

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 28

also serving *Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell*

\$1

EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 26, 2022

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Impacts and Earmarks; Monday Trash Hauling

By JEFF SINGLETON

The Montague selectboard's May 23 meeting began with the traditional post-spring election board reorganization. With incumbent Chris Boutwell re-elected without opposition, the board voted to maintain the status quo, keeping Rich Kuklewicz as chair, Boutwell as vice chair, and Matt Lord as clerk. Lord said he was glad Kuklewicz wanted to be chair again, because "it's work, and it frees me

to work on other projects." "Your time will come," Kuklewicz replied. "And I will not even need to update the website," said town administrator Steve Ellis, "which will save me 15 minutes tomorrow morning." In the absence of public health director Daniel Wasiuk, Ellis shared the latest COVID-19 data, this time in a new format. Montague has hired an epidemiologist as part of a collaboration with three other towns in the

see MONTAGUE page A7

## Musical House Tour Returns To Montague Center June 4



A number of neighbors involved in the festival, clockwise from top left: jam leader and wandering fiddler Rebecca Weiss; fiddler and concert host Rose Jackson; organizer and multi-instrumentalist Matthew Duncan; host and mandolinist Julie Kumble; organizer and brass player Nicole Nemeč; and host and banjo player Jeanne Weintraub.

By JAN ATAMIAN

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – A jewel of a village and the site of the town's original settlement (1715-30), Montague Center has become a lively and scenic music destination, filled with community-minded individuals who love to play and share a wide variety of music. Its homes

exhibit historic Greek Revival and nineteenth-century architecture and splendid porches. After a two-year pandemic hiatus, festival organizers Matthew Duncan and Nicole Nemeč are pleased to announce the return of the annual Good Music Makes Good Neighbors (GMMGN) music festival on June 4.

see MUSICAL page A6

## High School Sports Week

By MATT ROBINSON

**TURNERS FALLS** –The high school spring sports postseason kicked off this week. Ten student athletes from Turners Falls and Franklin Tech competed in the Western Mass track and field meet. Against the best of the West, two personal bests were set.

In team sports, softball teams

from both schools won their opening games in the Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC) tournament.

**Track**

Athletes from Tech and Turners competed in the Western Mass D-2 invitational Meet held at Mohawk Trail last Saturday May, 21.

see SPORTS page A4



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls senior Emily Young connects as the Thunder blanked Gateway Regional, 16-0, in the D-5 quarterfinal at home on Senior Night.

## Four Generations Honor Mr. Bush

By JEFF SINGLETON

**TURNERS FALLS** – "I was a transplant [from the Boston area] when I first encountered Mr. Bush," Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told a sweltering crowd of about 75 at Unity Park last Saturday. "I wondered, does this guy have a first name?"

"It turned out this was reverential. He was 'Mr. Bush' because he had brought up generations of people in many different ways in this community. I think it is a truly rare person who can say they truly had an inter-generational impact."

Ellis was speaking at an event organized to honor George F. Bush and name the two softball fields at Unity Park after him. The weather was in the 90s. "It is the perfect day," Ellis joked, "and the temperature approximates your age."

The ceremonies were chaired by parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz, who repeatedly referred to the first name and middle initial of Mr. Bush. A bronze plaque with that name, attached to a granite slab, was unveiled by brothers Malcolm, William, and Charlie Tyler.

Then Mr. Bush took the microphone. Memories of playing and coaching, as well as teaching history and other subjects at the local high school, poured out, not always in exact chronological order. It was oral history at its best. "There weren't many of you around in the mid-1930s," said Mr. Bush, who was born in 1926. "If you weren't around, then you are going to have to believe everything I say."

In the 1930s, Bush told the crowd, the entrance to



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

For his lifetime of service to the youth of Montague, the ballfields at Unity Park were dedicated to George F. Bush.

Unity Park was from Third Street, probably the road currently between Pioneer Valley Brewery and the softball field. The road is now closed off to vehicles, the

see HONOR page A3

## All But Roads, Wet Basement Funded by Gill Town Meeting

By JERRI HIGGINS

Gill's annual town meeting was held at the town hall on Monday, for the first time since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. A notice on the door announced that Gill is in the "red zone" with increased cases, and though breakthrough cases of the virus are prevalent even among those fully vaccinated, not everyone wore masks. The hall was well-ventilated.

