# se Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 - NO. 1

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

**NOVEMBER 4, 2021** 

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

**ERVING SELECTBOARD** 

## **Eversource Backs Out of** Road Repair Agreement

By KATIE NOLAN

Meeting remotely Monday night using GoToWebinar, the Erving selectboard decided that their next meeting will be held in person, and discussed plans to broadcast it live. The board heard from town administrator Bryan Smith that Eversource has apparently backed out of a verbal agreement to make repairs to Poplar Mountain Road, which was damaged by floods in July.

Last month, Smith told the board that when he and highway superintendent Glenn McCrory met with Eversource representatives, they acknowledged that runoff from their switching station on Poplar Mountain had likely caused much of the damage to the road, and agreed to make the repairs, which are necessary for the company to access the station with heavy equipment.

However, at Monday's meeting, Smith said Eversource had decided "they are no longer comfortable with working on the repair." He said he was told the utility would make a one-time contribution for temporary repairs to the road, but that he has not heard from the company since.

The board decided to engage A. Martin & Sons Construction, already working in town on the sidewalks on Central, Gunn, Park and Pratt streets, to make the Poplar Mountain repairs under a change order worth \$32,823.

### **Going Live**

The board decided that their next meeting, on Monday, November 15, will be held in person at the senior and community center. That meeting, and subsequent meetings, will

see **ERVING** page A5

## From Gems to Energy Storage? **Residents of Montague City** Confront the Village's Future

MILLERS FALLS



A company that sells gems, and sluices in which gems can be recreationally fished around for, has moved out. The site may be under consideration for a big battery.

### By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CITY - Residents in Montague City have watched as an obscure company located on Masonic Avenue that manufactures recreational mining equipment and distributes gems to "campgrounds, mini-golf courses, family fun centers," and other venues has moved out of the village, and have heard the property could be leased to a company that seeks to install a large-scale electric storage battery.

This development comes at a time of increasing concern about the future of Montague City, caused in part by the closing of the nearby Farren Care Center earlier in the year and the uncertain status of the former factory building on Rod Shop Road, which has recently been cited by the town for failure to pay back taxes. Residents have recently formed a neighborhood organization called the Montague City Improvement Association, which meets every three weeks and has been in frequent communication with town officials.

The Reporter was tipped off by one neighborhood resident that he had heard the Cold River Mining company had been "kicked out" of its space on Masonic Avenue, a short street off of Montague City Road that was once home to the Montague City Elementary School, a Masonic lodge, and a small library. Masonic intersects with Rod Shop Road, formerly the home of the Montague Rod Company, which manufactured high-quality bamboo fishing rods until it closed in 1955.

We contacted Rob Houchens, who told us he was the owner of Cold River Mining, with headquarters in Campbellsburg, Kentucky. Houchens told us that he had closed the operation because "it's easier to do business in Kentucky." He also said only four people had been working at the Montague City location, and that all have been offered jobs at a location with "similar equipment."

Houchens also said the recreational mining operation had its origins in Greenfield. The venture

see STORAGE page A6

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Mask Mandate Called Off **Everywhere Except Libraries**

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard and board of health (BOH) voted Monday night to rescind the town's mask mandate, imposed in response to the late August and early September rise in positive COVID tests. The vote by the selectboard was unanimous, while the BOH vote was 2 to 1, with Melanie Zamojski the only dissenting vote.

The discussion began with a review of the latest local and regional COVID metrics. Health department director Daniel Wasiuk shared a chart of two-week case counts in Montague since the beginning of the pandemic, which showed a sharp increase in August and September and then a steep decline over the past month. The most recent two-week count ending on Septem-

ber 30 was eight cases in the town, but Wasiuk said that the count for the most recent week was three.

Wasiuk also said that the "cumulative percentage" of residents twelve and over with at least one vaccine does was 68%, and the percentage fully vaccinated was 61%. These percentages have not moved since the beginning of the summer.

Town administrator Steve Ellis presented countywide data from the Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts, which showed a similar decline for most towns in the region and the county as a whole. He said the current case counts are "similar to where we were in May."

"I think overall the downward trend has to be taken into account," said Wasiuk, adding that the positive trend "inevitably will continue."

see MONTAGUE page A7

## Fresh Charges for Hicks

By CHIP AINSWORTH and MIKE JACKSON

**NORTHAMPTON** – Former Buckland police chief James Hicks was in Northampton District Court last Friday, October 29 for a hearing on an indecent assault charge stemming from an alleged 2018 incident. Prosecutors sought to revoke bond, alleging that he had violated

its terms and conditions by subsequently committing a similar sexual assault two months after his 2019 arraignment.

Before court was session, the 55-year-old Hicks sat outside of Courtroom 1 on a bench away from others, accompanied by a woman. His hands were pressed together, his head down staring at the floor.

see HICKS page A5

## First Puerto Rican Mayor Elected in Holyoke Tuesday

HAPPY RETIREMENT

By SARAH ROBERTSON

elected their first ever Puerto Rican Sullivan for the mayoral seat that mayor, Joshua Garcia, on Tuesday along with the most diverse slate of city councilors in the city's history.

"I just want you to know that that is a symbol of progress," Garcia told supporters at his election night party. "My campaign, if you didn't recognize already, was committed to us as citizens of this city, from west Holyoke to south Holyoke. We are one."

Winning 56% of the votes cast, Garcia beat three-term city coun-HOLYOKE - Voters in Holyoke cilor and business owner Michael opened up when Alex Morse left to become town administrator for Provincetown earlier this year. Garcia received 4,566 votes to Sullivan's 3,548.

> "This is history too," Ward 1 city councilor Gladys LeBron-Martinez told the Reporter. "I think it will make a big impact on our young generation, because many times

see **HOLYOKE** page A3

## High School Sports: Two Tournaments

By MATT ROBINSON

TURNERS FALLS – This week saw the conclusion of the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC) fall tournament. The Franklin County Tech field hockey team, one of five teams from Tech and Turners Falls High School who qualified for the tourney, took home a championship belt. The Turners volleyball team went the second-furthest, and were knocked out in the semifinals in four sets by



Turners' Brooke Thayer (left) passes the ball as Franklin Tech's Katy Lengieza defends during last week's Western Mass semifinal at Tech. The Eagles went on to win the Class C championship against Pioneer this week following their 3-1 defeat of the Thunder.

10 Years Ago This Week......A8

Obituary: Charles T. Smith.....

Uprights Open Again.....

Mount Greylock.

Arts & Entertainment Calendar.....

Five Comics..

Also this week, the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA)'s statewide tournament kicked off. As world leaders met for a major climate change conference in Glasgow, the MIAA decided to send thousands of players and fans hundreds of miles across the state to compete.

I've been plagued with questions about this change: the collective carbon footprint, the potential spread of COVID, the increased chance of



## The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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### **GUEST EDITORIAL**

## Why Are Farmworkers Granted Fewer Rights?

The Reporter received this press release on Tuesday from the Pioneer Valley Workers Center. As it is an invitation to cover a press conference hours after we go to print, we've decided to endorse it as a guest editorial.

Massachusetts law still allows farmworkers to earn \$8.00 an hour, work all farming season with no required day of rest, and not earn overtime pay despite working on average 60 or more hours a week – and it is perfectly legal. The Fairness for Farmworkers Coalition, with member groups including Center West Justice Center, Pioneer Valley Workers Center, Massachusetts Law Reform Institute, and ACLU of Massachusetts, aims to change that unjust reality through proposed statewide legislation.

The Fairness for Farmworkers Act, Bill H.1979, S.1205, is sponsored by Senator Adam Gomez and Rep. Carlos Gonzalez, with overwhelming support by Senator Adam Hinds and Rep. Paul Mark. Farmworkers will announce the bill at a press conference on November 4 at 1 p.m. at the Colmena Community Farm (17 Linseed Road, West Hatfield) before the November 9 legislative hearing.

"Our farmworker community is grateful to Sen. Gomez and Rep. Gonzalez, and Sen. Hinds and Rep. Mark, for seeing our circumstances and standing with us as we try to achieve recognition and respect for farmworkers here in Massachusetts and set an example for other states across our nation," said Claudia Rosales, co-director of the Pioneer Valley Workers Center.

The Fairness for Farmworkers Act will remedy the historical injustice and nationwide exclusion of farmworkers from state and federal wage-and-hour laws through three key components:

1) Abolish the sub-minimum wage of \$8/hour for farmworkers, and require all farmworkers be paid at least the state minimum wage of \$13.50/hour;

2) Provide all farmworkers with an optional day of rest – paid at time-and-a-half if the farmworker chooses to work on the day of rest; and

3) Entitle seasonal farmworkers to earn overtime pay after 55 hours of labor a week.

"The time has come to recognize the invaluable contributions farmworkers make to the Massachusetts economy, abolish the \$8.00 substandard minimum wage that has kept farmworkers impoverished, and allow these workers to earn overtime," said Claudia Quintero, a member of the coalition and staff attorney for the Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers Project at Central West Justice Center.

On Tuesday, November 9, beginning at 10:30 a.m., the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development will hold a legislative hearing for H.1979 and S.1205. The hearing will allow legislators to hear testimony directly from farmworkers about their experiences in the fields.

Lawmakers will also hear from medical professionals, labor unions, and worker safety experts about the need for legal protections for workers in this often-overlooked industry.

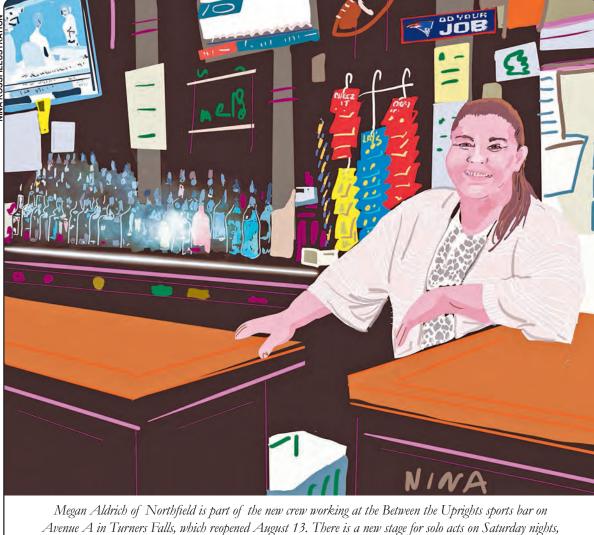
All interested parties are invited to submit oral and written testimony on behalf of the Fairness for Farmworkers Act. Sign-ups for oral testimony are due on November 4, 2021, at 1 p.m. via the Joint Committee's online form to submit oral testimony: bit.ly/FFFTestimony.

"I want to thank everyone who is already working and fighting to improve our working conditions," said one Western Massachusetts farmworker who is a member of the Workers Center. "I have worked for many years in the fields and have never been paid overtime, even when I work more than 80 hours a week during the harvest season.

"I also believe we deserve to be given at least one optional day of rest to be able to go to wash, cook, and clean the place where I live. Right now, I do those things at night so I can return to work the next day and continue to work seven-day weeks. I have experienced many of these injustices at work."

Coalition advocates invite legislators, media, and the public to join the press conferences or virtual hearing. RSVP to bit.ly/ FairnessFarmworkers for further information.

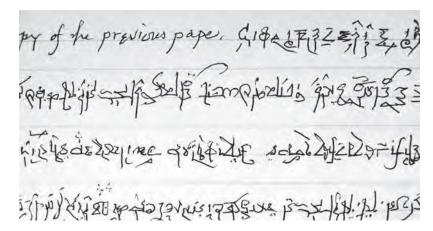
The efforts of the campaign are further detailed in Fruits of the Past, a 45-page white paper describing the facts, policies, and reasons to enact the FFA. Fruits of the Past is available to download at www. masslegalservices.org/content/ fairness-farmworkers-act.



and karaoke on Fridays – all the pool tables and games are now in the former performance space next door.



## Memories Pour Out



A fountain of lore about Charles Smith has been released as if under pressure by his death. Here are some tidbits of the stories that may be told at a gathering for him that will be held at the Wendell Meetinghouse in the spring.

He was the guy who drank Ballantine Ale, who spoke really slowly at town meeting, who, for a while, seemed to be always burning down his cabins. His long arm flagged people down for musty-scented rides. His anti-nuclear-activist reputation preceded him. For a near-hermit, he seemed omnipresent in town.

At Bryn Athen commune in Vermont he smoked Bugler cigarettes and milked the cow at midnight. He had a bed that slept five. He would hitch up the horse to the sled to take the kids out for a treat.

He led Christmas pageants at the Wendell Church in the '70s and early '80s, reading the passages with solemnity while the children performed the roles. He could explain religious texts simply and clearly. His theory was that "If the divine is in the center and we are all working toward it, we could be walking in opposite directions to get there."

Charles' mother claimed his first words were a full sentence: "Oh, what a dizzy hat!" - uttered on seeing a visitor wearing a new spring hat covered with flowers and fruits. He wrote each line of his famous home-made script (see above) in alternate direction - left to right, right to left.

He helped Michael and Karen Idoine draw up covenants for Swallow Rise Trust. He also exorcised the farmhouse!

Charles' father was ten years younger than his mother. He had been her pupil in high school history class.

In New York City, besides Ginsburg and Orlovsky, he hung out with a man named Tuli Kupferberg, an activist, cartoonist and writer who co-founded an edgy band called The Fugs.

Further memories and impressions of this formidable character will be offered at the Wendell Meetinghouse in the spring.

> Jonathan von Ranson Wendell

## The Shea Is Back!

What a delight to experience the revitalization of the Shea Theater these past few years... and to be part of an adventure that cares about the community in so many constructive and varied ways. They continually provide our region with exciting, creative and inviting venues.

They have in recent weeks topped off their passion and generosity with two free shows, both special and entertaining in their unique ways. The most recent was a Halloween Treat for all to enjoy by an area artist with an amazing voice sharing the music of Tom Jones and Engelbert Humperdinck.

The other event was free to donors of the Shea, and featured a performance you might have enjoyed if you'd been in Paris, Edinburgh, Philadelphia, New York City, Chicago, LA, etc... It was a phenomenal concert by an exceedingly talented Janet Evra and her trio of musicians.

> **Mary Kay Mattiace Montague City**

### recommendation



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### Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Turners Falls Water Department's semi-annual water bills were mailed October 30. Payment is due by December 1 to avoid a \$20 late charge. Payments can be made in person, by mail, online at www. turnersfallswater.com, or placed in the drop box located to the left of the Department's front door at 226 Millers Falls Road, Turners Falls.

Some very interesting programs are coming up that you may learn about through the Village Neighbors eNewsletter (villageneighbors.org). For instance, find out about options for the disposal of your remains by joining a Zoom discussion called "Four Feet Under" this Thursday afternoon, November 4 between 4 and 5 p.m. The Northeast Death Care Collaborative will present information about burial, home funerals, and other practices. Log in through amherstneighbors.org to attend.

Next Tuesday, November 9 at 6:30 p.m. there will be a discussion with the Department of Protective Services on protecting elders from abuse and neglect. Another upcoming talk is on strategies for decreasing stress and increasing joy around the holidays.

Village Neighbors aims to help aging adults live independent and engaged lives at home in Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury and Wendell, but many of their programs are also available to those in the surrounding areas. Check out their offerings sometime if you are over 55!

