

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 19 – NO. 40

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 16, 2021

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Montague Still Holds Back On Mask Mandate

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard and board of health decided Monday not to issue a new mask mandate for public indoor spaces including restaurants, bars, or bookstores, despite the rise in COVID-19 cases locally and statewide due to the “Delta variant” of the coronavirus. No formal vote on the issue was taken.

Two weeks ago the regional Co-operative Public Health Service, a coalition of public health officials that provides services to smaller towns in Franklin County, endorsed such a mandate in response to the variant. A number of larger cities in the eastern part of the state, including Boston, have adopted the mandate, and two cities in the region, Amherst and Northampton, implemented mask policies in August.

The Greenfield board of health approved a mask order on Monday, and on Tuesday morning mayor Roxanne Wedegartner issued an executive order stating that “all persons should wear a face covering to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in all public indoor spaces and private indoor spaces that are open to the public...” Eight exceptions were made, including while eating and for those working in a room or office not open to visitors.

Montague is not the only Franklin County town that has not yet re-implemented a mask mandate for non-public buildings. Sunderland has mandated masks in town buildings only, while Deerfield has issued no mandate as of press time.

At Monday’s meeting in Montague, town administrator Steve

see MONTAGUE page A7

LEVERETT CON COM

Leverett Kicks Pond Decision Down the Road

By SARAH ROBERTSON

LEVERETT – For two months, public conservation commission hearings about two weed management plans proposed by the Friends of Leverett Pond (FLP) have been postponed by technical difficulties, scheduling issues, or short staffing. An ongoing debate over the use of herbicides and hydro-raking to deal with invasive species and “nuisance” vegetation on Leverett Pond idled throughout the summer as the aquatic life grew unencumbered.

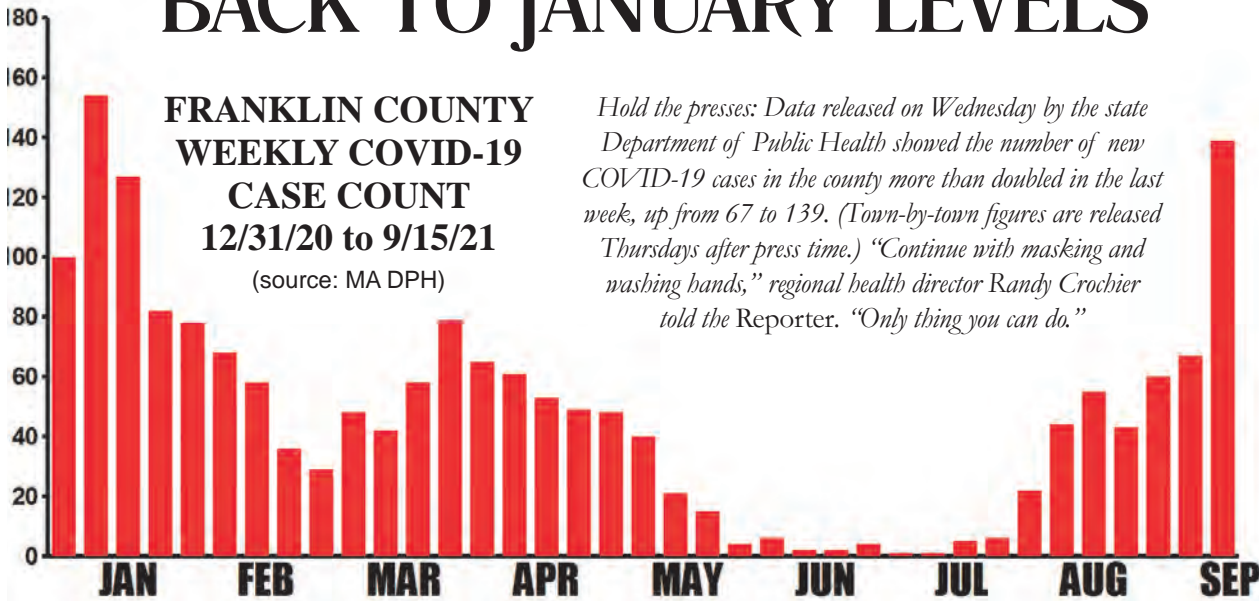
A hearing scheduled for Monday, at which a representative from SWCA Environmental Consultants was expected to present findings from studies conducted over the summer, was again delayed due to a death in the family of the consultant. The FLP hired the consultant to perform a habitat assessment of the pond, which is not yet complete.

FLP vice president Mitchell Mulholland says that an invasive aquatic weed called milfoil is the group’s primary concern, and that it is spreading rapidly in the public boat access area on the pond’s southern end. On July 24 members

see LEVERETT page A6

BACK TO JANUARY LEVELS

**FRANKLIN COUNTY
WEEKLY COVID-19
CASE COUNT
12/31/20 to 9/15/21**
(source: MA DPH)



Hold the presses: Data released on Wednesday by the state Department of Public Health showed the number of new COVID-19 cases in the county more than doubled in the last week, up from 67 to 139. (Town-by-town figures are released Thursdays after press time.) “Continue with masking and washing hands,” regional health director Randy Crochier told the Reporter. “Only thing you can do.”

RUMOR PATROL

Montague Center Library: Not for Sale, For Now

By JEFF SINGLETON

Despite rumors to the contrary, there is no current plan to sell the building in Montague Center housing the village branch of the town library system, still known by some as the “old Town Hall.” This was confirmed by town administrator Steve Ellis, several members of the town’s capital improvements committee, and the chair of the library trustees.

“Absolutely not,” said Ellis when asked if there was a plan in the works to sell the building. He said the selectboard has not discussed or taken a position on the branch libraries in Montague Center and Millers Falls during his tenure. He suggested that the library trustees “would need to work through their capital program” first before making a decision on the issue, and that these would then be considered in the context of “all the other old town buildings with capital needs.”

Tricia Perham, the current chair of the library trustees, said that there is “no plan” to consolidate the libraries, “as far as I know.” She said that the trustees’ almost exclusive focus in the past month has been on hiring a new director to replace Linda Hickman, and that they have not had time to discuss an evaluation of the Montague Center building received in August.

Perham also said the issue might not come up until



MIKE JACKSON PHOTO

At the request of readers, the Reporter investigates the rumor that town officials intend to shut down the branch library.

the town decides to build a new library or expand the current Carnegie Library in Turners Falls, which could be as much as a decade in the future.

Greg Garrison, chair of the capital improvements

see LIBRARY page A6

Eviction Filings Begin to Accelerate

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – Last week the managers of Greenfield Gardens, an affordable housing complex in Greenfield, filed 24 eviction cases against their tenants in one day, according to records reviewed by the Reporter. The nonprofit low-income housing provider, run by Mount Holyoke Management LLC, now leads the county with 35 eviction cases filed since the statewide housing court freeze was lifted almost one year ago.

The Greenfield Garden bulk fil-

ing comes amid what appears to be a surge of eviction filings after the federal eviction moratorium was struck down by the US Supreme Court on August 26. The Reporter has been tracking eviction actions across Franklin County since the state housing court freeze ended last October.

An average of 21.2 “summary processes” – initial housing court summons issued to tenants – were filed each month between November and August in Franklin County. During the first 13 days of September, property owners have filed

42 summary processes, and courts have ordered two evictions.

About 44% of eviction cases in the county have been initiated by large institutional property managers, including nonprofits and municipal and regional housing authorities which provide housing to low-income residents.

The 35 apartment units that have received summonses thus far at Greenfield Gardens represent 17% of the 202 units in the complex. For comparison, the company sent 17 court summonses for nonpayment

see EVICTION page A4

Village Store Announces A “Challenge” Donation; Readers Organize Tag Sale

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CENTER – “The Montague Reporter is a sheer expression of the resourcefulness of our community: the fact that it exists, the fact that it has gone on for so long, the fact that it is supported by subscribers in a landscape where local news has gone away,” Kathy Lynch tells me as we sit on the porch of the Montague Village Store. “And it makes Montague so unique – why, if you can, would you not support it?”

Lynch’s Village Store has pledged \$500 to our nonprofit newspaper this fall, and she plans to call on others – by name, if need be – to join her.

“I’m going to be reaching out to local landowners and

see CHALLENGE page A2



Montague Village Store owner Kathy Lynch calls on the town’s business community to support this newspaper!

GILL SELECTBOARD

Gill Balks at Hydro Talks’ Hush Clause

By JERRI HIGGINS

Gill’s selectboard met Monday evening and discussed what they saw as a conflict between state open meeting laws and a confidentiality requirement made by FirstLight Power at its recreational settlement talks. A presentation by Beth Giannini of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments on the state’s Complete Streets program was also on the evening’s agenda.

FirstLight has submitted an application to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for new 30- to 50-year operating licenses at its Northfield Mountain pumped-storage station and the dam, canal, and power stations at Turners Falls. FERC has encouraged FirstLight Power to negotiate with “stakeholders,” though the talks are not an official part of the relicensing process.

According to town administrator Ray Purington, FirstLight believed these talks broke down in 2017 because “they covered too much,” and the company is now restarting them in “manageable subsets,” starting with negotiations over what investments in public recreation the company should make under the licenses.

Purington attended a “virtual settlement meeting” on September 10.

see GILL page A4

ERVING SELECTBOARD

Erving Must Limit Bridge, Reroute Trucks

By KATIE NOLAN

A long-anticipated letter from the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT), dated August 30 and received last week, rated the Church Street bridge in Erving Center at a 3-ton capacity and required the town to install a barrier reducing the bridge to one lane.

The selectboard had been expecting official notice about the bridge since February, when a MassDOT district engineer told highway superintendent Glenn McCrory that the bridge is in poor condition and must be closed or made one-lane. At Monday’s selectboard meeting, chair Jacob Smith observed that MassDOT took nine months to send official notice to the town, but gave the town only 30 days to take action.

Town administrator Bryan Smith reported that the town’s plow trucks, school buses, and fire trucks are over the 3-ton limit. McCrory added that some pickup trucks weigh more than 3 tons.

The board, McCrory, local citizens, and Weston & Sampson engineers Lisa Slonus and Peter Grandy spent much of Monday’s two-and-a-half-hour meeting discussing the bridge and traffic patterns on Church and North streets.

Slonus presented four options:

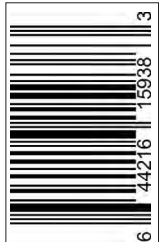
see ERVING page A5

Don’t Give In To Despair.. We Have The Tools To Beat This!

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

Editorial Group

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Chris Sawyer-Lauçanno, *Poetry Page*
Victoria Maillo, *Spanish Page*
Beverly Ketch, *Children's Page*
Lisa McLoughlin, *Science Page*
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Christopher Carmody, *Layout Assistant*
Sarah Brown-Anson, *Podcast Producer*

Technical Administration

About Face Computing

Founded by
Arthur Evans Harry Brandt David Detmold
August 2002

CHALLENGE from page A1

developers who I know have a history and a solid foundation in Montague, who I also think would rise to that challenge,” she explains, “because they love our community, and it wouldn’t be such a hardship to separate them from some cash to support something greater than ourselves, and greater than our businesses.”

The Village Store pledge will support the newspaper’s Redaction Project, a one-time effort to remove the names of all arrestees from the police logs in our digital archive. Once this labor-intensive task is complete, we will allow our entire 19-year archive to appear in online searches, a move we hope will provide a major boost to our mission to serve as a public resource.

Fundraising will then continue into the fall and winter.

“I do these things because I feel invested in the place I live,” adds Lynch, whose family has owned the store since the mid-1980s. “I think it’s our responsibility to make sure it’s sustainable, and that it keeps going – and that means people who work deserve a living wage.”

Lynch’s “challenge” donation is not the only spontaneous effort underway to support our operations. This weekend Mary Feeney, a reader on Central Street, has organized a tag sale to benefit the paper, which has spread to several locations.

The fundraiser tag sales will take place at 9 a.m. this Saturday, September 18 (with Sunday as a rain date) at 25 Central Street, 35 Central Street, and 161 Avenue A

in Turners Falls. Other nearby locations may join; look for the signs.

As a sneak preview, Feeney says her own household is parting with children’s literature posters, a Mongoose mountain bike, a “really nice rug” donated by a supporter in Sunderland, vintage Czechoslovakian china, women’s skates, an antique sewing machine, books, buttons, upholstery fabric, and “other vintage and curious things.”

One location will feature a bake sale. Masks are required for sales, and change will be made in whole-dollar increments – items will be priced for a fundraiser, Feeney says, so no haggling!

“This idea came about because we spent the pandemic in the house, looking, like a lot of people, at our ‘stuff.’ Now we are ready to part with some of it,” Feeney wrote to her neighbors, inviting them to join the sale.

“We thought proceeds going to Montague’s local independent newspaper was a perfect fit. Being a little village in a pocket of a state (at the edge of another state) with its own newspaper – and a varied newspaper – is pretty incredible. It takes guts to run it, and write for it.”

Founded in 2002, the *Montague Reporter* is a non-profit weekly newspaper covering the towns of Montague, Gill, Erving, Wendell, and Erving. A substantial amount of its labor is volunteered.

Fundraising for the Redaction Project, the newspaper’s most immediate priority, continues online at www.gofundme.com/help-the-montague-reporter-redact-names.



Turners Falls resident poet, writer, artist, and activist Edite Cunha screams with laughter after sewing her embroidery thread to her thumb during a monthly Art Sunday gathering of local women artists.

Letters to the Editors

Boody for Selectboard

Dear Montague Voters,

I am writing to advocate for Joanna Mae Boody for Selectboard.

Many may not know Joanna as well as some other candidates on the ballot, as she has not held a public position in this town until recently. Often times, when voting, we are drawn towards those we know; there is a sense of safety with familiarity. I challenge the voters of Montague to think critically about the state of the world, and the role we can play on a hyper-local level.

Joanna Boody stands for uplifting the community, which means supporting the needs of *everyone*. She is more than qualified for this role, with extensive administrative experience, ethics, data analysis, and the educative communications skills required for teaching. She has experience working with families and

schools, and the logistical sensibilities that come with planning large-scale events.

On top of her undeniable qualifications, Joanna Boody is a candidate who provides the town of Montague with the opportunity to elect a woman to a central leadership role. This town, like so many, is severely lacking in its diversity of whose voices are represented at the decision-making table. It is the year 2021. Isn’t it time that someone who brings some different skills, experience and perspective, has a seat at the table?

Vote Joanna Boody.

Ian Tapscott
Turners Falls

Community Can Foster Writers

Back on May 6 my article titled “History in the Making as Crew Starts on Gen. Pierce” ran on front page of the *Montague Reporter*. In August I “recycled” the story into a longer version including additional photographs, and submitted it to a national publication called *Construction Equipment Guide* out of Washington, PA.

It was a roll of the dice. The editor ran the piece, titled “Northern Construction Restores General Pierce Bridge,” in both the online version and the New England hard print edition of the magazine.