The selectboard met before the town meeting to elect officers and put final touches on motions. They voted unanimously to elect Charles Garbiel as chair, and to keep the current slate of representatives: member Randy Crochier on the personnel committee and FRTA, member Greg Snedeker on the capital planning committee and Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), Garbiel on the cable advisory committee, and former member John Ward on the Franklin Regional Planning Board.

The board unanimously approved spending \$168,593 of Gill's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding towards the purchase of a fire truck and \$48,407 toward a dump truck, contingent on town meeting approval.

Gill Elementary School principal Lisa Desjarlais was approved for \$2,268 from the Quintus Allen educational fund to purchase free-standing netting behind the school's basketball hoops. Desjarlais explained that there is no backstop on the court, and the netting will keep students from "chasing balls down into the woods and fields," where there are ticks, or into

see GILL page A8

LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

## Popular Opinion Sought

By GEORGE BRACE

The fate of the historic, town-owned "Field Building" was the primary topic of discussion at Leverett's selectboard meeting on Tuesday, with board members and residents deciding that more engagement and discussion were needed to make a decision representing residents' wishes on what to do with the building.

At town meeting on May 5, residents voted to table two articles involving the building. The first would have authorized \$30,000 for preservation consulting services, and the second would have allowed the board to sell the building to a private,

"non-profit historical and educational organization" for the purpose of collecting and displaying historic artifacts.

Concerns were raised over who would end up controlling the building's use of the building and for what purposes, as well as the process by which the articles were initiated.

At the selectboard meeting, community preservation commission chair Danielle Barshak proposed the board appoint an *ad hoc* facilitator to gather residents' opinions on what should be done with the building. Barshak said the goal would not be to make recommendations, but to provide the board with information it

see LEVERETT page A6

PARTICIPANT OBSERVATION

## Regional Council Meets

By IZZY VACHULA-CURTIS

**CHICOPEE** – Last Monday, May 16, I attended the 2022 Spring Conference of the Western Massachusetts Association of Student Councils (WMASC). The WMASC conference is an event for student council members from all over the

region to listen to speeches, participate in team-building games, and learn more about student council.

This was my very first Spring Conference, and I was kind of scared to attend it at first. I've been a part of Student Council since my freshman year, but my first year was all

see COUNCIL page A5



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADDIE LEBORGNE

Thumbs up: The Turners Falls High School student council executive board, on their way to last week's regional conference. Left to right: Kiley Palmquist; our reporter Izzy Vachula-Curtis; Hannah Warnock; and Maddie LeBorgne.

### Intentionally Vague Sentiments

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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

This is for the kids who die,  
Black and white,  
For kids will die certainly.  
The old and rich will live on awhile,  
As always,  
Eating blood and gold,  
Letting kids die.

Kids will die in the swamps of Mississippi  
Organizing sharecroppers  
Kids will die in the streets of Chicago  
Organizing workers  
Kids will die in the orange groves of California  
Telling others to get together  
Whites and Filipinos,  
Negroes and Mexicans,  
All kinds of kids will die  
Who don't believe in lies, and bribes, and contentment  
And a lousy peace.

Of course, the wise and the learned  
Who pen editorials in the papers,  
And the gentlemen with Dr. in front of their names  
White and black,  
Who make surveys and write books  
Will live on weaving words to smother the kids who die,  
And the sleazy courts,  
And the bribe-reaching police,  
And the blood-loving generals,  
And the money-loving preachers  
Will all raise their hands against the kids who die,  
Beating them with laws and clubs and bayonets and bullets  
To frighten the people —  
For the kids who die are like iron in the blood of the people —  
And the old and rich don't want the people  
To taste the iron of the kids who die,  
Don't want the people to get wise to their own power,  
To believe an Angelo Herndon, or even get together

Listen, kids who die —  
Maybe, now, there will be no monument for you  
Except in our hearts  
Maybe your bodies'll be lost in a swamp  
Or a prison grave, or the potter's field,  
Or the rivers where you're drowned like Leibknecht  
But the day will come —  
You are sure yourselves that it is coming —  
When the marching feet of the masses  
Will raise for you a living monument of love,  
And joy, and laughter,  
And black hands and white hands clasped as one,  
And a song that reaches the sky —  
The song of the life triumphant  
Through the kids who die.

— Langston Hughes, "Kids Who Die," 1938

## CLARIFICATION!

In the Gill selectboard coverage in our May 12 edition (Page A1, *Ambulance Fees Proposed for Towns Without EMS Contracts*), we identified the Franklin County Emergency Medical Services Committee, which was proposing the new fees, as "part of Western Mass Emergency Medical Service (WMEMS), a Northampton-based nonprofit..."

