so the kayak comes crashing down — sometimes on my arm or leg. I have bruises to prove it. This is also incredibly hard on my car, which is scarred and dented from my attempts to guide the tip of the kayak onto the roof and then use leverage to teeter the boat onto the luggage carrier.

For years now, I have been fantasizing that the town might one day install a simple kayak-storage ramp (cost: about \$300) that sits on top of a new public dock near Unity Park. That would change everything for me — and, I suspect, for a lot of other people.

Imagine this: You stroll down to the park on foot, unlock your kayak, slide it down a ramp into the water, jump in, and glide away. This rack-plus-dock setup would transform paddling from a special outing into an everyday form of exercise, much like biking or walking on the community path. And it would also mean that paddlers could use their boats as transportation, locking up and leaving the boat at one stop on the river while they visit friends or explore the area.

It might be helpful to draw inspiration from towns and cities that have made river accessibility a priority and have thought about accommodating all body types. For instance, the Minneapolis parks department maintains more than 500 storage racks on the shores of lakes and rivers — this is in order

to ensure ADA compliance so that people with disabilities can enjoy canoeing and kayaking.

And yet, I think we could do Minneapolis one better: their parks department charges residents \$275 a year to rent a rack — so is that a truly accessible design? The rack rental for one year costs more than a used kayak! That's especially outrageous when you consider that racks are cheap to install and maintain. It should be easy to provide free storage space for all who need it.

Another way to think of this: Imagine what would happen if every city made it illegal to lock up a bike, and then took away all of the bike racks. Suddenly, bike ridership would drop off, and only rich people with private storage lockers

would be able to use their bikes as transportation in the city. It's the small things — the almost invisible affordances like racks and ramps and hand-holds — that make all the difference to our enjoyment of public space.

As we come together to rethink our waterfront, I suggest that we seek the input from people in wheelchairs, as well as paddlers who are hearing-impaired, blind, pregnant, elderly or unable to afford rugged "kayak cars." They're the ones who can tell us what accessibility truly means, and can advise about how to make the river a place for all.

*Pagan Kennedy is a part-time resident of Turners Falls.*

## GMRSD from page A1

while they had ceded decision-making power about masks and other safety precautions to him, they could always take it back.

Two newly appointed members, Jennifer Waryas and Joanna Mae Boody, asked questions showing they were busy learning the committee's operations.

Business manager Joanne Blier gave an update on the budget, as well as early projections of next year's Chapter 70 funding from the state to schools.

"We're going to have a few years of tight budgets because of the decline in enrollment we saw due to the pandemic," Blier said. "We're hoping that kids will come back to school and our enrollment will come back, and that'll lead to more Chapter 70, but time will tell."

In the meantime, Gill-Montague is making use of federal Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief (ESSER) mon-

ey, which is available in escalating grants. With its summer programming, the district is finishing off the roughly \$250,000 available through ESSER 1 and was applying for ESSER 2, which could provide about \$866,000 during FY'22 and '23. ESSER 3 could provide \$1.9 million from FY'23 through '25.

"Hopefully by then our Chapter 70 is back to where we had hoped it would be," Blier concluded.

Pupil services director Dianne Ellis reported that 186 students had availed themselves of summer education of one sort or another, including high school students who were successfully recovering course credits lost during remote learning. 73% of the students invited to participate in credit recovery did so, Ellis said.

The committee agreed it should continue meeting remotely, for the time being. Its remaining summer meetings are on August 10 and 24.



OP ED

## The Science Backs Forest Management

By CHRIS EGAN

**MARLBORO** — I'm writing again in response to the recent op-ed column by Bart Bouricius. I'd like to try to clear up some misunderstandings.

Let's start with an easy one. In my previous column, I said that in Massachusetts tree mortality from invasives, weather, and overcrowding was *three times more* than the trees removed by harvesting. Mr. Bouricius said that this "is not supported by science." To rebut my statement, he quoted several studies which examined logging across the northeastern United States.

Did you catch the problem? If not, let me help: if we factor in the heavy cutting done in northern New England, then logging may match or exceed other causes of mortality. But it's a very different situation here in Massachusetts.

My source is the US Forest Service's 2019 Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) for Massachusetts, the most recent year available. The FIA has been monitoring hundreds of plots around the state for decades. In 2019, Massachusetts trees grew 206 million cubic feet of wood — that's just the *new* growth in 2019 alone, not the total volume of wood.

Tree mortality from invasives, weather, and overcrowding was 81 million cubic feet, the bulk of it in crowded stands 70 to 120 years of age (not "tiny saplings"), which account for nearly 80% of the forested acreage in the state. We harvested only 25 million cubic feet, less than a third of mortality. Harvesting only 12% of *just the new annual growth* is clearly sustainable, and helps explain why carbon se-

questration and storage continues to increase in our forests each year.

Mr. Bouricius suggests overcrowding is a good thing, because only the best trees will survive. Unfortunately, that's not the case. A malformed tree, with defects that will likely cause it to die within a decade or two, can still shade out and kill smaller neighboring trees that might live for centuries. This is why 100 years of silviculture has proven that foresters can increase growth — in part because they remove the ill-fated, poor-quality trees before they can kill their healthy but smaller neighbors.

Mr. Bouricius says that our state-owned forests are being "run as tree farms for the benefit of commercial loggers." This is utter nonsense. DCR's licensed foresters make careful plans with a long-term view of the forest in mind. This year's proposed projects include continuing to gradually convert Depression-era monoculture tree plantations to native mixed-species forest; transitioning even-aged forest stands into structurally complex stands with a diversity of tree species and ages that are proven to be more resilient; restoring globally rare pine barrens habitat; and reducing fire risk around camping areas. DCR is engaging in collaborative research with UMass Amherst that will examine forest management strategies and carbon sequestration.

Does that sound like DCR is throwing the doors open to loggers and saying, "Come on in and take what you want?"

60% of state forests are *already* set aside as state parks and reserves where forest management is largely prohibited. In 2021, DCR is planning forest management work on 1,114

of their 315,000 acres of forest. That means removing only *some* trees on just *0.35%* of DCR state forestland. And Mr. Bouricius thinks preventing this will be a critically important part of the solution for climate change?

Far from being "penalized" for keeping forests wild and untouched, landowners can get a 75% property tax break by placing such land in Chapter 61B. It is true that landowners with actively managed forestland in Chapter 61 get a slightly larger tax break, but that's to compensate them for the expense of hiring a forester to prepare and regularly update a forest management plan.

I'm not sure what he means by "the wasteful overuse of wood products." Compared to the use of plastics, fossil fuels, concrete, and steel? Study after study now tells us that substituting mass timber products for concrete and steel in buildings can prevent a huge amount of carbon emissions (see *masstimmerregionaldialogue.com*). Carbon that the tree removed during its lifetime remains locked out of the atmosphere in durable wood products like lumber, furniture, and flooring. We need to substitute *more* wood for carbon-intensive materials, not less.

As I said in my last piece, major environmental organizations opposed the bill that Mr. Bouricius trumpets, and the IPCC (the global experts on climate change) strongly supports sustainable forest management, which is what we do here in Massachusetts. Opponents of forest management are well outside mainstream climate science.

*Chris Egan is the executive director of the Massachusetts Forest Alliance.*

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SOLAR from page A1

protecting 30% of the nation’s lands and waters by 2030.

Addressing a crowd of about 100 people, speakers brought home the concerns addressed in these bills by citing examples of harmful effects of large-scale solar projects. They called for a cap of five acres in size, as well as a moratorium on new projects in order to provide lawmakers time to address loopholes in the state’s energy policy which they said allow for irresponsible development.

Cerier spoke of a recent 370-acre development in Williamsburg that damaged protected wetlands, resulting in a lawsuit by the state attorney general against the developers and a \$1.14 million fine earlier this year. She also talked about a 30-acre development proj-

ect in her hometown of Shutesbury which led to basement floodings. “What’s happening in my town can happen in any town in Massachusetts,” she said.

Bill Stubblefield, who holds a PhD in biology from Harvard, spoke passionately about our current age, the Anthropocene, which he said has generated “interconnected crises” including “climate breakdown and biodiversity collapse.”

“Even with dramatic reduction of CO<sub>2</sub> yet to occur, we still are in mortal danger, with no time to spare,” Stubblefield said. “Emissions reduction is not enough. We must focus on carbon removal. The technology isn’t there yet.” But the solution, he said, already exists: “We call them *forests*.”

He outlined statistics of insect apocalypse and loss of bird popu-

lations during the last 50 years, attributing the biodiversity crisis to habitat destruction, pesticides, and industrial agriculture. “In New England,” he said, “our forests could sequester twice as much if we get out of the way.... Forests can, and must, play an important role in mitigating [this] biodiversity collapse.”

Speaking after the rally, Stubblefield was still full of passion, and “cautiously optimistic.”

“Just like the climate situation, there are tipping points. The social economic situation we are living in is another situation with tipping points,” he said. “We need an alliance across all progressive groups: liberation groups, environmental, racial, gender justice. We need to learn to work together and support each other’s efforts.”

According to the Massachusetts Audubon Society, 4,000 acres of forest have been cut in the state to make way for solar projects, with the possibility of as much as 100,000 more. Other concerns expressed at the rally included the erasure of small farms to make way for solar, and the risk of crop reductions under the new option for “dual-use” solar development on farmland. The Commonwealth has some big policy decisions to make that will affect the landscape, and even the oxygen levels in the atmosphere. These decisions, they pointed out, might also influence how other states respond to the same issues.

Local historian Joe Graveline, in his opening remarks, said, “We need a new conversation, one that is environmentally respectful and socially responsible to the land and the citizens.” Initiatives such as this one, and the rally in Wareham, may serve as venues for getting that conversation underway.



Julian Hynes, a member of the Amherst Public Shade Tree Committee and the Amherst chapter of the Sunrise Movement, urged listeners to support a moratorium on large solar development to give policymakers time “to listen to all constituents,” especially those underserved who stand to lose the most.

NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Flooding Busts Highway Budget

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Road commission chair Phil Delorey told the Wendell selectboard Wednesday night about the repair that was needed on Farley Road after the July downpour. The highway department spent \$42,500 and used 700 yards of fill to repair where the road was undercut by flowing water. They shaped the sides to direct water away from the road. Completing the repair and making it secure will call for \$80,000 in paving, and should be done immediately.

That money will devastate the highway budget. It could be taken from stabilization, and finance committee chair Doug Tanner, connected by speaker phone, suggested that the money be spent now with the promise of replacing the highway funds with stabilization money at a special town meeting. The money may be reimbursed with Massachusetts or Federal Emergency Management Agency money, but that takes time. Treasurer Carolyn Manley suggested taking out a loan with the security of FEMA or MEMA reimbursement.

As the selectboard closed its previous meeting on July 21, retiring shared town coordinator Nancy Aldrich said quietly, “This is my last selectboard meeting.” Her last official day on the job was July 30.

This meeting was the first the selectboard held in their office since March 2020. It was short, with much of the discussion about a request for proposals (RFP) for the town-owned house and property at 97 Wendell Depot Road. The house is a fine historic building that has suffered from years of being unoccupied.

Dennis Hudson had expressed interest in the building. Since speaking to town officials, he had taken pictures of the inside to show board members how much a restoration would involve. The building had been broken into, and he could have walked in easily, but he asked permission from the building inspector before he entered.

Selectboard chair Dan Keller took the RFP the town used for Marion Herrick’s house on Wickett

Pond Road as a model for this RFP. The Wendell Depot Road property has no need for a conservation restriction (CR), as the Herrick property did, because all the land around has already been developed, so the CR was eliminated for the new RFP.

The lot has enough frontage to allow for subdivision, but Keller said he preferred not adding another building to the land, and suggested allowing only one single-family home. Selectboard member Gillian Budine disagreed, saying she thought that to allow the house to be divided into a duplex might give Wendell more affordable housing. Though the building might be beyond restoration, selectboard member Laurie DiDonato said the town would prefer keeping the building intact, but would maybe not require it.

The board decided to set the minimum offer at \$10,000. The minimum for the Herrick property had been \$25,000 and the town accepted \$60,000 for it.

The board decided to go forward with an RFP that allowed one structure, but more than one dwelling unit.

Aldrich found the warrant at which a town meeting vote had already authorized the selectboard to sell the Wendell Depot Road property as it sees fit. “Where do we find answers after Nancy leaves?” asked incoming town coordinator Alisha Brouillet.

In other business, Tom Chaisson submitted a bid of \$15,600 for spraying foam insulation under the town hall floor. His original bid was for the main floor’s 900 square feet, but the new bid included putting R35 insulation under the stage and kitchen. The project will require two more bids.