Next Friday, November 12, Epsilon Spires in Brattleboro, Vermont presents "The Radical Helen **Keller: Soundbath and Film.**" The documentary film, Her Socialist

Smile, explores how Helen Keller's undaunted activism for labor rights, pacifism, and women's suffrage was philosophically inseparable from her battles for the rights of the disabled. Matt Samolis will perform a sensory sound bath on bow chime before the film at 7 p.m. More information at epsilonspires.org.

Heartfelt Café columnist and part-time Montague Reporter illustrator Trouble Mandeson of Greenfield has produced a comic book called These Women: An Illustrated History of Kickass Women! The book is full of stories of women throughout history who inspired her. She's also working on a second book called Smashing the Patriarchy: An Illustrated Guide. She sells them at Goose Thrift Store on Main Street in Greenfield and on etsy.com.

If you were disappointed to discover that Diemand Farm has already sold out of pre-order, fresh organic turkeys for Thanksgiving, don't despair! A handy list of other fresh local turkey suppliers is online through the CISA website, buylocalfood.org.

Kwamane Harris, the executive director at the Brick House Community Resource Center in Turners Falls, will be greeting community members at the Brick House re-opening celebration next Saturday, November 13 between 3 and 5 p.m. Come meet Harris, other staff, and board members to discuss new initiatives and goals, and tour the Brick House. For more information and to RSVP, email karennatsios@gmail.com.

The (Giant) Listening Ear is coming to the Great Falls Discovery Center on three dates in November, courtesy of writer and educator Christian McEwen of Williamsburg. McEwen is offering open listening sessions on Saturday, November 13 and Sundays, November 21 and 28 between 1 and 3 p.m. in conjunction with the Exploded View gallery events, described in the announcement on Page B5.

If you stop by, you can talk about anything that happens to be on your mind, or pick a question from the basket. Most sessions will be fairly brief: a memory, an anecdote, an observation. Conversations will not be recorded, but if you'd like to get in touch later on, vou should feel free to do so.

And yes, it really is a 6.5-foottall ear.

If you are **in need of diapers**, the Community Action Family Center is distributing them again, five days a week. Check their schedule of open hours online communityaction.us/ family-center and stop by and ring the doorbell for assistance, or call (413) 475-1555 to schedule a visit.

Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls announces a **new show of glass** artists. "Tomo Sakai Curates Glass: Coldworking" shows the art of seven glass makers chosen for their expertise in a wide variety of coldworking techniques. The reception for this exhibit is Sunday, November 14, at 2 p.m. with music by Loren Feinstein. For further information, go to SalmonFallsGallery.com or call the gallery at 413.625.9833.

On Tuesday, November 16, join Aminah Ghaffar for a noontime Zoom presentation on "Historical Genocide to Present Day: Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women." Ghaffar is an activist from North Carolina who focuses her advocacy on treating historical trauma in marginalized populations - learn more at goodmedicinewoman.com. The presentation is hosted by Greenfield Community College. RSVP to get the link to mcenteem@gcc.mass.edu.

Learn all about Bats of New England with Mass Audubon educator and bat researcher Erin Ruggiano during a virtual presentation on Tuesday, November 16 at 5:30 p.m. Learn about the natural history, ecological importance, and conservation threats of local bats. Which species live here? Where do they go in winter?

The free program is sponsored by Northfield Mountain and Northfield Bird Club. Register through firstlightpower.com.

The Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA) has started a grant-funded Uber-like taxi service to help you get to work! Rides are free and door-to-door for the first month.

Many Franklin County manufacturers and healthcare employers are hiring on second and third shift for well-paying jobs with benefits and overtime opportunities. If you live in Franklin County and work a late shift job, or would like to, but lack transportation, contact FRTA assistant administrator Michael Perreault at: (413) 774-2262 ext. 105 or michael@frta.org.

Launchspace, a makerspace in Orange, is hosting a "maker mixer" on the third Wednesday of each month from 4 to 6 p.m. Each month a different instructor will demonstrate their craft, showcasing the classes offered at the space. There will be light refreshments and tours of the 13,000 square feet of makerspace studios. To find out more, you can visit www.launchspace-orange. *com* or call (978) 633-5131.

The Art Garden in Shelburne Falls has put out a call for mail art with a deadline of November 20. Mail art can be many things: decorated envelopes, handmade postcards, and non-monetary artist stamps. Many works combine text and image.

"Moving Through" is the theme for this call. All mail art moves through the postal system, and is handled and seen by mail carriers and postal workers. Or you can take the theme your own way, such as moving through difficult times. All pieces should be mailed to The Art Garden, 4 Union Street, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370.

> Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org

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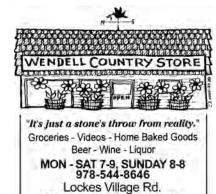
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### **HOLYOKE** from page A1

they don't believe that these opportunities are Holyoke residents today identify as Hispanic or available to them, but this is someone who will show us that it is possible to run for office – a Latino man who worked at the Boys and Girls Club."

Garcia currently serves as the town administrator of Blandford and comes with experience working for the Holyoke housing authority, its school committee, and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission. He was born and raised in Holyoke by a single mother who moved to the city from Puerto Rico as a child with a severe medical condition. She was one of several people Garcia thanked in his victory speech.

"And to those leaders who paved the way for kids like me - Gladys LeBron-Martinez, thank you so much," Garcia said. "If it wasn't for leaders like Gladys, I wouldn't be here tonight."

"He's got the experience. I think he will do well," said LeBron-Martinez, a city councilor of 10 years. "This is a young man I've known for years since I came here. He grew up in our neighborhoods."

Instead of running for a sixth term in Ward 1, LeBron-Martinez did not seek reelection this year, and instead campaigned for Garcia and atlarge city council candidates Jose Luis Maldonado Velez, Israel Rivera, and Tessa Murphy-Romboletti, as well as for Jenny Rivera, who ran in Ward 1. All four won seats on the council on Tuesday.

Holyoke's history as a hub for the Latino community began over a century ago and is driven by a variety of factors including job opportunities Latino, according to 2019 US Census data.

"For those families that migrated to Holyoke because of Hurricane Maria, I hear you. And I want you to know that you can count on my administration, and everyone in this room tonight, to work together to improve the quality of life and conditions for everyone in this city," Garcia said after the results were announced. "But first and foremost, we have to work on that budget, man we need management!"

In various interviews leading up to the election, Garcia talked about his plans for achieving financial stability in Holyoke; the precarious state of the Holyoke school system, which is under receivership, and bridging gaps between dysfunctional branches of city government. He will begin his term on November 15, replacing acting mayor and Ward 2 councilor Terence Murphy, who did not seek reelection this year.

### **City Council Races**

Holyoke's city council is comprised of seven ward representatives and six at-large members. In addition to Garcia's historic victory, six of the city's 13 councilors will now be people of color, the Daily Hampshire Gazette reported, adding that Jose Maldonado Velez and Israel Rivera are only the third and fourth Latino candidates to ever win at-large seats.

"I ran at-large on the premise that we needed diversity, we needed a different perspective

and strong familial ties in the area. 53.9% of all and new people on the council to represent not just an influx of new people into the community, but a lot of the lower Wards," Israel Rivera said. "There's a lot of Puerto Ricans in the community overall. I'm Puerto Rican, so I'm trying to represent – or have the at-large council represent – a lot of the community."

> Holding signs for Garcia outside city hall on Tuesday afternoon, Rivera reflected on the personal journey that led him to run for an atlarge seat again after losing by just a few hundred votes last time. Like Garcia, he was born and raised in south Holyoke, attended the city's struggling public schools, and worked for the Boys and Girls Club.

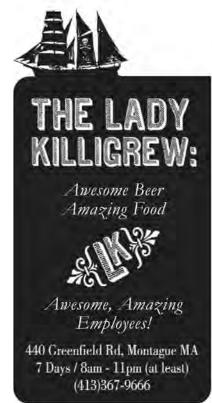
> "The idea is to inspire the community in trying to show that you can make it," Rivera said. "I've combatted and taken down so many different barriers that have confronted me because of my criminal record that a lot of people are actually inspired."

> After graduating high school, Rivera spent five years in prison for selling marijuana. Coincidentally, it was mayoral candidate Michael Sullivan who offered Rivera his first job after he got out of prison, but Rivera said he still supported Garcia in Tuesday's election because of his politics and their shared ties to the Boys and Girls Club.

> "Throughout the process I saw him grow, and I'm able to now admire where he's gotten to. It kind of mirrors my situation,"

Rivera said. "It's a story that Holyoke needs to hear."





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NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Question of Patrols Will Be Put to the Public

By JOSH HEINEMANN

By its October 27 meeting, the Wendell selectboard had had two weeks to think about the policing complaint voiced at their prior meeting, time which also allowed citizens who knew of the complaint to examine their own feelings. The town is not united on this issue, and only the officer and the two citizens involved know what actually happened. Selectboard chair Dan Keller said he had received two letters (from the same household) in favor of continued patrolling, and one doubtful.

Two women who sometimes leave the office building after dark wrote or said they were reassured to have a police presence when they leave. Keller reported that chief Scott Minckler would accommodate the town's wishes, but if a town building is closed and someone is hanging around, they will check.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said it would be wise to notify board members of that policy. She checked, and said the original agreement called for patrols.

Citizen Alistair MacMartin said, through Zoom, that he is uneasy about patrols, calling them "a solution looking for a problem." He said he was concerned about "mission creep," and suggested a town poll. Budine mentioned the many citizen complaints about speeding before Leverett police began to patrol. Speeding complaints were frequent then, and listed on many selectboard agendas.

Town coordinator Alisha Brouillet said it is good to know the officers as people. One officer stops at the Wendell Country Store and says hello.

"People don't like speeding, but they don't want to get stopped," said selectboard member Laurie Di-Donato. She said she liked the idea of a poll, but board members agreed that polls are slow, and reflect only the thoughts of people who respond.

Instead, the board decided to start their next meeting, November 10, at 6 p.m., an hour early to allow citizens to Zoom in, give their opinions and ideas, before the normal starting time of 7 p.m. (That decision will allow responses only from citizens who use the internet.) For now, things will stay as they are, with patrols continuing according to the original agreement.



Roving photographer Alistair MacMartin writes: "Wendell residents celebrate the unveiling of the new standalone Free Store at the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS). Built and staffed by volunteers, the 'store' will continue a Wendell hippie tradition of undermining capitalism by passing along treasures that still have life in them."

### **Policing Forum**

"The forum is planned for November 10 at 6 p.m. via Zoom. All are welcome to participate. If you cannot make it, feel free to email the Board with your questions or thoughts."

Join Zoom Meeting: us02web.zoom.us/j/85891815875

Meeting ID: 858 9181 5875 Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US

+1 929 205 6099 US

### **Technology Upgrades**

Brouillet opened the meeting saying the town got a letter from a cell phone company she did not name, asking for residents to answer a survey about the quality of their cell coverage. Keller was suspicious, and other board members agreed that it was likely a business wanting the town to do research the

business should be doing itself.

Wendell has received a grant for best practices in information technology (IT), with the thought to study a regional approach for IT services, security, and backup. Leverett has its own IT specialist, and one thought is for Wendell to place

itself "under Leverett's wing," and include other neighboring towns that have expressed interest.

As a member of the Wendell Chorus, which uses the town hall for practices, and performances when those are allowed, DiDonato asked if there is a way to improve air quality in the building without opening all the newly-installed windows and throwing out heat.

Filters can be added to the hotair heating system. They are expensive, but the town might be allowed to spend American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money on them, as the situation is an air-quality issue.

Tessa Diemand asked for, and received, a selectboard letter in support of a Diemand Farm grant application that would allow the farm to renovate and automate its (egg-)laying houses.

### **Transportation Dept.**

Citizen Donna Horn sent a complaint about a 900- to 1,000-foot section of Farley Road that is dangerous, with a sharp drop-off on one side. The highway commission is waiting for a price for the project, and DiDonato said she would tell Horn that something is happening.

The selectboard decided to hold off for now on paint for the senior center interior, but move forward on replacing rotted boards on the wheelchair ramp, and repainting the whole ramp.

DiDonato said the energy committee had a bike rack to install at the Wendell Country Store. At the time the committee got the rack Patti Scutari, owner of the store, had no appropriate place to locate it, but now the store has a place. Selectboard members approved putting the rack there, and thought to contact highway commission chair Phil Delorey to ask the road crew to install it.

### **Other Business**

A customer complained that the Country Store charged a fee for credit card use. It is legal and common for a business to set a minimum amount that can be paid for by credit or debit card, but board members were not certain about a fee. Their response was, "we don't feel we have any authority to" confront the store or interfere with its operation.

Brouillet mentioned that the customer was not a town resident.

Brouillet also reported that three contractors interested in the cleanup at 131 Lockes Village Road had signed up for a walk-through at the property, which was scheduled for Wednesday, November 3.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## Library Series Explores Racial Justice in Rural Towns

NEW SALEM – Next Tuesday, November 9, New Salem Public Library will offer its third program in a series on racial justice issues from a small, rural community perspective. The 7 p.m. Zoom presentation will explore "What is Systemic Racism and How Do We Dismantle It?" Alpana Chhibber will help participants understand the roots of systemic racism in our country, and how this led to the creation of segregated cities and towns.

Chhibber will examine specific case studies which have had devastating effects on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) people, as well long-lasting effects on White communities. Participants will leave the 90-minute presentation with a better understanding of how systemic racism has worked over the years, as well as specific strategies for dismantling it that will empower them to make changes in

their communities.

The program is supported by a grant from the New Salem Academy. Chhibber is a lead facilitator for Molina Consulting of Baltimore, and currently serves as the Middle School Dean of Students at the Park School of Baltimore. She received counseling and facilitator training from the Stanley King Institute, the Kingswood Oxford Leadership Institute for Educators of Color, and Facilitating for Racial Justice. She holds masters degrees in global studies and teaching from SUNY Albany and Union Graduate College.

"Planning for the Racial Justice series began after the nationwide protests in the summer of 2020," explains library trustee Judy North-up-Bennett. "The Trustees wanted to examine more closely our country's racial history and how our Northeastern rural communities fit into this story. We could no longer say that it's a prob-

lem somewhere else. The Trustees decided to offer programs and book discussions to help people living in small, homogeneous towns better understand our roles in all of this."

To register, go to *tinyurl.com/NewSalemTalk* or contact the library by phone at (978) 544-6334 or by email at *n\_salem@cwmars.org*.

This program will be followed at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 15 with a Zoom book discussion of *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Wilkerson documents the political and economic systems in our nation since the first African slaves arrived in Virginia in 1619, which led to our 400-year caste system, and compares this to other historic caste systems.

The New Salem Public Library has print and audio copies of *Caste* available. Call (978) 544-6334 for a book. For a link to the discussion, access the library's Facebook page.

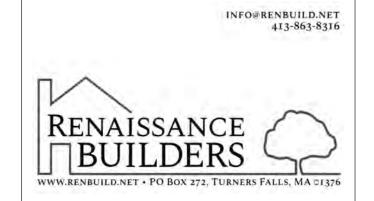
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### **ERVING** from page A1

be broadcast by Bernardston-Northfield Community Television.

Selectboard member Scott Bastarache said he was in favor of meeting together because the board can have "robust conversations and dialog in person."