A while back I mentioned in an interview with Sarah Brown-Anson on the Montague Reporter Podcast about doing a story and capturing photos behind the scenes at the bridge project, and including local history on bridges. I want to mention that in another interesting episode, Josh Shanley discussed the bridges that were washed out at that lo-

cation in 1938. I want to get a copy of his book at some point.

It’s rare for a local photojournalist, or any writer, to write for a local weekly newspaper and at the same time pitch it to a national publication. It’s usually because you can hardly tell what day or week a publication will be printed and ready to be delivered to people’s doors, because they have different deadlines.

I learned this in my teenage years as an apprentice under my late grandfather, going on reporting assignments with the former *Greenfield Town Crier* and the *Montague Reporter* in the early 2000s.

At that time I met David Detmold, former editor and founder of the *MR*. You can learn a great deal from him. He gives advice and tips on reporting. I especially recall the time he set up his table at the Gill Craft Fair in the early days, looking and searching for volun-

teers, writers, etc.

Our community is very proud to have a community paper. I want to say thank you and very special thanks to my colleagues, writers, contributors, etc., including David Detmold, Mike Jackson, Ed Gregory, and others, who have encouraged me to keep on writing and take photos, taking me under your wings after my grandfather passed away back in 2017.

I encourage and inspire junior high school and high school age students to write for the *MR*. You never know where it will lead.

It’s always positive to get feedback and advice from others when it comes to writing. Lots of great writers got rejected before. They try and try again. You can learn something working in a team.

Joe R. Parzych
Greenfield

Mrs. Pickles Safe & Sound

We want to extend a huge thank you to the residents of Montague for their assistance in locating the Shiba Inu, Mrs. Pickles, over the three days of this past weekend (September 11 to 13) in Montague Center and the Taylor Hill Road area!

The residents of Montague were so caring, kind and helpful; many of them taking time out of their days to search through the roads, woods, and fields in hopes of clues to her whereabouts.

She was ultimately located from a tip from a resident! We found her in the woods off of Old Sunderland Road, with her harness caught in barbed wire. Besides being scared and hungry, she was totally fine.

We wish we could thank you each personally, and hope this message gets to you. Again, thank you!

Hanna, Dustin – and Mrs. Pickles!
Montague Center

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Compiled by TROUBLE MANDESON

Are you facing eviction, or struggling to pay rent, since the CDC's federal eviction moratorium ended? For those in need, financial assistance is available by calling (413) 863-9781 or by visiting www.fcrhra.org.

The film version of *David Byrne's American Utopia*, directed by Spike Lee, shows for two nights only at the Amherst Cinema. This "ground-breaking cinematic event" includes an introduction by Byrne and an exclusive conversation between the musician and the director. Tickets are available for the 7 p.m. screening this Thursday, September 16 at www.amherstcinema.org.

Belinda Lyons Zucker is the featured artist at Sawmill River Arts Gallery in Montague Center from September 17 through October 31. Zucker's special exhibit, *Spirits of Black Women*, highlights her skill and imagination through figures formed with cloth and clay. Her imagery celebrates her African ancestry and Black experience. Gallery hours are Thursdays through Mondays, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at the Book Mill, 440 Greenfield Road, Montague.

Local journalist and editor Richie Davis has published his latest collection of stories, *Good Will & Ice Cream: True Tales from Western Massachusetts*. The Slate Memorial Library and Upinngil Farm are co-hosting an **ice cream social, book signing, and reading** this Saturday, September 18 at 10 a.m., at Upinngil Farm, 411 Main Road in Gill.

The 45th Annual **Old Deerfield Fall Arts & Crafts Festival** features 100 artisans, specialty food, and a family crafts table with free shuttle buses and parking available along Routes 5 & 10 at the Yankee Candle Corporate Headquarters. Masks are required on the bus, and likely at the fair. Adult admission is \$5 in honor of the 45th anniversary;

children under 12 are free.

The festival is open this Saturday, September 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, September 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Memorial Hall Museum, 8 Memorial Street, Deerfield. Information and a list of vendors can be found at www.deerfield-craft.org.

The North Quabbin Garlic & Arts Festival is sponsoring a **Pop-up Marketplace** in lieu of their annual festival. The event, with local artists, open mic, food, and community is at the same location at Forster Farm, 60 Chestnut Hill Road in Orange this Saturday, September 18 from 12 to 5 p.m. Additional information on the organization, and their reasons for this year's decision, can be found at garlicandarts.org.

The Lake Pleasant community will formally thank its own residents this Saturday for their physical help, and near-and-far donors for their financial assistance, which has enabled restoration of the hallmark Bridge of Names, severely damaged in a windstorm last October and closed for almost eight months.

The **Bridge Bash**, sponsored by the Lake Pleasant Village Association, will be based at the Minnie E. Rutter Memorial Park in "downtown" Lake Pleasant from 1 to 4 p.m. Festivities include a live DJ, raffles, games, refreshments, and guided tours.

The event is free and open to the public. In the event of rain, it will be held this Sunday.

Dedicated to ending homelessness through concerts and music festivals, *One Roof: A Concert to Benefit the Homeless* will be held at the Three County Fair in Northampton this Saturday, September 18 from 1 to 10 p.m. There will be local food vendors, beer and wine, craft vendors, additional entertainers, merchandise, and more.

See www.onerooffestival.org for the full lineup and information about tickets, which are \$37.50 general admission, and \$7.50 for kids 12 and under.

There will be a **Block Party at Unity Park** in Turners Falls with a DJ set, local art vendors, and vintage motorcycles at Nova Motorcycles. Food and drink will be available from Santo Taco, Hattapon's Thai Kitchen, Nice Snack Parlor, and Pioneer Valley Brewery. The event is free this Saturday, September 18 from 4 to 8 p.m.

Join Kim Noyes, education coordinator at Firstlight's Northfield Mountain Recreation and Environmental Center, for a **free, leisurely guided paddle around Barton Cove**. Appropriate for beginner and experienced paddlers. Single kayaks are available to rent for \$27.49, including tax and fees. Masks are required while onshore.

The event is this Saturday, September 18 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Pre-registration is required as group size is strictly limited; email northfield@firstlightpower.com and include name, number of people, your phone number, and the number of boat rentals needed.

Apex Orchard's 5th Annual Tractor Show features **antique and unique tractors** from near and far, tractor-drawn trailer rides, and apple picking. The free event begins at 9 a.m. on Sunday, September 19 at 225 Peckville Road in Shelburne.

The Great Falls Apple Corps will be hosting a morning of **apple picking** this Sunday, September 19, in Montague Center at 10 a.m. Email greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com for the address.

The **Erving Fall Festival**, a free event with games, food, a bouncy house, climbing walls, and trampolines, takes place this Sunday, September 19, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Veterans Memorial Field, Moore Street, Erving. Email recreation@erving-ma.gov for more information.

Signature Sounds and Mass Audubon announce the third annual **Arcadia Folk Festival**, celebrating 75 years of the Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary with headliner Suzanne Vega. This is a green event with environmental education activities, food vendors, and craft vendors featuring up-cycled and environmentally friendly art.

The festival is Sunday, September 19 at 127 Combs Road, Easthampton. The ticket price is

\$60 with free admission to kids under ten. Visit www.arcadiafolkfest.com for information and tickets.

The Gill Tavern hosts a live book reading next week for *More Than Friends, Shaped by Flower Power: Women's Stories from Brotherhood of the Spirit*. Join co-authors and members to read and discuss their new book about the 1970s counter-culture **Renaissance Community**.

The event is at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, at the Gill Tavern, 326 Main Road in Gill with free refreshments and a cash bar. Masks are mandatory. Copies of the book can be purchased at the reading for \$21.25, cash or check.

The Franklin County Solid Waste District's **Annual Hazardous Waste Collection Day** is next Saturday, September 25. Disposal is free to most residents and pre-registration by September 17 is required to receive an assigned appointment. Businesses must pay for disposal costs and should call (413) 772-2438 to register. Collection sites are located on the GCC main campus and at the Orange transfer station. Visit www.franklincountywastedistrict.org/hazwasteday.html to register and find a list of acceptable items.

Mike's Maze at Warner Farm is open now through November 7. This year's theme is "Imagine." In addition to enjoying this 20-year tradition, tokens can be purchased for the potato cannons, pedal carts, rolling tubes, and pony rides, with food available at the Corn Café. Group discounts, school trips, birthday parties, and special events are welcome.

The maze is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays. Admission ranges from \$10 to \$16, with children under 4 free. Purchase tickets online at www.mikesmaze.com or at the admission booth, 23 South Main Street, Sunderland.

FRCOG and Senator Comerford are working to increase transportation options in Franklin County and are currently **seeking Lyft drivers for a rideshare pilot program**. Visit driveliftfranklincounty.splashthat.com or email drivefranklincounty@lyft.com.

The 2021 **Mutton & Mead Medieval Festival** has been postponed until Summer 2022. To participate or learn more, contact them at www.muttonandmead.org. The **Ashfield Fall Festival** has also been canceled due to safety concerns. Visit www.ashfieldfallfestival.org for news on the 2022 event.

The Center for New Americans offers online and in-person education and resources to new immigrants, including **free English classes for adults** age 16 and older. Visit www.cnam.org for information on classes and volunteer opportunities.

It's not too late to earn your high school diploma or prepare yourself for college with support from The Literacy Project. Fall enrollment is on now and new students start each month for online and in-person options at several locations in Franklin County. Visit www.literacyproject.org.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

Mesa Verde

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On Tuesday Republic Services delivered a \$5,500 donation to Montague's RiverCulture program, per the town's contract with the company for curbside trash hauling. From left to right, town administrator Steve Ellis, highway superintendent Tom Bergeron, Republic worker Joey Rivera, RiverCulture director Suzanne Lomanto, Republic managers Dan Higgins and Brian Van Dam, and Dustin Putnam and Amias Callender all participated in the annual photographic opportunity.

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He reported that a representative of another town asked how they could participate and update that town's boards or committees about the talks, and still abide by FirstLight's confidentiality ground rule. State law does not appear to allow officials to discuss such negotiations in executive session.

"When I talked to our town counsel, she looked at [the confidentiality rules], and she kind of agreed," Purington said. He added that he did not recall how the confidentiality agreement was handled by Gill during the earlier round of talks, or whether town counsel had been consulted.

FirstLight agreed to open last week's meeting as a "public conversation," said Purington, to keep stakeholder towns from violating open meeting laws, but the company said that further meetings would require confidentiality.

Selectboard chair Greg Snedeker said that he understood "compromises are going to be made, and those have real monetary impacts" on FirstLight, but expressed puzzlement and frustration over how a company "applying for a federal license for the use of public resources" could demand confidentiality in discussions directly affecting the public.

"Because they are a utility with a lot of power, and they said so," retorted selectboard member Randy Crochier.

"It makes no sense to me," Snedeker said. "They are supposed to be in talks with the public — these are not private conversations.... This is a monopoly that gets granted their license through a federal entity, and then is allowed through the public to manage public resources."

"This conflict between the open meeting law and the ground rules is not being seen the same way by all four towns that are part of FirstLight's relicensing area," said Purington. He noted that Montague still plans to participate in the talks.

Purington said he would try to find an "overlap" between the company's ground rules and state law that would allow him to update the selectboard on the negotiations. "I have looked, and I cannot find where this kind of negotiation fits for executive session," he said. "I think the best we can do is submit some type of priority list of recreational goals, and then respectfully say, 'We would like to participate, but your process being closed does not let us.'"

"We are supposed to represent the public in closed meetings, yet we cannot report to the public while the negotiations are going on... The only

voice the public gets in this is after the outcomes," Snedeker said. "That makes no sense, and it is kind of absolutely crazy that this is being allowed."

Crochier remarked that the selectboard should not say "we." "It is one member, or an appointee, who cannot report to the others," he said. "We can make a motion to send Ray in, and then [say] 'just don't give away the town.'"

"Consider the political implications," Snedeker said, of one person having "to put themselves on the line" in a negotiation "supposedly representing the town. [They] could completely screw it up!"

"It is pretty clear why you need to have a group," agreed Crochier.

Snedeker suggested reaching out to the state attorney general, if the question is whether "federal protocols... are superseding our state open meeting laws," given that the Connecticut River is a federal waterway. "It seems that this is a really bad precedent," he said.

"Am I getting into a position where I somehow know something from confidential settlement talks that I cannot then use to the town's advantage down the road?" Purington asked, pointing out that down the road, "the town may need to object" with formal litigation over the relicensing process.

"If you cannot report back to the public, you are not fulfilling your representative duty at that point," answered Snedeker.

"We literally live next to the river, and a lot of the people who are in negotiations do not," he continued. "It feels like they are not really considering what it is like to try to negotiate for the people who actually live here, and have to deal with the impacts of their business."

Reached for comment, FirstLight director of communications Leonard Greene sent the following statement: "The ground rules are specifically designed to allow towns and other public entities to participate without violating any applicable law, including the open meeting laws and the public records request laws. We are willing to meet with any town that has further questions about the ground rules."

Complete Streets

Beth Giannini, a transportation planner at the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), discussed the eligibility requirements of the state's Complete Streets program, the process to get projects funded, and the help that FRCOG could offer. The grants, which come from the

state Department of Transportation, help towns implement inclusive transportation plans. Gill is considering joining Complete Streets.

"You are doing transportation planning for all potential users," Giannini said. "Not just cars, but for everyone."

While Gill has a smaller town center that does not have the bicycle or pedestrian needs of larger towns or cities, there are safety concerns; for example, for elderly pedestrians walking from Stoughton Place off of Main Road, where there is no sidewalk or bicycle lane, to the Route 2 intersection.

Highway superintendent John Miner will attend a Complete Streets workshop, a requirement toward the town's eligibility for the program.

Other Business

The resignation of Lynn Stowe Tomb from the historical commission was regrettably accepted, with great thanks from the selectboard for all she has done.

Miner requested paving "300 additional feet" on Hoe Shop Road, which currently turns into a dirt road, at an estimated cost of \$9,703. He told the board that paving the requested area would fix drainage issues, and increase safety for winter travelers as well as the road crew.

Former highway boss Mick LaClaire surveyed residents in 2010 about paving that portion of Hoe Shop Road due to hazardous winter conditions. Purington said that his best recollection as to why it had not been paved then was because other projects took priority.

Selectboard member Charles Garbiel, who has lived on the section of the road in question for five years, said he has witnessed both the town plow and the mail truck getting stuck there.

Miner said it would significantly reduce the cost of the paving if it happens within the next couple of weeks, as road crews are already scheduled for work in the area.

The request was approved, "contingent upon a lack of any negative feedback from the conservation committee, the planning board, and the town forest committee." The selectboard will request those committees to make their recommendations quickly.