Board members approved Orange Oil’s bid of \$2.29 per gallon for next winter’s heating oil and \$90 per hour for service calls, day, night and weekends. DiDonato asked about biofuel, and said she thought the town should ask for two prices next May.

Liam DiDonato officially gave two weeks’ notice from his position as selectboard clerk. He said he would be willing to work through August if necessary.

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OPEN SEAT from page A1

automatically appears on the ballot.

We asked the candidates why they were running to be on such a demanding local board.

“I think I will do a good job, if people will have me back,” said Fairbrother, who served on the board from 2009 to 2015. “If not, it’s not the end of the world.”

Jensen, who has served on a range of local committees and has been a town meeting member since the mid-1980s, said his goal was to “see how the town is doing, and help steer the ship straight.”

Boody, who moved to Millers Falls in 2018 and became a town meeting member the next year, stressed her enthusiasm for Montague’s town village culture and its similarities with the Berkshires, where she grew up.

“We live in interesting times,” said Lord. “Montague is in a great place to rise to these challenges.”

We also asked all the candidates if they were “ready for the commitment” of serving on the most labor-intensive board in town. Not only must selectboard members attend weekly Monday meetings to deal with a variety of complex and sometimes contentious policy issues, but they generally meet jointly with the finance committee on Wednesdays and participate in collective bargaining with town employees.

“I’m absolutely ready for the commitment,” said Boody, who indicated she would probably not immediately resign from the school committee. She noted that other selectboard members had served on other committees, including Nelson, who has been a member of the board of health throughout his tenure. Similarly, Fairbrother said he had served on both the conservation commission and selectboard in the past.

Lord, on the other hand, said that he would probably resign from the planning board if he were elected. He said that he “looked forward” to the demands of being a selectboard member, noting that “there’s a term to this, not a life commitment.”

“I’m aware of it,” said Jensen, of the time commitment. “I’m going into this with my eyes open.”

All the candidates said they were enthusiastic about participating in a candidates’ forum if one were organized.

Town clerk Deb Bourbeau said there will be early voting as well as voting by mail, similar to last spring’s annual local elections. She did not set an exact date when ballots would be ready, saying that it would take at least two weeks from the Democratic caucus for certification and printing. That would put the beginning of the actual voting process in the early days of September.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Dems to Nominate Candidate

**MONTAGUE** – Registered Democrats in Montague will hold a caucus at 6 p.m. Monday, August 16 through a Zoom meeting to endorse a candidate for selectboard. The special town election is to be held September 21, 2021 to fill the seat left open through the resignation of Michael Nelson.

The caucus will be held over Zoom, and is open to all registered

and pre-registered Democrats in the town of Montague.

Any registered Democrat interested in seeking endorsement from the committee needs to send a statement of intent to the chair of the Montague Dems, Mark Wisniewski, at [mpwisniewski@gmail.com](mailto:mpwisniewski@gmail.com). Those wishing to attend should also contact Mr. Wisniewski for information and access passwords.

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POCUMTUCK from page A1

Service-sponsored Peskeompskut-Wissatinnewag battlefield study. Begun in 2014, the project aims to clarify the events of May 19, 1676 at the Falls through archaeological and historical inquiry.

To Brule, the process of “healing and renewal” began in 2001 with the successful protection of Wissatinnewag, a sacred site targeted for a new Walmart development. Nolumbeka grew out of that effort, and a 2004 reconciliation ceremony at Unity Park between Narragansett tribal leaders and Montague selectboard members marked another turning point. Yearly remembrance ceremonies as well as other efforts to protect local native sites have continued, and the addition of the battlefield study and the annual Homelands Festival have strengthened awareness. Some credit the increased attention to indigenous concerns with transforming the town.

“When I first moved here in 1991, I remember driving across the river and it was a different world,” Dix said. “It was very dark, it was depressing, and the changes that Turners Falls has gone through since the [2004 reconciliation] ceremony are vibrant. It’s a really great place to be and I think the town is doing a wonderful job, I really do.”

Official support for the project has been instrumental: The Homelands Festival began after a Nolumbeka table at the downtown block party in 2013 spurred the town to invite the group to use Unity Park for a larger educational event, leading to the current festival, which typically attracts thousands of attendees.

“I’m very proud of the town, and I’m really happy,” said Brule, who was born and raised in Montague. He said he hopes the eventual outcome of the battlefield project will be a local interpretive center for cultural tourism – one not focused on the tragedy of the massacre, but “trying to move on, and share the persistence of indigenous people. There are plenty of indigenous people around here.”

Brule praises the battlefield partnership among the participating five towns and four tribes as being on the “cutting edge” and a model for developing municipal-tribal relationships, as well as inter-tribal relationships.

He sees it as one of several essential stepping stones towards healing living descendants’ pain from the massacre and its legacy.

“It’s really huge to hear these massive native drums booming out all up and down the river, and up into the village streets, after 350 years,” Brule said. “Prior to that it was silence. There was never a reason for Nipmuc people to come to the Falls, there was no reason for the Abenaki or Narragansett, but the festival brings them together.”

For Justin Beatty, who is of native Ojibwe, Saponi, and African-American heritage and has performed at the festival in various capacities since it originated in 2014, the festival serves as a mini-family reunion. His son will be selling coffee beans sourced through indigenous Costa Rican farmers; Weeden, the guest of honor, is his cousin; and many other relatives also regularly attend, vend, and perform.

“We’re still here, and our cultures are not static, they’re dynamic and changing,” he said.

Up the River Together

Though the Homelands Festival is engaged with history, elements such as the Paddle to Peskeompskut demonstrate that the relevance of traditions is often in their connection to the present.

This Friday, August 6 will mark the first public Paddle, a group boating event co-organized with the Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC). It will feature a traditional *mishoon*, a wooden boat shaped through an intensive burning process that began at the 2019 festival under the leadership of Aquinnah Wampanoag carver Jonathan James-Perry.

The 18-foot vessel was launched last year at a small event, restricted due to COVID-19.

“One of the things that Jonathan said about the Paddle that I thought was really beautiful was that every time their paddles touched the water, they were connecting with their ancestors because that was where their ancestors also paddled,” Dix recalled. “It’s just a beautiful concept, the way it was linking generations.”

That *mishoon* was likely the first boat of its kind on the river in hundreds of years, and also carried David Brule past more recent

memories – the route, from Millers Falls to Gill, winds past his parents’ house and other childhood haunts. “I had been on that river for 60 years on that spot,” he said. “To be able to guide people up that river by these places where I had spent a lot of my youth was really emotional, really important, and to hear native voices singing and chanting out on the water again was huge.”



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

This year, the Paddle will consist of at least 50 boats, again staged as a joint effort with the CRC, which Dix describes as having “kindred goals.”

“We don’t want the heritage of these groups to be erased,” said Andrea Donlon, the CRC’s river steward for the area, noting that in the past, the CRC hasn’t “had too many relationships [with indigenous groups], so it’s great we’re in contact now.”

“There’s hundreds, possibly thousands of years of history, there’s existing relationships with the river, and indigenous groups have articulated a neat perspective – that the river and the fish and all the living beings are not separate from humans, they’re part of us,” Donlon said. “I think we’re starting as a community to possibly recognize more how the land was taken from indigenous groups, and that continues to ripple in the area and our relationship with the river.”

Aside from supporting cultural heritage via the Paddle, Donlon and the CRC have been focusing on building channels with native leaders to guide the conservancy’s environmental and advocacy work. In particular, the organization has been vocal about the need for more tribal input into ongoing hydroelectric relicensing processes at Turners Falls and Northfield. Those licensing decisions will af-

fect the river for at least three to five decades.

“Normally this is outside of our area of expertise, but it’s become clear to us the traditional cultural property study wasn’t really adequately done,” said Donlon. “The overall outcome of relicensing is going to be better if this many people, and interests, weigh in on the impacts.”

Tell Your Friends...

Dix notes the Homelands Festival attracts a huge range of people, from academics highly knowledgeable about Native topics to “people, who even when they arrive, probably don’t know for sure that the Indians are still here. There’s something for everyone.... This is all to educate everyone about the history that was hidden from us.”

“This is a great opportunity to see and hear things directly from us – not only learn, but ask questions and interact and engage, and in a lot of cases make some new friends,” Beatty said. “We don’t go into [this] with the intention of attacking anyone or making anyone feel bad about the situation. What we want instead is for you to have the opportunity to learn something you may not have known previously.”

Prior to Captain William Turner’s 1676 raid on the native settlement, the fish-rich Falls were a convergence point for many different tribal nations. Travelers would converge from throughout the northeast to fish and trade on the banks of the Connecticut. For instance, as Dix points out, archaeological evidence found at the site includes material specific to the Ohio River Valley.

“There’s such a joyful feeling of reunions and coming back together at the festival that I’d like to think replicates the way people felt thousands of years ago when they came here every year together to catch salmon,” said Dix. “There’s something tangible that happens that’s hard to explain. I’ve felt it, and other people have felt it and commented on it.”

Said Beatty, ever the emcee: “I always say, tell your family, tell your friends, tell your enemies – come on down! Take advantage of this opportunity, because it’s something most people don’t get an opportunity to do.”



LIFT from page A1

Spence, who lives in Florence, is the project manager for the Truss Project. Silver, a Montague resident, is one of four lead carpenters, and he invited Galluzzo, another skilled timber framer who lives in Gill, to join the project.

When I asked why he didn’t fly down, Silver laughed. His truck was loaded with tools and equipment, including 30 traditional hewing or broad axes imported from France. It was a good reminder of the scope of the project.

It is difficult for me to imagine how the group could build this huge truss using only hand tools in a mere ten days. The weather has been oppressively hot – certainly not ideal conditions for hand-hewing timbers – and each experienced framer is working with students from around the country, many of whom never held a hewing axe prior to their arrival in Washington.

It was an aggressive timeline even in the best of weather conditions. The group started on Monday, July 26 with more than 30 white oak trees, some upwards of 46 feet long. They were selected in Virginia by another lead carpenter, Mez Welch, who tramped around a thousand acres looking for the ideal timber. Landowners have graciously donated the trees.

This has been Galluzzo’s first experience with a community build, and he worked with a large group to make one of the two queen posts of the replica truss. The students began with minimal experience, and Galluzzo’s pride and excitement about their progress after Day two was evident when I spoke



HANK SILVER PHOTO

The hand-hewn and hand-assembled truss, 45 feet wide and 35 feet tall, is a replica of one of the main roof supports of Notre Dame, completed in the year 1345.

to him last Tuesday evening.

The first day, he said, had been difficult for many reasons – high heat and humidity, lack of shelter, and the students’ frustration with the slow pace of learning. By the second day, tents had been installed for shelter, the humidity was down a little, and a slight breeze had picked up. Soon Galluzzo was hearing the satisfying sound of the axes striking the logs effectively, and seeing smiles on the faces of students as they gained skills and confidence.

“This was a huge group effort on all fronts,” Galluzzo stressed. “Egos had to be checked at the door for this to happen successfully.”

The Truss Project is the brainchild of the Handshouse Studio of Norwell, MA, a non-profit educational organization that creates projects outside of the traditional classroom through the reconstruction of

historic objects. Like many around the world, Handshouse founders Rick and Laura Brown watched the dreadful footage of the cathedral in flames on April 15, 2019. Their response was to devise another project, and invite participants.

They first reached out to Charpentiers sans Frontières (Carpenters Without Borders). CsF founder François Calame was an early and vocal advocate of using historic techniques for the cathedral’s restoration. Calame is also a member of France’s Ministry of Culture, and was at the site the day after the fire. Concerns had been raised that France did not have the 13<sup>th</sup>-century skills to restore the building traditionally, and some proposed using metal beams as replacements, but CsF did not agree.

Last September, CsF completed a “Proof of Concept” project build-

ing a replica of Truss #7 from the cathedral’s nave; in March they announced with jubilation the French government’s decision to go with hand-hewing for the restoration of the nave and choir.

The Browns had firsthand experience with Spence’s work with CsF and with managing large community builds, and they invited her to manage the Truss Project. Spence has been a member of the Timber Framers Guild since the 1980s, spent many years in the timber-framing business, and now has a small shop in Northampton where she has been living and working for the past 22 years. In recent years you might have read about her involvement with restoration work at Historic Northampton.

Both Spence and Silver were also involved with the first US Charpentiers sans Frontières project in 2019, constructing a timber-frame blacksmith shop adjacent to the *Mortise & Tenon Magazine* woodshop in Sedgwick, Maine. This project was the subject of the documentary film *Another Work is Possible*.