Member William Bembury had concerns about possible spread of COVID-19 at an open public meeting. "Can we do live broadcasting much like remote now, then open up the process as the climate changes?" he asked.

Chair Jacob Smith predicted that most people would watch the meeting from home rather than attending in person, especially with an interactive meeting.

Bryan Smith said the board will require mask-wearing and physical distancing at the in-person meeting.

Information on how to view the meetings will be available on the town website.

### **Contaminated Soil**

While installing the force sewer main at East Main and Arch street, Aqua Line Utility encountered petroleum contamination in the excavation.

Town engineering consultant Tighe & Bond oversaw the excavation and stockpiling of the contaminated soil and the replacement of clean soil into the excavation, in accordance with state Department of Environmental Protection regulations. The consultant filed a change order for \$20,300 for regulatory and oversight work associated with the contamination.

Bryan Smith said that once laboratory results for the stockpiled soil

samples are available, the soil could be trucked to a disposal site for approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000. The board approved the costs for handling and removing the soil.

### **Problem Bridges**

Bastarache, Jacob Smith, and Bryan Smith all said they had been asked whether the flood-damaged and demolished Swamp Road Bridge would be replaced.

Bastarache clarified that when selectboard members stated in the past that the board "has no plans to replace the bridge," it simply meant "we have not made that decision," and not that they had decided not to replace the bridge.

He said bridge replacement is a long-term process, and the expenditure would need to be approved at town meeting.

McCrory asked about plowing on the Church Street bridge, recently rated at a three-ton capacity by the state Department of Transportation (MassDOT). The town's lightest plow truck weighs more than three tons.

Bastarache said MassDOT commonly rates bridges at a lower weight than they can actually carry.

Jacob Smith characterized clearing snow as a necessity. The board approved having the highway department continue to plow the bridge.

### **Other Business**

Planning assistant Mariah Kurtz presented the planning board's proposed zoning bylaw changes, which would change the name of the French King commercial district, create "Planned Unit Development" overlay districts, and

modify the zoning classification of one side of Gunn Street.

Under Massachusetts General Laws, zoning bylaw changes must be presented to the selectboard, which then passes the changes back to the planning board. That board will then hold a public hearing on the proposals at a date to be announced.

The town clerk and assistant town clerk are notaries, and in the past have notarized documents for citizens. Bryan Smith informed the board that the town's insurance covers liability for notary services only for official town acts, and that liability coverage for third parties would cost \$1,000 annually.

The board decided the town should pay for the extra coverage.

Jacob Smith asked for more information about net metering for the solar-generated electricity at the library. He said some electric bills show more electricity was generated than was used by the building, but the bills were still high. Bryan Smith said he would seek more information about the bills.

The selectboard and board of health chair Leo Parent, Jr. appointed Jeffrey McAndrews to a vacant seat on the board of health.

The board approved renewing the town's membership in the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District for three years.

The board approved a \$7,500 quote from Edward Muszinski to survey the layout for Poplar Mountain Road.

Bryan Smith said the Franklin Regional Council of Governments was working on sending a "Vax Bus" to Erving in

mid-November.

## **TOWN OF GILL**

### PUBLIC DISCLOSURE of PROPOSED ASSESSMENTS for FY2022

The Town of Gill announces it has received permission to begin public disclosure of the Fiscal Year 2022 property values. The Massachusetts Department of Revenue Bureau of Local Assessment has completed its preliminary statistical review of the revaluation program and proposed assessments for all classes of property for FY2022. These assessment values are preliminary and are pending certification following the final statistical analysis and approval indicating compliance with the Commissioner of Revenue's standards. This public disclosure is part of the Revaluation and

Re-Certification of values that is required by statute every five years In accordance with Department of Revenue requirements, the valuation date for FY2022 is January 1, 2021. Values were calculated at "Full and Fair Cash Value" using market data between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020. The Town of Gill conducts its own in-house revaluation program with the assistance of consultants from the firm of Patriot Properties, Inc.

The public disclosure period will commence Tuesday, November 9, 2021 and continue through Thursday, November 18, 2021. As part of the public disclosure process, valuation listings will be available for review at the Gill Town Hall during office hours. Office hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. You may call the Assessors' Office at (413) 863-0138 or by email to assessors@gillmass.org with any questions or to obtain the values.

Gill Board of Assessors

### **TOWN OF ERVING**

### **Full-Time Building & Ground Maintenance Position**

The Town of Erving seeks a Building & Grounds Maintenance employee for the regular custodial cleaning, maintenance, painting and overall good aptitude to repair the Erving Senior/Community Center, Erving Public Library, and the surrounding grounds. This position is year-round and benefited, working 40 hours/week. This position works a 5 day/week schedule. Successful applicants will demonstrate an ability to be self-motivated while working as a member of a team, and ability to follow instructions, and displays a high regard for professionalism. The successful candidate will have a valid Class D driver's license, OSHA 10 training, bloodborne pathogen training, and a minimum of one-to-three (1 to 3) years of related experience in the maintenance of buildings and grounds. An equivalent combination of education and experience may be considered. A physical, drug screening and CORI checks will be performed. Applications and the position description are available at Town Hall, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344 and online at www.erving-ma.gov/employment.

Applicants may submit completed applications, cover letters, resumés and references to the Town of Erving, Attn: Building & Ground Maintenance Search, 12 East Main Street, Erving, MA 01344 The deadline to apply is 1:00 p.m. on Friday, November 12, 2021.

The Town of Erving has a drug free workplace policy. The Town of Erving is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.

### **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## Montague Library News

**MONTAGUE** – The Montague Public Libraries will be closed Thursday, November 11 for Veterans Day. Thanksgiving-related hours: On Wednesday, November 24 the libraries will close at 5 p.m. The libraries will remain closed Thursday and Friday, November 25 and 26.

Upcoming events at the Carnegie Library in Turners Falls:

Saturday, November 13 at 11 a.m.: Fairy House Party. Children of all ages and their caregivers are invited to pick up a bag with natural and recycled materials to make a fairy house at home, or in the gardens of the Carnegie Library.

Wednesdays at 10 a.m.: Story Time Online. Join Meghan Doyle for stories, songs, and a take-andmake craft on the library lawn. Unpleasant weather? Look for the Facebook Live event link on the "Youth page" of our website, montaguepubliclibraries.org. link allows folks who do not have a Facebook account to join the fun.

Thursdays at 10 a.m.: Music & Movement Online. This weekly bilingual, English-Spanish, series for children with Tom Carroll and Laurie Davidson currently meets online. Meet them in a Facebook Live event: www.facebook.com/ Tom-and-Laurie-1991464.

Second and fourth Fridays of each month: Grab & Go STEAM Bags. Bring home these creative and educational bags with hands-on science, technology, engineering, art, and math (STEAM) activities, designed for grades K through 4. The kits are free and will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bags will also be sent to Montague Center and Millers Falls branch libraries on the days they are open.

The Carnegie Public Library is open 1 to 8 p.m. Mondays and Tuesdays, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesdays, 1 to 5 p.m. Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays.

The Millers Falls Library is open 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the Montague Center Library 2 to 7 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays.

Call (413) 863-3214 with any questions!

## **Brick House Open House**

TURNERS FALLS - In celebration of moving forward and our work together, the Brick House Community Resource Center invites the public to spend some time in our newly reopened space in Turners Falls.

The uncertainties of COVID, both for our organization and for our clients, has been a challenge, and we are hopeful that you are all well in this midst of the pandemic. We are ready to reopen our doors, and grow with new programs and

goals for the Brick House.

Come and meet Kwamane Harris, the new Executive Director, and other staff and board members to discuss the future of the Brick House, and take a tour of our facility.

Masks are required. We'll be practicing social distancing, and will have extra masks and hand sanitizer available.

For questions please email Karen Natsios, Development Coordinator, at karennatsios@gmail.com.

**SHOP TALK** 

## **Erving Launches Meeting Broadcasts** With Bernardston-Northfield Station

By MIKE JACKSON

ERVING - "We've gotten an increased following at selectboard meetings over the pandemic, since we've been doing the remote version of meetings, and there was a concern about returning to in-person and losing that viewership," town administrator Bryan Smith explained of Erving's push to begin filming and broadcasting its meetings.

The town issued a request for proposals for the service and received one response, from Bernardston-Northfield Community Television (BNCTV). While details are still being finalized with the town's cable provider, Comcast, for the live broadcast on local cable television, the station is tentatively planning to film the first in-person selectboard meeting November 15 and livestream it on the town's YouTube channel.

"The agreement obliges us to cover every Erving selectboard meeting, every special town meeting as well as the [annual] town meeting, and, pending available staffing, to cover the school committee," BNCTV operations manager Otis Wheeler told the Reporter. The pilot project runs through August 2022.

Once meetings are being broadcast on cable – in Erving, either on Channel 15 or Channel 17 – the town plans to add in "bulletin board"-style postings of announcements, Smith said.

"As community members start to get involved, we anticipate this will also evolve," Smith added. "We're going to start with [the meetings], but we fully anticipate that next year we'll be talking about how this grows, and maybe changes from our initial expectations.'

Smith said that another detail the town is still working on is the question of how to allow remote viewers of live meetings to participate and ask questions, a function that has been possible during the pandemic as boards and committees have met on the GoToWebinar platform.

"The selectboard has identified that as something that they've appreciated from this experience over the last 14 or 15 months," Smith said, "and they've expressed concern about losing that ability.... There's got to be a solution." On Wednesday, staff posted the link to the YouTube

channel on the front page of the town website, erving-ma.gov. Assistant town planner Mariah Kurtz said it will remain accessible there.

Smith said that during the pandemic he, Kurtz, and selectboard chair Jacob Smith have shared duties of uploading archived GoToWebinar meeting files to YouTube and then updating the meeting records on the website with the links.

"There's often a delay, sometimes of a few weeks," he said. "This will be adding as we go, so we'll be efficiently uploading."

BNCTV currently provides services to the towns of Bernardston and Northfield. According to Wheeler, the station currently employs one full-time staff member, one part-timer, and a stringer who covers sports and other events. He said the Erving agreement is expected to allow the station to give more hours to the stringer.

"Erving did put out feelers to MCTV and GCTV, and I take it neither of them felt that they were in a position to answer the RFP," Wheeler told the Reporter. Wheeler also works as the station manager at Falls Cable, which covers Shelburne and Buckland. BNCTV is headquartered at Pioneer Valley Regional High School in Northfield.

'We have a few more conversations to have with Comcast to get that equipment in place," said Bryan Smith, "but it sounds like Otis's team is ready to begin the filming process. We're going to start with the selectboard, and get them used to being filmed, and dealing with the microphones and all the other equipment and logistics that go along with this."

"It's tentative that we're aiming for November 15," he added. "We are planning to use the senior/community center, we are going to ask folks to wear masks, and we ask people who are not feeling well or symptomatic to please stay home and participate online...

"But yes, assuming everything goes according to plan, we will be ready to be in person."

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### **SPORTS** from page A1

was a halfback pass, multiple onside kicks, running offensive plays on fourth down, and using timeouts to keep the opponent from retiring for the half. And at the end of regulation, he decided to go for the win instead of settling for a tie.

### Field Hockey

FCTS 2 – Pioneer 0

Last Thursday, October 28, the Franklin Tech Field Hockey Eagles won the PVIAC Class C championship by beating Pioneer 2-0. Lauren Ross and Kaitlin Trudeau each scored unassisted goals in the shutout.

As a reward, the MIAA ranked them 34th in a field of 35. This Thursday, they have to travel down to Westport, on the other side of Rhode Island, to play the 31st-seeded Westport Wildcats.

### Volleyball

Mount Greylock 3 – TFHS 1 TFHS 3 – Salem Academy 0 Sturgis West 3 – FCTS 1

The Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder lost in the Class D PVI-AC semifinals, 3-1, against the Mount Greylock Red Mounties last Thursday.

After dropping the first two sets 25-14, 25-20, Powertown won the third 25-23. Blue played tough in the fourth set, but the Mounties edged them out 28-26.

Taylor Greene led Powertown with 24 assists, four kills, four aces, and three digs; Madison Liimatainen finished with 11 kills, four aces, and six digs; Emily Young had nine kills, three aces, and four digs, and Jillian Reynolds made two kills and served a pair of key aces.

The team opened up a new season this week. The 15-2 Thunder, ranked 22nd by the MIAA, faced the dead-last Salem Academy Green Navigators on Wednesday.

The most notable thing about this game was the lack of visiting fans. There were a few school-aged kids and an older couple cheering on the Navs, but that was it.

The first set started as expected, with a couple of Blue aces and a kill shot, but Salem regained some of their composure and pulled to within 2 points, 8-6, early in the set. That's when Powertown took control and rolled to a 25-11 victory.

Coach Kelly Liimatainen used interesting defense formations throughout the sets. At times, she had four players line up at mid-court with the other two at the net. Then she shifted to one player guarding the back court, three in the middle, and two up front. At other times, her defense huddled in groups of three.

Turners shot out to a 12-to-1 lead in the second set, and coasted to a 25-8 shellacking.

In the final set, it initially appeared like Salem had given up, as Powertown built a 13-2 lead. But they never lost their enthusiasm, and began challenging Blue for every point. Ultimately, they had no answer for Turners' power. In that third set, Madison Liimatainen served the ball so viciously that it ricocheted off the Green defenders into the crowd three different times. And the Thunder rolled to a 25-9 win to take the contest 3-0.

The Turners Volleyballers travel to Holbrook this Friday to take on the number-11 Bulldogs.

As Turners was defeating Salem Academy, the Franklin Tech Volleyball Eagles, ranked 40th out of 43 teams, traveled to Mashpee on the Cape and lost to Sturgis Charter West 3-1. Although Sturgis was ranked 25th and Tech had traveled almost three hours, all the sets were hard fought.

In the first, the Eagles lost by just 4 points, 25-21. Sturgis managed to hold Franklin to 16 points in the second set, but in the third set, Franklin came alive and defeated the home squad 25-19.

Sturgis prevented a 2-2 tie by defeating Tech 25-19 in the third set, eliminating the Eagles and sending them all the way home.

For Tech, Emily Ryan shot four kills, made three blocks, and served an ace. Faith Smith had six kills, made two blocks, and served three aces. Renee Reed dove for nine digs, made a kill shot, gave four assists and had three aces. Lea Chapman made four kills, had five digs, and blocked two shots, and Lillian Porter gave six assists, got in eight digs, and made two kills.

### Soccer

The Franklin Tech boys' soccer team, who were knocked out of the PVIAC tourney by Mount Greylock, are ranked 42nd out of 43. They will need to travel to the Rising Tide Public School in Plymouth this Thursday, November 4.

### Football

FCTS 29 – Athol 28

"I had to try something different," coach Joe Gamache explained after Friday's last-second win over the Athol Red Bears. After dropping the three previous games by a combined score of 126 to 22, Gamache needed to try something different. And two days before Halloween, he played a few tricks on Athol and the fans.

Athol does not offer seating for the visitors, but the Franklin Tech Faithful came prepared. Most brought their own tailgate chairs. The rest were content to stand. But as the fans claimed their spots on the sidelines, the bench in front of them remained empty.

"Where's the team?," one woman asked, as more and more Tech

fans arrived.
"Maybe they're in the locker

room," someone else offered.
"I saw the bus, so they must have arrived," a newcomer added.