Chris Radzuik, a mechanic/operator at the highway department, was unanimously approved for a promotion from Step 5A to Step 5B, which includes a 3.95% pay raise as well as two weeks' vacation time.

**EVICTION from page A1**

of rent in 2019, and 20 in 2018, according to publicly available data.

The complex is owned by the Home Savers Council of Greenfield Gardens Inc., a nonprofit overseen by a board of directors. It was incorporated in 1992 as a "resident council" with a mission to promote "a higher degree of tenant organization" at the complex, then owned by the Greenfield Gardens Co. In 1997, the nonprofit purchased the property for \$2,732,000. It currently contracts with Mount Holyoke Management, LLC to operate the facility.

A number of attempts to reach Mount Holyoke Management, staff onsite at the Greenfield Gardens main office, and the president of the Home Savers Council board were unsuccessful as of press time.

In 2019, Mount Holyoke Management was fined \$35,670 by the state for failing to properly address asbestos violations at Greenfield Gardens. Despite this, state redevelopment agency MassHousing provided the company with \$8.9 million in financing to renovate a 127-unit apartment building in Holyoke, the *New England Real Estate Journal* reported, just weeks before the pandemic hit.

Many Gardens residents qualify for subsidized housing vouchers contingent on consistent reporting of income. One tenant interviewed by the *Reporter* this summer said she was laid off at the beginning of the pandemic, then found sporadic part-

time work, but failed to accurately report her changes in income during that time. This triggered a reassessment of her expected contribution, and rent rose from \$25 to around \$500 per month; she now owes several thousand dollars in back rent, with an eviction case pending.

Institutional Owners

Other property owners filing eviction cases in bulk during the pandemic include Northland Cliffside LLC in Sunderland, New Leyden Woods in Greenfield, and the Greenfield Housing Authority.

Northland Cliffside, a nationwide property management company, has sent 27 housing court summonses to its tenants at the Cliffside Apartments in Sunderland over the last 11 months. The majority of these cases were filed in December and January, and none have resulted in eviction by the sheriff's department.

Managers of the Leyden Woods Apartments in Greenfield, owned by the Boston-based non-profit Community Builders Inc. through its holding company New Leyden Woods LP, have sent 19 summonses during the same period, resulting in two eviction orders. The sheriff's department did not respond by press time to a request for information on the eviction orders.

The Greenfield Housing Authority has filed eight summary processes since housing courts reopened, most for "cause" rather than non-payment of rent.

Landlord Refusal

Since the Massachusetts moratorium ended, regional housing courts have been hearing cases virtually, and experts say the courts will be backed up for several months.

"The process is just taking a lot of time," Franklin County sheriff's deputy Scott Parker told the *Reporter*. "There's a lot of summary processes out there." While some eviction cases initiated in the county involve issues of health, safety, or criminal activity, according to housing court records most have been filed on the nonpayment of rent.

The US Congress has appropriated \$46.5 billion in rental assistance under COVID-19 emergency legislation, but only \$5.1 billion has so far made it to tenants or homeowners in arrears.

"An alarming number of applicants for rental and mortgage assistance in Massachusetts are not getting help," a report from the Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI) and Homes for All Massachusetts stated this summer, "and advocates across the state report enormous barriers that particularly impact vulnerable groups."

Of the 45,279 households in the state that applied for rental or mortgage assistance in the first half of 2021, according to the MLRI report, 34,680 were denied, while another 4,742 were "closed out" without official approval or denial.

A Massachusetts law passed last December prevents landlords from

executing evictions while a tenant has a pending RAFT application, but does not require landlords to accept the money. In many cases, landlords indicate that they would not accept the rental aid, causing the applications to fail.

One Orange family facing the prospect of eviction next week alleges that their landlord, Wayne Whitmore, refused to cooperate with their rental assistance application.

Tenant Lisa Brooks told the *Reporter* her family applied for aid under Residential Assistance for Families in Transition (RAFT), the main vehicle the state is using to disperse the federal funding, but the application was unsuccessful because the family accidentally selected "Berkshire County."

Whitmore's attorney, she said, chose to move forward with the eviction rather than wait to see if aid would materialize after the paperwork was corrected. "His lawyer said it has to be an accepted letter," Brooks said. "I can't get an accepted letter until the landlord approves it."

Brooks claims that since her husband stopped working for Whitmore, their family has been subject to harassment. The family fell behind on rent in late 2019 after her husband's new employer, the Rodney Hunt factory, shut down. "He's just been trying to do anything he possibly can to get me out of here," Brooks said.

Mr. Whitmore did not respond to a request for comment.



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ERVING from page A1

alternating one-way traffic on the bridge, using a temporary signal; making the bridge northbound only and North Street southbound only; making the bridge southbound only, while keeping two-lane traffic on Church and North streets; and closing the bridge entirely.

The board voted in favor of the third option, as recommended by Slonus and Grandy: making the bridge one-way southbound, while keeping Church and North as two-way streets. The bridge’s northbound lane will be blocked with Jersey barriers, and signs will declare the 3-ton limit. The town will also post signs saying that Church and North streets are for local traffic only.

“We’re picking the best of bad solutions,” said selectboard chair Jacob Smith.

“That’s the best option,” member Scott Bastarache agreed. “It will increase northbound traffic on North Street, but there are not many other options that make sense.”

North Street resident Betty Lou Mallett warned that “tractor-trailers will be going down North Street, and will have a restricted view when they turn onto Route 2.”

Jacob Smith replied that the trucks “can’t go across the bridge any longer – the only way to go is

North Street.”

One commenter asked about the town’s plan for stopping oversize traffic, and Jacob Smith replied that drivers would be fined for violating the 3-ton limit. Police chief Robert Holst said his department would “take all necessary action.”

Bryan Smith observed that the town has already placed restrictions to tractor trailer traffic on North Street, “but people aren’t adhering to them.”

North Street resident Peter Mallet recommended that Erving “work with Northfield” to enforce the tractor-trailer restriction.

Jacob Smith said that while Northfield has enacted a tractor-trailer exclusion for Gulf Road and Maple Street, which flow into Erving’s North Street, its implementation has not been smooth.

Bryan Smith said he had been talking with Northfield officials, and said that McCrory has offered to post truck exclusion signs on the Northfield roads, but has not heard back from Northfield.

John Flis, owner of Flis Market on the corner of North Street and Route 2, said the turn onto the highway from the southbound lane of North Street has a tight radius, and that he was concerned about pedestrians, because vehicles sometimes

travel over the sidewalks while making the turn. He suggested putting up orange cones to separate the pedestrian area from the road, and Bryan Smith said the town might be able to supply weighted cones.

Another commenter asked about installing flashing pedestrian lights at the intersection. Bryan Smith answered that the lights would cost about \$20,000 to purchase and install, and it could be proposed for the town’s capital plan.

Asked about mapping companies that provide routes using North and Church streets, Bryan Smith said he and assistant planner Mariah Kurtz had contacted such companies previously about the truck exclusion on North and Church streets, and there had been no change in the directions provided drivers. He said he would ask MassDOT staff this week if they could help.

Jacob Smith called the traffic pattern decision “a living plan” and said “it may change.”

McCrory said the Jersey barriers for the bridge were on order, and would be placed once MassDOT approves the town’s plan and makes official signs available.

library building September 10. He said that the general contractor was attributing some of the other items on the final construction punch list to moisture in the building, rather than to the construction work. He said he had sent the general contractor’s information to the owner’s project manager and the architect for comment.

Jacob Smith said the building had been open for a year and a half, and this was the first time the contractor brought up moisture as a cause for cracking and door issues.

A celebration open house is planned at the new library building on Sunday, September 26, starting at 1 p.m. The grand opening originally planned for March 2020 was canceled due to COVID-19. The open house will include music, a juggler, crafts, and light refreshments.

Bastarache.

Jacob Smith agreed that if the redevelopment of the building was successful, it would pay for itself.

The board accepted Tighe & Bond’s “90% design” for the replacement of the Flagg Hill sewer line and voted to put the project out to bid, with bids due by the end of September.

The board accepted a bid of \$365,800 from A. Martin and Sons of Ludlow for replacing the sidewalks on Central, Gunn, Park, and Pratt streets. Bryan Smith said the budget for the project under the state Complete Streets program is \$400,000.

The board set the electric vehicle charging rate for town-owned charging stations at \$0.30 per kilowatt-hour.

On September 9, President Biden issued an executive order that employers with 100 or more employees must require them to obtain COVID-19 vaccines or undergo weekly testing for the virus. Bryan Smith told the board that it appears that this order applies to local governments like Erving.

He said he has been discussing the mandated vaccination or testing with town counsel, and will provide more information at the next selectboard meeting.



NOTES FROM THE GILL-MONTAGUE REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Cases, But No Transmission, At Gill-Montague Schools

By MIKE JACKSON

GILL-MONTAGUE – “Hi,” Nicholas Licata introduced himself to the regional school committee Tuesday night. Licata, who submitted the sole letter of interest to fill a Montague seat on the committee recently vacated by Carleigh Dlugosz, was appointed by a unanimous vote.

Three of Montague’s six representatives to the committee have now been appointed, rather than elected.

Gill-Montague students are learning in the school buildings, wearing masks and socially distancing, and the *Montague Reporter* has reviewed several letters to parents indicating members of the school community have tested positive for COVID-19. The federal Centers for Disease Control this week moved Franklin County into its “high” risk category for community transmission of the virus, where it joins 95% of the nation’s counties.

“I’m hopeful that we are at the top of a peak,” district superintendent Brian Beck told the school committee.

Despite the positive cases, Beck reported that “since the pandemic has started, we still have not had a case of transmission in schools.” Beck credited daily self-checks performed by families, and quick communication with the district, for preventing an outbreak.

Supplies for pool-testing the school community for the virus arrived last Friday from the state, and Beck complained that he had heard schools in the eastern part of the state had received their testing supplies nine days earlier. “I can’t imagine it takes nine days to ship out to western Mass,” he said.

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has also not yet provided the schools with contact-tracing coordinators. Montague member Michael Langknecht asked Beck if the committee should help pressure the state to do so, and Beck said he was working with a number of other superintendents to call for the support to be provided.

“It’s very frustrating for us as superintendents to have the commissioner not put something out,” he said.

COVID-19 vaccine clinics, open to the general public, will be held at Gill Elementary School on September 21, and Turners Falls High School

and Sheffield Elementary on September 23. Flu vaccine clinics will follow in early October, but will not be open to the public.

Beck reported that the district’s Pandemic Response Advisory Committee (PRAC), which makes week-to-week recommendations about the schools’ safety response, is seeking renewed parent involvement after several members have dropped off due to other commitments. “People can send me a note of interest, and we’ll add them to the email group,” he said.

Discussion of whether the school committee should start meeting in person, now a perennial agenda item, was short.

“Fewer people in a building, when there’s more danger of having spread, is probably better,” said chair Jane Oakes. “It’s an interesting time, and we’re faced with a lot of different dilemmas. I personally find running meetings by Zoom challenging, at best, but it’s what we need to be doing.”

At the recommendation of business manager Joanne Blier, the committee voted unanimously to raise the hourly pay for substitute staff from \$13.50 to \$14.25, the new state minimum wage as of January 1. Blier said several staff positions are vacant, and increasing pay ahead of the mandate is hoped to make substitute hiring easier.

Fees for adult breakfasts and lunches were set at \$3 and \$5, respectively.

Blier reported that the six-town regionalization planning committee recently submitted one grant application to continue funding for its consultants, and a second to hire a “facilitator” to share its findings with the community, and gather public input.

The committee appointed Jennifer Waryas as its delegate to the upcoming Massachusetts Association of School Committees conference.

Syna Katsoulis, one of two student representatives to the school committee this year, attended the meeting and introduced herself. Beck said Katsoulis served on the search committee for the new high school and middle school principal this summer.

Oakes told her she could leave to do homework, if she wants, after delivering her reports, and Beck suggested that she could also use the meeting to get out of household chores.

“No, you can’t,” Montague representative Heather Katsoulis told her.



Turners Falls libero Olivia Stafford bumps the ball to the front row as the Thunder rolled to a three-set victory over Wabconah Regional High School last Friday night. Emily Young backs up the play.

VOLLEYBALL



Madison Liimatainen serves the ball during the Thunder's sweep of Wabconah Regional.

Liimatainen notched 9 kills, 4 aces, and 2 digs during Blue's season home opener.

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LEVERETT from page A1

of the public, the con com, and the FLP attended a site visit to assess the situation.

Kemper Carlsen, a former wild-life biologist for the Nature Conservancy who lives in Leverett and attended the July 24 site visit, takes an entirely different view of the milfoil question.

“By the end of the tour I was most struck by how vilified all the vegetation is by FLP,” Carlsen wrote in an August letter to the con com. “Not a single water plant, or water’s edge plant, was considered OK. It sounds like total removal of all vegetation is their vision.”

Carlsen wrote that the nuisance vegetation identified by FLP members, water shield, spadderdock, water lily and bladderwort, are naturally occurring and beneficial to small fish and insects living on the pond.

“This looks to me like there are some people who want a clean water area in front of their property, and has nothing at all to do with ‘pond health’,” she wrote. “The request to spray herbicides year after year, with no lasting effect, is a waste of everyone’s time and money and is detrimental to a fresh waterway.”

The FLP has received permits from the state Department of Environmental Protection for decades to manage nuisance weeds and invasive species on Leverett Pond. To continue its use of herbicides and hydro-raking, the group is required to submit a Notice of Intent



PHOTO COURTESY OF JONO NEIGER

A drone photograph of Leverett Pond taken in the early summer shows extensive growth of aquatic vegetation. Controversy over the stewardship plan, combined with disarray at the conservation commission, have prevented intervention.

(NOI) describing its plan for the next three to five years.

“It is worrisome that boaters and fisher-folks have to pass through these invasive weeds to get to the main body of the pond, thereby contributing to their spread,” Mulholland told the *Reporter*. “Hand cleaning of this entrance area will help mitigate while the NOI is in review.”

The FLP submitted a draft of the NOI last year proposing the use of herbicides and hydro-raking. For several years the group has contracted with Solitude Lake Management for the services, with private property owners paying fees for

raking along their waterfronts.

At the con com’s July 6 meeting, the group requested permission to remove milfoil by hand while they await a decision on the NOI, but no decision was reached.

Since that meeting the town lost its part-time conservation agent, Tessa Dowling, and it has yet to fill the vacant position. Tom Hankinson, president of the FLP and a member of the selectboard, said Leverett is considering two candidates, as well as the possibility of cooperative agreements with neighboring towns and UMass Amherst to get the job done.

Con com chair Isaiah Robison did not respond to a request for comment as of press time.

“Two men, property owners in a shallow end of the pond, are attempting to turn a small pond into a lake devoid of ‘nuisance vegetation’, which includes a host of native species,” Macaylla Silver, another Leverett resident who has spoken against the FLP’s plans, told the *Reporter*. “It is not, and never has been, about fish habitats or invasive plants. Those were just excuses. They have been at it now, unsuccessfully, for over 27 years.”