Silver has been in the timber-framing field for about 15 years. His business, Ironwood Timberworks, is based out of Hadley.

Silver noted the Notre Dame restoration has a long way to go – masonry is still being stabilized, and the progress was hampered by lead roof contamination, rain damage, and the COVID-19 pandemic. It will be a long time before contracts are awarded for the project, with its lofty goal to have the cathedral open in time for the 2024 Olympics in Paris.

Handshouse next connected with

schools and universities. One of the first to respond was Tonya Ohnstad, the associate dean of graduate studies for the Architecture and Planning department at CUA, who is teaching a course on the history and reconstruction of Notre Dame.

Students from CUA and other universities with similar courses will be building 10:1 scale models of the building’s roof structure using traditional joinery techniques. Their goal is to assemble the components from various institutions into a complete model of the roof over the choir section. Ohnstad’s students have been so enthusiastic they have already completed five model trusses.

CUA has also hosted a series of weekly lectures, titled “(re)CONSTRUCTION: The Joinery and Craft of Notre Dame de Paris,” available for viewing on YouTube.

The finished truss was successfully raised by hand on the CUA campus on Tuesday, August 3. It will be disassembled and transported to the National Mall this Thursday, where it will be raised again for the day. The truss will then be moved to the National Building Museum, where it will remain on exhibit for at least a month.

In the meantime, CsF continues its mission of historic restorations around the world. Silver plans to travel to France this September to work on another one of its projects. The interest shown by timber framers around the world in the cathedral’s restoration, he said, has been helpful to the organization in convincing the French government that traditional methods are possible.



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**MONTAGUE** from page A1

and the applications will confront “an expanded scope and requirements, and applications will be subject to significantly more stringent review.”

Montague’s plan checked a number of boxes for “services to be provided,” including programs of “public education” and “source control.” The board of health will require that residents “eliminate breeding sites on their personal property,” including “discarded tires, plastic containers and “rubbish accumulation.” They will also be required to monitor and maintain swimming pools, bird baths, and roof gutters, places where mosquitoes typically breed.

The local plan also promises to implement “culvert cleaning” and “stream flow improvement,” listing health director Daniel Wasiuk and public works superintendent Tom Bergeron as responsible for these activities.

As of press time, the town health department has not indicated whether it has the capacity to implement these programs. The department recently distributed a flyer to local households titled “Avoid the Bite: Preventing Diseases Spread by Mosquitoes,” which recommends many of the requirements in the town plan.

At last May’s annual town meeting, an appropriation of \$10,000 was approved to fund additional mosquito control services, either by joining a regional control district or through additional town-based capacity. Ellis informed the selectboard at the July 26 meeting that the regional district was not currently accepting new applications. The next health board meeting is scheduled for August 18.

Advocates of opting out of the aerial spraying have expressed frustration at the EEA’s ambiguous guidance. Julie Shively of the Leverett selectboard, a town whose opt-out application was denied, said she was “really furious” about the criteria that was the basis for that rejection. In a letter to local officials, state senator Joanne Comerford said she was “extremely frustrated” that many applications had been rejected based on criteria not clearly communicated by the agency.

Comerford, noting that “our current mosquito management system is a relic from the 1950s,” went on to stress that the legislature had created a new Mosquito Control for the Twenty-First Century Task Force to

“overhaul the way the way the commonwealth does this work.” The task force, which was not mentioned in the EEA letter to the town, is scheduled to make recommendations to the legislature by the end of 2021.

Even if local communities opt out the state spraying program, they may still be subject to spraying if state officials determine there is an elevated health risk of mosquito-borne illnesses such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE). In a response to a protest letter from Comerford and other legislators, the EEA stated that it does not currently foresee the need for spraying this year, despite the wet July weather, and added that it “looks forward” to the recommendations of the Task Force “to inform improvements for the 2022 season.”

#### Flooding and Planning

At the same meeting, the selectboard ratified an official emergency that had been declared on July 18 when “the storm of the century, or whatever it was” – in the words of chair Rich Kuklewicz – caused extensive flooding in the village of Millers Falls. The board then voted to declare “the end of the emergency” as having occurred on the morning of July 22.

Kuklewicz thanked the town’s “first responders,” including not only the police and fire departments but also the health and public works departments, for their responses to the flooding.

A number of requests from town planner Walter Ramsey were endorsed by the board, including an application for a grant for a “structural and property reuse assessment” of the former Strathmore mill complex in Turners Falls, and a grant from the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities for a self-guided tour on the history of Turners Falls.

The board also approved a revision of an “order of taking” for the Fifth Street pedestrian bridge construction project, initially approved at a previous meeting; a state Green Communities grant agreement; and an agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to assist in procurements under the state’s Shared Streets program.

#### Other Business

The board delayed a vote on a request by the Eversource electric company to place a new utility pole on Sandy Lane, in order to support

an interconnection to the new solar array being constructed on the town’s former burn dump. Ellis requested that the decision be delayed pending a discussion with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA), which is constructing a new maintenance facility in the area that will include “improvements” to Sandy Lane.

“It has become somewhat of a complicated issue,” Ellis explained.

The board approved an entertainment license requested by the Lake Pleasant Village Association for an event at Rutter’s Park on September 18 to celebrate the rebuilding of the village’s Bridge of Names. It also approved the use of public property for a “helmet drive” on July 29 to raise money for jackets and a banquet to celebrate the Turners Falls High School women’s softball team’s victory in the recent state tournament.

A request to use public property for tables and chairs outside of the Great Falls Harvest market on 109 Avenue A in Turners Falls was approved, as was a request by the Pioneer Valley Brewery on Third Street for “extended” outdoor dining.

One-day licenses for alcohol service and entertainment were also granted to the brewery for an August 20 event at 147 Second Street that will build support for the Barbès in the Woods concert, scheduled for August 21 in Montague Center.

The board approved an outdoor license for entertainment, and potentially an evening movie, at the parking lot of the Village Store in Montague Center on Thursday evenings.

Ellis reported that there had been no new COVID-19 cases in Montague during the previous two weeks. He also received approval for a change order for the Council on Aging roof replacement project and to declare the large “shed” behind town hall, formerly used by the public works department, as surplus property for sale.

At the end of the meeting, Ellis reported on a meeting with state officials on the under-funding in western Massachusetts of payments to towns on state-owned property, called “Payments in Lieu of Taxes.” He reported “some confidence” about legislative proposals to change the formula to be more favorable to communities in the region.

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held Monday, August 9.



## PADDLE FOUND!

Found on the Millers River below the Funnel rapid  
Sunday, August 1: Kayak paddle, type typically used for recreational kayaks. Call (413) 369-4398 and describe it if you would like it back.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was on July 28 and August 11, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

### No Buyers for Montague Center School

Montague Center School will remain the property of the town’s taxpayers for the conceivable future. Although there had been hope that at least a few bidders for the property would come forth by the August 4 deadline, there was not even a single response to the town’s RFP for the former school. Town administrator Frank Abbondanzio said he was “discouraged by the lack of response,” but was not giving up hope.

Abbondanzio said that he felt the building would have sold if the economy were better. “It’s a great building in excellent condition,” he said. He also noted that the town had set the minimum bid and stringent conditions because they did not want to sell to just anyone.

During the rancorous debates over closing the school in 2008, the interim superintendent at that time, Ken Rocke, stated that \$228,000 in savings could be realized by closing Montague Center School since the town would not have to invest in upgrades or in maintenance. Many opposed to closing the school argued that this figure was unrealistic as the town would still have to maintain the building until it was sold.

So far, the amount spent on keeping the building well maintained has yet to exceed Rocke’s estimate.

### Diemand Egg Farm: Breaking (with) Eggs to Make an Omelette?

The Diemand Egg Farm has notified its wholesale egg customers that it will cease delivery starting about six months from now. Already small by industry standards, the egg farm plans to drop from a flock of 12,000-15,000 hens in recent years to “somewhere below 3,000” by July 2012. In a letter to customers, the owners said they’ve already begun reducing the number of baby chicks sustaining their flock.

In the letter, Peter, Faith and Anne Diemand said eggs will still be sold at the farm’s store, but that the reduction in laying hens, “the cornerstone of our business,” must be made to exempt the farm from new FDA sanitation and food safety regulations brought about by “recent well-publicized

problems...at some of the large egg production companies.”

The new regulations contain elaborate documentation requirements and “would only be possible for us with a huge investment of money, time and manpower that we cannot afford,” the letter said.

### Brick House Holds Summer Workshop Series

Erin Myers, programs coordinator at Brick House in Turners Falls, brought together a group to discuss the possibility of a “Free School,” somewhere that children, teens, and adults alike could learn practical, hands-on skills for free.

The Brick House would serve as the project’s home base, and volunteers from Undergrowth Farm in Gill, Summer of Solutions Pioneer Valley, and other Turners Falls community members came together to form the organizing body.

This group, the Summer Workshop Series collective, brainstormed content for classes, worked on outreach, and discussed the ideology behind the school. “Through regular meetings, we were able to build a shared vision and start connecting with facilitators and others in the community to help make it happen,” said collective member Martha Pskowski.

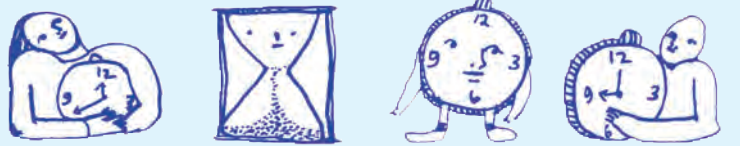
Many months later, the workshop series was realized. It now boasts more than 30 workshops spread over seven weeks.

Still to come are four weeks full of exciting courses including wild edibles, making herbal medicine, self-defense, video production, food preservation, model airplane flying, pizza making, as well as the continuation of the Grow Your Own Food, yoga, and bike mechanics series, plus many, many more.

### Recent Work From Ariel Jones

Ariel Jones, who for years maintained a photography studio on Avenue A, is back in the area after a hiatus of several years. Her new show of recent work, featuring photography and mixed media work will be unveiled at Nina’s Nook, a tiny hole in the wall art space in Turners Falls, at 125A Avenue A.

The opening reception is Friday August 19 from 7 to 9:30 p.m. The show will run from August 19 through September 15. Hours are Fridays 2 to 5 p.m. and Saturdays 1 to 5 p.m., with special extended hours during the exhibit on Thursdays from 3 until 8 p.m.



#### NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Recording Meetings Considered

By **GEORGE BRACE**

In a brief meeting on Tuesday, Leverett’s selectboard approved requests from Eversource energy company for the addition of new utility poles on North Leverett and Montague roads, and discussed the possibility of recording board meetings.

The board conducted a pole hearing to consider requests from Eversource to add five to six new utility poles on each of North Leverett and Montague roads, and relocate several existing polls on those roads. These requests were approved by the board.

A representative from Eversource explained that the purpose of the additional poles and relocations was to shorten the spans between poles in order to increase the strength, security, and safety of the system, as old wire is replaced with new, heavier wire, which carries

more electric current and data. The representative said the goal was to reduce the spans, which are currently up to 270 feet long, to under 200, and increase the poles’ height from 40 to 45 feet.

Concerns raised by residents had apparently been addressed previous to the hearing, and no objections were raised.

The board also discussed a suggestion from another resident that selectboard meetings, and possibly other town committee and board meetings, be recorded and made available to the public online. The desirability of such a move was not questioned, and the discussion focused on practical issues such as who would do the work, how the data would be stored, and how the project’s cost and usage would be evaluated.

Board members and residents exchanged ideas on different forms the project might take, and the possibil-

ity was raised of a stipend for a volunteer to oversee the recording and storage. Selectboard meetings were the main focus, but the possibility of arranging for the recording of other meetings was also discussed.

Town clerk Lisa Stratford and others agreed to gather more information and continue the discussion at future meetings.

The selectboard reported that there was no new news about the rejection of the town’s application to opt out of the state’s aerial spraying project to control mosquitoes, but said that efforts to appeal the decision were underway.

Chair Julie Shively said that along with other parties, Leverett’s state representative Natalie Blais and senator Joanne Comerford were working on a response, and that there would be an update at the next selectboard meeting on Tuesday, August 17.

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GILL from page A1

Redevelopment Authority.

Town administrator Ray Purington said that he had sent McGrath a letter in June with “some next steps that the selectboard was thinking about,” and said that McGrath had responded to that correspondence with some additional ideas as to how the project might work.

Selectboard member Randy Crochier said he had spoken with Beth Giannini, a senior transportation planner with the Franklin Region Council of Governments, about Gill becoming a “Complete Streets community.” A state-funded program, Complete Streets’ mission is to make travel inclusive and safe for everyone through municipal planning and policy.