Then, with about four minutes before the coin toss, a loud shout echoed from the woods beyond the far goal line. "There they are," a man said, pointing. And out of the darkness, 50 white jerseys came closer into focus. That was their

first trick of the night.

Tech's opening play on the field was a trick kick. The onside kick bounced low and Red jumped on it, setting up first-and-10 on their own 43. Neither Athol nor Franklin managed to score on their first drives, but Athol scored 6 on their next try. Tech stuffed the 2-PAT and took over, trailing by six with 5 minutes left in the period.

The Eagles answered with 9:06 left in the first half when Josiah Little scored on a 21-yard run. Jack Reynolds kicked the 1-pointer, and Tech took a 7-6 lead.

The Eagles attempted another onside kick and recovered the ball, but it hadn't traveled 10 yards, so Blue had to give it back to the Bears. This time Athol scored and pasted on the 2-PAT to take a 14-7 lead with 6:40 to go in the half.

Tech methodically moved down the field, but an interception gave Athol the ball deep in their own territory with fewer than 40 ticks on the clock.

Athol was willing to take their lead into the locker room, so they took a knee on first down. Gamache called timeout immediately, forcing them to run another play. They ran the ball, and Gamache again called time. On three-and-10, Athol was again forced to run. They got 6 yards, but Gamache called timeout yet again, forcing them to run another play on fourth-and-4.

Time ran out, and Athol could finally take their break holding a 14-7 lead.

It took Tech 13 seconds to tie it up. On the kickoff to open up the second half, Little found a lane, followed his blockers, and raced into the open all the way into the end zone. A penalty moved the ball back, but Reynolds still split the uprights, and it was suddenly a new game, 14-14.

Another onside kick attempt gave the Bears the ball on their own 46. Red ran a ten-play, 54-yard drive to go up 20-14. They attempted to go up by 8, but their 2-PAT failed so the margin remained at 6.

And seconds later, Tech tied it up again. Logan Call received the kickoff, broke out past his pursuers, and raced into the end zone to knot the game at 20.

As Reynolds kicked the extra point, the Eagles nosed ahead to a precarious one-point lead.

In the fourth, Athol was knocking on the Eagles' door. They went from first-and-goal from the 10-yard line to fourth-and-1 on the goal line. Tech's goal-line D held, and they got the ball back inside the 1. They won a little breathing room, but were forced to punt.

Unfortunately, the hike bounced into the Eagles' end zone. One of the Eagles jumped on the loose ball, preventing an Athol touchdown but giving up a safety, and flipping the lead back to Red 22-21.

Tech also had to give up the ball. Athol recovered the kick on their own 36, and six plays later, they scored another touchdown to take a 28-21 lead. Trying to put the game out of reach, Red tried another 2-pointer, but Tech intercepted the pass attempt, taking over down by 7 points with 1:46 left in regulation.

Using clock management, Franklin Tech moved the ball down into Bears' territory. Then on third and 15 from the 26-yard line, with 6.7 seconds left on the clock, Gamache called a halfback pass. Ryan Demers hit QB Gabriel Tomasi inside the end zone just as time ran out.

So, at the end of regulation and down 28-27, Gamache had a hard choice to make: go for the tie, or go for the win. He decided to try for the 2-PAT. His gamble paid off: Little twisted into the end zone, and Tech closed out the game with a 29-28 win.

Offensively, Little had 105 yards on the ground and 102 in kick returns. Demers had 46 rushing yards, 15 receiving, and completed a 26-yard pass for a touchdown. Tomasi threw for 69 yards, rushed for 41, and caught Demers' 26-yard touchdown pass. Call had 153 yards in kick returns, and Max Bastarache made three catches for 54 yards and rushed for 3.

On the defensive side, Call made 12 solo tackles, Landen Hardy made 7, Bastarache snagged an interception, and Vincent Renaud caused a fumble.

This Friday, the Eagles will host the Pathfinder Pioneers. Stay tuned...



### STORAGE from page A1

was originally founded by George Marchacos in 1993, following the popularity of a simulated mining sluice he built at a Connecticut campground, according to an interview with Marchacos in *Woodall's Campground Management* (September 2014).

Though Houchens indicated he acquired the company from Marchacos several years ago, Massachusetts corporations records indicate that Marchacos was listed as the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary of Cold River Mining, Inc. in 2020, and that he signed an annual report as its president as recently as May 18 of this year. The entrepreneur also formerly owned the Rock, Fossil, and Dinosaur Shop in South Deerfield.

According to the registry of deeds and Montague assessors' files, the 17 Masonic Avenue property and a larger wooded parcel stretching north along Rod Shop Road to Solar Avenue are currently owned by George and Nancy Marchacos. George is also listed as owning a small property across the street next to the former Rod Shop on which a bright yellow metal storage building sits.

Repeated efforts to contact the Marchacoses by our publication deadline were unsuccessful. Bright red "For Sale" signs with Marchacos's phone number are affixed to both the yellow building on Rod Shop Road and the Quonset hut that formerly housed the mining company's operations.

This reporter toured the Rod Shop area with Lilith Wolinsky, a founding member of the Montague City Improvement Association. "I think Montague City has been seen primarily as a thoroughfare," she said.

Though the General Pierce Bridge, which connects motorists to the Cheapside neighborhood in Greenfield, is now closed for a three-year construction project, Wolinsky said that when the bridge is open, the neighborhood is "the feeder source to Turners Falls of thousands of pedestrians, bicyclists, and vehicles every week."

Although some efforts have

been made to clean up both the Rod Shop and former mining property on Masonic Avenue, Wolinsky said, people driving through the area or coming off the bike path generally confront "buildings falling down, roads and sidewalks in disrepair, and land strewn with trash."

In response to rumors that "the utility company" was planning to locate an electric storage facility on the former mining company property, Wolinsky contacted town planner Walter Ramsey last month. Ramsey responded that BlueWave Solar had contacted him in January about permitting policy for battery storage, but that "no site was discussed."

Ramsey told the *Reporter* that a solar battery facility could be permitted in the Rod Shop area, which is zoned for "Central Business," but that this would require a special permit.

BlueWave Solar is a large solar developer located in Boston. The company offers rooftop solar panels, but also constructs larger community solar facilities and has recently been in the news for branching out into "dual-use" arrays over active farmland.

At its October 27 meeting, the town planning board tasked Ramsey to investigate policies in other cities and towns for siting large-scale electric storage battery facilities. Ramsey said he also planned to discuss the issue with the Montague energy committee. A solar storage battery is currently being constructed next to a solar array on the former town landfill at the end of Sandy Lane.

"This really is new territory for us," Ramsey told the *Reporter*.

"Montague City seems to be the least loved little village of Montague," said Lilith Wolinsky as we toured the neighborhood, "and we are sliding into decrepitude. It makes no sense for the southern gateway to Turners Falls, which is trying to sustain itself as a local arts community, to not be capitalizing on the rich and abundant natural, industrial, and indigenous history of Montague City."

Additional reporting was provided by Mike Jackson.





Scene report: The Rag Shag Parade in Turners Falls started and finished earlier than announced on Sunday! Cruella de Vil and A bear with a chainsaw (and a nicer bear, peeking out between them) were among the celebrants at the Second Street afterparty.

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## Farren Future on Monday Agenda

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CITY - The Montague Reporter has learned that Trinity Health of New England Senior Communities will appear at next week's Montague selectboard meeting to update town officials on the status of Farren Care Center in Montague City, which it owns.

The center, a former Catholic hospital that dates to the turn of the 20th century and was transformed into a unique extended care facility in the 1990s, closed last winter after much opposition from local residents and patient advocates. Most patients, and some employees, moved to a facility in Holyoke that had recently been purchased from Trinity by a for-profit company based in Connecticut called iCare.

At the time of the Farren's closing, we reported that Trinity had agreed to a "reuse plan" for the building, which actually consists of an historic wing that dates to the early 20th century and a newer addition, built late in the century with a large infusion of state funds.

Last June town administrator Steve Ellis told the selectboard that the process for evaluating the building's future "doesn't look precisely like the process we discussed last fall, but it bears some resemblance, and we're being given a voice and a connection to it."

Ellis also stated at that meeting that "it is possible that if the buildings are too challenging for redevelopment...

one option they would look to exercise would be demolition, and preparation of the site for the next iteration."

We asked Ellis whether Trinity's request for time on the November 8 agenda would mean an announcement that they had decided to demolish the building. Ellis said the "commercial development office" of the private non-profit, whose parent company is located in Livonia, Michigan, had been evaluating the cost of renovation, including hazardous materials abatement, as well as the structure's market value.

Ellis said Trinity may be proposing to tear the building down and "clean up the space" for future development, though the cost of that option would also be significant. "But they could surprise me," he told the *Reporter*.

Ellis also said he had spoken to officials at MassDevelopment, a state agency that finances redevelopment projects, who told him that "hospital facilities are difficult to develop."

Contacted by the Reporter, Trinity's national communications manager Christine Looby issued the following statement: "Trinity Health of New England Senior Communities has been and continues to be in close communication with Town of Montague officials. At this time, we continue to conduct and review assessments pertaining to The Farren Care Center property, hazardous materials, and mechanicals. No decisions with regard to the physical plant have been finalized."

## Closed - Retiring!



Riverside Radiator would like to thank all my customers for the last 35 years!

Customers and friends are invited to an open house on 11/13, Saturday afternoon.

Montague Selectboard seeks proposals for the redevelopment of

### **500 Avenue A (Former DPW Garage)**

- 11,250 square foot garage on 0.87 acres.
- Zoned for industrial and commercial use Environmentally compliant property
- Minimum asking bid is \$75,000

The Town hopes to hear from qualified proponents who can commit to a redevelopment of the property in a manner that will enhance the southern corridor of Avenue A in Turners Falls. *Visit www.montague-ma.gov/BIDS* for more information.

Site briefing 11/18/2021 • Proposals are due 12/9/2021

### **MONTAGUE** from page A1

BOH member Michael Nelson moved to rescind the mask mandate "immediately" and change it to a "mask advisory." The board of health voted for the motion by a 2-1, with Zamojski voting in the negative. The selectboard followed suit, with the caveat that "any person not vaccinated be requested to wear a mask in all public buildings." The motion was further amended to say that people not "fully" vaccinated should be requested to wear masks.

When asked by Nelson to explain her negative vote, Zamojski said that "we've got the holiday coming up, and there are considerable close contacts in the school system. I would really like us to get through Thanksgiving to see if our numbers stay low enough... It would not behoove us to rescind the mandate now and then put it back before Christmas."

Selectboard member Mathew Lord said he saw both the original mandate and rescinding it as temporary "until we see how this all works." "It's a really difficult situation," he said.

Several residents in attendance advocated making a strong effort to adopt the same policies as neighboring Greenfield. Wasiuk said of it this week and the next week.

Ellis said "the notion that we could make perfect, synchronized decisions [with Greenfield] would require a different process.'

Greenfield mayor Roxanne Wedegartner announced Wednesday in a press release that her city would be lifting its mandate as of next Monday, November 8. Masks will still be required in city offices, and

the announcement noted that many businesses will still require masks. The mayor also noted that many high-risk residents may choose to continue to wear masks, and urged others to "be kind to people who opt to wear masks in public."

Wedegartner told the Reporter that the decision had been made last Thursday by the city's emergency management team, which included the mayor, health director, fire chief, police, and other staff. She said the group based their decision on the recent decline in positive cases, and argued that the mandate "cannot go on forever."

She also stressed the importance of increasing the local vaccination rate, which stands at just over 60% for fully vaccinated residents of Greenfield.

Incoming library director Caitlin Kelley said the library trustees had given her the power to "overrule" a selectboard decision on the mask mandate, "so we are going to continue to have a mandate for a little bit." "How people spend time in the library is different from other town buildings," she explained, "and we have a lot of very young patrons, and very old patrons."

Ellis said the libraries could not Greenfield would be "in discussion have a "more lenient policy" than that adopted by the selectboard, but "they could have a stricter one."

### Policies, Policies!

The board voted to approve 15 "policy recommendations" that will be included in the town financial policies currently being developed by the Montague finance committee. Finance committee chair Jen Audley introduced the proposals, but did not

comment at length, because they had been sent to the selectboard in August and reviewed at a public meeting on October 6. The policies do not yet include the annual budget, capital planning, and financial reserves.

Town accountant Carolyn Olsen, who was wearing a post-Halloween ape mask, noted that the town would no longer be reimbursing employees for "sales tax on their purchases" under the new policies.

The board approved a form requested by the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) establishing policies for the town leaf pile, currently located near the Sandy Lane transfer station.

"In 15 years nobody has ever asked me for it or said it was part of the permit renewal," Jan Ameen, executive director of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, told the board. She said the form "seemed like it is more designed for a food waste composting operation," which would need an "odor control plan and a toxics control plan."

"I wish I could say this was a fabulous document that was going to be meaningful somewhere," Ameen said, "But it's kind of filling

out the requirements." Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz noted that the leaf pile was not always monitored, as the document suggested, and was open to the public when there were no town personnel there. Ameen suggested that "monitoring" did not necessarily mean a constant staff presence, but periodically checking the pile for inappropriate materials such as "a can of paint" or "400 pounds of grass clippings."

### MONTAGUE CONSERVATION COMMISSION **PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

In accordance with the Mass. Wetlands Protection Act, MGL Ch. 131, §40, the Montague Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, November 18, 2021 to consider Notice of Intent #2021-01 North Leverett Road Replacement Project filed by BSC Group, Inc. for Eversource Energy. The work will occur in the North Leverett Road right-of way between Federal Street and the Leverett town line. The hearing will be held in the upstairs meeting room at Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A. Alternately, the public can participate via ZOOM. Application is available at www.montague-ma.gov or by calling the Planning Department at (413) 863-3200 x 112.

The board authorized that the document be signed by a "responsible official." "I've been told over and over again that's me," said Kuklewicz.

### **Shadowy Cabal**

Walter Ramsey presented the board with a required five-year plan for the Montague Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (MEDIC). The corporation is a "non-governmental" entity, though its board is appointed by the selectboard and its five-year plan approved by town meeting.

MEDIC was created in 1984 as part of the process that established the Discovery Center on Avenue A. It also established the town bike path and expanded the airport industrial park, which it currently oversees.

Ramsey reviewed future potential MEDIC projects, including at the Sandy Lane Industrial Area and in the former factory district between the Turners Falls power canal and Connecticut River. He said there would be a public hearing on the plan on November 23.

The board did not vote on the plan, and Kuklewicz suggested bringing it to a special town meeting in February for a vote.

### **Other Business**

The selectboard voted to execute a memorandum of understanding with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments in support of a feasibility study of expanded sludge composting at the town's water pollution control facility (WPCF).

It also voted to approve a \$35,000 contract with Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for the study, \$18,500 of which will be paid for by the WPCF and \$16,500 from a town meeting appropriation.

The board appointed Noah Diamond to the position of labor/operator at the WPCF, and changed the status of Daniel Poirier at the public works department to the position of Grounds Group Leader.

Ellis presented the board a list of capital requests for the upcoming year from town departments, which will be reviewed by the capital improvements committee. He did not read the list, or discuss any of the requests.