Another strategy being consid-

ered by the FLP is an annual winter drawdown, which would expose and kill vegetation in shallow parts of the pond, as is the practice on Lake Wyola.

The pond’s new \$300,000 dam, completed in 2019 after robust fundraising effort by the FLP and a \$100,000 Community Preservation Act grant, would make this possible. Kemper, Silver, and other critics argue that drawdowns would alter the ecology of the pond beyond the targeted plant species, with far-reaching effects on the food web.

Other issues, including eutrophication and the mysterious floating islands of organic matter in the pond, are still being discussed and studied.

“There is no persuasive data out there that the recently arrived milfoil is actually an ‘invasive’ despite what people have been persuaded to believe,” Carlsen wrote in her letter. “It is an opportunist taking advantage of excess nutrients or an already human disturbed environment.”

“Studies are necessary before any drawdown to determine impacts to wildlife, plants, and people systems such as wells,” Mulholland said. “Through its wildlife consultant FLP is working now on a wildlife evaluation study that will map areas of concern in the pond.”

The assessment by SWCA Environmental Consultants is now scheduled to be presented at the con com’s next meeting on October 4.



NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Difficulty Filling Positions

By GEORGE BRACE

Job vacancies were the main subject of discussion at Leverett’s selectboard meeting on Tuesday, with the board endorsing a number of strategies to get them filled. The town has current or upcoming vacancies for the positions of conservation commission agent, tax collector, treasurer, and facilities manager. The board also discussed a policy for content on the town website and changes to the way the town’s newsletter is distributed.

At the selectboard’s prior meeting two weeks earlier, conservation commission chair Isaiah Robison reported difficulty in finding applicants for the part-time position of conservation agent, and sought the board’s help. On Tuesday, town administrator Marjorie McGinnis reported that “the word really got out” since then, and multiple recruitment efforts were in the works.

McGinnis said she had contacted other small-town administrators in the area, and was talking with the town of Hadley about the possibility of a shared position.

Board member Tom Hankinson suggested reaching out to one of Hadley’s commission members, who recently resigned, to see if she was interested.

He also reported that he had emailed a number of environmental-related departments at UMass Amherst, and had garnered one application as the result of a trip to the liquor store, where he overheard a student who recently graduated from UMass with an environmental degree describing difficulty in finding a job in his field due to lack of experience.

The board also discussed replac-

ing current treasurer and collector of taxes Jason Noschese, who will be leaving in November. Although both jobs have been held by the same person for 30 years, McGinnis said that they could be filled by two people if it made sense. The board decided to advertise for the jobs both ways, pending the recommendation of the personnel board.

In addition, the current facilities manager will be departing as of October 15. The board reported that an interested party who has worked closely with the current manager for many years has applied for the job, and conversations about a transition were likely already taking place.

Official Communication

Town clerk Lisa Stratford reported that she receives several requests per month to put information on the town website from a variety of outside sources, and suggested it might be helpful if the town had a policy defining acceptable content. Stratford gave the example of health-related information from private organizations as one source of requests, and said that disease-related information is a frequent subject.

“Who’s to say the information is good?,” asked board chair Julie Shively, stating that the website should be used for government business only, and the board would consider creating an official policy.

Strafford and McGinnis also brought up the possibility of ending the bulk-mailing of the town’s newsletter to cut costs, arguing that online access is favored by many anyway.

Strafford said that bulk mailing costs \$245 for the permit, plus

\$1,700 in postage, each year.

The Leverett post office is no longer authorized to process bulk mail shipments, and she must transport the roughly 900 newsletters to Amherst to get them weighed and stamped, then deposit them at the Leverett post office for more efficient mailing, adding a great deal of work to the process.

Board members suggested that residents who wish to receive copies in the mail could opt in to do so, perhaps paying a fee that would cover postage.

The board did not make any decisions, and is considering the matter.

Other Business

Hankinson reported that he had been contacted by Leverett Elementary School principal Anne Foley Ruiz regarding a new stove which had been “giving them fits.” Hankinson said the cook has encountered numerous problems with the stove, and the principal has been having serious difficulty working with the salesman to get them fixed.

Board members responded that it was an expensive fixture and the matter needed to be settled, suggesting that the principal contact “higher-ups” in the company until the problem was resolved.

Hankinson said Foley Ruiz “wanted to know we had her back.” “Of course,” Shively replied.

The board accepted a \$10,000 state Community Compact grant to be used to hire a consultant for the Council on Aging.

Strafford informed the board that she had accepted a part-time position as land use clerk in Shutesbury, promising it would not interfere with her current duties.

LIBRARY from page A1

committee (CIC) pointed out that his committee has supported efforts to upgrade the library’s heating system by installing electric “mini-splits” to replace the current boiler located in the basement. (The boiler would still be used as a back-up.) CIC member Jason Burbank said he had helped upgrade the branch library’s humidifier to improve air quality, and might assist with a request for proposals to install mini-splits.

Several officials the *Reporter* spoke to did admit that the need for two branch libraries has frequently been questioned over the years in the context of capital requests to town meeting.

This may well have happened in February 2020, when Hickman requested that the windows on the Montague Center building be replaced. According to the minutes of a CIC meeting reviewing that request, “some members have reservations as to the [return on investment] and the utilization of the building overall.” Her request was eventually withdrawn, and did not appear on the spring 2020 town meeting agenda.

Since that time two evaluations have been made of the building. The first, completed in mid-January 2021, suggests that the structure, while in “fair” condition, is at a “tipping point,” with extensive work required soon on the roof, basement, the brick façade, and the heating system.

The report estimates the final cost for renovations, phased in over a decade, at over \$2.26 million. Over half, \$1.38 million, is the estimate for an external handicapped elevator from the first to the second floor, which the report argues will be required under state law.

The second evaluation, by Whetstone Engineering of Wen-

dell, is more optimistic. It calls the building “in decent shape for its age but, as with all repairs, the longer one waits the more expensive.” The Whetstone report recommends phasing in the exterior brick repointing over a four-year period, and regrading the land on the east side of the structure to prevent water from flowing into the basement.

This second evaluation did not include cost estimates, but it suggests that an interior lift, as opposed to an external elevator, might pass muster with the state, which would be “much less expensive.”

In addition to the cost of renovation and the needs of the town’s public library system, Montague will need to consider the value of what may be the town’s oldest public building. Constructed in 1858, the structure was completed at a cost of \$7,000, according to one report. The town library occupied part of the lower level, while the upper floor housed the venue for the annual town meeting.

Town offices moved to Turners Falls in the early 20th century, but the Montague Center building continued to be used for a library, and its upstairs was transformed into a basketball court and performance stage. The upstairs room, heated by a giant space heater that still hangs from the ceiling, was also used for recreation and “play groups” under the purview of the parks and recreation department until about a decade ago.

The building is now officially called the “Montague Center Library,” and the sign declaring it to be “Montague Town Hall 1858” has been downsized and relegated to the south front corner. The goal is to avoid confusion with the current town hall, located on Avenue A in Turners Falls.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

Ellis noted that after several weeks of increasing COVID numbers, the previous week’s data showed only eight new cases. “If the number was 13 again, or it doubled, I would be very comfortable in saying I would like us within town buildings to implement a mask mandate similar to the one we had last spring,” he said. “The decline in the week-to-week trend was surprising to me, so I don’t think there was a clear ‘we need to do this right now.’”

New health board member Melanie Zamojski said she thought “a recommendation is fine, but a mandate at this point is not warranted.”

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz said the selectboard tends to follow the lead of the health board, and would discuss the issue again next Monday based on the latest data. The board of health will not meet again by itself until next Wednesday, September 22.

Special Town Meeting

The board quickly agreed to schedule an indoor special town meeting on the evening of October 14, a Thursday. “We typically have it on a Thursday night,” said Kuklewicz. He proposed holding the meeting in the Turners Falls High School auditorium, but recommended the town “be flexible in that decision, depending on what current events might be.”

Ellis said the air systems in the auditorium have been “substantially upgraded.”

The selectboard, which consists of only Kuklewicz and Chris Boutwell following the resignation of Michael Nelson, approved the proposed time and location, but left open the possibility of holding an outdoor meeting the following weekend.

A deadline for article submissions was set for September 22. Ellis said the warrant would be “in the vicinity of 13 articles, most of which are not that controversial.”

He noted the need to fund salary increases for the police dispatch department and new requests for the use of the cannabis stabilization funds for “evidence-based programming.” The preliminary articles have been posted on the town website.

Finance committee chair Jen Audley said the fin com will meet

and discuss the articles at their September 15 and 22 meetings. Ellis said he would “keep his calendar open” for an outdoor meeting on the weekend of October 16 in case of “an emerging public health crisis.”

Town Personnel

Employees of the police dispatch department were upgraded, and their salaries increased by a vote of the board, which transforms itself into the “personnel board” to make such decisions. The move, approved at an executive session the previous week, was designed to stabilize the department, which is constantly losing staff to higher-paid departments elsewhere.

“We are not the highest paid, but no longer the lowest paid,” said Kuklewicz.

Acting in the same “personnel board” capacity, Kuklewicz and Boutwell appointed Joanne Palhete as a custodian at the public works department, and Oliver Beane as an assessing technician with the assessors.

Ellis announced that interviews of two finalists for the position of library director are now taking place, and a final decision could be made by the end of next week. Linda Hickman, who is retiring from the position, told this reporter that the transition is likely to take up to a month.

Waste Matters

The board held a hearing on proposed FY’22 sewer rates presented by Chelsea Little, superintendent of the water pollution control facility (WPCF). The board approved 4.3% increases for the main four categories of sewer users. For most residents rates will increase from \$14.56 to \$15.19 per 1,000 gallons.

The rate for Gill residents sending sewage to Montague, and for “industrial customers,” will increase from \$13.48 to \$14.06.

The rates are intended to fund the WPCF budget as approved by town meeting in June. Little said the budget will be balanced without the use of reserves, known as “retained earnings,” which are often used to lower sewer rates.

Ellis said the impact of the increase might be an increase of \$35 on an \$800 bill. “I went very conservative on the budget because this is

my first fiscal year,” said Little, who was recently hired to run the plant.

The board approved a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District for the annual household hazardous waste collection event, scheduled for September 25 at Greenfield Community College. Boutwell, who serves on the waste district board and usually recuses himself from such decisions, voted in favor, in the absence of a third selectboard member.

Other Business

Ellis updated the board on the status of current funding and reimbursements for town expenditures under the federal CARES Act. He said the town had spent approximately \$700,000, with a \$90,000 balance. Ellis said the federal government was “loosening the purse strings.” Town accountant Carolyn Olsen had done a “tremendous job” managing this money, Ellis said, and the town will be “made whole” for any expenditures not yet approved by the federal government.

The board approved a “certification of substantial completion” for the project to redevelop the Montague Center School into residential apartments. The project was in fact completed five years ago under a land development agreement with the town, but no certificate had ever been issued. “We just became aware of this,” said Ellis, calling the decision “housekeeping.”

The board also approved a proclamation presented by a representative from the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) declaring September 17 through 23 as “Constitution Week.” Kuklewicz and Boutwell, at the request of a DAR representative, held up the proclamation for a photo opportunity.

Peter Chilton of Nova Motorcycles requested the use of public property on Second Street near Unity Park as the starting point of a “vintage motorcycle road rally and ride” on Saturday, October 2 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The board approved his request.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for September 20.



MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD
CANDIDATE FORUM
Thursday, September 16 7 p.m.

This Thursday at 7 p.m., Montague Community Television and the *Montague Reporter* will host an event, live on Zoom and Channel 17, featuring the four candidates for Montague Selectboard: Joanna Mae Boody, Mark Fairbrother, David Jensen, and Matt Lord.

Zoom link: us02web.zoom.us/j/84855776463
Meeting ID: 848 5577 6463 Passcode: 267744

The recording will be posted to vimeo.com/mctvchannel17/videos.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD
SPECIAL ELECTION
Tuesday, September 21 Noon to 7 p.m.

For election details, see montague-ma.gov.

LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on September 22, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Town Meeting to Vote on Strathmore Mill, Center School

Montague will vote on three separate articles relating to properties that have fallen into town control in recent years in the three village centers of Millers Falls, Montague Center, and Turners Falls at a special town meeting next month.

Montague’s 114 elected town meeting members will be called to act on 23 warrant articles on Thursday, October 20 at the Turners Falls High School auditorium – including a motion to spend \$130,000 as the town’s match for a \$200,000 grant from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to fund removal of an asbestos-tainted debris pile at the Strathmore Mill.

That debris pile is all that remains of the former 19,000- square-foot Building #10 at the mill complex, now a town-owned property, after Turners Falls resident Jonathan Tanzer set fire to the building in May 2007, following a dispute with former mill owner Jerry Jones.

Tanzer, serving a 12- to 15- year sentence for the arson fire, is not a likely candidate to make reparations or pay for the removal of the debris, so, as Montague selectboard chair Mark Fairbrother put it at Monday night’s board meeting, “We’re going to have to pay for this sooner or later.”

New Temple to be Inaugurated October 2

On Sunday, October 2 the new temple at the New England Peace Pagoda, at 100 Cave Hill Road in Leverett will be inaugurated amid the celebration of the Pagoda’s 26th anniversary. The ceremony and celebration runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; lunch will be served.

Dr. Vincent Harding, a longtime civil rights activist and colleague of Dr. Martin Luther King, who wrote King’s famous anti-Vietnam War speech delivered to the Clergy and Laity Concerned at the River-

side Church in New York on April 4, 1967, will be the keynote speaker. Harding was a professor of religion and social transformation at Illiff School of Theology in Denver until his retirement in 2004.

In addition, 30 monks from the Nipponzan Myohoji order will be coming to Leverett from Japan to join in the celebration and honor the opening of the temple.

Margie Bates Serves Up Tasty Baked Goods

Some people are content just to sit around and do nothing in their golden years, but Margaret (Margie) Bates likes to “keep busy.”

She uses her considerable baking skills on behalf of her church. Most every Wednesday afternoon, she sells homemade baked goods at the Great Falls Farmers Market on the corner of 2nd Street and the Avenue. If she has baked goods left over, she offers them Wednesday evenings in the entryway of Our Lady of Czechochowa Church at 84 K Street.

She donates the proceeds to the church’s improvement fund, and now they’ll help fix a leak in the front of the church and the plumbing in the rectory. She occasionally throws Sticky Bun and Thanksgiving Pie fundraisers at the church.

Bates is a local, born in Montague Center. Her early years were spent on her father’s chicken farm on Hatchery Road. After the Montague Elementary School burned in 1945, her family moved to Turners Falls, where she graduated from high school.

In her youth, Bates pitched for women’s semi-pro softball, and she likes to boast that she could still strike out her teenage sons with a fastball years later.