Crochier said that the program “allows for funding of up to \$400,000 every four years” to qualifying towns, and allots up to \$38,000 in technical assistance to develop plans within the program’s funding parameters.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker said he wanted to wait for the return of the board’s third member, Charles Garbiel, from vacation before delving into the issue with any more depth.

School Floors

Purington told the board members that the asbestos abatement portion of the Gill Elementary flooring project was completed last week by Compass Restoration Services, LLC of Ludlow. “The air quality test came back A-OK,” Purington said.

Purington also reported that Classic Seamless Floors by Chapdelaine, Inc., of Huntington, has been coordinating with the Gill-Montague school district to begin laying down epoxy flooring at the school, which he said is expected to start this week.

“Are there any other spots within the building that are of concern going forward, between now and when we are going to do the rest of the work?” asked Snedeker.

“I do not think there is anything that would rise to the same level of importance,” Purington replied. He added that in some areas of the building’s 1986 addition of a hallway and classrooms where there is non-asbestos flooring, tile was coming up. “I think they are beginning to see the edges of the tile curl up just a little bit,” he said, “but it is not a dangerous situation.”

“You could feel them in your

feet, and see them, but there are no trip hazards or anything,” added Crochier, recalling a walk-through of the building prior to the flooring project’s start. “That was a big part of the reason I said the whole floor should be done.”

Purington said the non-asbestos tiles can easily be replaced.

Other Business

Wheeling For Healing, an annual fundraiser bicycle ride supporting cancer care and services at Baystate Franklin Medical Center, has a new chair, Stephanie Johnson. Johnson contacted the town explaining that she has “taken the baton” from former chair Bruce Mainville, and will be coordinating this year’s ride.

The group has used the Gill safety complex as a water stop for the last 12 years, and Johnson asked for the town’s permission to use the building again this year. Her request was unanimously approved.

The Sunday, August 15 fundraiser can be attended virtually as well as in person. For those interested, the Baystate Health Foundation, Wheeling for Healing 2021, website has more information.

Charlene Currie was unanimously appointed to the historical commission through June 2024.

The county’s annual hazardous waste collection day will take place at Greenfield Community College’s main campus on Saturday, September 25, with pre-registration required by Friday, September 17.



MONTAGUE REPORTER



SHELLY BECK PHOTO

Jessica Beck of Greenfield reads the Reporter from atop a large rock on Lucy Vincent Beach, Martha’s Vineyard, in July.

ON THE ROAD

Going somewhere this season? Send photos to [editor@montaguereporter.org](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org).

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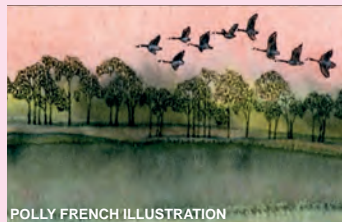
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WEST ALONG THE RIVER  
HIGH SUMMER,  
HIGH WATER

By DAVID BRULE

**THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE** – Last month, I had imagined riding that summer zephyr all the way to autumn. It’s been more like grasping a floating tree trunk on the crest of a white-water wave.

All July our west-flowing river rose and raged through the woods. River sounds like a waterfall’s plunge reached the upstairs bedroom at night, in spite of the full-leaved trees that usually muffle a quiet summer river’s voice.

Up in the village of Millers Falls, the small stream forgotten until now, channeled under village streets, broke loose, free again for the first time in a hundred years. It reclaimed its ancestral bed, ripped through asphalt and concrete, taught the arrogant humans a severe lesson. That little stream took us back to the origins of this place, moved cars, threatened to knock houses off their foundations, filled cellars with floodwater from the hills.

The force of water wins again. Water and weather are patient, but they can rise up to remind us of their irresistible power.

Down here on The Flat, a mere mile from the confluence with the Connecticut, we witness the river doing its work. It carries all the water from all the tributaries, all the hills, and all the catch basins down its 50-mile watershed right past our house. Situated as we are on a 10,000-year-old flood-plain terrace, it would take a lot to threaten us. But nevertheless we watched as the floodwaters rose up the steep 15-foot bank, creeping closer to the 500-year flood mark when in 1936 and 1938 the waters reached the edge of the back lawn. The family, and the whole Flat neighborhood, had to evacuate.

This year’s flood may well have reached the 100-year flood mark before the river finished raging.



A pickereel frog, Lithobates palustris, in the author’s garden.

Mere humans, we can barely control the river, though we try. There are places where the river does not allow us to go until it has spent its rage, has done its job and carried all the water away.

By July 21, the rain had still not yet abated. That morning, a Northern water thrush landed in the cherry tree near the green *parisienne* café table where I sat. The water thrush, in fact no thrush at all but a warbler, had left its watery element along the lush lowlands of now flooded the river’s shore.

This youngster, clearly a fledgling, flew through the soupy and watery air that seemed just as wet as the river itself, to visit the vast new world of the lawn and vegetable garden. Having been raised in a nest by the river, she or he eyed the exotic tomatoes with curious investigation, perched on the wire cage of tomato tutors.

This water thrush dodged the quick menacing fly-by of the rufian English sparrows. These are scruffy birds no water thrush would ever encounter in the lowland jungle tangle of the bottomlands.

Flying back to the deck where I’m watching, she walks along the porch railing, bobs and teeters in imitation of the spotted sandpiper her neighbor, marvels at the lovely flowers and jeweled hummingbirds, and is gone as quickly as she came.

In this strange and water-logged element, the vegetation grows quickly and encroaches upon the house and the outbuilding woodsheds and garden cabin. Garter snakes are at home there, where so few humans have ventured out to inspect in weeks.

A big self-satisfied pickerel frog makes himself at home. But when he has to, he leap-frogs, covering a distance of a yard or more with each bound, keeping ahead

see **WEST ALONG** page B2

Above: Maureen Pollock shared this photo from Sunday’s free concert at Unity Park in Turners Falls. The event, a 40th birthday party for radio station WRSI, featured Rubblebucket, And The Kids, and Winterpills (pictured).

The Spinner’s Story Revealed

By NINA ROSSI

**TURNERS FALLS** – I last saw the statue called “The Spinner” in early May 2020 at the pocket park on Avenue A where she stood for 35 years, spinning an invisible thread from her iron distaff. On that early May day her pedestal was bare, and she was lying horizontally in a steel cradle that would transport her to Jack Nelson’s Canal Street studio for refurbishing while the rest of the park got a makeover.

The Community Development Block Grant-funded construction project will replace crumbling cement edging with granite, re-landscape the green stuff, install new lighting, and open up the park by moving The Spinner out of the middle of the plaza and placing her nine feet back towards the rear. Sciaba Construction out of Walpole, Mass won the bid for the job and has been working away for over a year on plans created by the Berkshire Design firm.

People who don’t read newspapers were overheard on Avenue A musing as to whether or not the statue was coming back to the park until signage was put up on fencing around the site that announced the improvement plans. The cast iron figure was installed as an homage to female workers in the area’s textile mills when the park was unveiled in 1985. Plans to move the symbolic figure to the back of the park sparked a brief protest and a petition against the move, but by that time, the plans were a done deal.

I have been curious about the statue’s refurbishment, and over the months of her disappearance have gently pestered artist Jack Nelson every time I bumped into him around town about what his plans for the process might be. The notion that the statue was actually bronze with many layers of black paint over it was laid to rest quite easily by a simple magnet test before she was even removed from the park, but Nelson seemed to have a plethora of ideas about what the new finish might be every time I bumped into him.

Construction delays at the park gave him many extra months to chew over various artistic schemes. As time passed, Nelson seemed to zone in on a certain aesthetic and then, finally, the call came – The Spinner is done and going back in the cradle; so do you want to come down and take a few pictures?



Local sculptor Jack Nelson has completed the restoration of The Spinner statue for the pocket park on the northwest corner of Avenue A and Fourth Street.

When I arrived at Nelson’s Canal Street studio, he and The Spinner were outside next to the empty steel cradle. Below us the canal churned its strangely brown waters, and we watched as Sadie’s Bikes caught and released batches of spandex-encased cyclists into the stream of cars trundling over the bridges. The Spinner spun her invisible yarn, while Nelson spun his own.

The multi-talented sculptor said the first part of the process was the stripping. “Many, many coats of black paint had to come off first. I could have tented it and fumed it, but I want to stay away from chemicals, they are a little too scary,” he recounted. “It was mostly

see **SPINNER** page B6

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

**TURNERS FALLS** – As autumn approaches, my mind has lately been on apples. My eyes search out the trees downtown everytime I pass by, laden with hanging ornaments still ripening as the days slowly turn shorter. After a few months of dealing with vegetables and herbs, the abundance of these apple trees is a little shocking.

I thank the trees for reminding me, because it’s about time we put out a call for apple pickers for this season’s apple gleaning and processing. It’s time for the Great Falls Apple Corps to live up to its name!

If you have been following this column for awhile, you know that last fall, GFAC was given permission to pick from the orchard at the “fish lab” down on the patch. Those apples were turned into gallons and



While we wait for fall, early varieties of apples are ripening, like these yellow translucent apples recently donated to the Apple Corps’ free table.

gallons of applesauce that were given away to the community for free. In fact, it was because of the abundance of applesauce that needed to be distributed that we started our free food table.

This year we have been approached by even more community members who want to give us access to orchards. This means we need more hands on deck to pick, process, and cook these apples! Last year’s volunteer crew was enthusiastic

see **APPLE CORPS** page B4



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Senior Center Activities

AUGUST 9 THROUGH 20

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.

Monday 8/9

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

Tuesday 8/10

3:00 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/11

Foot Clinic by appointment

Thursday 8/12

10 a.m. Chair Yoga at GFDC  
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share  
1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch

Friday 8/13

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

Monday 8/16

10:30 a.m. Hip Hop Chair Dancing  
12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch  
1 p.m. Knitting & Crafts Circle

Tuesday 8/17

3 p.m. Tai Chi

Wednesday 8/18

9 a.m. Veterans' Services  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
1:30 p.m. Mobile Pantry

Thursday 8/19

10 a.m. Chair Yoga at GFDC  
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share  
1 p.m. Cards & Games & Pitch

Friday 8/20

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](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

# Pet of the Week

## “BARNEY”

By **KELLEY JEWELL and SAM GUERIN**

Barney was anything but simple; he was larger than life. Strikingly handsome, broad-nosed and big-boned, he had an instantly commanding presence in any room. Barney spent his early years in Turners Falls, but by the end of his life would have made an impact across four houses and two states.

He was first and foremost deeply loving; a flirt, a charmer, and at times magnificently cuddly. He was also a wild and mischievous demon, an inconvenient truth one couldn’t help but root for. Those who met him remarked at his distinguished aura and admired his shit-eating attitude. He had a way of making people love him.

Barney had many nicknames: *Ahbarney*, *Gattonacio*, *Pig Boy*, *Bade Mane* – and *Beefton*, for when his kingly displeasure could be felt from wall to wall. More often than not, he was called *Baby Boy*, needing no explanation.

Barney had many hobbies: rolling in dirt, pooping in porcelain sinks, hoarding piles of shoes, and lord-ing over the alleys. In his tamer moments, he loved nothing more than to cuddle nose to nose on the bed,

a deep purr emanating from his belly. Even if Barney was having a demon day, he always showed this remarkable intentional sweetness.

Barney, a man about town, enjoyed some local celebrity in Turners Falls. He is most famous for his solo jaunts to the bar next door. He was often seen at the counter, perched on a stool, sipping a cup of cream, living his very own best life. In one of his most infamous moments, he sacked an entire nest of baby birds in front of an audience of slack-jawed diners. Despite the fact that he never left a tip, he was loved by staff and patrons alike.

At only 7, Barney left this world too young, under a star-filled sky, in loving arms, with the smell of grass and flora on the wind. Wherever he is now, all the birds are helpless fledglings, all the grass is tall, all the sinks are porcelain, and the bar serves cream around the clock. He will be dearly missed by his people and his fans, but the bite marks he left behind will last a lifetime.

*Kelley Jewell and Sam Guerin have been living in Holyoke, MA and Richmond, VA, but are moving back to Turners Falls.*

WEST ALONG from page B1

of the dog out inspecting his domain before heading into the house, to get out of the downpour.

On *July 30* there is a change in the atmosphere. A golden sun streaks through the yard that is now full of late July activities among our bird residents. The days turn upon themselves, shining in an awakening familiar cycle. We have seen days exactly like this before, was it only last year?