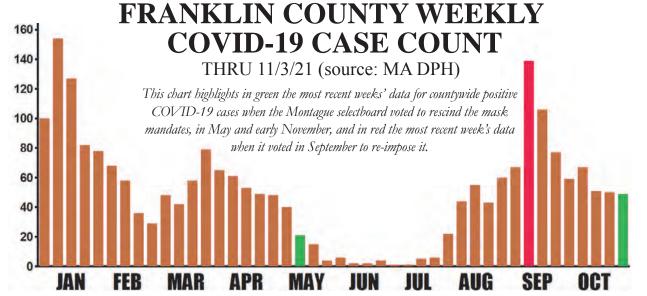
He also discussed the migration, currently underway, of the town emails and files from "locally-based servers" to Microsoft Office 365.

The board voted to transfer the liquor license of Carroll's Market in Millers Falls from Sahirat LLC to Om Shiv Shambhu Inc. The attorney for the Market, Kristi Bodin, explained that the business and building were being sold, but "Gary" Ramdas Patel would continue to be the manager.

At the end of the public meeting the board voted to retire into two executive sessions, one to conduct contract negotiations with police chief Chris Williams and another to discuss strategy for real estate negotiations with the FirstLight power company.

The next selectboard meeting will be held on November 8.





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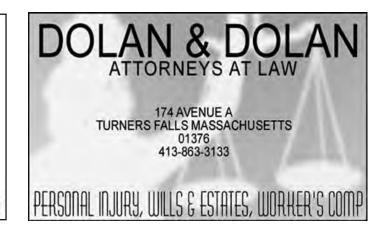
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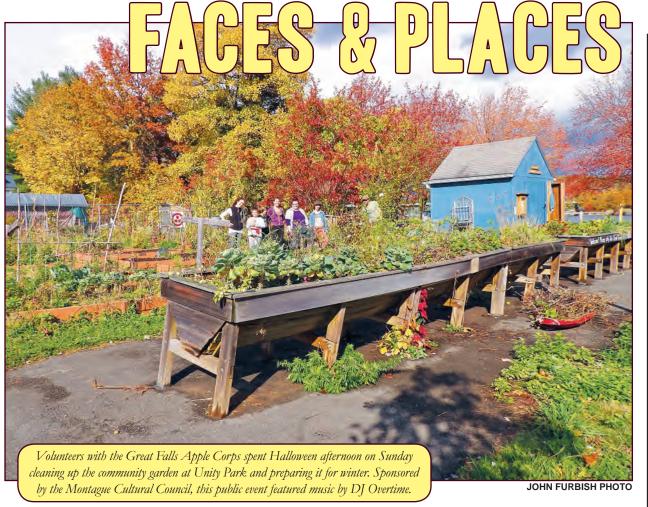
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### HICKS from page A1

Dressed in a shirt, tie, khaki pants, and blue blazer, Hicks then stood before District Court Judge Jacklyn M Connly. Standing aside Hicks and facing the bench, defense attorney John Vigliotti argued that exculpatory evidence included text messages by the alleged victim and what Vigliotti claimed was a state police investigation that had been conducted "in a rushed manner."

Judge Connly denied the motion to revoke bond, telling the prosecution "the Commonwealth clearly hasn't met its burden of proof."

The Northampton case was continued until December 16. Outside the courtroom Mr. Hicks was asked if he was relieved by Judge Connly's decision. "I'll never be relieved until this is resolved," he answered.

Vigliotti, who was walking up the sidewalk toward Main Street, briefcase in hand, overheard someone say, "There's two sides to every story."

The attorney turned around and responded: "That's right. That much I will tell you – there are two sides to the story."

Hicks then rushed to Greenfield district court, where he was scheduled the same morning for arraignment on three additional counts of the same charge – indecent assault and battery on a person over the age of 13.

Represented by a second lawyer, Hicks entered not guilty pleas to the new charges, which are related to incidents between Hicks and two additional accusers. The incidents allegedly occurred while he was on the job, and while his first charge was pending in Northampton district court.

As with Hicks's first case, the Greenfield charges are being prosecuted by the Worcester County district attorney's office. According to spokesperson Lindsay Corcoran, Hicks was ordered to stay away from the alleged victims, and his next court date was set for January 4.

The accusations have surfaced publicly after Hicks's retirement as chief in early September. Last week, a number of Buckland residents spoke at a selectboard meeting, criticizing the board for its silence and inaction after the 2019 charge. The town is now in discussion with neighboring Shelburne about establishing a shared-services policing agreement.

## LOOKING BACK:

10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on November 10, 2011: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

### A Long Week for **Highway Workers**

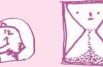
"As night went on, the snow came faster and heavier," said highway superintendent Mick La-Claire, recounting to the selectboard how his crew fought the early season Nor'easter that blew through on Saturday, October 29, taking down trees and limbs and knocking out power for days.

"In the middle of the night, it was coming down two to three inches an hour," said LaClaire, who had called his crew in early, and had his plows ready to go when the first flakes started to fall.

As the storm reached its height, "We could not see," LaClaire recalled. "We had no idea where the road was. There was six inches of snow built up on the headlights. I could have seen better with a candle on the hood." LaClaire said he had to keep stopping to clean off the headlamps. Even in the wee hours of the morning, he added, "there was traffic."

### Officers Praised for Quick **Response in Rite Aid Heist**

Responding to a rash of breakins along the Avenue over the last two weeks, Montague police chief Ray Zukowski said his officers are focusing more of their time and resources on the downtown.





The chief credited quick work on the part of off-duty detective Lee Laster, with an assist from retired Greenfield police officer Neil Leveille, and officers Chris Williams, John Dempsey, and K-9 Sunny, in apprehending a suspect in a bold daylight robbery at the Rite Aid drug store on Avenue A on Sunday.

### **Police Sergeants May Apply for Interim Chief Position**

The Montague selectboard plans to conduct interviews for the position of acting police chief as soon as this Tuesday.

In light of the upcoming November 26 retirement of police chief Ray Zukowski, any current sergeant in the Montague department has until Monday to declare interest in the interim police chief position. The department's four current sergeants are Christopher Bonnett, Charles Dodge, Richard Suchanek, and Christopher Williams.

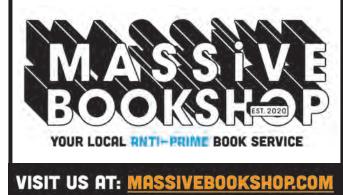
The selectboard approved the FY'12 base salary for the interim position (grade 10, step 6) at \$67,813.20, calculated by town accountant Carolyn Olsen, and members of the board were very deliberate in being up front about the salary: any current sergeant would earn more through overtime pay by remaining a sergeant than they would as interim police chief, given the budgetary reality of the town and arbitration agreements.

Hiring a permanent replacement for Zukowski will not happen for about another year.





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





The Whistle Stop Cafe 29 East Main Street Millers Falls Facebook: Instagram: whistlestopcafe\_millersfalls The Whistle Stop

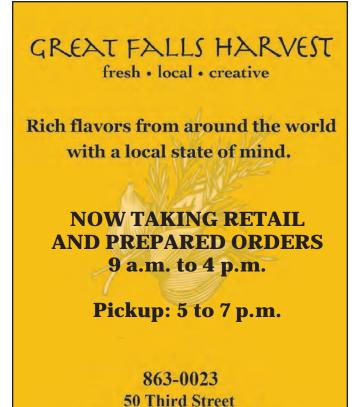








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**Downtown Turners Falls** 







Above: Elliot Levin's drone caught this striking sunrise over Barton Cove and Unity Park.

### By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Bright, crisp autumn morn. Sunday, 8:30. Breathlessly still. Low southeastern sun peering over the roofline like a mischievous gnome, illuminating the backyard alcove formed by northern extensions of the woodshed and barn from opposite ends of the carriage shed's back wall. Sliding woodshed door agape, ready for another feeding.

The first cord arrived just before dark the previous evening. With extended rain forecast, I wanted to get it and another soon to arrive under cover. Having raked up and wheelbarrowed a pile of wood debris to Hinsdale Brook's steep bank between the backyard kennel and cook-shed, I dumped it and watched the sawdust swirl and flow away downstream. The wild rattle of the stream, flowing with unusual fall vigor, was soothing, enrapturing.

Suddenly, across the brook, I heard a nut popping and banging to the ground through the hardwood branches of a shagbark hickory that has over the years often spoken. No, not as often as the brook, whose voice can range from a winter whisper muffled under snow and ice to violent freshet roars. The brook is always there in some form, visual too, reflecting spring pastels, summer greens, fall colors and the mood of any given day.

Also, always random noises to stir curiosity. Maybe a gray squirrel climbing or leaping from branch to branch or scampering through dry, noisy leaves, or flushing mergansers or mallards, perhaps the caw of a nagging blue jay and, yes, nuts bumping down in search of a fertile place to land, sprout and spring anew.

As I peered across the brook to investigate the nutty disturbance, a solitary orange leaf with small brown blemishes conspicuously fell from an overhanging sugar-maple. It danced a slow, graceful waltz to the water, manipulated by undetectable updrafts and breezes I could not feel or hear. Was this silent, lonely leaf trying to communicate, draw my attention with its elegant pirouettes, feathery wafts and whirls? That I cannot say. I only know it delivered me to a realm I wasn't expecting.

When the colorful, sun-lit, leaf

finally landed on flat water above a round, protruding boulder, it rode the current around the obstruction to the edge of a swirling eddy's orbit, which pulled it in. It circled twice along the outer edge, stalling in places, before catching the main flow and teeter-tottering downstream. It floated past a long, uprooted, midstream tree trunk pointing at the Green River Road bridge, and vanished through to the other side.

Though out of sight, that wayward leaf was not out of mind. It triggered spontaneous streamside introspection I could not ignore. Intensifying, it sent my wheels spinning back to a mournful day from my past.

It's strange how nature's ebbs and flows can entice receptive beings, even wild animals, I suppose, to ride their highs and lows into lively, spontaneous reflection. This was such an event. Fleeting but powerful. Short and somber. A response to nature's passion.

As that lonely orange leaf drifted from view, twisting and twirling, spinning and bobbing at the current's mercy, my consciousness raced back 11 years to an indelible event in Burlington, Vermont. I could see the hospital room and my 28-year-old namesake son's deathbed. I could smell it, visualize the tubes, transparent bags and gadgets. I could see the doctors and nurses, the social workers, extended bedside family bearing witness to the final act of a young man's life.

I could once again feel the violation of intrusive visitors who I didn't believe belonged, of the chaplain who, near the end, unannounced, appeared to perform her northern-Vermont rendition of last rites. I was appalled, irritated by the circus atmosphere attending my son's death. It should have been a private affair, not one during which I met knew people from off the street.

You should have seen the horror on my in-laws' faces when I objected to the chaplain's intrusion. After insincerely thanking her for thinking of us on a difficult day, I made it perfectly clear that her services were not requested or needed.

"We are way beyond what you bring," I told her in the still air of stunned silence.

see VALLEY VIEW page B4

## A Blissful Pumpkin Patch

REPORTER STAFF

TURNERS FALLS - On Halloween, the section of Turners Falls called The Patch – an island between the power canal and river – was turned into "The Pumpkin Patch" from 1 to 8 p.m. Trick or treaters were invited to travel on a one-way route through the streets of this small neighborhood, stopping at participating houses marked by little glowing pumpkin lights. The luminaria was lit by 50 lanterns on branches along the route, which included an Enchanted Forest wooded trail and a stage with live music. Participants followed a map distributed at the starting point near the Eleventh Street bridge.

Event organizer and Patch resident Misty Jacques said that this effort was the second community event she has instigated this fall. The first was a trash roundup along the island's Connecticut River shore as part of the annual Source to Sea river cleanup sponsored by the Connecticut River Conservancy. Jacques and a small group of volunteers coordinated the effort, and her group has popped up online as the Bliss Life Foundation (blisslife. com), promoting "joy, creativity, gratitude, excitement, and kinship."

The Pumpkin Patch event drew about 200 people, Jacques reported on Monday as she and friend Rory



Misty Jacques stands by the ancestor altar on the Enchanted Forest trail in the Patch.

away the various signs, lanterns, and Halloween decorations in her Thirteenth Street yard for next year.

Story busied themselves putting The decorations were mostly about creating a magical atmosphere through lighting, rather than any see PATCH page B2

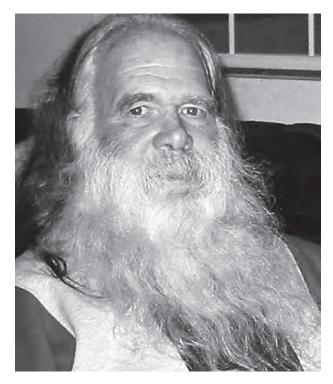
### **OBITUARY**

## Charles T. Smith (12/3/1936 – 10/24/2021)

WENDELL - Charles Thompson Smith died October 24, 2021 at Charlene Manor nursing home in Greenfield, MA.

Born in Massapequa, Long Island, New York on December 3, 1936, an only child whose father worked in defense and whose mother was a history teacher, Smith grew up mostly there, but spent five years in Evansville, Indiana. He graduated from St. Paul's School in Garden City, Long Island, and in 1957 completed his undergraduate studies at Swarthmore College outside Philadelphia. He went on to earn a Masters in Biblical Hebrew and Greek at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During his college years, Smith worked for Yale University, the New York City welfare department, and in Ohio as a farm hand. He briefly managed a bookstore in Manhattan. During this period, while living on the Lower East Side, he developed friendships with some of the prominent Beat poets based there, including Alan Ginsburg and Peter Orlovsky.

Most of the 1960s Smith spent living in communes in Vermont and Massachusetts, where he stood out not only in political discussions, but in farming and rural skills. In 1970 he moved to Wendell, Massachusetts, where he lived for the next forty-seven years, joined early on by his longtime roommate, Robert Heller. Although an advanced student of Hebrew, Greek, and other Eastern European and Asian languages, and of the history and archeology of the Holy Land, he shunned jobs that fit these



qualifications and worked as an attendant at the town's recycling and transfer station.

With his long, matted dreadlocks, long beard, and a stern, blue gaze, Smith could be a commanding presence at a town meeting or a protest-group gathering,

see **SMITH** page B3

## Week



## SHINING ARMOR"

Your knight in shining armor has arrived! Shining Armor (a.k.a. "Shiny") is curious, playful, and gentle. He's also silky soft, and he loves it if you pet the white spot on his head. If you put him on your lap, he will enjoy a short snuggle but he will also want to explore.

Shiny will readily take food from your hand if you hold the food in front of him for a little bit. He knows when it's time to eat, and around mealtime he will peek out from his box and wheet at anyone who has fed him before. He loves a good obstacle course, and it's fun to build him cardboard forts and playgrounds.

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

### **Senior Center Activities NOVEMBER 8 THROUGH 12**

### 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. for drop in visitors.

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.

The Gill Montague Council on Aging has access to grant money to help low to moderate income seniors make home repairs, particularly those related to home safety. Please call 863-9357 for eligibility criteria and more information.

Thursday 11/11

10 a.m. Chair Yoga

1 p.m. Cards & Games

Monday 11/8 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 1 p.m. Knitting & Crafts Circle Tuesday 11/9 10 a.m. Knitting Circle 3 p.m. Tai Chi Wednesday 11/10 9 a.m. Foot Clinic by Appointment (No Programs or Activities) 4 p.m. Mat Yoga

### **Friday 11/12**

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

### **ERVING**

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 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. Mask required if not vaccinated. Proper handwashing and social distancing are still required.