Stephen Gaughan, president of the Region I EMS Council, which operates WMEMS, called us to say FCEMS is *not* a part of WMEMS, but a "standalone organization." We can see where the confusion arises — FCEMS is included on WMEMS's website with its president, Matt Wolkenbreit, listed as its "Rep" on the Council — but it seems clear that WMEMS wishes to distance itself from the letter circulated by FCEMS.



Hillcrest Elementary in Turners Falls is the only school in the Gill-Montague district participating in a federal program providing fresh fruit and vegetables for free snacks every school day. Cafeteria manager Michelle Cloutier and Abby Pease are seen here one recent morning, washing oranges in the school cafeteria.

## OP ED

### 'A Child Can See' New Seal Is Needed

*This statement, public testimony of Mass Humanities executive director Brian Boyles to the Special Commission on the Official Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth last Tuesday, May 17, was submitted to us by a reader. — Eds.*

By BRIAN BOYLES

**BOSTON** — I believe a full redesign of the seal and motto are necessary, given the charges of the special commission. There's no way that I can examine the seal, or the context in which it was created, without concluding that it is harmful, both to each of us as residents, and of the reputation of Massachusetts.

There's no interpretation that leads me back to the qualities of peace, justice, liberty, equality, and education that are stated in the legislation that created this commission, and at this very historic moment, I think we have a unique opportunity as residents of Massachusetts to do the hard work to create a seal and motto that do justice to the best that this Commonwealth has to offer, and to reckon with history, both visually and in the origins of the current seal and motto.

I base these feelings in the wisdom received from my colleagues on this commission, who were named to this commission because of their expertise and their leadership in their communities, and the words of our Native colleagues as expressed in the History and Usages subcommittee only drove that home to me on May 10<sup>th</sup>.

I hope we can continue to foster this historic moment with collaboration and respect as we envision the path for a new seal and motto. I serve as a leader of an organization where every day we see the will of the people of the Commonwealth to

reckon with our history, to not settle for stereotypes, to respond to a changing population, to dig into the archives and records to elevate the voice of people — and in particular Native people, who were marginalized and erased from the stories we tell about Massachusetts.

I think people in Massachusetts are wicked smart, and they are bold, and they should not settle for a seal that sells all of us short. We have discussed the context in the historical record, and I base my feelings today on a full redesign of the seal and motto in part on the historical record left by Edmund Garrett, the designer of the 1898 seal, who in 1900 wrote an artist's statement for *New England Magazine*, Vol. 23, which can be located with a Google search.

I note in particular, first the charge, or the figure of the Native man: the face of that figure was taken from a photograph plucked by the Secretary of State at that time, William Olin, from the Bureau of Ethnography in Washington, DC of Thomas Little Shell, a Chippewa leader who never resided in Massachusetts.

The figure is based on a skeleton held at the Peabody Museum in Harvard University. No Native residents were consulted in its selection, a reflection of centuries of exclusion on the part of the Commonwealth from land, laws, and historical records of Indigenous residents.

The figure in the shield, secondly, holds a bow that according to Garrett was taken from an unnamed Native man shot by a settler, William Goodnough, in Sudbury, in 1665. That bow serves as a reminder that should any person know the full context and record, they would understand what emerges from the violence brought on by a people in their own land.

Finally, the sword and the hand in the crest is modeled on that of Myles Standish. We know from the record that Myles Standish killed Native people. He was even reprimanded by his own Pilgrim colleagues for doing this.

These are the elements of the seal. The intentions were quite clear, and the construction was done in harmful ways. When we consider the motto, "By the sword we seek peace, but peace only under liberty," given the origins, and what we know of the history, those words do not ring true to me.

I believe they, too, must go. I don't see any way to tweak or edit them that can do justice to the long history of erasure and oppression of Native peoples since the arrival of the Pilgrims. I see no way to redeem those symbols. To do so would be to give priority to people whose violence should not be a source of pride but of apology and reconciliation.

Lastly, I base my feelings on a conversation with my 8-year old son, Ivan Ward Boyles, a resident of Leverett, Massachusetts. I walked him through everything I just walked you through. He said, very clearly, "Of course it should be changed."