On a morning like this young birds fresh from the nest investigate their new world, their new lives. Young redstart warblers flash and tumble through the rhododendrons, water thrushes call from the riverbank, song sparrows usher their young towards the few remaining grains below the bird feeder. Every manner of fledgling comes through the yard, intrigued by the lawn and open sky.

Even the wood thrush is tuning up his evening song, after the month’s worth of rain. One thrush brood has already been raised; maybe a second nest this season will give us more virtuoso arias ringing forth in our woods.

Our coy visitor these early mornings and late evenings is a quite tame young girl of a hummingbird. Clearly a young one of this summer of ‘21, she floats and whirs through her own personal pasture of plenty, savoring the nectar of flowers thriving at the edge of the deck. She has cardinal flower, bee balm, Joe Pye weed, but particularly likes the native touch-me-not that is sown by nature and grows where it pleases,

totally free from human meddling. This native species is also known as jewelweed, and chooses her own bed, her own place to flower, moving around the yard from year to year, and the hummingbirds follow.

This porch, built last year by the Renaissance crew, reminds me of the promenade deck on an old-time transatlantic steamer. (I’ve been on a few back in the heydays of the last century, crossing the Atlantic in style.) We can look out, not over ocean waves, but an ocean of August flowers.

Our young lady hummingbird patrols her realm, pushing bumblebees out of her way, tolerating the hummingbird moth, a mimicking smaller model of herself. Imitation is the best form of flattery.

From time to time she perches on a curved stick placed there for her convenience. She accommodates us by choosing to rest there regularly while she simultaneously eyes us and the blossoms in her charge.

Once, earlier, during a sunny interval between rainstorms, she whirled up to take a shower under the beaded water stream flowing from the watering can held by an obliging Monique. Hummingbird and *belle jardinière* shared a moment of familiarity and magic: Monique held the watering can intending to water the flowers, while Miss Hummingbird hovered under the shower flowing from the can. She then perched for a few seconds on the earth, stretched her bill upwards to let the water stream down her back and throat. She preened and adjusted her feathers while Monique obligingly held the heavy watering can to keep the

flowing constant, in spite of the increasing ache from holding the can steady to assure constant flow.

Little hummer then moved to her perch to finish grooming and shaking off the last droplets of her refreshing shower. Impertinent as always, she flew up to me watching all this in my chair. She looked deep into my eyes as I peered out from my reading glasses. Then she whirled off and was gone.

That my friends, was the height of hummingbird poetry and inter-species communication for us, enough for one morning.

So now we can feel we are edging into high summer. We are hoping the high water will recede. One morning soon we will rise up early, go to the river, and look out over the great Connecticut River. We will ease the Native dug-out *mishoon* log into the calm waters of the Deep Hole, set out on our annual watery pathway up to the Horse Race stretch of the river and back down to the Pocumtuck Homelands Festival at Peskeompskut. The Wampanoag crew will renew their freshwater ceremonial voyage, their paddles breaking the water where our Indigenous ancestors also paddled.

This journey will be quietly spiritual but also loudly joyous as the songs, call and response of voices from the 50 canoes and kayaks will echo from the mouth of the Paguag/Millers River down to the ancient campsites of Peskeompskut. The renewal and the cycle will be unbroken, as the river will answer again to ancestral voices calling out its ancient name.

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# OUT OF THE PARK AUGUST 2021

By JON DOBOSZ

**UNITY PARK** – Hello everyone, and happy mid-summer! Hope you’re all enjoying being outside and liking the weather. It was pretty touch-and-go at the beginning with all the heat and rain, but it seems we’re trending with very pleasant conditions. Our summer is going really well between our camp and other special events. However, we still have quite a few things in store for you folks in the next few weeks.

Let’s start out with **Movies in the Park**. As many of you are aware, Mother Nature got the best of us on July 9, so we’ve re-scheduled *Raiders of the Lost Ark* for Friday, August 13. Show time is at dusk, but get to the park early for a great spot! Be sure to bring a blanket or folding chair. Refreshments will be provided while supplies last. Movies in the Park has been a great partnership between MPRD, RiverCulture, and the Friends of Sheffield Elementary, and we look forward to continuing this relationship for the foreseeable future.

We are also organizing another **Night Skate at the Unity Skatepark** for Saturday, August 28. This event will be in conjunction with the fireworks display that evening, which is typically planned for late July, but was moved due to pandemic concerns.

We’ve also started registrations for our **Youth Soccer Program**. Montague residents may register now, with non-residents being placed on a waiting list. Our Youth



Soccer Program includes Squirt Soccer for grades K through 2 (Montague residents \$30, non-residents \$35), a Junior Travel Team for grades 2 and 3 (Montague residents \$45, non-residents \$50), and a Senior Travel Team for grades 4 through 6 (Montague residents \$55, non-residents \$60). All teams are co-ed, and schedules may vary.

Finally, be sure to mark your calendars for the return of the **Montague Soap Box Race**, scheduled for Sunday, September 19 at Unity Park and First Street. MPRD, in partnership with Nova Motorcycles, Montague WebWorks, and others, is looking forward to the return of this great community event. There are three age divisions: youth ages 8 to 12, teens ages 13 to 19, and adults ages 20 plus. If you’re planning to enter your own cart for the race, please register on *montaguesoapboxraces.com* and get building!

That’s about it from here. Please keep an eye out for our Fall Program information which will be on *www.montagueparksrec.com*, in our seasonal brochure, and on our Facebook page. You can also receive program information by being a member of our email list – just send us a message, and we’ll get you on it.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, take some extra time off, and stay cool.

*Jon Dobosz is the director of parks and recreation for the town of Montague.*

## REVIEW

# The Open Screen Film Festival

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – In July, LAVA (which stands for Local Access to Valley Arts, a community space for the arts in Greenfield) decided to post short films by local filmmakers on their website. It was called the “Open Screen Online Film Festival.” I watched the films in order to review the festival.

A film by Daryl Beck called *About Towns* didn’t make a lot of sense to me. I get what he was trying to say with the film. When you have seen it you will understand why it’s called what it’s called. It showed the whole area of Greenfield.

*Alienation* by Vanessa Query was easier to understand, and a less abstract concept to see on film. It was about an alien encountering the people of Earth. One reaction was people discovering what it was and being afraid. The other was of someone showing no fear of him. I rather liked it!

*Spin Cycle* by Lindsay Adkins and Wally Marzaho, however, was like *About Towns*. When it came to the concept of the film I barely understood it. I believe it had to do with doing laundry. But the opening sequence did have a bit of professional-looking credits.

*Breaking News* by Brandon Macey was definitely professional-looking. It looked like a real news broadcast that was doing a

segment on this guy catching a fish. Obviously, this one was meant to be some sort of comedy film, which anyone would say when they see it. But I found it to be well done.

I know *Pilgrimage* by Jean Minuchin is supposed to be a film about a pilgrimage, but it came off as more of a poetry reading. The narration was very good – the person speaking was very clear with her words – but the images used didn’t give us the same quality as the narrating.

*Banjar Lamplearn* was like a music video or slideshow for us to see, which fits, since this was made by Michael Nix, a man I know is a musician. It featured images from a music festival he went to.

*Seasons Exchange* is a collage of colors, or music video, by Maria Servellon. I believe it was supposed to be a film but didn’t look like it to me.

Besides this online festival having individuals’ films for us to watch, they also had a video from the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Greenfield Public Schools Film Festival as part of the package. So it was two festivals in one – that made the event kind of cool.

I liked the ones called *Alienation* and *Breaking News* the best, because of some of the things in them I have already mentioned. I would be surprised if someone else didn’t feel the same way about what made at least one of them the best film choices in my eyes.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# Children’s Fort; Self-Loathing Golfer; Bacon Alarm; Bullying At The Park; Bad Slide; Neighbors Fine All Day

### Monday, 7/19

7:14 a.m. Report of driveway washed out and retaining wall collapsed and in the middle of Meadow Road. Caller called back advising a culvert is blocked and water is running down the road. DPW crew *en route*.

4:55 p.m. Female party reporting seeing a male exposing himself in Peskeomskut Park near the rock wall area; states he was going to the bathroom when she walked by. Referred to an officer.

### Tuesday, 7/20

1:16 a.m. Checking on fireworks near Discovery Center. Unable to locate. 6 a.m. Report of several chairs in road near Keith Apartments; unknown how many; caller no longer has a visual on them. Officer advises no chairs located upon arrival.

6:38 a.m. First of numerous annoying/harassing phone calls received by dispatch.

12:39 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reporting that several of his tenants have returned inside the building despite the fact that it still cannot be occupied due to flooding. Caller advises he received the information from a third party, but was advised the tenants were creating a disturbance. Officers and TFFD chief responding.

4:34 p.m. Caller requesting options re: a previous landowner coming onto her property without permission on random occasions. Caller states that today she caught him in her field picking blueberries. Officer advised caller of options.

### Wednesday, 7/21

6:57 a.m. Report of homeless person staying in a tent in the wooded area on Third Street near Keith Apartments. Officer advises tent was actually a children’s fort; no further action needed.

7:38 a.m. Caller from Turners Falls Road requesting animal control officer for assistance removing a dead skunk from her property.

11:42 a.m. Caller complaining a motor home has been in the First Street parking lot by the bridge abutment for two days; advising it is running with the A/C on and blocks under the tires. Officer checked and advises it is legally parked.

3:59 p.m. Employee from veterinary clinic reporting that they had a very irate male client who was screaming at staff and at other customers. After being asked to leave several times, he did, but then continued to yell at people in the parking lot. Staff members were afraid of his behavior and will seek

a no trespass order.

4:27 p.m. Caller would like to know of options available to help deal with a delicate family situation. Advised of options.

4:51 p.m. 911 misdial; caller stated he was looking for the phone number to a funeral home.

### Thursday, 7/22

9:55 a.m. Caller from Vladish Avenue requesting ACO for a rooster in his yard; unknown who the owner is. ACO advised; checked area; gone on arrival.

11:40 a.m. Caller requesting to speak with officer re: a camper that has been near the bridge abutment on First Street overnight. Officer spoke with caller, who will come to MPD tomorrow to get an escort to speak with the occupants and advise them they cannot camp there overnight. 12:12 p.m. Caller inquiring about changing or adding signage to the one-way portion of Fifth Street; states she has witnessed several vehicles going the wrong way, and some do not stop at the bottom of the hill before entering traffic. Referred to DPW.

12:46 p.m. Caller from Fifth Street advises a male attempted to dump a golf bag and clubs into the dumpster. When caller confronted him, he began screaming at her and punching himself in the face. Caller advises male did not end up putting the items in the dumpster, but she has seen him dump there before. Male half called requesting to speak with an officer re: his side of the story. Both parties advised of options; male advised not to dump anything in the dumpster.

4:34 p.m. Report of 10 to 13 people consuming alcohol at Peskeomskut Park. Two people were seen sitting on a bench drinking sodas; no other parties located; officer did

not observe anyone with any alcohol.

6:39 p.m. Caller reporting a verbal altercation between herself and a male party that took place a short time ago in Peskeomskut Park; caller also advises involved parties are drinking in the park. Officer checked on park; no one drinking; band playing. Officer spoke with both parties, who offered different accounts of events. Caller called back stating she had her fishing gear with her and the males were making fun of that fact. Males advise they will not be making contact with caller; caller advises she is going to be staying home for the night.

### Friday, 7/23

11:25 a.m. Caller reports that while she was getting ready to leave the Food City parking lot, she witnessed a female party leave a baby in a running car while she went into the store. Caller waited for the female to come back out and confronted her; female had no reaction and left. Officer advised. Report taken.

12:04 p.m. Caller reporting a male riding a dirt bike up and down Spring Street with no helmet. Chief Williams off with male party; party advised. 1:05 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting the fire alarm is going off in the apartment because he burned some bacon; there is no fire. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

1:41 p.m. Caller reporting female outside Food City begging his employees and patrons for money; wants her verbally trespassed from store if an officer sees her. Report taken.

1:44 p.m. Caller from Walgreens reporting they have some syringes and a bag of white substance that were left in the bath-

room by a female who has since left the store. Officer disposed of items; will keep an eye out for female. 2:20 p.m. 911 caller reporting that a vehicle crashed into the woods on Lake Pleasant Road and kept going. Officer off with parties, who are not being cooperative. Obvious front end damage to vehicle, but without finding the property damage on Lake Pleasant Road, there is not much that can be done. Report taken.

4:50 p.m. Caller reporting child safety issue on Federal Street; states there is an inflatable slide, and the exit part of the slide is facing the road and hanging over the sidewalk. Officer advises homeowner will move slide.