Her “first career” was raising her five children in Millers Falls. Her second was spent in the food business in southeastern Massachusetts, where she worked eight and a half years at the Franklin Stop & Shop and as a waitress and hostess in a coffee shop in Milford. About eight years ago she began selling her baked goods here at the Farmers Market.



On September 8, town planner Walter Ramsey led the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) on a tour of the abandoned mills along the canal in Turners Falls. Here the group stands beside the Strathmore complex, as James Mussoni provides some history of the Strathmore Paper Mill and its remnants. EDIC members Ella Ingraham, Linda Ackerman, and Richard Routh (seated) listen, along with Ramsey (standing). Photograph by EDIC member John Furbish.

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Through the Lens: The 2021 Franklin County Fair

By MATT ROBINSON

GREENFIELD – The 172 Annual Franklin County Fair kicked off on Thursday, September 9 and ran through Sunday the 12th. Last year’s fair was canceled due to the pandemic, and this year’s had its share of challenges.

Fair president Michael Nelson shared a couple of those challenges: “With positive cases emerging again more rapidly, public health experts have recommended face masks at the fair and are requiring them in our buildings. The other huge challenge we’ve been experiencing is the shortage of labor in the workforce. We have over two dozen vendors who are unable to attend this year due to a lack of staff.”

So, things were a little different this year. The second floor of the Round House was roped off, several booths were vacant, and everyone wore masks inside the buildings.

But some things never change. It poured on Thursday. Every year it seems to rain on their parade. But by Friday, the storm had passed, and the people came. In fact, there were so many people on Saturday that the administrators had to leave their stations and help direct the infield traffic, while the kids from the Congregation of Grace Church had to stay past 11 to clean up all the trash.

Although they were deluged with so many people, the atmosphere at the fair was friendly and kind. I personally witnessed several “Pay it Forward” acts of kindness. One woman paid for the family behind her at one of the rides. Another woman bought a bucket of rings so two little toddlers could play the ring toss game. The ride and game operators excitedly conversed with the kids, and were consistently giving out larger prizes than were due.

In the buildings those old familiar names were on the ribbons and at the stables, and the same local farms showed off their livestock.

I myself ran into several people I knew. The Tech School had a booth, Bobby C. was making announcements at the grandstand, the Turners Fire Department were there, and girls from the Turners volleyball team showed up in their uniforms.

The one person I didn’t see this year was Sean Connelly, who was a runner for the 1976 undefeated Cross Country team. Over the years, I always seemed to bump into Sean, Amy, and their kids of various ages. But not this year. Rest in Peace my old friend.

But I did run into one of his classmates: Tom Bergeron, who was a starter on the Championship Football Team. He was flipping burgers at the Leyden Church pavilion.

All in all, I would say this year’s fair was a resounding success. In fact, I would go as far as calling it the “Bee’s Knees.”



Clockwise, from top left: Cole and Connor Sund play with swords; someone’s peeking through the bars; Opel rocks the main stage; Turners Falls Fire Department captain Luke Hartnett hams it up in costume; prize-winning art from local youth; Samantha Peila of Gill and her cow, Take Two.

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Amanda Gorman, *The Hill We Climb*



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Above: Pete Wackernagel is working this weekend with youth from the Brick House to create a rain garden behind Montague town hall. The project, supported by a grant from the Long Island Sound Future Fund, was delayed by a rainstorm. “The storm hit the day before the plants were supposed to arrive,” Wackernagel told us. The plants were delivered by New England Wetland Plants of South Hadley, and things are back on track!

NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

BY TROUBLE MANDESON

By TROUBLE MANDESON

GREENFIELD – Cauliflower is an unsung member of the Brassica family that includes broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, mustard and collard greens, and kale. You may recall those unappetizing vegetables from childhood that we were told to eat for their nutritious, muscle-building vitamins – cue Popeye downing a can of spinach. But now that you’re grown up, you make your own sauerkraut, and actually love kale chips.

Collectively, the plants mentioned above are known as “cole crops” from the wild plant, *Brassica oleracea*, also known as colewort or field cabbage. Cole crops are cruciferous vegetables; the name comes from Cruciferae, meaning “cross-bearing,” as the shape of their four flowers resembles a cross. They are cultivars, plants chosen by humans to cultivate for their special characteristics, including successful growth in cooler climes with long, cool growing seasons and enlargement of certain parts for eating, such as the white part or “curd” of the cauliflower.

In the Middle Ages, early forms of cauliflower were associated with the island of Cyprus, giving it the



Cauliflower, at market.

nickname Cyprus colewort. Their seeds were traded extensively in western Europe until the 16th century, when they were introduced to Genoa and then France.

The first reference to cauliflower in the Oxford English Dictionary is from 1595, where it is referred to as *ColeFlorie*. The accompanying picture of the text shows a much smaller flower head which is a testament to the generations of horticulturists since the 16th century. By the 19th century, cauliflower had attained floral density, increased size, and great delicacy of flavor.

Cabbage flower, *cavolfiore* in Italian and *chouxfleur* in French,

grows best in moderate temperatures between 70 and 85 degrees, with lots of sunshine and moist soil, so it grows well in California and Arizona. In other parts of the country, they are grown in greenhouses, such is the demand. The US, Spain, Mexico, and Italy follow behind China and India in the world’s cauliflower production.

With hundreds of types, white cauliflower is the most common, although there are orange and purple varieties. The broccoflower has two variations, one with the typical cauliflower shape and a lime-green curd, the result of a combined parentage

see **HEARTFELT** page B8



By LILITH WOLINSKY

MONTAGUE CITY – When I was a small child, I used to escape my large, noisy family and sit out back, under a bush, in the calm and cool soil. I remember looking at the dirt up close, and seeing roly-polys and other bugs – black ones with pincers, pink earthworms, and ants moving about their invisible roads. Though I didn’t have these words, I was literally grounded and at

ease, resourced for when I ventured back inside.

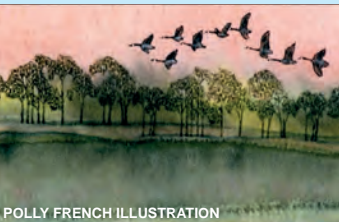
That desire to be close to the earth has persisted since, through the pavement of Denver and San Francisco, the big cities of urban India, China, and Latin America, and my first unsuccessful forays into living in small towns in the mountains of North Carolina. The desire, the inner farm girl, was there all along, but I didn’t know how to live far away from the city jobs I depended on.

Sometimes I wonder how my life might have been if certain things did or didn’t happen. If, for instance, my grandmother had not died when I was two, or if the trust my grandfather set up for me when I was born had been funded. Or if my branch of the Wolinskys, when recent and persecuted immigrants, had stayed on the East Coast instead of heading to the vast and arid plains of Wyoming and Colorado, where they obtained land under the Homestead Act, but also experienced a prolonged cultural and religious isolation.

I wonder who I might have become if I had gone to better schools, and I remember the dot-to-dots I was given in first and second grade to keep me busy after I completed my other schoolwork.

I don’t know where I got the idea, but I do remember waking up in the morning, placing my head in front of the heater, and running upstairs to tell my mother I felt ill. After she assessed that I was indeed burning up, I would return to my bed, and there, snug as a bug in a rug, I hunkered down, and plowed through the

see **RAMBLER** page B4



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

AUTUMN RUMINATING

I get the urge for going,
but I never seem to go...
– Tom Rush (and Joni Mitchell)

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – There’s something about the way the sun slants golden through the reddening trees, or maybe it’s those mornings of September fog and mist that eventually burn off. I don’t know about you, but this all puts me in kind of a mood that I don’t get any other time of year.

With the turning seasons, down here on the Flat along the west-flowing river on the edge of woodland greenness, this is like a world unto itself. The seasons change in circular fashion and it is seemingly different each time, yet very familiar. It has all happened before.

Hardly a month of September can loom over our lives without that wistful sense of fleeting time, passing time. So many old songs evoke that feeling. There are refrains that come to mind reminding us that the days dwindle down to a precious few, that ask us to “try to remember that time in September...” I guess I’m not the first one to fall victim to a certain state of mind come September.

But regardless of moodiness, given my self-appointed duties of keeping you informed of what’s going on out here in the world outside, I can tell you of the last September nighthawks flying low over the back yard, angling erratically between trees and roof ridge line winging a last goodbye. If you didn’t notice, by the morning of September 7, they were gone, having left late the night before, leaving the skies almost empty. Now the early evening bats have the air above the house all to themselves. They feast on high-flying moths, insects known only to them, and storing up energy for the coming hibernation season.

With their summer work all

done, and the young raised and fledged, birds move quietly through the yard, building up strength for the long flight to the tropics.

Miss mam’zelle hummingbird has lingered here with us, but those days are numbered. She’s been keeping us company since early July. We have developed a rapport with her ever since she first enjoyed a refreshing shower under the flowing beads from the watering can, held patiently by Monique, if you remember that time. Miss Ruby-throat has visited the scarlet red runner climbing beans on the trellis overhanging the deck railing, as an additional treat to add to her jewelweed domaine.

On the pergola trellis, the climbing bean strands are competing with the wisteria tendrils that reach out attempting to get a toehold in the cedar shingles of the house. When I try to pass under those wisteria vines, I have the impression that if I gave them a chance and stood still long enough, there’s the distinct possibility that I could become ensnared in their clutches and drawn into the green center, wrapped and preserved in those green tentacles.

Maybe in a week or two, one of the autumn chores will be to cut back all that tenacious growth. It is known to all house owners that this vine has the ability to wreak havoc with shingles, clapboards, and siding, but the hanging clusters of flowers are so beautiful that it’s worth the risk.

The garden’s jewelweed crop, bounty for hummers and bumblebees, is transiting to its last iteration, that of *touch-me-not*. It gets its name when the passerby or gardener, brushing up against this mountainous growth, causes seeds to audibly pop out of their pod, sending out the grains for next year’s growth.

Monarch chrysalises hang
see **WEST ALONG** page B3



Red admiral butterfly, *Vanessa atalanta*.



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Learning to Fly Fish: Part XV

Ariel Jones, who recently passed away, penned a series of 21 articles in the Montague Reporter in 2005 on her experiences learning to fly fish. (Note: Yes, we thought there were 14, but we discovered seven more in our archive!) 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

IN MICHIGAN – My younger brother Randy and his family live in Metamora, MI, not far from our old hometown. In some ways, Randy and I are a study in opposites: he is a solid family man with a wonderful wife and four great kids, and lives close to where he was born. I am single, moved around a lot, and have spent a lot of time in urban areas. Randy has camped, fished and hunted since he was a boy. My only camping experience was five years ago, and I picked up take-out for dinner.

His neighbors, should they meet me, would most likely think of me as a “character.” Yet, when I think of people I like to spend time with, people I have great admiration for, it is my little brother and his lively family. The reason is simple: they exude a great joy in living and share it with all.

About three months ago we planned a family gathering around the arrival of their first grandchild, a baby shower for another of my nieces, an intervention with my mother to persuade her to move, and a fishing trip for Randy and me.

The baby shower happened the day after I arrived. I confess I felt like a fish out of water. However, my niece’s excitement and my sister-in-law Rose’s request for a photographer gave me a reason and a purpose that made the event delightful, rather than another instance for me to feel like “a stranger in a strange land.”



ARIEL JONES PHOTO

The author's brother Randy in the “Holy Water,” as this stretch of the AuSable is known to its worshippers.

Festivities over, Randy and I set out for Grayling on a Monday evening. The weather was fine, dry and clear, and I felt a deep sense of familiarity with the Michigan landscape. As you head north the population is sparser, the landscape is somehow rawer than New England’s. It is flatter, and feels larger, with a bigger sky. The edges of Northern Michigan foliage and hills appear sharper. The green and the hills here in New England are rich in color but very mellow in shape. This softness reminds me of the feeling of oldness I also feel in the Appalachians.

We arrived at Goose Creek Campgrounds in the late afternoon. We were only a few feet from the Manistee River. Before unpacking we ran over to the bank to see the water and try to spot fish. Only a few miles from the AuSable, the Manistee is similarly renowned for its beauty and excellent trout fishing. And it is truly divine, with crystal clear water and a slow easy current for easy wading.

I had been dreaming of waking up alongside a river some day, and here we were: heaven. We set up Randy’s pop-up camper right away. I had never seen a pop-up and was delighted with this ingenious and

easy-to-assemble camp on wheels. In addition to two double beds, gas cooking and water, there was even a little bathtub in it. I began to wonder if I could live in one should I become a true trout bum.

I was supposed to pack the food before we left, but when Rose saw the few pieces of fruit, bread, and sandwich meat I was putting in, she took over. We arrived at our camp with enough food to feed Calcutta, everything from three different salads to ready-made sandwiches; peanut butter, nuts, fruits, oatmeal, bread, butter, jam, crackers, chips, cucumbers, corn, milk, coffee, soda – and I can’t remember the rest. As I watched her efficiently pack this camping feast I requested duck *flam-bé*, but she said there wasn’t time.

Randy built an excellent fire in the round, stone-rimmed fire pit. I brought out what I could identify from the food larder and put on a pot of coffee. We ate by the fire, put up our feet, and drank the best cup of coffee I have ever tasted. After eating, we sat for a while by the fire, chatting.

When Randy pointed out the beauty of the night sky, I looked up just in time to see a shooting star.

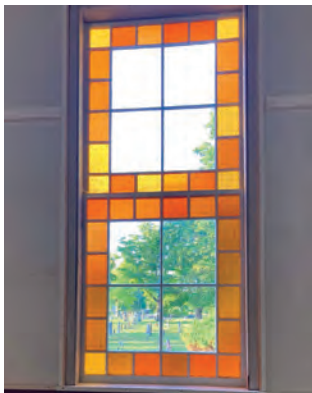
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SCENE REPORT

Wendell Meetinghouse Birthday Party!



K. CAMARA PHOTOS



“Last Saturday the Friends of the Wendell Meetinghouse held a 175-year anniversary of the building’s construction, with food, dancing, tours of the renovations, wine and beer, speeches, and dancing on the common,” Wendell correspondent Josh Heinemann reports. “State representative Susannah Whipps and senator Jo Comerford spoke. A time capsule, to be opened at the 200th anniversary in 2046, was left open for citizens to contribute. The afternoon was fine.” Top left: the building, in its restored glory. Bottom left: A space designated for “Spirit Circles,” with the event’s time capsule. Center: Kristen and Lyle Wilson celebrate on the common. Top right: Stained glass in the sanctuary. Bottom right: Morris dancers.

Senior Center Activities SEPTEMBER 20 THROUGH 24

WENDELL

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

GILL and MONTAGUE

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

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

Monday 9/20

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Knitting & Crafts Circle
Tuesday 9/21
Special Election/Center Closed
Wednesday 9/22
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise
1 p.m. Bingo
Thursday 9/23
10 a.m. Chair Yoga at GFDC
10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share
1 p.m. Cards & Games
Friday 9/24
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Exercise

ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8 a.m. to 3 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 hand-washing 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

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 5, or coa@leverett.ma.us.