### Monday 11/8 9 a.m. Re-Store & Re-Emerge

10 a.m. Tai JI Quan Tuesday 11/9 9 a.m. Blood Pressure Clinic 9 a.m. Good for YOU 10 a.m. Line Dancing Wednesday 11/10 9 a.m. Strength & Conditioning 10 a.m. Tai JI Quan 12:30 a.m. Bingo 1 p.m. Veterans Services Thursday 11/11 Closed for Veterans Day **Friday 11/12** 9 a.m. Quilting Guild

### **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.

### PATCH from page B1

scary, gory, or spooky type of Halloween effect. The enchanted forest trail was lit with twinkling lights and glowing things as it wound around the woods at the end of Jacques' street.

An altar to ancestors was set up next to a special tree whose trunk offered bark niches for small led lights, and several people brought memorial photographs of family members to display. Others put small rocks on the table in memory of a loved one.

Jacques said that during the event she heard many Patch residents remark about how they had connected with neighbors they didn't know they had, even after living there for some 20 years. One person said that they noticed how changed the neighborhood was from just a few years back, and that it felt a lot safer to them.

Support in the form of donations and decorations was offered by several local businesses including Jamrog, Home Depot, Greenfield Cooperative Bank, BJ's, and the St. Kazimierz Society. Musicians donated their talents for hours of music on the stage set up at the north end of streets G and H, all coordinated by Tom Schack.

Jacques said she would love to have more help with

the Bliss Life Foundation, which she envisions as a catalyst for community events like this one. "I can't wait to do it again," she enthused. "I want to bring all kinds of different people together. It has been hard for people to be face to face with COVID. There is detachment, and sadness, when people can't be physically around others. This is the work I love, seeing people come together."

She is applying for non-profit status for Bliss Life, and told the Reporter she could use assistance with the business end of things as well as community outreach. An upcoming fundraiser called "Ooh La La! Ladies Night" is planned at Hawks & Reed Performing Arts Center in Greenfield on Black Friday, November 26 at 7:30 p.m. (The event description says that Men in Motion - "sexy, talented and shirtless men" - will be putting on a show during an "exclusive catered evening of cocktails, enjoyment and indulgence" for the "ladies of Franklin County.") Tickets are available, and proceeds will go to support future Bliss Life events.

Find out more and contact Misty Jacques through the Bliss Life Foundation Facebook page, or at blisslife.com.





## Sex Matters

## a sex-positive health column by STEPHANIE BAIRD

**NORTHAMPTON** – As we step further into the academic school year, it's good to think about sex education. My co-teachers and I have begun our first Our Whole Lives (OWL) sex education program since the pandemic shutdown. We have a lovely group of about 20 middle-schoolers enrolled in our eight-month-long Saturday classes taught at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence. Throughout these next few months they will receive a far more comprehensive, medically accurate, and inclusive curriculum on healthy sexuality than possibly 99% of their peers.

It is well known that sex education is sorely lacking for children here in the United States. Most of us received zero to just six hours of basic sex education in our entire schooling, and depending on the decade and geographic region of our middle school, our education likely only mentioned menstruation and abstinence.

Only 24 states mandate sex education in public schools, with many states and districts opting for abstinence-based curriculums versus adopting the UNESCO- and WHO-recommended Comprehensive Sexuality Education, defined as "a curriculum of rights-based and gender-focused approaches to sexuality including information on contraception, reproduction and sexually transmitted infections." UNESCO's 2015 global review of sex education in 48 countries found that CSE is linked to improved sexual and reproductive health, reduced rates of sexually transmitted infection, and reduced teen pregnancy.

This lack of public school sex education is a huge disservice, as I'm sure we all want our children to grow up sexually empowered: understanding both the reproductive and pleasurable elements of sexual activity, as well as being physically and emotional healthy and responsible.

In contrast to the US, Denmark and Sweden devote many hours to sex education throughout all the years of their children's education. Denmark is also famous for "Sex Week" – a full week at all grade levels devoted to age-appropriate

sex education that includes reproductive information, as well as information about consent, gender roles, and sexual rights.

If our children here in the US aren't lucky enough to enroll in local OWL classes, and their schools offer zero to six hours of official sex education (with much of it abstinent-focused), then where do they turn for information in the 21st century?

The Interwebs, of course.

Many of us who grew up in the '70s, '80s, and even the '90s experienced the lingerie section of the Sears catalog, certain risqué National Geographics, plus possibly Playboy and Playgirl magazines. A few even stumbled upon Our Bodies, Ourselves.

But 89% of Millennials, Gen Zs and beyond are getting the majority of their sex ed via unchecked and unbridled, airbrushed and orchestrated, porn. Much of this type of porn leaves out important elements like emotional intimacy, consent, using condoms, discussing STI risks, and varying body types. And it often includes degradation of women, unrealistic behaviors, poor treatment, and poor financial reimbursement of the actors.

If the use of porn as sex ed by kids, plus the general public's lack of anatomical knowledge, is not a call to arms to radically increase the breadth and depth of sex education, then I don't know what is. Oh yeah, the persistence of high rates of sexual assaults (1 in 4 cis females, 1 in 6 cis males)? The fact that we had a president who said on record that it was okay to "grab a p\*ssy" when he wanted?

### Resources

For any caregivers out there, the best thing you can do to foster a healthy sexuality for your child is to initiate discussions on a regular basis, and provide access to accurate, age-appropriate, and sex-positive books and websites for your kids. You can start as early as preschool, with boundary-affirming books like Spelman's Your Body Belongs to You (1997) or Sanders' My Body! What I Say Goes! (2016). An excellent elementary age book is Saltz's Amazing You! Getting Smart About Your Private

Parts. I read Your Body Belongs to You many, many times to my own daughter and really wished this book had been around when I was a child, if only to get me out of forced hugs and cheek pinches.

Online, Amaze.org has many age-appropriate videos and short lessons for kids. Scarleteen.com -"sex ed for the real world" - is a treasure trove of age-appropriate "inclusive, comprehensive, and supportive sexuality and relationship info" for teens. Planned Parenthood (plannedparenthood.org/ learn/teens) has age-appropriate information related to teen sexuality and relationships. Go Ask Alice (goaskalice.columbia.edu) also has expert sexual health information.

Helpful books for teens include Corinna's S.E.X.: The All-You-Need-To-Know Sexuality Guide To Get You Through Your Teens And Twenties (2016), Hasler's SEX: A Book For Teens (2010), and Lang's Consent: The New Rules Of Sex Education: Every Teen's Guide To Healthy Sexual Relationships (2018). Buy a couple and leave them in the bathroom, or select a random page for dinner discussion. Brand's Stop Sweating & Start Talking: How to Make Sex Chats with Your Kids Easier Than You Think (2021) is hot off the presses, and by a Massachusetts author.

Yes, most kids will shoot you dagger eyes if you bring up sex as a discussion topic. However, they are paying very close attention to what you say out loud, what you omit, and your nonverbal behavior.

Showing nonjudgmental openness may be the very thing that will allow kids to come to you with pregnancy scares, condom questions, STI concerns, or confusion about consent. This may help provide an extra layer of protection from potential sexual assault, or future dysfunction.

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

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### **SMITH** from page B1

both of which he frequented. He spoke slowly, with dramatic precision. He had an instant rapport with animals. He spent most of his life never owning or driving a car or owing taxes. He hitchhiked to grocery stores, bookstores, and libraries. He said he didn't care about money, and chose austerity and a degree of reclusiveness in his lifestyle. "Charles" was enough in Wendell and some neighboring communities to identify him - no last name needed.

In 1978, Smith was western Massachusetts' representative to 100-member anti-nuclear Clamshell Alliance Coordinating Committee in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The notes he took would have stymied any informants in this grassroots effort against construction of the Seabrook nuclear power plant, because he wrote them in a hieroglyphic-type alphabet he invented as a youngster.

Smith was buyer for the Our Daily Bread Food Co-op in Orange, and participated in the start of Good Neighbors, a food distribution program still operating in Wendell. His efforts helped open the library of the University of Massachusetts to the public. He served on five town committees.

This work, and the work he did on other community and regional matters, including his leadership of the Wendell conservation commission, gained him the gratitude and respect of his fellow townspeople. In 1982, after his house was destroyed by fire, friends organized a weekend-long community house-raising to rebuild it, using lumber from local trees and donated labor. In 2008 Smith was honored as Wendell's Citizen of the Year.

Smith held a strong political philosophy based in a love of democracy and fascination with the absence of formal leadership, also called anarchism. At the same time, he admired Eastern Orthodox Christianity, which holds that only in the Church can faith and community be cultivated. When teaching in the Wendell Church in the 1970s and early '80s, he kept other members enthralled with his knowledge of the Bible.

When the church building changed hands, he served for years as a board member and president of the Friends of the Wendell Meeting-

house. There, a celebration in his memory will be held in the Spring.



## Learning to Fly Fish: Part XIX

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. 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**

**WARE** – The light was fading, so I gratefully let Rudy tie the tiny #32 fly on the almost-invisible tippet he had recommended, since he could do it so much quicker.

I made the first cast, and when I retrieved it, Rudy urged me to make shorter casts. This is one of several things I know but had "forgotten" in my frustration. Since I couldn't see either the fly or the tippet, I had to follow the moving line with the length of my rod. He instructed me to strike gently but firmly whenever I saw any movement at all in the general area of my fly's location. Just a slight dimple in the water warrants striking.

I cast out again. "Now! Now!" he called out.

I had seen nothing. He was pointing out rises to my fly that I hadn't been seeing.

This happened two or three more times until I realized the obvious: I wasn't really watching carefully. How often had this happened during my "noketchum" phase? Frequently, I think.

It was getting quite dark, but I just couldn't leave without doing this right. In other words, I needed to land a trout larger than six inches. Rudy was very patient, so I kept casting. I began to see the slight dimples in the water he told me to look for.

After the sixth or seventh cast I saw a subtle movement somewhere in the dark in the direction my rod was pointing to. I gently but firmly tightened the line. Bam! The unmistakable hard pull of a good fish



A spotted sedge dry fly.

heading down.

Now the trick was to land him. A 9x tippet is very delicate. Any sudden jerky movements can snap it easily, or allow the fish to break it off. I took my time playing him, letting him run out a bit, applying slight pressure on the line to tire him out, and eventually guiding him in. Rudy offered to net him for me. That was OK with me.

Netting a fish has never been my

It always feels fine to catch a fish. It feels great to catch a good fish. "Good" can mean a lot of different things, from a small but very feisty Brookie to large wily Rainbow or Brown. It can also simply be the first fish you have caught in days.

For me the size - around 13 inches - and the fight made it exciting. Landing it with such light tackle is a great feeling.

This is the heart of fly fishing in some ways: learning to see, using your brains, staying calm, and developing great patience. But best of all for me that night was successfully applying the instructions a good fly fisher gave me and managing to bring a good fish in.

By now it was pitch dark and I walked back with Rudy along the river path to the parking area feeling great. Rudy shared my excitement, which made the whole experience even better. I was back in the game again.

A couple of days later the rain moved in, and all the rivers began swelling and even spilling over their banks.

I am patiently waiting.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

### No Busking; Man Refuses To Come Down Off Roof; Two Blown Transformers; Foul Language; Rowdiness

Monday, 10/25

the kids waiting for the side upon arrival. dow and told them to stop parked at Strathmore. it and that the sawhorses 4:54 p.m. Caller reportto an officer.

against himself. Referred Thursday, 10/28 to an officer.

ing lot to leave the proper- handling issue. that six or seven sheep port taken. officer notified.

lieves someone hacked cense. Caller later reporther phone or computer ed that the male returned and is now threatening to home with the car. Units post private photos if she on scene with male party, does not send them mon- who is refusing to come ey. Advised of options. down from the roof. A

the back of the head by a default warrant. client and knocked to the 2:43 p.m. Caller would floor. Report taken; sum- like on record that a vehimons issued for assault cle attempted to run her and battery.

11:19 p.m. Caller states berland Farms. that he just struck a deer 3:59 p.m. Caller would and his vehicle is dam- blue truck was speeding aged. Report taken.

Tuesday, 10/26

11:12 a.m. Chief advising son up from daycare. of a dumpster blocking pe- 4:30 p.m. Caller from destrians on the sidewalk Franklin Street reporting on Federal Street. Dump- that his and his brother's ster moved into yard.

ing home on Montague Street and is being chased Investigated. by turkeys; requesting 8:38 p.m. Caller from Avthat an officer assist her. enue C states that her cat Turkeys guided to wood has been lost for a few line on Sunset Drive.

2:44 p.m. Party into sta- it is locked in the garage tion requesting to speak with Chief Williams about a resident discharging firearms on Dry Hill Road. Services rendered.

Wednesday, 10/27

7:25 a.m. Greenfield PD reporting major traffic backup on Canal Road due to wires down on Turners Falls Road.

9:54 a.m. Walk-in reporting that someone keeps going into her home and vandalizing her things while she is at work. Report taken.

3:55 p.m. Caller reporting an aggressive grey and tan pitbull tied up on Fifth Street. Caller states dog tried to attack her, is able to reach the sidewalk and almost came loose.

ACO contacted. Officer 7:49 a.m. Caller states that advises dog was not out-

bus this morning on Third 4:08 p.m. Caller states that Street were destroying the his truck died on the Casawhorses left there from nal Bridge and is block-Pumpkinfest. Caller states ing traffic. Officer advises she rolled down the win- truck is off bridge and

were town property. Kids ing multiple kids riding replied that the town dirt bikes without helmets left them there. Referred in the alleyway between Fourth and Fifth streets. 2:32 p.m. Caller would Kids were gone before the like to speak with an offi- dispatcher hung up with cer regarding hate crimes the caller. Officer advised.

7:09 a.m. Caller states that 4:31 p.m. Caller states that a manhole cover near L he told a couple of people and K streets is off to the who were playing instru- side of the road and that ments and asking for mon- there is a hole in the road ey in the Food City park-causing a hazard. DPW

ty. Parties moved to the far 8:17 a.m. Caller from end of the lot and are cur- Crescent Street states rently sitting in their van. that her vehicles were Area checked; vehicle gone. broken into last night and 4:36 p.m. Caller states change was stolen. Re-

are wandering loose in 12:30 p.m. Caller reportthe area of Old Stage ing that a male took her Road. Animal control vehicle at around 9 a.m. without permission and 6:54 p.m. 911 caller be- does not have a valid li-7:46 p.m. Crisis worker 43-year-old Lake Pleasreporting that she was ant man was arrested on struck several times in a straight warrant and a

off the road near Cum-

on Industrial Boulevard like it on record that a and clipped her vehicle while she was picking her

vehicles were broken into 12:35 p.m. Caller is walk- sometime overnight and

days and it appears that

behind Jarvis Pools. Keyholder contacted and en route. Officer advises that cat was not in the garage. 9:04 p.m. Caller from O Street reporting that someone attempted to open her door, which was locked; requesting officer drive through area. Officer advises that he walked around the property with the caller and nothing

### was found. Friday, 10/29

8:43 a.m. Report of vehicle break-in on Central Street; work tablet taken. Caller states his workplace can track the tablet. Investigated.

10:18 a.m. Caller reporting a lot of graffiti down at Cabot Camp. Referred to an officer.