### Saturday, 7/24

2:33 a.m. Caller states truck vs. pole with tree and wire down on Wendell Road; airbag deployment noted; unsure if anyone is still in the vehicle. Officer advises vehicle is unoccupied but there is blood on the airbag and in the vehicle. K9 track unsuccessful. Involved pole and wires were only guide wires. Residence and area hospitals checked. Officer requesting tow company not allow anyone to take the vehicle until they have contacted the police department.

11:25 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states that the upstairs neighbors have been fine all day, but they just started making a lot of noise at 10 p.m. Officer advised.

### Monday, 7/26

2:18 a.m. Officer out with suspicious auto at Railroad Salvage. Male was out fishing with a child; was told to move along.

**Note:** The *Reporter* was not provided the police logs from July 26 through August 1. Highlights will be included in our August 19 edition!

## MONTAGUE COMMUNITY TELEVISION NEWS

# Things In Full Swing!

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – There is a lot to catch up on, with Montague activities in full swing!

Besides the usual meetings of the Gill selectboard, the Montague finance committee, the Gill-Montague regional school committee, and the Montague selectboard, MCTV has four new episodes of *Fabrics’cool* with Kathryn Swanson, as well as the Division III state softball final, Turners Falls vs. Amesbury.

This week was full of outdoor music, which was captured by MCTV and will soon air on Channel 17, and will be available online on our Vimeo page which can be found linked to the MCTV website, *montaguetv.org*, under the tab “Videos.”

MCTV is always available to assist in

local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

The MCTV board is looking for new board members. If you are interested in joining the team, please consider coming to the board meeting on Thursday, August 19 at 6 p.m. at the station, located at 34 Second Street in Turners Falls.

The station is also looking to hire a producer to make Spanish-language content. Please email *infomontaguetv@gmail.com* with a resume to schedule an interview!

Something going on you think others would like to see? If you get in touch, we can show you how easy it is to use a camera and capture the moment. Contact us at (413) 863-9200 or *infomontaguetv@gmail.com*.

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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# The 17th Annual Harvest Supper

**GREENFIELD** – Join Stone Soup Café for the 17th Annual Harvest Supper Celebration on Sunday, August 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. on the Greenfield Town Common! The Harvest Supper is *free* and open to everyone in the community. Swing by for delicious food, music, raffle items, and a “Really Really Free Market.” People are encouraged to bring their own plates, cups, and utensils to cut down on the waste produced at the event.

This year the event will take place in person, with live music, and places for people to sit and eat together. To protect our community, masks will still be strongly encouraged at this year’s event whenever possible.

Stone Soup is looking for over 100 volunteers to help make the supper a success. You can sign up for a volunteer shift at [www.thestonesoupcafe.org](http://www.thestonesoupcafe.org).

The Harvest Supper is an annual event celebrating local food, farms, and community. It was started in

2005 by Juanita Nelson, an ardent pacifist, war tax resister, civil rights activist, and supporter of local, organic agriculture. Nelson encouraged people to grow their own food and to support local farming as part of the local economy, which she said was an expression of nonviolence. Farmers and talented chefs donate their time and produce to create an amazing meal that is served to over 800 people every year.

Stone Soup Café is grateful to Hawks and Reed for helping to coordinate logistics once again this year. Music will be organized by Ben Goldsher of Hawks and Reed. We’re excited to collaborate with The People’s Pint, Hope & Olive, and other local restaurants in preparing the meal! For more information about this year’s Celebration, email [info@thestonesoupcafe.org](mailto:info@thestonesoupcafe.org), call (413) 422-0020, or visit our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/StoneSoupGreenfield](http://www.facebook.com/StoneSoupGreenfield).



## Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

Here is a smorgasbord-potpouri-potluck of various news items I came across over the past year, and did not have a chance to mention or feature yet in this column...

### Sexual Orientation

Let’s start with this item I read this February in my *Daily Skimm* email digest. According to a new Gallup poll, one in six Gen Z adults (born between 1997 and 2002) identify as LGBTQ+, with the majority of non-heterosexuals identifying as bisexual.

This comes as no surprise to myself and other sex writers and researchers. The number of people identifying as LGBTQ+, plus general openness regarding sexuality, has increased with every generation. Thank you, Gen Z, for hopefully putting the kibosh on forced heteronormativity!

### Sex Activism

Another daily digest email, from the *New York Times*, noted the sad death of Margo St. James in early January. A tireless feminist and sex-positive advocate for sex workers, she died at age 83. She founded an organization for sex workers in 1973 called Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics (COYOTE). She had been arrested for a false prostitution charge in the early seventies, and eventually obtained a law degree so that she could (successfully) overturn the charge.

Romantically partnered with different genders throughout her life, she was originally an artist and later ran for the Republican party presidential nomination in 1980. Talk about a Jill-of-all-experiences!

### Polyamory Rights

About a year ago Somerville, Massachusetts legally recognized polyamorous relationships as having similar rights to legally wed couples. Somerville lawmakers noted that the COVID pandemic necessitated this expansion of rights, as not all partners were able to visit their loved ones in the hospital.

Somerville became the first municipality in the nation to adopt this ordinance, which also allows all partners in an established polyamorous relationship to obtain benefits under one member’s health insurance, in addition to hospital visita-

tion privileges.

### Transgender Health

More locally, a new health clinic focusing on transgender health has opened in Northampton. They provide pediatric primary care, adult primary care, mental health care, education and advocacy, focused on gender-affirming care. Their values statement is particularly heart-warming: “We believe everyone deserves to find joy in our work, bodies, and relationships, as well as in our communities. We promise to fight for our patients’ right to experience that joy.” Wonderfully, they accept most insurances.

I am particularly excited to learn how patients and clients of mine experience care here. The other options for gender-affirming care in the Pioneer Valley have been historically overbooked and understaffed, so Transhealth is a much-needed new addition. Find out more at [www.transhealth.org](http://www.transhealth.org).

### Anatomy Update

An article in the May *Guardian* by Linda Geddes entitled “Most Britons Cannot Name all Parts of the Vulva” reported recent research by Dina El-Hamamsy and colleagues showing that half of nearly 200 British patients in hospital waiting rooms surveyed could not identify the urethra, while 37% mislabeled the clitoris – regardless of their gender. Only 46% percent of this sample correctly identified that people with vaginas have three “holes” (vagina, urethra, and anus).

Additionally, the respondents were given diagrams of external and internal sexual and reproductive anatomy to label. Only half even attempted to label the diagram, and of those who did, just 9% labeled the requested structures correctly. Many respondents confused the urethra with the clitoris, and vice versa.

Based on my own clinical practice with clients over the years, I have little reason to think that folks on this side of the pond would do much better with these diagrams. El-Hamamsy points out that such a poor understanding of sexual anatomy does not bode well for self-advocacy, informed consent, or even basic health-seeking.

This entire planet – except per-

haps Denmark, which is way ahead of the world – needs comprehensive, anatomically correct and pleasure-positive sex education.

### Sex Ed

I finally got a chance to watch the recently released comedy film *Plan B* on Hulu about two Midwestern 17-year-old cisfemale high school students, Sunny and Lupe, who drive hours and hours looking for a pharmacy willing to sell them Plan B, the morning after pill. Sunny had her first penis-vagina intercourse situation the night before and had used a condom. This intercourse appeared to last about 30 seconds, no kissing or any kind of other touching involved, although it was verbally consensual. The condom had remained stuck inside, making its appearance the next day during a bathroom visit.

This film also showed a ridiculous sex education scene in the school where the teacher was allowed to only teach abstinence, and only by way of metaphor – showing a sexist video of a women and man on their wedding day with the man noticing how used and beat up his bride’s “car” was. He thought he was getting a “brand new” car out of the marriage, so decided to leave his bride, weeping, at her car.

And *Plan B* was not set 10 or 20 years ago – it is a contemporary film. While sex-positive in that it showed Sunny masturbating unapologetically in an earlier scene, it also accurately depicted the negative consequences of the unfortunate lack of comprehensive sex education or easily available contraception.

### In Summary

There you have it, a round up of news items and tidbits from the last year. Sex from all angles – education, orientation, gender, etc. – really, really, matters! And if you are vaccinated, get out there and have a sextacular summer before the stupid Delta variant causes more trouble.

*Stephanie Baird, LMHC is an OWL Facilitator, EMDR Consultant and Psychotherapist, certified in Advancing Clinical Excellence in Sexuality (ACES), and encourages her clients towards thriving sexual health. She welcomes feedback and suggestions at [sexmatters@montaguereporter.org](mailto:sexmatters@montaguereporter.org).*

**APPLE CORPS** from page B1

and talented – check out our Instagram for a video of apple pickers juggling drops – but was entirely too small for the amount of apples we were able to glean. COVID vaccines were still but a twinkle in our mind’s eye then, and we’re hoping that despite the obstacles that the Delta variant may bring, we will be able to get more hands on deck this season to pick, sort, and chop our bounty.

As with all Apple Corps volunteering opportunities, we encourage those who help us to take some of what’s being offered. Those who helped us last fall went home with as many bags of apples as they wanted, and didn’t make so much as a dent in the supply. If anyone’s looking for a novel and effective way to go apple-picking this fall, we’ve got you covered!

While volunteers are our main need in this endeavor, there are other ways to help this fruit-picking season. If you have an apple tree or any other kind of fruit tree that needs to be picked, we may be able to help. We are also looking to borrow a cider press so we can use these apples for a community cider pressing event in the park. If you have no access to a tree or a cider press, we will also need to buy some supplies, like containers, to house all of the delicious applesauce we’ll be slinging. Please get in touch if you’d like to help.

While we wait these last few weeks to jump into the apple-verse, there’s still plenty going on here at the Apple Corps. The Unity Park Community Garden’s U-Pick beds are brimming with sungold cherry tomatoes, swiss chard, and herbs, and plants in the paths are, as always, fair game. If you’ve had any spark of longing for mint tea or a mojito, now’s the time. Take our mint... please!

Our free table continues to run every Saturday from 12 to 3 p.m. outside the Unity Park fieldhouse, offering produce, meals, pantry items, clothing, and kids’ toys. We’ve begun to use donation money to sup-

plement donated items on the table, and have been able to offer toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, pads and tampons, diapers, snacks, and more.

While we can purchase some things, we do rely on community donations for many of our items. Our clothing is all donated, and we accept small clothing donations during our table hours on Saturdays. Contact us to arrange another time if Saturdays don’t work for you. We ask for small donations as our storage space is limited. However, we’ve found these past few weeks that even after receiving donated clothing, we are putting away less than we put out, so please, send any nice, gently-worn clothing our way!

Because we are located right next to the playground, we have made it a priority to keep kids’ items in stock, such as books, games, toys, and stuffed animals. As with the clothing, we accept and encourage used items as long as they are clean and in good condition.

Our last big donation request for the free table is time. We could use a few more volunteers to help us set up, run the table, and then break it down. If you have some time on Saturday to spare, we’d love to have your help.

Lastly, I want to give a shout-out to our current volunteers who have donated their time this summer to help various GFAC endeavors. Our community is large and kind-hearted, and I’m so grateful to be working with you all.

The Great Falls Apple Corps is a community group that advocates for edible landscaping and all sorts of community gardening. We maintain the Unity Park Community Garden, a sidewalk food forest at the former St. Andrews’ Church, and a weekly free table on Saturdays at Unity Park from 12 to 3 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, or want to stay up-to-date with all our goings on, check out our Facebook, Instagram or email us at [greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com).



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Interview by J. BURKETT

**TURNERS FALLS** – Christina Carter is talking to us from Texas this week! She has lived there most of her life, when not touring as a solo artist or with Charalambides. Charalambides started in 1991, and have been playing and recording this whole time.

She has also put out dozens of solo releases in that time – Discogs has 41 releases listed! – plus has lots of side projects and guest appearances on other albums. Some people classify her music as “psychedelic” or “experimental,” but it’s hard for us here at Mystra to put her sounds into words... well, okay: maybe “other-worldly” is close, or “unique” for sure. “Unexpected,” too. Check out her music ASAP!

And hopefully she will play out here again soon. In the past she has played local venues like the Bookmill, The Elevens, Ecstatic Yod, and 10 Forward.

**MMM:** *Hi Christina! So, as a kid, were you in the school band and all that? Do you have other early music memories?*

**CC:** I wasn’t in the school band. I hated the idea of music lessons, music class, notes on a page, and had no attraction to playing the kinds of instruments that would be played in our school band.

Most of my childhood music memories are about singing. Listening to records and singing. Playing a tiny toy piano and making up songs. The only guitar lesson that I had made me walk out. My parents got me an acoustic guitar because I saw one hanging in an open market in Laredo and wanted it. It had a certain wood smell which, though memorable, I’ve never smelled again.