Senior Grocery Hours

Big Y: Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m. (413) 772-0435

Foster’s: Senior hours from 7 to 8 a.m. (413) 773-1100

Green Fields Market: Senior hours from 8 to 9 a.m. Monday-Saturday. Curbside pickup & delivery is available on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. (413) 773-9567

McCusker’s Market: Curbside pickup available from 10 to 11 a.m. Order by 1 p.m. for pickup the following day. Delivery available Monday to Friday. Email pickup@franklincommunity.coop (413) 625-2548

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

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WEST ALONG from page B1

bat-like quietly in their nursery on the porch. Weeks ago, the caterpillars were brought in to munch contentedly on harvested milkweed. Pampered for weeks, enclosed in the aquarium, protected from predators by a screen top, they are secretly and patiently transforming into butterflies.

Each green chrysalis, ornamented with gold flecks on the upper rim, is close to reaching the end of this stage of transformation. When it's time, they'll appear as butterflies, dry their wings, lift up over the yard, over the peaked roof of this old house on the Flat, and be off to Mexico.

Like them, in past Septembers, I would be off somewhere too. Years ago, running my heedless ways, Septembers found me leaving a summer job on the Cape, or leaving home for college, once I even undertook a transatlantic crossing on the Queen Mary, off I was to Cherbourg in France, or I found myself leaving for two years to live and teach in Africa. More recently and for forty years running, I would be leaving this house for the first day of school, my teacher's satchel full of lesson plans.

Now I'm the one who stays behind, and I know what my parents probably felt when I left home seeking new adventures, getting on with my life beyond the world of this sleepy town. I still do get the urge for going, around about September time, and maybe I'll do just that. Rise up, fly away and join the nighthawks on their way down South, or fuel up on sugar and wing away to Costa Rica with our hummingbird companion. We'll see about that. Maybe tomorrow.

For now, I'll just sit here in the evening on the back porch of the old house. It's my turn to be left behind and ruminating on those traveling thoughts, on the memories of leaving, the urge for going. Besides, the dog, grounded in his canine routine, is holding me back, paw planted firmly on my would-be wanderer's foot, reminding me that in fact it's time to take a ramble up the street to sniff and study the new scents and clues about what's been going on in the village.

That's as far as our current travel plans will take us. Such is the sum of his urge for going, and so to humor him, that's exactly what we will do – that's as far as we will go this time.



Montague Community Television News

Late Boats, Wilde Play

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Christmas in July happened in late August this year, so if you missed it, be sure to check out MCTV's footage of the boat parade and spectacular firework show!

Another thoroughly entertaining film, now available on the MCTV Vimeo page, is the outstanding performance of *The Importance of Being Earnest*. This play, written by Oscar Wilde, was directed and produced by teenage Fyodor Michael, who pulled together an incredibly talented group of young people to perform in the Montague Common Hall on a couple of hot and humid evenings in mid-August.

The Montague selectboard meeting and Montague finance committee from September 7 and 8 are both

available on Vimeo, and will be airing on Channel 17.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on our Vimeo page.

MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for check-out, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

The MCTV board is 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.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Exploded View Issues Call for Art

TURNERS FALLS – Exploded View is curating a community art exhibit this November at the Great Falls Discovery Center. The theme of the show is "Repair."

Exploded View is a poetry-performance-art collaboration of local artists and writers, and their Call for Art asks fellow artists to consider the following:

In this second pandemic year, it feels essential to perform maintenance and repair individually, and in community. Art work for this show may reflect on processes of mending, reconstruction, redemption, fixing, rebuilding, healing, and transformation. What strategies for individual and collective maintenance can be articulated by devoting ourselves to repair?

Two- and three-dimensional works will be considered for the show, as space allows. The exhibit

will run from November 6 to December 1 in the Great Hall of the Discovery Center. Associated programming is planned during November in connection with the exhibit; details to come in October.

To apply, please send an email with image files to explodedviewma@gmail.com by October 25. (Up to three submissions are allowed per artist.) A statement about how your work relates to the theme is highly desirable, but not required. Be sure to include your full name, address, and telephone number.

Selected artists will be notified by October 30. If accepted, work will need to be dropped off on Thursday, November 4 between 10 a.m. and noon and picked up Wednesday, December 1 between 10 a.m. and noon.

Find ExplodedViewMA on Facebook and at the Exploded View blog: explodedviewma.blogspot.com.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Three Bikes Stolen On K Street; Stolen Lockbox; Driving Too Slow, Erratically, Or The Wrong Way; Altercations; Kids Returned; Mrs. Pickles; Mangy Fox

Sunday, 9/5
8:33 a.m. H Street caller reported a knife-wielding male threatening to stab her dog for barking at him. Male had already called to report dogs on the loose almost biting someone. Second caller reporting neighbors' dogs almost biting someone.
8:52 a.m. Caller from United Arc requested police attendance to walk through the building. It was found with the back door unlocked, and several open doors. Building secured.
11:15 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle lurking in the area of Federal Street, Green Pond Road, and Veterans Street. Caller's car alarm had gone off and he wants to retrieve tools from his car. Officer interview, turned out to be a private investigator.
12:56 p.m. L Street caller upset by teenagers ringing doorbell and running away.
3:29 p.m. Caller made multiple calls about a neighbor yelling excessively at her three children on Fourth Street.
6:32 p.m. Report of a motor vehicle accident at Third Street and Avenue A. One vehicle able to drive away, and the second will change a tire and hopefully drive away.
7:08 p.m. Officer flagged down on Fourth Street due to a chemical smell. Unable to locate, but notified TFFD.
9:57 p.m. Officer advised walk-in caller reported hitting a parked car. Could not see any damage, and did not to wake up the owner late at night.

Monday, 9/6
12:05 p.m. Shoplifter caught on camera at Food City. Female was wearing a white t-shirt, black pants, and carrying a large green purse.
12:05 p.m. Dog found tied up on Migratory Way with no water. Caller bringing it to vet to check for a microchip. None found, so requested an escort to the dog shelter.
2:05 p.m. Report of a break-in and theft of \$5,000 at South Prospect Street. Caller may know the thief.
4:09 p.m. Caller reported a neighbor is parking on the sidewalk on Federal Street and blocking the area. Vehicle moved.
11:06 p.m. Central Street caller reporting loud yelling upstairs. She's trying to be patient, but this has been going on for hours, her children cannot sleep and the house is shaking. Officer on scene advised noisemakers of the consequences of a repeat visit.
11:35 p.m. Blown breaker on power pole causing power outage reported on Green Pond Road. Montague FD and Eversource notified.

Tuesday, 9/7
6:18 a.m. Multiple fire alarms reported at Park Villa Drive. TFFD advised.
1:24 p.m. Fourth Street caller reported her son had been assaulted on 9/2. Officer advised her of options.
2:39 p.m. Report of green bike with orange tires stolen from K Street porch. Suspect last seen riding on the bike trail, heading toward Unity Park.
2:52 p.m. State police reporting a motor vehicle accident on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge with minor injuries.
4:32 p.m. Report of an unwanted person outside Family Dollar harassing people for money. Moved along.
5:54 p.m. Rau's assistance requested to tow an uninsured vehicle with revoked registration following a traffic stop.
8:12 p.m. Caller reported missing diabetic boyfriend. He left for a doctor's appointment at 4 p.m. and hasn't returned. When she called his cell phone number a female answered who said she found the phone somewhere. Caller advised if there is no word tonight, she should come to the station to file a missing person report.

Wednesday, 9/8
7:06 a.m. Report of a tail-gater continuing west on Turnpike Road. Unable to locate.
1 p.m. Driver reported heading the wrong way on Route 2. Referred to state police.
2 p.m. Black BMX bike and green wagon stolen from K Street address.
4:08 p.m. Officer assisted Griswold Street caller to enter a locked car.
4:28 p.m. Fourth Street verbal altercation mediated by officer passing by.
7:54 p.m. East Main Street caller reported his car is at a shop, and the catalytic converter was stolen from the loaner vehicle.
9:59 p.m. Caller from Turnpike Road called to report his former wife is trying to log into accounts illegally. Advised of options.

Thursday, 9/9
9:08 a.m. Chester Street caller reported a teenage male in a black hoodie and grey shorts entering her yard and grabbing a basketball. She followed him in a car and confronted him again. Last seen walking down Unity Street.
1:58 p.m. Caller from Moltenbrey Apartments advised of options following the theft of personal ID's by a friend. Later in the day, there was a second call to file an official theft report.
2:09 p.m. L Street parent reporting the theft of change, and possibly food, by his son.
3:56 p.m. Report of a missing juvenile, last seen talking to strangers with a dog. School backpack left behind. Amber Alert issued. Juvenile located on Oakman Street.
5:51 p.m. Third Street runaway reported. Caller reported her son had been brought home by the SRO earlier in the day and told to stay in his room. Child believed to be with friends, and eventually returned home.
8:43 p.m. Caller reported bright light over the mountain in Gill, and the smell of smoke. Referred to another agency.
10:25 p.m. Reports of white truck causing a traffic hazard by driving only 10 mph down Turners Falls Road. Officer advised no impairment, but language difficulty. Coworker from Hillside Plastics assisted with translating complaint to driver.

Friday, 9/10
4:46 a.m. Assistance provided to a caller with keys locked inside a vehicle on Country Club Lane.
11:29 a.m. Loose dogs reported on Dry Hill Road for the past several days. Don't appear to be aggressive, but one just snatched a rabbit out of its cage on her property. ACO notified.
12:13 p.m. CO alarms reported on Wentworth Avenue. Referred to another agency.
2:39 p.m. Report of erratic driver in a grey GMC van on Millers Falls Road.
2:48 p.m. Caller at Third and L streets reporting teens who got off the bus are harassing her and threatening violence.
4:04 p.m. Break-in reported at Keith Apartments. Window pushed in and lockbox taken.
4:14 p.m. Officer spoke to Food City shoplifter following a call by store manager.
5:27 p.m. Assistance requested by caller from Highland School Apartments who had locked keys in their car.
5:56 p.m. Caller reported harassment at Peskeomskut Park, and decided to take another route home.
7:24 p.m. Peep wearing red shorts and a blanket around his shoulders was reported on Randall Road. Turned out to be looking for his friend.
7:30 p.m. Keith Street resident reported a lost dog named Dexter. Shortly

after, a second caller reported a found dog matching the description. Owner can pick up.
7:42 p.m. Avenue A caller upset with a neighbor yelling obscenities out the window at her children.

Saturday, 9/11
7:35 a.m. Keith Apartment resident reporting his stolen lockbox is currently on Avenue A near Hubie's; person is wearing a white sweatshirt and gray sweatpants. Not found by investigating officer. Resident called again to say a third party had offered to retrieve the lockbox for a \$20 reward. Officers were told who has the box.
7:38 a.m. Lost dog reported missing near Rau's. Mrs. Pickles is black and white, with a curly tail and bright pink collar.
10:12 a.m. Anonymous caller by the Cutlery Block on Third Street reported someone shooting up in a car in the parking lot. No vehicle found matching plate or description.
10:40 a.m. Gas leak reported on East Chestnut Hill Road. Gas turned off and plumber on the way.
10:49 a.m. Windy Hollow Veterinary Clinic called to notify of mangy fox with neurological symptoms, and likely rabies, seen in the area.
12:07 p.m. Five horses on the loose on Turners Falls Road near Randall Wood Drive. Not found by investigating officer.
1:59 p.m. Another K Street bicycle theft reported, this one taken from inside a front hallway: a black and silver men's Trek Fuel mountain bike with red front shocks.
10:12 p.m. Report of a smell of illegal plastic burning on Lake Pleasant Road. Referred to Montague FD.

Sunday, 9/12
12:13 a.m. Caller requested a police drive-through on East Taylor Hill Road following a red car pulling into the driveway and driver approaching front door. This happened on another occasion as well. Surveillance cameras have been turned on.
1:01 a.m. Disturbance reported in downtown Millers Falls with loud yelling and racing up and down the street. Requested a police drive-through. All quiet when officer arrived.
1:13 a.m. Officer on duty reporting verbal altercation between two females who are now walking to a friend's house.
5:27 a.m. 911 hang-up call caused by the drop of a phone. Caller does not want an officer visiting the T Street location and waking everyone up.

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RAMBLER from page B1

seemingly limitless books lining the walls, going places near and far in my head, and reading things appropriate – and not so much – for a young child. Ditching, in the first grade.

I wonder: if the poverty my family experienced had not been so biting, I might have been willing to risk poverty as an adult, and given myself permission to study color, and painting, making bright geometric canvases, and walking around paint-splattered and smelling of turpentine.

There is nothing new about constraints and resistance; they are the story of humanity. The constraints are not fairly distributed nor is the need for resistance, but they are present everywhere, forming the structure of people’s lives. What is interesting is how people cope, or refuse to, where they find expansiveness, or if they succumb to the despair of broken dreams.

In these past 18 months of politicized illness, and politicized bod-

ies, I, along with millions of others, have almost been forced to ponder the vulnerability of flesh. I have at times struggled, and watched others struggle, with a narrowed sense of possibility – exacerbated, but not created by, the pandemic. I have seen who has gotten wealthy or wealthier, and who has fallen, and the way we levy judgment at those who are constrained, and throw accolades at the gilded path.

It is raining again, a slow drip, and I am having Chinese food for dinner, hot and comforting against the multiple shades of grey outside my windows. The garden is fading, although my almost true-red gladiolas have just bloomed. The hummingbirds have gone south, but the Monarchs linger, offering late-summer delight with their graceful glide and floral landings.

I wonder if they are ever terrified, afloat on those paper-thin wings. I have so much that is sturdy, and yet still struggle to keep fear at bay, in this year of fear.



MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

Dredd Foole, *QuaranTunes*
Series No. 001

(Feeding Tube Records,
lathe-cut record, 2020)

MYSTRA
REVIEWS #5



By JOSH B.

TURNERS FALLS – While playing with our cat during the pandemic, we were ruminating about the many years out here in West Mass when there have always been plenty of great shows, including many with Mr. Dredd Foole, who has been a favorite area musician for a while now. At almost every show we would end up with a friend’s new tape or CD-R... sometimes even an LP!

These times had been different in so many ways. No shows for so long (except online), barely any new releases (except online), and few sightings of friends (except for “talking” online, texting, or the newest thing, “Zooming”).

Well, speaking of Zooming, here is a release that reflects the “Days of Zoom.”

Dredd Foole hasn’t had a vinyl release in several years – his first was in the late ‘70s, backed by Mission of Burma, and he has had many since then – and his last release was actually a CD on our Mystra label in 2016 or so, *Blue Train Too*. But here, with things as they are 2021-style, his new re-

lease actually a Zoom session, *and* is back to ye olde turntable format (a lathe cut, though)!