11:08 a.m. Caller reporting that the street lights are out at High and Marshall streets and the visibility is horrible. Caller is very concerned, with trick-or-treating happening Sunday, that someone is going to get killed. Contacted TF Water Department, who is in charge of the street lights in town; they advised they will contact the people who are out right now changing street light bulbs to LEDs and see if they can make this area a priority. 2:57 p.m. Caller requesting info on what the hunting laws are at this time after he heard what sounded like gunshots being fired in the Plains. Per officer, caller referred to state police.

3:06 p.m. Reports of males going door to door requesting Eversource billing information on Second and Fourth streets. Officer spoke to one of the individuals and advised them that they have to come to the station to fill out paperwork in order to continue going door to door.

Hill Road, then the electricity went out. MCFD advised that a transformer blew. Eversource on scene.

Saturday, 10/30

10:29 a.m. Caller from Griswold Street reporting people yelling and smashing things around. Officer reports parties were advised of complaint; they had a small argument, but everything was fine.

2:26 p.m. Several calls received regarding a transformer that blew and is on fire at Turnpike and Montague City roads. Officer advises a couple of wires down and a fire next to the pole. Transferred to Shelburne Control.

### Sunday, 10/31

10:17 a.m. Caller from South Prospect Street reports that someone slashed two of his truck tires sometime overnight. Investigated.

11:39 a.m. Caller states that there is a loose dog with an orange vest sitting in front of a house on Montague Street; believes dog may be lost. Officer advises that the dog was lying in its own yard.

2:55 p.m. Caller reports that someone is kayaking below the dam; states that it seems to be dangerous. Kayak is red in color. Unable to locate.

6:45 p.m. Caller from Crocker Avenue complaining of teenaged boys harassing other kids and using foul language. Unfounded.

8:11 p.m. Caller came upon a minor motorcycle accident at Broadway and Lake Pleasant Road; motorcycle had struck a deer. Operator says he is not injured. Deer is down on the side of the road. Officer advises deer is deceased. Rau's responding to tow motorcycle.

10:47 p.m. 911 caller reporting party with teenage kids getting rowdy on Bridge Street. All quiet upon arrival.

### Monday, 11/1

1:18 a.m. Caller from Bridge Street states that seeing a fire across from several cars are in the her house on East Taylor area with people who are arguing with each other. There is a party happening, but the hosts are shutting it down.

**Montague Community Television News** 

## Spinning & Strutting

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Aside from the reliable meetings from the Gill and Montague selectboards, the Montague finance committee, and the Gill-Montague regional school committee, MCTV has some new videos up of the Spinner Park dedication, the Fab Fashion sidewalk runway show, and the Drag Sisters performance "Back Where we Belong" at the Shea Theater.

All MCTV videos are available on the MCTV Vimeo page, which can be found linked to our website, montaguetv.org, under the tab "Videos."

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17, as well as featured on the MCTV Vimeo page.

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

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

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### VALLEY VIEW from page B1

Surprised by my reaction, she looked at me with sharp Christian daggers, understanding that I was deadly serious. My son's death chamber was not her place. She turned and left the room.

"Why did you do that? She was only trying to help," objected a witness of evangelical, law-enforcement timbre.

"We didn't ask for her help," I responded. End of story.

The inappropriate challenge went no further. The dying man was my son. He had no say, badge or no badge.

I remember harboring much anger that day. Justified anger, in my opinion. My wife, younger son and I had endured the full force of my son's 76 torturous days under intensive care. That's more than two months of needles and feeding and breathing tubes, heavy-duty antibiotics, tracheotomies, and the sad, helpless, hopeless eyes of a cognizant patient. Himself a registered nurse, he knew he was doomed. His eyes said it all.

What a nightmare. All because of a botched open-heart surgery. Expected to last six hours, the procedure went on for more like 15 due to doctor error when re-connecting the arteries. The surgical team worked to wit's end to correct the mistake and re-establish circulation to my son's left arm, but every second is crucial in such surgeries, and the delay produced uncontrollable bleeding from which my son never recovered. "Complications" led to a slow, tedious death in the healthcare system's last-resort chamber known as the ICU, no place anyone wants to visit.

When my son finally, inevitably went terminally septic in the wee hours of December 2, 2010, our home phone rang before 2:30 a.m.

It's seldom good news at that hour. The voice on the other end of the line said we had better hurry to get up there, that his time was short. My wife, son and I showered in separate bathrooms, got dressed and raced to northern Vermont, arriving at the parking garage before dawn. Inside, my son's wife told us he had already died and been paddled back to life, if you can imagine that. Why would anyone bring a man in his dreadful state back to life?

My son was prostrate on a hospital bed in an adjacent room, unconscious on life-support, monitors beeping and flashing. The surgeon, sitting with the palliative-care team at a long conference table with many cushioned chairs, said he was very sorry. He had done everything in his power to save my son, who could not be saved.

A nurse led us into his room around 6 a.m., and there we sat watching and waiting for the end as he struggled for each unconscious, machine-powered breath, his lips and chest quivering on each inhale, tubes and bags hanging from frames everywhere, electronic monitors beeping and buzzing, lights pulsating with each heartbeat and breath.

Eight hours later, around 2 p.m. if memory serves me, Gary was still hanging on with labored breathing. He was young, they explained, had a strong will to live. It could take a while. About an hour later, a doctor entered the room and suggested it was time to remove the life support and let him drift away, like that maple leaf floating down Hinsdale Brook.

"There comes a time for a man to die with dignity," the doctor told us.

We were in full agreement. The torturous process had lasted far too long. It was time to pull the plug and end the pain.

Even the removal of all life sup-

port didn't produce immediate results. Far from it, in fact. Unmedicated and breathing on his own, it took him nearly 5½ hours to breathe his final breath. At about the midpoint, say 6 p.m., I left the room briefly and bumped into the doctor who had uttered the "die with dignity" spiel he'd likely often used in his profession. I informed him that I was a student of words and challenged him to find a definition for dignity that fit what we had all borne witness to that day.

"I'm sorry," he replied. "We can't play God."

I interpreted that to mean that, though my son was doomed, law prevented doctors from delivering the coup de grâce with a heavy dose of morphine or whatever else they had in their medicine bag. In this Christian culture, a doctor could go to prison for delivering such a merciful act. How can that be?

It's difficult to imagine that all of what I have just shared ricocheted through my consciousness in the brief time it took for that orange maple leaf to disappear under the bridge and for me to return the wheelbarrow under the cover of the barn's cellar. Soon I heard the truckful of cordwood approaching to break my introspective spell. The fresh load was dropped in front of the gaping woodshed door, and I raced the clock to get it in before the NFL games began at 1 p.m.

Had I experienced a free-flowing streamside visitation from my late son, thoughts from which kept resurfacing over ensuing days? The answer is that one never knows.

If it was a rare visitation, I can only rejoice that I was there. Right time, right place. Looking and listening.

Always looking and listening.



### **TELEVISION**

## Traveling From the Comic Books

**By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI** 

GREENFIELD - I have written a number of articles where I critique comics that have been made into TV shows and movies. My latest one is on space travel and time travel, which they have done in The Flash TV show, Supergirl TV show, and Legends of Tomorrow on the CW.

Supergirl and The Flash have made great use of that when it comes to their storylines. Legends of Tomorrow mainly involves time travel, and that led to all kinds of crazy stories, including ones where the Legends meet George Washington, Obama, and Einstein. There have even been one or two where the Legends meet young versions of themselves, which led to some amusing moments to see on screen.

The sky's the limit with how far back in time they travel, or how far forward. They have run into dinosaurs. They have seen a ton of different kinds of futures. A couple of times, the present has been changed in some interesting ways. In one moment, the timeline stays on track, but in another there is a total change into a whole new world.

The Flash is supposed to be a character that can run so fast he can time travel, but it has happened with this speedster in some cool ways. The first time was when he accidentally traveled back in an attempt to stop a tidal wave from destroying Central City. Another subplot leads to some amusing moments on screen. Because of that, he is able to stop the Weather Wizard before he does something – but then Captain Cold becomes a problem.

Speaking of Captain Cold, Barry (the Flash) used time travel to get his help for a heist when he was at one point on the Legends of Tomorrow - and not exactly in Central City. That made the reappearance of Captain Cold work well in the storyline. Now for the use of space travel in Supergirl. The Martian Manhunter, a.k.a. J'onn J'onzz, is a main character in the



show, so traveling to Mars with him is something that would make sense. The storyline where that happened was good, and to see how the people behind this show envision Mars was nice to look at. We are also treated to the appearance of White Martians, who are a part of the Manhunter's history.

Traveling to Mars also leads us to see a cool vehicle of J'onzz's. It's a classic '50s car that transforms into a spaceship.

One more example of space travel from Supergirl is when a rocket called the Venture runs into trouble. This leads to a rescue Supergirl has to make. This storyline was also a good way for the latest version of Superman, played by Tyler Hoechlin, to officially appear on that show. The two team up to make that rescue together. The situation with the Venture worked very well for him to show up and help.

This was one of my two favorite storylines in these shows involving some kind of traveling. The other is the first instance of the Flash traveling through time. He only goes one day back, but one episode ends with him doing that, and it turns out to be the first part of a two-parter. The second part was the one I mentioned that included those amusing moments.



### Part 12: We're Not Replaceable

**AMHERST** – Someone asked me the other day, "Why don't we screen women for breast cancer starting at age 20?" I don't have a great answer for that. I'm not sure why we don't start preventative screening at age 20 to catch any breast cancer early. Hormone receptor positive cancer is the most prominent breast cancer among women, and a diagnosis at a young age can mean a more aggressive cancer.

I guess the answer is not too many women get it before the age of 40, but I don't think that's good enough. To me, that sounds like we are letting a certain number of women die from this disease and kind of ignoring it, so we don't have to make insurance companies pay for earlier mammograms.

A preventative mammogram right after my son was born, or a few years after, may have meant my cancer didn't have a chance to grow beyond a centimeter. It would have been smaller, and easier to treat.

A preventative mammogram for a woman seeking hormone-based birth control or considering children may help catch cancer before it has a chance to spread. Maybe mammograms should be standard practice before a woman goes on birth control, and maybe if she's on birth control we should do mammograms every few years since we are pumping her full of hormones.

Doesn't it seem right? If we pump women full of hormone-based birth control, if we ask them to carry and make children with their bodies, shouldn't we also offer them protection against a disease that could potentially take them away from those children? Why wouldn't we protect women?

We aren't replaceable. Not to our children, spouses, and families. We aren't disposable. We are valuable. What would it take to make mammogram screening a common practice earlier in a woman's life?

So many women have been touched by this disease in one way or another. You probably know a woman who has had breast cancer. and a half is a long long time. You might know a woman who died of breast cancer. You might know a woman who has stage four

terminal breast cancer.

Whatever stage it is, it's still devastating. I went through chemo, and it devastated my body. I lost all my hair, eyelashes included. During the hardest part, there were weekends when I slept for 18 hours a day and I was still tired. I described myself as "walking dead" or a real-life zombie. It was hard, but in my case, my aggressive cancer only shrank by one third. That's when I started to wonder what the other way would be.

The other way is catching the cancer a lot earlier. I've had this inside me for years. I've had years to catch and discover it. But it wasn't large enough for me to feel and recognize a lump. That's why we have screening tests that help us identify a lump that doesn't belong, because it's difficult to feel them. They hide in plain sight.

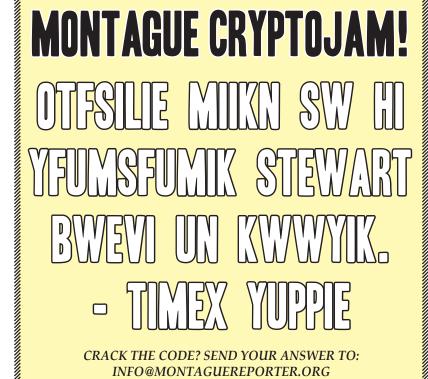
One of the signs I did miss is the dimpling. I think if I had recognized the dimpling as a sign of cancer, I would have called the doctor sooner. I had dimpling on my left side for about two years, and I just thought I was getting older; I thought it was something that happens with age. I didn't understand what I was looking at, and that's unfortunate.

The last time I was educated in a public setting about what to look for was high school. I went to an all-women's college, but the one and only time I was told what to look for was high school. So I think we can also work a little harder to educate more women regarding what to look for. Education is key, and it saves lives.

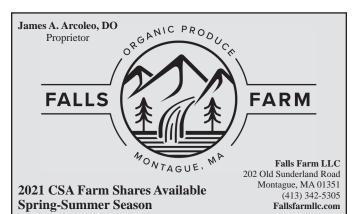
It would be less expensive to pay for mammograms for younger women than it is to treat me for this cancer. Hundreds of thousands of dollars have been spent to save my life. That is, apparently, what a life is worth. But a mammogram a few years ago may have reduced the cost drastically.

In total, I'm looking at a year and a half of treatment. I'm about a third of the way through. This next stretch won't be as hard, I'm told, but a year

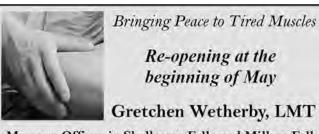
And I'm not replaceable to my son. That's why I keep going, even though it's hard.



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## THE PHOTO BEAT, PAST AND PRESENT:

MOVING FORWARD IN TIME, **CAPTURING THE MOMENT** 

JOE R. PARZÝCH PHOTOGRAPHÝ & ETC.

By JOE R. PARZYCH

**GREENFIELD** – I'm a veteran photojournalist, going as far back in time as 24 years ago when there wasn't social media. I began during the school day as a student, then started freelancing after school as an apprentice under my late grandfather, Joe A. Parzych of Gill.

Joe was long retired from running and operating J.A. Parzych Excavating. He had previously operated heavy equipment during the day, and then started writing at night - for the Springfield Union News's Franklin Magazine, Yankee magazine, and Reader's Digest in the early days, recalling his younger years as a public relations writer for the Army while serving as a paratrooper in Japan.

Now the torch has been passed, but I have a lot of shoes to fill. Thanks to my grandfather I didn't have go to a school like the Hallmark Institute of Photography for photography. I shadowed with him as a freelancer on assignment for local newspapers, the Greenfield Town Crier from 1998 to 2012 and also the Montague Reporter from 2003 to 2017.

I still currently write and take photos for the Reporter, and I am starting writing for a national farming publication, Country Folks, that covers agriculture, out of Palatine Bridge, New York. I have previously written for the Crier, the Reporter, the Springfield Republican's unlisted teen page, and taken photos for Yankee magazine's New England Travel, Construction Equipment Guide, the Greenfield Recorder, Vermont Newswire, Lee Newspapers, Inc., and Greenfield High School's *The Exponent*.

I am a former student of Gill-Montague and Greenfield public schools, and GCC. I took journalism and courses in high school, and I have previously taken classes at GCTV and MCTV, but I also have hands-on experience and am self-taught in both film and digital photography. My grandfather was my main photography teacher.

Since 2020 I have been enrolled as a student at the Literacy Project, taking high school and pre-college entry classes so I can earn my GED. I'd like to transfer to Greenfield Community College and earn my associates degree in business administration, or earn a bachelor's in liberal arts at Holyoke Community College, and then go on to a master's degree in journalism or history at UMass Amherst, or earn a certificate in computer science from Springfield Technical Community College.