Some of my favorite songs were “Soldier Boy,” “Sea Cruise,” and “Donna.” My uncle was a regional teen singer and actor, or attempted to be, and he absolutely loved “Donna” and played the 45 for me.

Music was always magical and intimate. It made strange things happen, too. Like when a man came to school and played piano and sang “Raindrops Keep Fallin’ On My Head” in the auditorium and asked for a volunteer to sing it with him, and he picked me. It might have been B.J. Thomas. Could have been. He was from Houston and it was around 1971 or ‘72. The entire school seemed excited that this man was there. It was my favorite song at the time.

**MMM:** *You grew up in Texas right? What was that like... and what was the music scene like as a teenager? You saw Pain Teens, right? They’re one of my old faves.*

**CC:** Yes, Houston proper. I’d say it was the only thing that I knew, ex-

cept that it wasn’t. We would drive to New York City almost every year. Opposites. Space and crowded. Zoned out and buzzing. No one listened to music, though, besides my uncle, and even then I only remember his playing that one song to me. I don’t know, people were repressed and repressive in both places. Frightened of feelings and reality so they had to crush unreality.

What the music scene was like as a teenager in Houston, I don’t really know. What I heard was... that it was wild, like intense punk shows. But I only saw three shows until I left home: 1) Z-Rocks at some weird strip mall club; 2) A Flock of Seagulls at Astroworld; and 3) The Usuals at The Island.

The Pain Teens, yes, I saw a lot, but by that time I was in my 20s. Bliss Blood and I worked together at the same record store, Record Exchange, which still exists as Sound Exchange.

**MMM:** *What are your newest projects? Have Charalambides been recording, or any shows planned?*

**CC:** No plans for shows. With the way things are, I’m not sure what to do. There’s very limited ways to do things safely. Still thinking it over...

So although I had gotten almost completely out of the recording mindset the year before the virus came, I’m starting to get back into it. Right now, there are two solo vocal things I’m working on – all voice, stark, bare, ugly in a way, I can’t quite explain what they are.

Otherwise, no, Charalambides hasn’t been recording. It’s like we don’t just record to record. There has to be a feeling that there is a reason and opportunity and time all coming together. Maybe when Tom is back in Texas (probably) for good, those three conditions will align.

**MMM:** *Any favorite touring or recording memories? How long have you guys been playing together?*

**CC:** 2021 is our thirty-year anniversary. For our first recording together, I played bongos with butter knives. It was more like a friendship hang-out, which led to the pre-Charalambides group Mutual Admiration Society (yes, bad name!).

Then, while we were driving in the truck, I played Tom a home recording of my playing guitar and singing improvised songs, and I could tell it hit him that I was for real. That was a moment.

And, the last time we played together, Tom said something to me after we played in a way he had never said before, which I appreciated very much. I’m a bit of a private person, so I’ll keep exactly what he said to myself. But it had to do with what I think is the basis for our partnership: An energetic space of

# Learning to Fly Fish: Part XIII

*Ariel Jones, who recently passed away, penned a series of 14 articles in the Montague Reporter in 2005 on her experiences learning to fly fish. This is the 13th in the series. 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

**TURNERS FALLS** – The holiday week and the recent stocking of the Swift River brought out more than the usual number of fly fishers. We were hammering them, and word got out quickly. Between that and the real onslaught of summer, suddenly the parking areas were full all the time. Places I was accustomed to walk to in a leisurely fashion suddenly became points of uncertainty.

And I encountered my first fly fishing thugs.

## Sullen Me-me-me Puppy

I encountered the first of these unpleasant creatures one afternoon while fishing in a section of the Swift I had fished a lot last year but hadn’t yet visited this summer. A very large hatch of sulphurs was over the river, a veritable blizzard of them. I had not seen such a big hatch emerge. The trout were rising; it was wonderful and exciting.

An older man and two young adults, a man and a woman, approached the river. The older guy walked the bank, passed me, and entered the water a decent distance upstream. The younger ones stayed a bit down stream fishing and poking around. After a while, having no success, they decided to join the older man.

The young woman stood on a rock only a few yards away from me, and began casting to exactly the point where I was casting. This is a big no-no. I asked her if she would mind moving down a bit as her lines might get tangled. She looked baffled, but did move away a bit. After a short while her brother (as he seemed to be) stood up in the same spot and began to do the same thing, false casting about 14 times before actually making a cast onto the water. This was annoying enough, but he was also casting directly into the area I was working. I said this to him, inwardly struggling not to get too upset, and he answered, “Yep.”

“Yep?!” He showed no signs of

moving, and I realize this wasn’t a lack of awareness on his part. It was intentional. He had seen me catch a trout at the spot.

It was clear that this trout lout could care less and wasn’t about to move onto his own spot. If I let him he would spoil both my good mood and my fishing. I reeled in my line and left, to go seek another place.

OK, so what was the big deal? I could’ve shrugged it off, but soon found myself facing more aggressive encounters in the normally placid Swift.

## Wannabe Alpha Dog

The first was a guy who asked if there was room for him where I was (correct etiquette). As soon as he came splashing through the river, I realized I should’ve said, “NO!” For he began to cast right into the spot I was working.

I asked if he would mind moving downstream a few yards and he began yelling about how we all paid for our fishing licenses and he could fish where he damn well wanted to. I glanced at old John, a man I often meet fishing at the Y pool, and he was shaking his head.

## Sly Dog

The third encounter of the too-close kind was with a tricky fishing dog. He’d been fishing upstream from me at a respectable distance. Out of the corner of my eye, I noticed he kept watching me and was working his way towards the overhanging brush where I stood casting. That’s OK, except I was by now spooked by the two adults I had already encountered that weekend.

First, he hailed out a mild “hi” and a nod. Whew, this guy wouldn’t be a problem child. When he was very close he asked if he could go

around me. Sure, I said, smiling and glad I was with someone who was so respectful of river space. He passed a short ways behind me, stopped a bit to my left, and proceeded to cast to where I was fishing!

I glanced at him a couple of times to send the please back off signal and he ignored it. Finally I just asked him outright to please stop casting into the water I was fishing. Without a word, he turned, moved a few feet down, and changed his direction. Two more times he repeated the first performance, and each time I had to say something, and he silently turned away.

When I finally caught my biggest rainbow to date – 17 inches – I thought, “Enough! you had a good day of fishing, landed a real beauty, go home.”

## So What is This All About?

Part of the beauty of fly fishing lies in your experience of the other fishers. There is such a thing as fishing etiquette, which makes your precious time on the river pleasant. Your main conflicts have to do with what fly, what presentation, what are the trout eating today?

You do not splash when you can avoid it by simply slowing down and taking smaller steps. You do not bring a cell phone (turned on) or a boom box to the river. Unnecessary shouting, attempting to bully others from spots they arrived at before you did – in short, being a jerk – goes against the entire feel of the sport. So much of the art of fly fishing has to do with being respectful: respect for the river environment, for the clever fish you were trying to catch, and for each other.

Sadly, there are fly fishers out there who seem to be oblivious to the most basic of these simple courtesies. Happily, they are in a small minority.



Fly fishing lures, in a photograph by the author.

acceptance, daring, approval, honesty, dreaming, and the desire for realization too.

**MMM:** *What are you reading these days? Any fave books or authors?*

**CC:** Ah! No, I’m not one for favorites... except, I’d have to say Raymond Chandler.

Right now, the book that I’ve been attempting to read is *The Poetics of Space* by Gaston Bachelard. My focus is sporadic, and that has nothing to do with the qualities of this fabulously exquisite book... It’s just hard to read right now, period. None of the descriptions I’ve seen do this book justice... It makes me think about hiding, because he talks about things like hiding in little out of the way places. Hiding like little animals. We are little animals when we were children.

**MMM:** *Were you ever into hip hop? What about Neil Young, do you have a favorite Neil album?*

**CC:** Yes, and no. I like all music. Probably the music I like the least is heavy metal.

Neil Young, haha... I like it, but compared to a lot of other friends who are fanatics, no. He annoys me sometimes with the really clunky songs like “Drive Back,” which has to be one of my least favorite Neil Young songs.

But there are a few more contenders, like “Like a Hurricane” or “Welfare Mothers” or “Rockin’ in the Free World.” The album I’ve probably listened to the most is *Everybody Knows This Is Nowhere*, which has the most killer guitar tones (plural) and such great playing on “Cowgirl in the Sand” that it almost makes up for the inane lyrics.

Don’t get me wrong, I love his music.

**MMM:** *Are there any artists you have wanted to collaborate with?*

**CC:** No, if by that you mean unrealistic ones, famous ones... but I’d like to get back to playing with the friends I was playing with before COVID and meet some new friends to play music with, if it feels right...

Well, now, I’m going to try to answer it better. I’ve been really lucky with who has been willing to collaborate with me! Beyond fortunate. I don’t know if I can imagine myself playing with a lot of people and adding something to what they’re doing.

But here, actually, I just thought of a fantasy one: Marilyn Monroe. Marilyn and I singing quietly just the two of us, maybe on a back porch at night, two whispered voices in the dark.

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# SCENE REPORT: THE DEERFIELD TRUCK SHOW

Our photo correspondent Joe R. Parzych, of Joe R. Parzych Photography and Etc., was reporting on the scene at the Antique Truck Club's big show on Sunday.

By JOE R. PARZYCH

**DEERFIELD** – The 16<sup>th</sup> annual show of the Antique Truck Club of America's Western Mass chapter was held on Sunday, August 1 at Yankee Candle Corp. headquarters in South Deerfield. Before that it was at two other locations – at Pelican Products in Deerfield, and another location in Amherst.

At the show there was a wide variety of different antique trucks of all shapes, sizes, makes, and models as far as the eye could see, going as far back as the 1920s through the early 1980s. According to the truck club, there were 76 trucks at the show, which also included food, raffle tickets, and much more. In years past there was also heavy construction equipment and tractors, and years ago a big Army truck showed up.

The show began small and grew big. On a local level it was previously mentioned in other places, but the *Montague Reporter* has run articles because a lot of people from Franklin County show up with their trucks, including local business owners from towns such as Gill, Greenfield, Montague, and Northfield. There are also non-local business owners, and others with trucks who live and travel from other counties and states to this event.

The well-known local artist Bryant Stewart displayed his paintings of trucks at the show. Some of his work has been displayed at the Greenfield Gallery, and a number of interesting write-ups on him have been in local publications. He was a guest speaker once at the Historical Society in Greenfield, where the late local historian Peter Miller introduced him and his artwork.

Going back to the truck show, there was a black 1979-make Peterbilt "Rat Rod" owned by Freddie and Ron from Cappello Heavy Transport of Shrewsbury, MA.

One year past, back in 2019,

they had a display of pieces of heavy equipment, like a Warner & Swasey Hopto backhoe excavator mounted behind the cab of a truck. Some were hydraulic or cable-driven. Some did not have cabs in the back, but some had two of them – one in the front for the operator of the shovel for digging, and the other cab for the truck driver.

Some of these trucks were used after the troops came home from World War II and started families. During the Baby Boomer generation, many used the GI Bill to go to trade school to become engineers or heavy equipment operators, and there were many construction projects in the United States.

Some truck owners at the show recalled the old days working on big projects such as Route 91, or bridges just like the General Pierce Bridge. People had such a great time at the show.

Joe R. Parzych grew up in Gill, and lives in Greenfield.

Top right: The event brought a crowd of antique truck enthusiasts from far and wide.

Bottom right: A 1979 "rat rod" Peterbilt from Cappello Heavy Transport of Shrewsbury.

Left: Stylistic flair.



The Spinner statue has been stripped of layers of black paint, revealing details of her construction.

## SPINNER from page B1

mechanical stripping with wire brushes, and picking and scraping.”

At one point, the wire brushing made the cast iron shine like silver, and Nelson considered making the whole thing bright and shiny. “I thought, wouldn’t it be neat if I could capture that, but it was just far too difficult. Every day there’s moisture in the air, and I would come back the next day and – oh shit – I don’t think it’s going this way,” he laughed.

With the paint removed, the parting lines of the molding process were revealed, as well as welded joints and areas where holes in the casting were brazed. Nelson felt that to cover these “truths” up again would in some way be analogous to covering up the truth of what he called “sweat camps” in the mills where the women worked.

“I want it to show its truth, its evolution. And there’s the other reflection of, this is more of what I want Turners to look like. The reality of it, of not covering it up, of this being who we really are,” he explained.