Hearing it today, you wouldn’t think the Zoom-era world was much different. If you listen to this back-to-back with *Blue Train* there is the kind of “natural progression” that you used to hear more of in the old days: an artist continuing, digging deep in his life’s pursuit, still reporting to us from his path, and sounding as great as ever. Well, maybe a little more haunted-sounding... and we think this was from before the pandemic?

Maybe it would sound even more haunted now, but who wouldn’t, as the country and world seems to have shifted into a Twilight Zone reality of sorts, where no one knows what’s really going on or what’s coming next. We have all been traumatized, it seems.

Dredd Foole gives plenty of music from the heart on this release, which is good to hear in these times. He has been a “man on a mission” for a long time now: sometimes solo, with an acoustic guitar and his surreal vocals, like on this release, and sometimes as more of a full-on vocal improviser in the style of vin-

tage ESP-Disk albums.

He is a unique messenger, drawing on the past while always moving forward, and throwing some wild curveballs along the way. If you have never heard him before you are in for a unique experience. If you want some comparisons, picture some combination of Tim Buckley, Odetta, Neil Young, British folkies like Bert Jansch, and also some of the vibrations of the best ‘60s psychedelic albums – and some punk and post-rock vibes too.

He is great live, but also make sure to put on headphones and follow him through sound, space, and time on vinyl. This is no background music: every Dredd album is a unique experience, stretching into all sorts of different dimensions while remaining 100% DF. I think we are lucky to be on the planet at the same time as him. We can even see him play, a few feet away, hopefully again soon!

There is a theory that we live in the “culture of the self”: we all feel alone with our own needs, isolated from each other. Maybe the truth is that we are actually very connected with many of those hordes of millions all around. Art and music can help all of us reconnect, and show us some of the great varied realities all around us. It can even help us connect to amazing spirits out there...

Dredd Foole is such a spirit, with amazing energy and visions. Making music can make some folks become mad-hatter types, but Dredd keeps things focused and stays close to his muse. Check out his releases and Youtube performances. This lathe is actually tracks from a Feeding Tube Zoom session that should still be on Youtube – you can check out his spiffy hat on there, too!

TV & FILM

Superman and His Four Loises

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – Superman has been on TV and movie screens often. I have previously written a critique of the actors I have seen portray him on those screens. But you can’t have Superman without Lois Lane.

I have four actresses’ portrayals of the reporter that I want to speak of: Margot Kidder’s, Teri Hatcher’s, Erica Durance’s, and Elizabeth Tulloch’s. What reporter wouldn’t want to know Superman’s secret identity, or figure it out? It certainly leads to some interesting situations – not to mention the interesting relationship between Superman when he’s Clark Kent and Lois Lane. Three of these four actresses’ portrayals of the character have featured her finding out Superman’s secret identity.

Margot Kidder played Lois in the Christopher Reeve’s *Superman* movies. She figures out Clark is Superman during *Superman II*. Kidder also made an appearance, like so many others who were in related Superman works, in the prequel TV series called *Smallville*. They have done that sort of thing several times on the *Super Girl* TV series which I like as well.

But getting to Teri Hatcher’s performance in *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman*, the writers have her figure out Clark is Superman at the end of Season One, and be married to him at some point too. The way she figures it out is way better than the way Kidder does in that movie. Kidder’s acting was alright in the movies, and so was the scene when she figured out Clark is Superman. But I think her acting was a product of its day – it may have been a little bit cheesy.

Teri Hatcher does the fearless-re-

porter thing that is the character of Lois Lane very well, and like Kidder does in the movies. You should see all of the situations Hatcher gets herself into as Lois in that series. If the character of Lois is supposed to be played like that – which is how Kidder does it in movies, in my opinion – then Hatcher has done a wonderful job, and has been very on key with her acting.

Erica Durance joins *Smallville* as someone who meets that show’s Clark while he is still in high school. She’s not even a reporter yet, but does get into that later on. Then she is at the *Daily Planet* with Clark as a reporter.

As for how the writers have her learn Clark is Superman, she just realizes it in one instant, then she waits and lets him tell her. Another moment like that which I liked is when the two first meet in the series. She shows up because she’s a cousin to one of Clark’s friends. Clark asks her name, and she tells him, and in that moment I knew who she is. It’s a very cool moment to be introduced in. Something then happens to that friend of Clark, and Lois investigates.

As for Tulloch’s performance, she doesn’t show up like Durance does. She appeared with the actor who plays Superman on the *SuperGirl* TV series sometimes when she goes to see him, and at one point of the first episode I saw her in, she even gets in on the action. That happens again in the next storyline she appears in, but this time she is a major player, not just a supporting one. People must have thought her to be very good in terms of her acting, because she got a TV series of her own alongside Tyler Hoechlin, the actor who played the latest Superman.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Funding Available:
Montague Cultural Council Seeks Proposals
for Workshops, Performances, Exhibits, & More

MONTAGUE / TURNERS FALLS – Individuals and organizations are encouraged to apply for grant funding to support community-oriented arts, humanities, and science programs during 2022. Applications can be found at www.mass-culture.org and will be accepted until October 15, 2021.

Last year the Montague Cultural Council, a local agency funded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, awarded grants ranging from \$100 to \$500 for projects including musical performances, theatrical productions, art-making workshops, readings, exhibitions, and educational programs.

We know that many such activities are still not possible at this time, but we also know that the creative minds of Montague are up to the challenge and that the arts are needed to get us through this pandemic.

This year we have updated our funding priorities to highlight a focus on equity: projects which focus on Cultural Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion; projects that elevate the voices and experiences of historically marginalized groups to highlight the current and historical diversity of Montague.

Projects should create opportunities for artists and community members who identify as Black, Indige-

nous, POC, LGBTQX, Latinx, refugee, immigrant, or person living with a disability.

Funding for these grants comes from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which receives an annual appropriation from the state legislature, which then allocates funds to every town in the Commonwealth.

The Montague Cultural Council wishes to encourage proposals from a broad range of applicants and to fund programs that allow Montague residents in all five villages to experience a diverse array of programming. Cultural activities can be organized by artists, nonprofits, public agencies, and other local groups.


In some cases we fully fund programs, but we encourage applicants to seek additional funding sources, including using our grants as seed money.

Potential applicants should review the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Montague Cultural Council guidelines carefully and then submit an application by October 15, 2021. The application and guidelines are online at www.mass-culture.org. For a printed copy of the application, please contact us. Montague Cultural Council members will review the applications and name this year’s awardees by February 2022.

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Montague’s Confirmed Misdials: A Police Log Retrospective

Compiled by EMILY ALLING

PART I

Illustrations by TROUBLE MANDESON

Friday, 6/27/14
6:30 p.m. 911 misdial; party was looking for 411.
Saturday, 6/28/14
3:50 p.m. Abandoned 911 call. Female homeowner accidentally dialed while dusting phone.



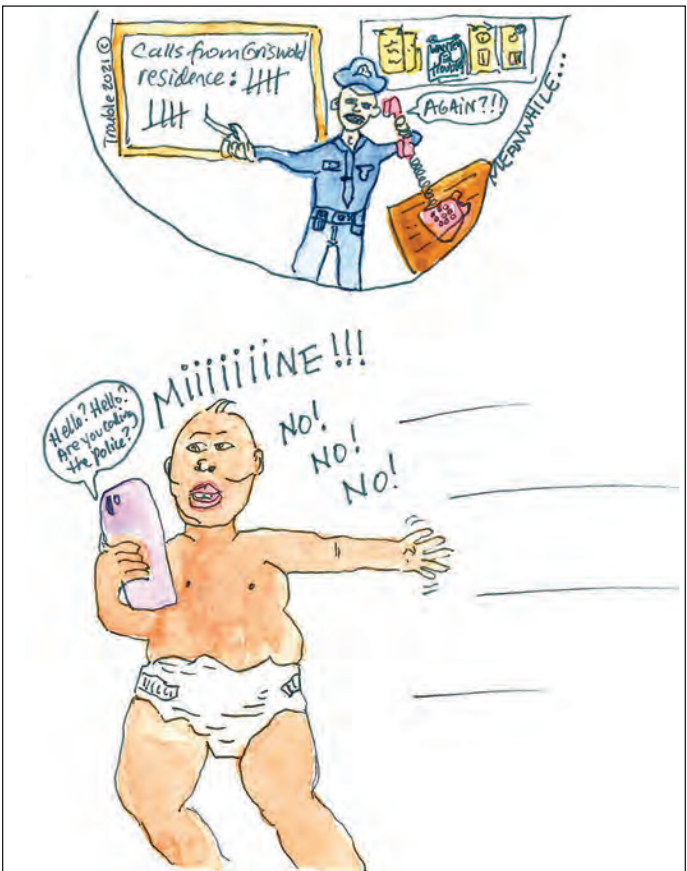
Saturday, 11/29/14
12:37 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from pay phone at Food City. Officer in lobby at time of call advised that no one was at the payphone.
Tuesday, 3/24/15
2:52 p.m. Received what seemed to be a 911 misdial from Turners Falls. Database note shows that the resident has booby-trapped the rear screen door. Officer spoke with caller, who was concerned about water contamination, and trying to place a call to the FBI to ask them to test the water. Officer offered caller contact information for the Turners Falls Water Department.
Monday, 5/4/15
10:20 a.m. 911 misdial: caller’s code to retrieve her voicemail is 911.
Thursday, 10/1/15
11:18 a.m. 911 misdial from Franklin County Technical School; caller advises that he meant to dial extension 119.

School officer advises all set; no problems.
Tuesday, 10/6/15
1:11 p.m. 911 misdial; caller advises he was looking for the number for Ruggeri’s Package Store, and meant to call 411.
Tuesday, 1/26/16
6:39 p.m. 911 hangup. On callback, spoke to a female party

who stated it was a mistake; she was not sure what happened.
Thursday, 6/2/16
7:07 p.m. Two abandoned 911 calls from L Street. Officer checked on residence; female party was attempting to call about the deer.
Thursday, 1/5/17
11:48 a.m. 911 misdial; mother came on the line advising that her child was playing with the phone. No noise of concern was heard in the background. Officer advised. Confirmed misdial.
Monday, 1/9/17
1:25 p.m. 911 misdial from the town hall elevator.
Thursday, 1/12/17
9:20 a.m. Abandoned 911 call from the Great Falls Middle School behavioral room. Officer spoke with a guidance counselor; accidental activation.
Saturday, 3/25/17
4:03 p.m. Abandoned 911 call from the responsible behavior room at the middle school. Officers advise nothing suspicious on site and building

secure.
Tuesday, 4/25/17
9:25 a.m. 911 call received from Greenfield Savings Bank; series of beeps heard in the background, but no voices. Called number back; received fax machine. Officers on scene. Second 911 call with same beeping heard in background. Officers confirmed misdials; believed to be issue with incoming faxes.
Tuesday, 6/27/17
8:27 a.m. 911 misdial from town hall elevator.
Sunday, 2/11/18
5:58 a.m. Northampton Control transferring an open 911 call coming from Griswold Street. Child is playing on phone. This is the eleventh time the child has called 911 in a short period of time. Upon clearing, officer advises he has made contact with the phone owner. Phone is now away from child. Confirmed misdial.
Wednesday, 2/14/18
8:12 a.m. Emergency 911 button activation at Colle Opera House. Party advises she accidentally hit the button. Officer confirmed misdial.
Wednesday, 2/28/18
7:34 a.m. 911 abandoned call. On callback, male states he mistakenly hit redial; the last call he made the previous night had been 911.
Tuesday, 3/27/18
5:09 p.m. Two 911 hangup calls received from Franklin County Tech School. Officer spoke to the baseball coach, who confirmed it was just a misdial.

Thursday, 4/5/18
12:20 a.m. Abandoned 911 call to Greenfield PD from Avenue A. Upon callback, male advised that he had been attempting to call 611 to check minutes on his phone. Units clear; confirmed misdial.
Wednesday, 6/6/18
3:04 p.m. Two consecutive 911 calls received from an Avenue A address. Upon callback, answering party advised that someone was learning how to use the phone and it was a mistake.
Thursday, 6/7/18
4:15 p.m. Accidental emergency call made from elevator inside town hall. Confirmed misdial.
Tuesday, 6/12/18
3:28 p.m. 911 open line call with no voice. TTY and silent call procedures initiated. Second 911 call received from the same number/location; tweedle of a fax machine presenting at this time. Officer advised; made contact with staff members at location, who advised that the facility does not own a fax, and no one was trying to call 911.
Saturday, 8/25/18
11:22 p.m. Greenfield dispatch reporting 911 misdial from Stevens Street. Upon callback, all parties sounded happy and advised that they did not mean to dial 911 while resetting cell phone.
Sunday, 8/26/18
1:25 a.m. Greenfield dispatch again advising of 911 misdial from Stevens Street. Spoke to female who advises no emer-



gency this time, either; they are attempting to fix the cell phone. No police response needed. Subsequent call received from a female whose phone has dialed 911. Female apologized for problems and advised that there is no emergency. Officer knows all people who were present (some family), and believes there is no emergency.
Thursday, 9/13/18
8:36 p.m. Caller misdialed 911 while in the bathroom. Caller

stated that everything was fine and that he would be willing to speak to an officer if needed. Officer advised and en route. Confirmed misdial.
Wednesday, 9/26/18
11:30 a.m. Greenfield PD received a 911 misdial that is mapping at the cemetery on Turnpike Road. Area checked; spoke to a couple of guys landscaping who said they did not dial 911.
Thursday, 9/27/18
3:01 p.m. 911 hangup call from Industrial Boulevard. On callback, female party advised that she used the wrong speed dial button and that there was no emergency. Officer confirmed misdial.
Saturday, 9/29/18
11:05 a.m. 911 misdial; caller advising call was generated by her watch. Officer’s information: A very organized Cub/Boy Scout event being held at and near the entrance to the Turners Falls Airport off Millers Falls Road. 911 call that came from this area was a confirmed non-emergency misdial.
Monday, 10/1/18
8:05 a.m. Shelburne Control advising that they received a 911 misdial from the area of Depot Street; they called the number back and spoke to a male who said it was a pocket dial. Montague dispatch confirmed that the party was not in need of assistance.



PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Talk on Greenfield’s Involvement in the Underground Railroad

GREENFIELD – ECHO Greenfield (Exploring and Creating Histories Ourselves) is proud to present Joan Featherman leading a discussion of Greenfield’s involvement in the Underground Railroad and other anti-slavery activity during the 1800s.
“The Road to Freedom: Greenfield and the Underground Railroad,” at the LAVA Center and on Zoom at 1 p.m. next Saturday, September 25, will describe a year-long, community-wide project inspired by the belief that Greenfield’s history as a diverse and socially just community must be told.
Dr. Joan Featherman served as project director for the Road to Freedom grant from 2006 to 2007. The project, funded by the

Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities in 2007, pulled from the full range of humanities disciplines to engage residents in the local history and tradition of anti-slavery activism, and the continued struggle for “liberty and justice for all” in our city and beyond.
The Greenfield Human Rights Commission, Greenfield Historical Commission, and Pioneer Valley Institute of GCC sponsored 10 public events and presentations in collaboration with historians, educators, and activists.
Next Saturday’s workshop will describe the creative, multi-disciplinary approaches used to make this history accessible to audiences diverse in age and background, including research of original source materials,

interactive performances, and the arts including visual art, music and textiles as well as a walking tour of local Underground Railroad and anti-slavery sites.
We will also discuss the process of creating community involvement, excitement, and participation in the planning and implementation of the grant.
This raises another level of possible exploration: how can we create enduring grassroots organizations with a social justice mission, enough funding, and a broad impact in the community? What were our successes, our challenges? Keeping the history of anti-slavery activism alive and connected to our present reality is vital to our identity as a just and

multi-racial community. How do we persist in raising these issues?
Dr. Featherman has been a Greenfield resident for over 35 years, and is currently a psychologist in private practice. At the time of the grant, she was the chair of the Greenfield Human Rights Commission, and was a former school committee member. In her career, she has been a founding member of several effective, enduring social change organizations, including NELCWIT and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. She is also a singer with the Amandla (now Fiery Hope) Chorus.
This workshop will be simulcast at the LAVA Center and on Zoom. Pre-register for the Zoom meeting at echogreenfield.org.

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The Children's Page

YONEROD ILLUSTRATION

Wild carrot



Queen Anne's lace, or wild carrot, is neither poisonous nor delicious! But it is beautiful, and it can grow in the poorest soils, bringing the magic of beautiful lace to old empty lots, roadsides, and fields. Its name comes from a story: Queen Anne was making lace, and pricked her finger so a drop of blood fell on the lace. Its beautiful white flowers have one single, tiny petal of red in the middle. It is a mystery why this is so. This plant also looks almost identical to poison hemlock; the only difference is that there are red spots on the hemlocks stem, But it seems unlikely that you would eat these flowers anyway, doesn't it? So this is much safer than nightshade, which has tempting berries!

Sumac



nightshade berries



It's good to know about plants that can help you, but it's also good to know about plants that can hurt you! Nightshade has beautiful purple flowers, but it has the name "deadly nightshade" because it is poisonous! It is so poisonous that it can even make you ill to eat honey made by bees who went to its flowers frequently. But it has a use: scientists extract portions of it to dilate the eyes before surgery. Yew berries and mistletoe berries can poison people, too, as well as many others. The more you learn about plants the safer you will be!

Staghorn Sumac brings in the autumn! Its leaves are among the very first to change color. You can find it all over town, but not everyone knows that it makes a delicious drink, much like lemonade. Native Americans made this drink by drying the berries mashing them and mixing them with water. It can also be steeped like tea. It's sour and delicious. It is also very good for your heart and your cells because of micronutrients and antioxidants. The berries are also used as a spice in Mediterranean food. There is a poison sumac, but it's very very easy to tell apart, because the tasty sumac has red berries and the poison sumac has white berries.

Autumn Plants

XW X F P J P G Q I H J F P S L E G W T
X P H E F Z U L K Z O M H C Y N I N M G
O H C I R G M D K E H C C T C U C J Y K
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L D I L Q R N Z O W T J C I R V E L F G
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V L Q I C J N W N T C W C E C Y U Q I T
W T J U E O X W G N O X F D O Y K I Q G

Text by BEVERLY KETCH
Illustrations by VELOURIA MENEGONI

Queen Anne's lace Sugar maple Nightshade Wild carrot
Sycamore Pumpkin Sumac

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Thus Love, Carinae*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 17
Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Stella Kola, Shea Mowat, Tiny Steve*. Outdoors. Free. 5 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Home Body, Minivan, Bad Behavior DJs*. Vax proof & mask up. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Darlingside*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Yo La Tengo*. \$. 8 p.m.

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: *Carinae, Fake Sisters, Clock Serum, DJ Quills*. \$. 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18
Peskeomskut Park, Turners Falls: 3rd Annual Fun Fest feat. *The Gaslight Tinkers, Viva Quetzal, Musica Franklin students*. Free. 1 p.m.

Three County Fair, Northampton: Concert for the Homeless feat. *Marcy Playground, Lit, The Motels*, and more. \$. 1 p.m.

Mount Toby Meeting, Leverett: *Paul Kaplan*, folk. \$. 2 p.m.

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Block Party* with a DJ set by the *Cohen Brothers*, food trucks, art vendors. Free. 4 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Coheed & Cambria, The Used*. \$. 5 p.m.

Turners Falls Rod & Gun Club, Turners Falls: *AfterGlo*. \$. 6:30 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Vimana*, jazz-rock. By donation. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rebelle, Simon White, The Equalites, DJ-Iganic*. Reggae. \$. 7 p.m.

Calvin Theater, Northampton: *Julien Baker, Thao & the Get Down Stay Down*. \$. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Keith Murphy & Becky Tracy*, French Canadian and Irish traditional. \$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Nemesisister, Minivan, Model Home, PussyVision*. Vax proof & mask up. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Taiwan Housing Project, Sky Furrows, Strange Fate*. \$.

8 p.m.

Brewbakers, Keene: *Pete Bernhard, The Huntress & Holder of Hands* (ex-Brown Bird). \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton: Arcadia Folk Festival feat. *Suzanne Vega, Lori McKenna, Chris Smither, Ladama*, and more. \$.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jax Hollow*. \$. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 20
Academy of Music, Northampton: *Dr. Dog, Bowerbirds*. \$. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Shamarr Allen*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRI-SUN, SEPTEMBER 24-26
MASS MoCA, North Adams: FreshGrass Festival fest. *Dispatch, Sam Bush, Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, Bela Fleck, Sam Bush, Amy Helm*, many more.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Mad Agnes*, contemporary

folksong. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Christoph Irniger Trio*, jazz. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *The Mountain Goats*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Radio Reptar*. Cover band dance party. \$. 9 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Palladium, Worcester: *NOFX, The Mighty Mighty Bosstones, Pennywise*, more. \$. 12 p.m.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Shelley Roberts & Charlie Widmer*. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Big Al Anderson and the Floor Models*. The NRBQ guy. \$. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Sea Level Inferno*: Short films with live soundtracks by legendary jazz drummer *William Hooker*, saxophonist *Stan Harrison*, *Roger Clark Miller* (Mission of Burma, etc.), and *Gerard Smith* (Phantom Tollbooth). \$. 8 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Soccer Mommy, Squirrel Flow-*

er. \$. 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Swing Sunday* with dance lesson at 3 p.m., *Butterfly Swing* at 4 p.m. \$.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Peter Blanchette*. \$. 4 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
Look Park, Northampton: *Big Thief, Alex G*. \$. 6 p.m.

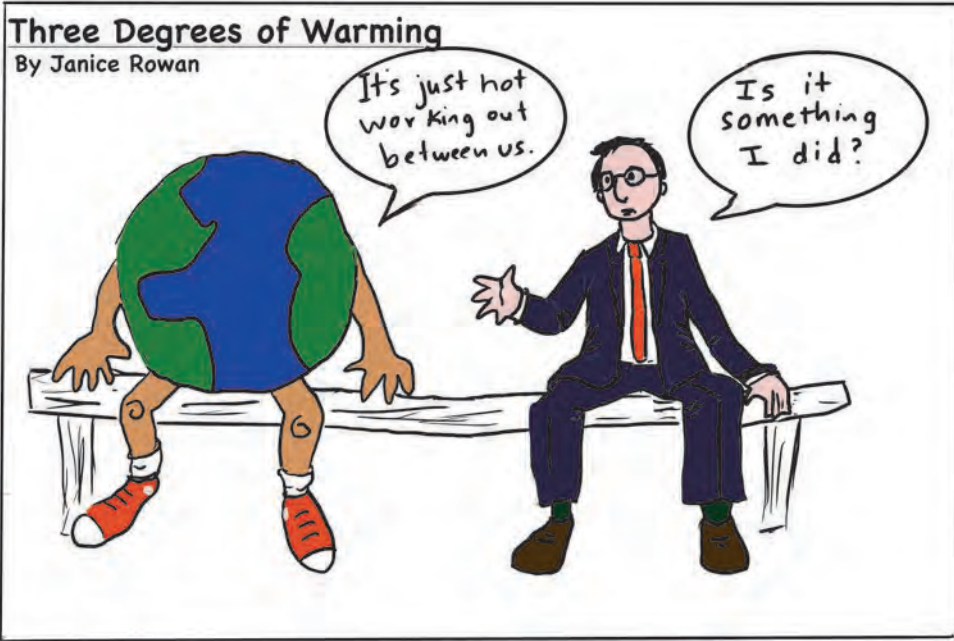
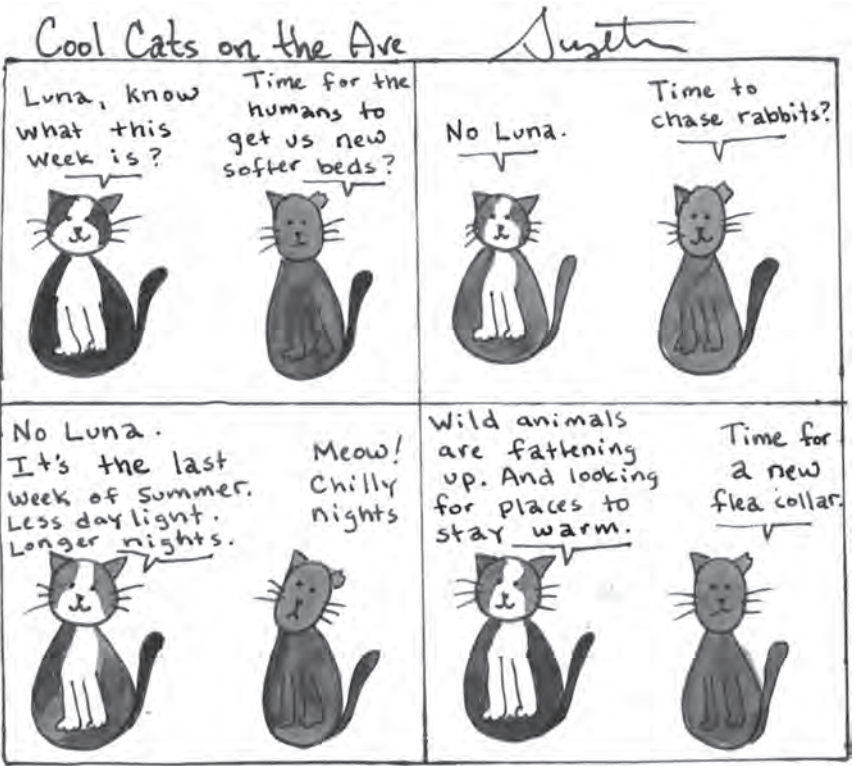
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1
Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Session Americana, Ali McGuirk*. \$. 7 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Peter Blanchette*. \$. 4 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2
Belltower Records, North Adams: *Mountain Movers, MV+EE, Honey Radar*. \$. 5 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7
Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: *Okkervil River, Damien Jurado*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 8
Brewbakers, Keene: *Diane Cluck, Davey F. Mandesea*. \$. 8 p.m.



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HEARTFELT from page B1

of cauliflower and broccoli, and Romanesco broccoli, also green and sometimes yellow, which sports a flower head in a conical shape with unusual fractal, or spiral, patterns.

Cauliflower curds can be steamed, boiled, fried, pickled, or eaten raw. The leaves are also edible but are typically discarded. They add a wonderful crunch to a *crudité* platter and a thick cauliflower slice, seasoned and roasted or grilled, makes for a filling vegetarian meat substitute. It contains many important vitamins and minerals, omega 3-fatty acids, fiber, and potassium.

It also turns out that cauliflower is an excellent alternative to rice or wheat flour since it is gluten-free. The retail marketplace is full of new products like pizza crust, crackers, noodles, and even tortillas made from cauliflower to fit any dietary need. What was once a rather boring, sometimes maligned vegetable, has become a rather fashionable foodstuff.

Alas, cruciferous vegetables do have a downside! Besides the awful smell when cooking, gastrointestinal distress is common due to a type of carbohydrate called raffinose, which human bodies are not equipped to break down. These smelly situations arise from sulfur-containing chemicals called glucosinolates. Adding a bay leaf or a flavored extract to the water while cooking cauliflower can help to mask the odor. I'd suggest an open window for the other...

A history of cauliflower in the kitchen finds pickled cauliflowers in *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy* (1747); from *The Lady's Receipt Book: A Useful Companion for Large or Small Families* (1847) comes cauliflower macaroni, which is "very superior to real macaroni" according to Miss Leslie; and in *American Domestic Cookery* (1823), "An Experienced Housekeeper" details her recipe for cauliflower in white sauce by cutting it into "handsome pieces" and laying it in a stew-pan to be covered with "a little broth, a little mace, a little salt, and a dust of white pepper." It is then simmered with cream and flour added in before serving.

It's pretty hard to resist any vegetable covered in hot, gooey cheese, which leads to the remarkably simple cauliflower *au gratin* with butter, grated cheese, and a judicious mix of salt, white pepper, and nutmeg poured over the curds and baked under tender. It can also be topped with breadcrumbs before baking. (This is a good substitute for potatoes *au gratin* if nightshade-related foods are an issue.)

Cauliflower really is a very versatile veggie, so consider trying it in a garlicky, cauliflower soup, roast it whole until blackened and caramelized, or shave it thin with fennel for a cool, winter-white salad with a tangy mustard-lime dressing. This isn't your grandmother's cauliflower.

This recipe for cauliflower curry quiche was an old family favorite. I haven't made it in several decades, so feel free to play with

the ingredients if it seems like it needs more. I remember it as being quite easy to make and not needing much more than the powerful burst of curry, layered between the cooling egg-yogurt mixture and the mild cauliflower.

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



CAULIFLOWER CURRY QUICHE

- One whole cauliflower
- 2 Tbsp olive or avocado oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 Tbsp curry powder
- Salt to taste
- 6 to 8 eggs
- 1 cup plain yogurt
- Salt/white pepper
- One pie crust

Remove the leaves from the cauliflower, wash it, and slice it. Steam the slices until cool enough to handle. Then lay out the florets in a single layer on the

bottom of the pie crust. Heat the oil in a pan and sauté the onions until tender, 5 to 7 minutes. Stir in the curry powder and salt to taste. Put the onions evenly across the top of the cauliflower. In a blender or a bowl, whip the eggs with the yogurt, add in salt and pepper. Slowly pour the mix over the vegetables, allowing the liquid to seep down between the layers. Bake at 350° for 35 to 40 minutes until firm. Cool before eating. Good hot or cold.



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