On the side I'm a jack of all trades, with many jobs in the past including three years working at Riff's North, and I am in a group of talented artists at the United ARC. I play guitar and enjoy listening to '50s, '60s, '70s, '80s, and '90s music, including vi-



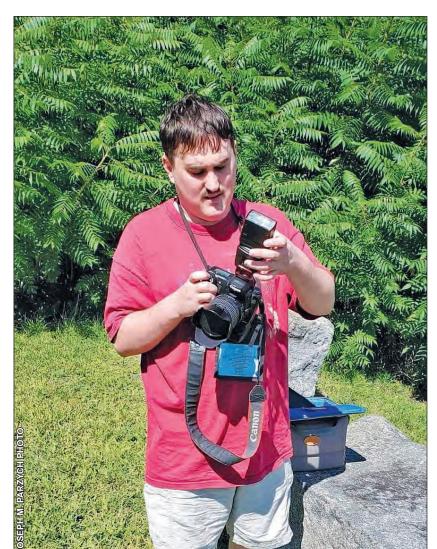
The author took this photo, previously unpublished, on Center Road in Gill in 2014.

nyl records. I announced that I am pursuing my journalism career fulltime while running "Joe R. Parzych Photography and etc." on Facebook. I found my calling all those years ago - I have wanted to do this ever since the age of 5, since I grew up with construction equipment, farm tractors, and cameras.

I hope I inspire, influence, and encourage others, including highschool aged students, to write (and more) for the Montague Reporter. I mentioned in an interview on the Montague Reporter Podcast that I have met all kinds of cool people over the years, including the artist William Wegman. I enjoy stories in this paper by Trish Crapo, Nina Rossi, Gary Sanderson, Izzy Vachula-Curtis, and more. I am also inspired by my aunt Joanne, my aunt Christine, and my grandma.

By the way, I am working on a photography book, with the eye and perspective of a person who is a photographer, a jack of all trades, and has a form of autism. I am getting married to my beautiful fiancée Amanda in May 2022.

Thanks again to everyone who has encouraged me to keep at what I am doing. Please stay tuned for Part 2!



Joe R. Parzych, in 2019.

### **ART-RELATED ANNOUNCEMENT**

## New Exploded View Exhibit at the Disco Center

ploded View art, poetry, and performance group is unveiling new work during the month of November at the Great Falls Discovery Center. The group states that in this second pandemic year they feel it is essential to perform maintenance and repair individually and in community.

Members Trish Crapo of Leyden, Edite Cunhã and Nina Rossi of Turners Falls, and Samantha Wood of Greenfield addressed this topic in their group work during the last year and a half. Their new work is called Bitter Sweet Feast. The multidisciplinary piece, which employs video, photography, and literary arts, will be on display at Great Falls Discovery Center for the month of November, beginning this Saturday, November 6, in conjunction with a multi-media juried art exhibit on the theme of mainte-

nance and repair. Exploded View explored questions of masking, identity, isolation, and the search for connection. They asked: What has been revealed about us, and what has been changed? What nurtures us through

and what do we sacrifice – not only ing, painting, and fabric arts. to survive, but to evolve as a civilization? How do we reclaim joy?

In the group exhibit Maintenance & Repair, two dozen area artists reflect on processes of mending, reconstruction, redemption, fixing, rebuilding, healing, and transformation. Their work spans a variety of

TURNERS FALLS - The Ex- difficult times? What do we offer, mediums including sculpture, draw- p.m., with a large-screen showing ber 21 and Sunday, November 28.

Maintenance & Repair and Bitter Sweet Feast are on view during the Discovery Center's regular hours of Wednesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. In addition, Exploded View is hosting several special events.

On Saturday, November 13 there will be a gallery event from 1 to 3



An image from the Bitter Sweet Feast project.

of the short film *Bitter Sweet Feast* at 2 p.m. Light refreshments will be offered in the courtyard with artists from the gallery show.

There will be performative readings by Exploded View members in conjunction with the NEA Big Read, a wrap-up to this year's Big Read of Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel, and a limited number of copies of the novel will be available to give away. The event represents a collaboration with the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association and its 7th NEA Big Read.

The (Giant) Listening Ear, with Christian McEwan, will also be at the Center from 1 to 3 p.m. The Listening Ear is intended as a joyous and subversive antidote, reminding people of the special pleasure to be found in face-to-face conversation. Talk to the ear about anything that happens to be on your mind, or pick a question from the basket if you prefer.

There will be subsequent gallery events with film, refreshments with artists, the Listening Ear, and performative readings on Sunday, Novem-

On Friday, November 26, Ex ploded View invites the public to come for a nap in the Great Hall. Bring your mat and pillow and enjoy restorative rest and repair with members of Exploded View, who will create an ambient soundscape. Social distancing and masks required. Napping will be from 2:30 to 4 p.m. after the Go Green on Black Friday Walk.

Exploded View thanks the following individuals and businesses for their support of the Bitter Sweet Feast project: Dancing Bear Farm in Leyden; Tom Ashley and William Hays for photography; Michi Wiankco and Antenna Cloud Farm in Gill; Hannah Brookman and Omeed Goodarzi of Looky Here in Greenfield for videography, and Montague Community Television. Exploded View received local cultural council grants from the towns of Montague, Greenfield, Gill, and Leyden.

The Great Falls Discovery Center, 2 Avenue A, Turners Falls is open Wednesdays through Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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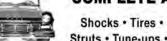
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Gloria Polkadot was famous in Toyland for her wonderful parties. She and her housemate, Miss Marilyn, are busy getting ready for another shindig with all of their friends: taking baths, testing the party lights, cleaning every nook and cranny, and inviting everyone they know to come over.



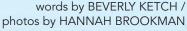
Cherry DeVille would be there, fresh from the success of her one-woman art show at the Gagooseian Gallery, and Paloma Palermo, from the triumph of her fashion show in Doll City. Miss Rita Frittata would be there on a rare night off from her world-famous 5 star restaurant, The Great Dolls Harvest.

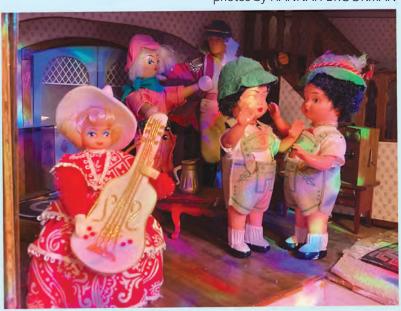


And what a surprise they get! The elegant Señor Cat arrives in person. Always the life of the party! Captain Handsome and Madge Dewitt are startled out of deep conversation when he arrives. His debonair style bowls over Franz and Georg, who are visiting from Hampsterdam.



Miss Marilyn and Big Frog want to give Toodles the dog a bath too, because he always smells like old shoes.





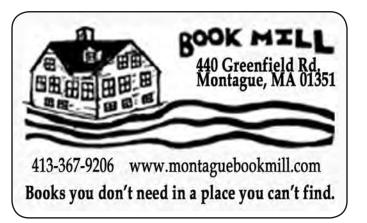
The guests have arrived! A warm happy glow pervades the doll house, and strangers and friends mingle in the electric atmosphere that means anything can happen.



Gloria and Marilyn have had the time of their lives. The next day, they bask in the bliss of their success. They will be talking about it for years to come, but for now, are glad their little household has peace and quiet again.

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## **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

### **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: Roachouse, Matt Krefting, Pete Nolan. Lean. By donation. 5 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *I Am Kawehi, Waiting for Smith.* \$. 8 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

The Brewery at Four Star Farms, Northfield: *StompBox-Trio*. Free. 5 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: Drew Paton's 1940s Hit Parade. Free. 7 p.m.

Calvin Theater, Northampton: Nada Surf, Pom Pom Squad. \$. 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: Black Label Society, Obituary, Prong.

\$. 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Steve Gunn / John Truscinski Duo, Stella Kola, Willie & Wednesday. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rebirth Brass Band* \$. 8 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *Glambat, Alexandra Burnet, Fragile Rabbit.* \$. 8 p.m.

Gateway City Arts, Holyoke: Parquet Courts, P.E. \$. 8 p.m.
Stone Church, Brattleboro: Dustbowl Revival, Smooth Hound Smith. \$. 8 p.m.

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: Ruby Lou, Goldsetter, Boyfriend Machine, DJ Quills. \$. 9 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

Indian Orchard Mills, Spring-

field: Flywheel Arts presents *Miranda Brown, Les Derailleurs, Other Layers, DJ12xu.* Free. 12 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Larry Campbell and Teresa Williams. \$. 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Bad Religion, Alkaline Trio.* \$. 8 p.m. Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Ol-*

### SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7

ivia Nied. Free. 9 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Su-

## san Werner. \$. 7 p.m. WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Cristina Vane, Mikey Sweet, Lily Sexton. \$. 7 p.m.

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners

Falls: Shawn Garland & Friends. Veteran's Day event; "veterans, Shawn will be taking care of your first beer!" Free. 6 p.m.

### **FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Lucy Wainwright Roche*. \$. 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Helen Keller event, screening of *Her Socialist Smile* (2020), sound bath befor the film. \$. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *BRNDA*, *Bucket*, *Space Camp*. \$. 8 p.m. Ballroom at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *milou*. \$. 10 p.m.

### **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

Brewbaker's, Keene: *Tobir Sprout, halfsour.* \$. 7:45 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: CINEMASTORM presents

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1990) and C.H.U.D. (1984). \$. 8:30 p.m.

Bishop's Lounge, Northampton: Danny Pease & the Regulators. \$. 10 p.m.

The Wheelhouse at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: Hip-hop night with *Chris Focus, Walt Arkain, Wiz the Merchant, Still Strange, Lil Souf, Suns.* \$. 10:30 p.m.

### **SUNDAY. NOVEMBER 14**

The Wheelhouse at Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Vapors of Morphine*. \$. 7 p.m.

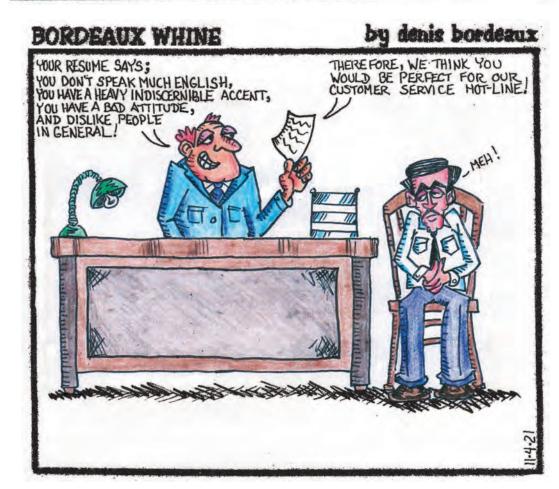
Stone Church, Brattleboro: Steve Kimock & Friends. \$. 8 p.m.

### **TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

Academy of Music, Northampton: *The Psychedelic Furs.* \$. 8 p.m.







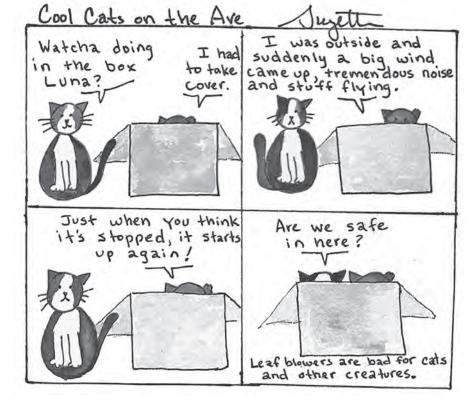
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**PUBLIC SERVICE ART ANNOUNCEMENT** 

## Call for Artful Ice Shanty Entries

**BRATTLEBORO, VT** – Last Artful Ice Shanties 2022, which will winter, the Brattleboro Museum & Art Center's inaugural Artful Ice Shanties outdoor exhibit drew over 1,000 visitors to the Retreat Farm to ers, tiny house aficionados, and view ice shanties shaped like a giant iridescent fish, a black die with moon-shaped dots, a seascape with a three-dimensional octopus, and more. Conceived as a place-based celebration of artistic talent, creative ingenuity, and the rich history of local ice fishing, the exhibit also proved to be a welcome opportunity for safe, outdoor winter fun.

Given the success of last year's inaugural run, BMAC and Retreat Farm are doing it again this winter. They are now accepting entries for

REPORTER FILE PHOTO BY TRISH CRAPO

take place from Saturday, February 19 through Sunday, February 27.

Artists, ice fishers, design-buildcreative groups and individuals of all ages and experience levels are invited to enter. Registration forms and details are available at brattleboromuseum.org. Entries will be accepted through December 15, or until space is full. Interested parties are encouraged to register soon.

Eligible entries can be traditional or conceptual ice shanties, functional or wacky, as long as they are artful. For example, an artful ice shanty might be shaped like a loon, a rocket ship, a school bus, or a cathedral; it might double as a pinhole camera, sauna, or dance floor; or it might be designed to have a second life after the exhibit as a ticket booth, warming hut, demonstration tiny house, soup shack, chicken coop, or, of course, a functional ice fishing shanty. The only other requirement is that it must be sturdy enough to withstand wind, rain, snow, and ice at Retreat Farm in February.

"We believe this has the potential to become a new signature winter event for Brattleboro, and all of Vermont," said BMAC Director Danny Lichtenfeld. "It's a perfect mix of art and outdoor recreation, two of Vermonters' passions, and it's inspired by the iconic New England pastime of ice fishing."

New this year, the Artful Ice Shanties will be displayed in Farmhouse Square at Retreat Farm (where the Food Truck Roundup is held in the summer). As weather and COVID conditions permit, this second iteration of the exhibit will include more outdoor events, activities, demonstrations, and performances. A panel of local judges will bestow a variety of light-hearted awards at an outdoor Awards Ceremony on Sunday, February 20, at 3 p.m., following the 100th anniversary edition of Brattleboro's famed Harris Hill Ski Jump, which will take place a short walk from Retreat Farm.

## **CANE BESTOWED!**

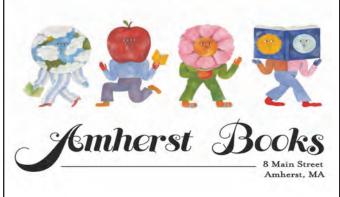


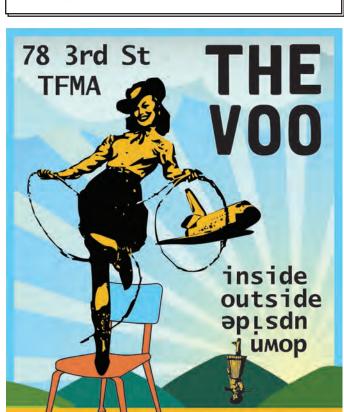
On Sunday Hilda Carey Williams, age 96, was presented the gold Boston Post cane by the town selectboard at her home in Leverett. Williams was born and raised in Leverett, and several members of her family were in attendance. (Clockwise, from left: selectboard members Tom Hankinson, Melissa Colbert, and Julie Shively; Williams, seated.)

### Entries from last year's ice shanty contest.

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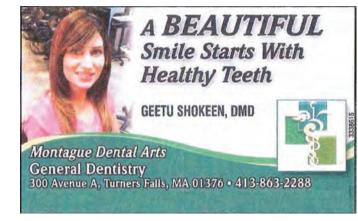
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