I think we all know a child can see that. And we should now move forward to create a process that establishes a seal and motto that are aspirational, and that reflect the greatness of this state, and its unique promise as an incubator of ideas and equality in this country. We should share that responsibility as an example to our fellow residents, what it means to address past wrongs, and to learn together, and to envision a more just future.

I look forward to partnering with all the members of the commission on this work.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

There's going to be a **new ice cream shop** in Montague! Ja'Duke Scoops will have its grand opening this Sunday and Monday, May 29 and 30, from 2 to 8 p.m. each day at the Ja'Duke performing arts center in the Airport Industrial Park.

The family-friendly ice cream shop has plenty of parking and will be open 3 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays, Saturdays noon to 9, and Sundays noon to 7. There is no menu yet at [www.jadukescoops.com](http://www.jadukescoops.com), but the announcement promises hard ice cream and cool treats from Blueberry Haus in Guilford, Vermont.

The **Great Falls Harvest Market** hours have settled into a new season. The 109 Avenue A storefront has been evolving its stock, and refining its services, over the years. They are now open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursdays; 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Fridays, and 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. They also say that patio dinners will begin soon.

Here's a shout out for a little gem in Millers Falls: the **Whistle Stop Café** continues to chug along daily, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., providing a cozy atmosphere complete with a guitar for those who want to sling a few tunes while waiting for their hash. Now offering freshly squeezed lemonade for those hot days.

The Interfaith Council of Franklin County is looking for a **few volunteers**. They need someone in Greenfield on Tuesdays to help with a pantry popup and meal distributions, and in Orange on Thursdays to direct a car line. For details, contact Melanie at (413) 325-6631.

Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield is planning a fundraiser tag sale. They are accepting donations

**HONOR** from page A1

brewery has outdoor seating there, and the Brick House teen center plans to build a pollinator garden along the road.

Bush said there was a little league field where that softball field is now, and a regulation baseball field on the other side of the park, where a second softball field now bears his name. (A regulation field in that space must have required some creative design, but that is the way of baseball – see the left-field wall at Fenway Park.)

Bush repeatedly referred to "semi-pro" teams representing Montague or Turners Falls playing at that field in his youth; when he was attending Williams College in the late 1940s, and played for the local team during the summers; and when he was coaching and teaching at the high school in the 1950s.

Mr. Bush remembered a pitcher named "Big John" Togneri, who once pitched two games of double header and won them both. "Now they have a pitch count, and that's it," he said.

He also told the story of a catcher named "Stubby" Laskoski, who lived in the Patch neighborhood

of **unwanted household items**, but ask that you not bring clothes, appliances, electronics, or anything that needs to be repaired. The drop-off times at the 105 Main Street location are this Thursday and Friday, May 26 and 27, and June 2 and 3. The tag sale will take place Saturday, June 4 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

**Poetry and Tacos** at the Unity Park food court in Turners Falls was canceled last weekend due to the heat, and rescheduled to this Sunday, May 29 at 1 p.m. Bring your own chair, something to read, and an appetite, says organizer Paul Richmond.

The Leverett Democratic Town Committee is welcoming **state rep Natalie Blais for coffee and a chat** at the Village Co-op next Saturday, June 4 at 9:30 a.m. Find what's happening at the State House, ask questions, and share any concerns with Blais.

There will be a brief meeting of the Leverett Democratic Town Committee at 8:45 a.m. in order to choose members and a new chair. If you are interested in these positions and cannot attend, please contact Barbara Tiner at [BJTiner@icloud.com](mailto:BJTiner@icloud.com).

"[I]t's an interesting time in our political history," reads the notice from the committee. "We hope you'll join us to find out more about the committee and how you can get involved."

**Family Fish Day** returns this year on Saturday, June 4, for its 15th rendition. The Great Falls Discovery Center will have fly-tie demonstrations, live fish from the Anadromous Fish Lab, and a free shuttle bus to Barton Cove, where children with adults may fish for free, no license required. Some fishing poles and

of Turners Falls. On one occasion Laskoski apparently ran behind the backstop to catch a foul ball.

Bush and his friends used to sit on the hill behind the park along Third Street. Now there is winter sledding there, but according to Bush, in the 1930s it was the site of a World War I cannon. "When the game got boring, we played on it," Bush said. "But we didn't shoot any Germans."

One of the "star athletes" Bush later coached was "Stosh" Koscinski. The two now religiously attend as many Turners Falls High School and



Family friend and star athlete Jade Tyler congratulated Mr. Bush on Saturday.

equipment will be available, but bring your own if you have it. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and everything is free. Picnicking at the riverside park is encouraged!