A homemade patina was applied by Nelson, one that still preserves the honesty of welded seams, and the brazed repairs still stand out against the dark bronze finish that he rubbed into the iron. On top of the patina he has applied four or five layers of a high-performance, satin-finish clear coat lacquer called Permalac.

Will there also be a restored drop spindle and wire thread? According to old records found at town hall, the original statue did have an eighth-inch wire traveling from the distaff to her hand and down to a spindle at her foot, which has gone missing over the years. One idea discussed between Nelson and RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto was to have a contest every year where different artists would make a unique spindle, and then auction off the object for a fundraiser after it was displayed with the statue for a

certain amount of time.


Would something that was not bolted down manage to not disappear on the Avenue? After all, the squirrels can be quite aggressive about non-planter items.

A date for the park reopening and the ceremonious unveiling of the restored Spinner have not been finalized, according to both LoManto and Nelson. Keep your eye on our publication for news of such a grand celebration!



A description of the Spinner statue from Robinson Ironworks was found in records from 1985 at town hall: “Created by Salin in the 19th century, this charming statue with its typical French style and inherent grace is a symbol of woman’s work. The softness of her gown and the position of her arms accentuate her elegance. Sculptor: Leon Cugnot 1873.”

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BOOK REVIEW

Richie Davis, *Good Will & Ice Cream*  
(Haley’s, Athol, MA 2021)

By DONNA PETERSEN

**MONTAGUE** – After offering up *Inner Landscapes* in 2020, long-time *Greenfield Recorder* journalist Richie Davis, now retired, is back with a new book full of “More True Tales from Extraordinary Lives.” *Good Will & Ice Cream* contains stories from Richie’s time at the *Recorder* and spans almost forty years, from 1980 up to 2019.

The twenty tales range from the challenges of local family orchards and dairy farming, to interviews with a national musical figure and a renowned documentary filmmaker with local roots, to people looking to encourage peace and justice, and finally to an ice cream odyssey through Franklin County.

Richie’s earlier book, *Inner Landscapes*, was a kind of tribute to the local exceptional people in the articles and revealed the writer’s fondness and belief in the area’s special sense of place as expressed through the lives lived by those folks. (See the review in our October 8, 2020 issue in the online archive at [www.montaguereporter.org](http://www.montaguereporter.org).)

This new book follows that path, but also casts a slightly wider net covering people visiting or known in the Valley and western Massachusetts region. Six stories are related to music in some way. I had never heard of David Amram, but the 2009 story talks about his collaborations with primarily Woody Guthrie, but also Leonard Bernstein, Dizzy Gillespie, Odetta, and a list of others. Amram’s work has been mostly orchestral and chamber music and film scores. Richie describes him as “like Guthrie... a boundless, wide-eyed pied piper defying easy categorization.”

In “We Dance Up the Sun,” the local Morris dancing scene involves kids in dance groups such as the Johnny Jump Ups and the Morning Glory Girls’ Garland, hopefully keeping these traditional dances alive in the most “Morrised” area in the country.

There is a 1980 interview with the much-missed NPR Morning Pro Musica radio host Robert J. Lurtsema, who was the first voice many people heard in the morning along with the bird songs back in the 1970s and ‘80s.

Reading the interview with Paul Winter, “Make Room for the Immensities,” I am drawn back into the music of the Paul Winter Consort from the late 1960s until the late 1980s. Wolves! Whales!

And there is a loving 2019 interview with local fiddler and contra dance “Guiding Star” David Kaynor as ALS disease limited his playing and speaking. The disease eventually claimed Kaynor’s life earlier this year.

A story of special interest for those in Montague – and of a certain age – is the interview with former members of the Montague Farm commune that started in 1968 as a breakaway element of the alternative Liberation News Service. The Farm became a community of people active in anti-nuke efforts, such as Sam Lovejoy’s taking down of the weather data towers for proposed nuclear reactors in the Montague Plains, and in cultivating organic agriculture on the farm’s fields.

There are stories about visits to the Auschwitz death camp by people needing to find their own place and resolution with what happened there. And there is the story of Paula Green with her efforts at conflict transformation, and peace and justice making. There are stories of reconciliation around the world and here in the Valley with Leverett’s Hands Across the Hills engagement with folks in Letcher County, Kentucky. And three stories revisit World

War II events that had local ties.

Richie also visits with Hampshire College grad Ken Burns of the baseball, jazz, and national parks documentary fame in his Walpole, New Hampshire office. Burns offers his thoughts on the subjects of his films and their meaning in the larger context of American culture and life.

There are a number of stories on the challenges facing farmers, such as a farmer trying to continue a family orchard, and a family trying to establish a successful dairy farm. Several years ago Richie pressed into my hands the documentary *Root Hog or Die* by Rawn Fulton about the traditional Yankee hill farms whose spirit still echoes in the area. Richie interviewed the filmmaker back in 2012 and states in the book he feels it should be required viewing for anyone who wants to appreciate that hard scrabble, self-reliant culture. Another documentary he recommends that illustrates a sense of place or “thereness” of an area is *The Old Quabbin Valley*, about the towns that were flooded back in the 1930s to create the Quabbin Reservoir.

The final story is the ice cream tale! Richie enlisted a 13-year-old boy to visit many of the ice cream meccas in Franklin County and find the best ice cream. This very loquacious kid and Richie crossed the county tasting and critiquing soft and hard serve ice cream – a hard job but somebody had to do it – and Richie had to write about it. Richie remarked that Ethan, the 13-year-old ice cream judge of the ice cream odyssey, was “really funny” and that “when he was born he came out talking.”

Whether you are a Franklin



Writers never really retire: Richie Davis, in a recent self-portrait.

County old timer or a relative newbie, I would recommend a read of *Good Will & Ice Cream*. If you have been around a while and are of a certain age, the stories will evoke memories or feelings of the past. And if you are relatively new to the area, you might get a better understanding about who and what shaped our communities, and how the echoes from those people and events still resonate and influence us today.

After reading these tales, I found I wanted to get some old Paul Winter Consort music and visit the Deerfield *stupa* at Sonam’s Tibetan Plaza dedicated to “Tiny” Stacy, a former addict from Holden, MA who ended up as a bodyguard and trusted friend of the Dalai Lama. I bet readers will find their own curiosity and interest sparked in this book.

I briefly chatted with Richie about the book, the people he met with and their stories. As with his first book, he stressed how he values the Valley and its environs and people who pursue their values through their work and creativity. He spoke of David Kaynor and how he tried to get an interview. When he finally did, he said, it was “very moving... his values spoke to me and David was so inclusive and welcoming.”

I said something to Richie about how years ago I read that some claimed the Valley area had special energy “ley lines” that brought a certain spirit to the region. We laughed because he had read that

the Franklin MA, Windham VT, and Cumberland NH counties had a special energy convergence drawing certain people and activities there. Maybe! – who knows?

The title of the book came from the ice cream visit to the Ashfield Hardware Store where co-owner Laura Bessette said, referring to the low cost of kid-sized ice cream cones, “We wanted the spirit of good will and ice cream to prevail.”

Richie has been holding readings and ice cream socials to promote the book. You can attend a reading at the Shelburne Falls library on Friday, August 20 at 6:30 p.m., or go to an ice cream social at the Ashfield library on August 28 at 1 p.m. And there may be an event outside the Common Hall in Montague Center in the future.

You can find *Good Will & Ice Cream* at Boswell’s Books and Sawyer News in Shelburne Falls, World Eye Books in Greenfield, Broadside Books in Northampton, Amherst Books, and the Montague Bookmill. And you can get books and info at Richie’s website: [richiedavis.net](http://richiedavis.net).

As for Richie, he is taking time to do some pastel drawings, and learn some keyboard; he finds the book writing much harder than he thought it would be – the selection and getting photo permissions and the publicity are time-consuming and challenging. He has worked a bit on a novel, so maybe someday... I think he will always find a way to write about the things that he finds important.




Local historian Ed Gregory has been keeping close tabs on the work at Spinner Park. “The tented work area houses earthen-colored brick embellishments being placed on the granite wall frameworks,” Ed writes. “The recent rains have made it necessary for the workers to lay the brick under protective tenting.”

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# The Children's Page

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## 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.

Shutesbury Athletic Club, Shutesbury: *The Willies*. 7 p.m.

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Ruby Lou, Mavis the Dog, Karlo Rueby, LUCY*. \$. 10 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. (See article, page A1.)

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Beit Ahavah, Northampton: *Anbessa Orchestra*. \$. 6 p.m.

## SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

John Doe Jr. Records, Green-

field: *Groundskeeper, Catsy, JJ Slater*. Free. 2 p.m.

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.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11

Forbes Library Lawn, Northampton: *Diana Davies, Perennial*. Flywheel production. Free. 6 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

Montague Village Store, Montague Center: *Tom Carroll and Craig Cornett*. 5 p.m.

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Small Change, Charlie Conant and Friends*. 6 p.m.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Danny Hescocock*. 7 p.m.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

Leverett Village Co-op: *Little*

*House Blues*. 12 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Ragged Blue*. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Play, *An Intervention*. MAD House and Eggtooth Productions. \$. 8 p.m.

Brewbakers, Keene, NH: *Chris Brokaw, Rick Rude*. \$. 8 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.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Play, *An Intervention*. MAD House and Eggtooth Productions. \$. 8 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 19

Energy Park, Greenfield: *Jennie McAvoy, Russ Thomas*. 6 p.m.

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 20

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Diana Jones*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Barbès in the Woods*

Pre-Party with *Bosq*. Free. All ages. Tacos. Fashion show at 8 p.m., DJ at 9 p.m.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 21

Center Street, Montague Center: **Barbès in the Woods** global music festival feat. *Liraz, Son Rompe Pera, Kaleta & Super Yamba, Los Cumpleanos, Bigyuki, Arooj Aftab*, and more. \$. **Half-price tickets for Montague residents are available at the Village Store.** See [barbesinthewoods.com](http://barbesinthewoods.com) for more information. 3 p.m.

Palladium Outdoors, Worcester: *Dropkick Murphys, Rancid*. (Yah dude.) \$. 6:45 p.m.

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.

## WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25

Forbes Library Lawn, Northampton: *Bunnies, La Neve*. Flywheel production. Free. 6 p.m.

## THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Pamela Means & the Reparations, The Soul Magnets*. \$. 5 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Sun Parade, Gabriel Bernini, The Subletters*. Kickoff party for Green River Fest. \$. 8 p.m.

## FRI-SUN, AUGUST 27-29

Franklin County Fairgrounds: Green River Festival feat. *Jon Batiste, Shakey Graves, Ani DiFranco, Drive-By Truckers, Valerie June, Deer Tick, Antibalas*, and many more. \$. See [greenriverfestival.com](http://greenriverfestival.com) for information.

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 28

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film, *Metropolis* (Fritz Lang, 1927), with live Estey pipe organ accompaniment by *Ben Model*. \$. 8 p.m.



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RIVERBOAT DISPATCH

# Ghosts of the Polish Navy Yard

By GALEN HUCKINS

**TURNERS FALLS** – While the Channel Princess riverboat is far more accustomed to shady coves and quiet bayous, sometimes it does venture to the outskirts of an urban metropolis. Our journeys around the country have often had us tied up to some abandoned wharf at the industrial edge of cities like Memphis, New Orleans, Savannah and New York. This last weekend was just such an excursion when our local nautically themed radio station, 93.9 The River, hosted a celebration of their 40th year as an open air concert at Unity Park.

With the sounds of local bands echoing across Barton Cove, we pull up beside the old bridge abutment and drop our anchor safely out of the current. Stepping to shore on some partially submerged rocks, for a moment we are recreating an old scene captured in the Montague Historical Society's mini-documentary published this year titled *Fourth of July at Turners Falls – 1951*. This video collects home movie recordings from the eponymous holiday, and captures what this very stretch of river looked like.

The riverfront was teeming with families picnicking on the shore, small improvised craft being pulled to the water's edge, and a barge floating out in the river with a live band playing music. Behind them all was the makeshift scaffolding of dozens of home-built docks between the bridge and the entrance to the canal. This was then known as the "Polish Navy Yard," a small urban waterfront built by and for town residents, where locals could build a dock and tie up their boats over the summer.

Although such a tangle of docks and piers is unlikely to spring up anytime soon, the town is considering a plan to put in a small dock for a "car-top boat put-in" at Unity Park. This would give paddlers a place to start or end their trips upriver and around the cove; many of the places to put in are currently difficult to get to and/or very crowded.

For now, we'll have to make do hopping to shore to hear the concert using the rocks and broken concrete blocks that could be fossils of Montague's homegrown waterfront.

You can follow the riverboat and its travels at [www.riversignal.com](http://www.riversignal.com).



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