In conjunction with the Family Fish Day, on Saturday, June 4 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Fish Printing for All Ages** comes to the Turners Falls Fishway.

The notice says this activity "combines science and art through the traditional Japanese practice of *Gyotaku*, or fish printing. Discover the intricate beauty and important function of fish fins and scales. Learn about resident fish as well as the migratory fish that return to the Connecticut River to lay their eggs."

Drop in during those three hours to create your work of art on paper using scientifically accurate replicas of Connecticut River fish. In case of rain, the event will take place at the Discovery Center.

Turners Falls resident Allen Fowler wrote a note to say he is hoping to start a **local playwrighting group**. If you're interested in helping to get a local, collaborative playwrighting group up and running, please contact Allen at [greatfallplaywrights@gmail.com](mailto:greatfallplaywrights@gmail.com).

Artspace in Greenfield wants everyone to be able to make art! They recently launched a **Community Classes Program** taught by some of Artspace's best teachers, all for free or "pay what you can." From abstract painting to fiddling, African dance to fiction writing, they have classes for both kids and adults, on weeknight evenings and weekend days.

Check out the offerings online at [artspacegreenfield.com/pay-what-you-can-classes](http://artspacegreenfield.com/pay-what-you-can-classes). Registering in advance is preferred, but drop-in is possible. Examples of classes are Writing a Sentence, May 24; Intro to Abstract Painting, May 26; Fiddle Party, June 5; and Cello Party, June 12.

Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne is getting a new director and curator. **Donna Gates is retiring** after a dozen years there, and Summer Litchfield is taking the reins. Gates is familiar to many artists and crafts-

Newt Guilbault little league events as possible.

Mr. Bush recounted taking little league teams to Fenway Park to see the Red Sox, and on one "Vermont Day," the team met Philip Hoff, the governor of that state. Hoff had been born in Turners Falls, and scored the winning touchdown in the 1942 Turkey Day game against Greenfield. Like Bush, Hoff attended Williams College. He became the first Democratic governor of the state in over 100 years.

When the speeches ended at the

people in the Valley as she has had her finger in many pies over the decades, including Mudpie Potters and the Leverett Crafts & Arts Center.

An event is planned at the gallery Sunday, June 5 from 2 to 4 p.m., with music by Loren Feinstein, to say goodbye to Gates and welcome Litchfield.

Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield has posted a **call for a community art exhibit** called *Staying Connected*. The theme is an exploration of cultural heritage, and they invite people to submit photos, sculpture, paintings, and other media of things that are part of their heritage: such as Irish sheep, Italian mosaic, Navajo jewelry, etc. Contact [marged-vaa@gmail.com](mailto:marged-vaa@gmail.com) to arrange your submission. Drop off-hours are on June 9, 10, and 12, and the show runs June 17 to July 31.

The **Wendell Misfit Prom** is a town-wide costume party, a celebration that revolves around cool and weird interpretations of an annual theme. This year the theme is "Follow the Yellow Dirt Road," and the date is Saturday, June 18. The parade starts at 6 p.m. on the town common, and the Prom will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Deja Brew Pub.

Silverthorne Theater Company will hold **open auditions** for its 2022-23 season opener, Lauren Gunderson's *The Taming*, from June 10 to 12 at the LAVA Center at 324 Main Street in Greenfield. Slots are available Friday from 6 to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., and callbacks will be held Sunday from 1 to 3 p.m.

Actors should submit recent headshots and resumes to [silverthornetheater@gmail.com](mailto:silverthornetheater@gmail.com). They may choose to read from sides provided or perform a one- to two-minute contemporary comedic monologue of their choosing. They are also strongly encouraged to demonstrate a non-musical talent such as a magic trick, jokes, flexibility or yoga, gymnastics, juggling, baton-twirling, tap-dancing, hip-hop, etc. Call (413) 768-7514 for more details.

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

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Mormon Hollow Job Timing Tricky

By JOSH HEINEMANN

The Wendell selectboard started their meeting early, at 6 p.m., for a second consecutive time on May 18 to discuss the Swift River School water issue with Carl Seppala of the New Salem selectboard and other concerned people. Swift River principal Kelley Sullivan, New Salem board of health chair Jen Potee and health agent Tim Newton, and Wendell board of health chair Barbara Craddock all attended.

Newton said he had contacted Tighe & Bond engineers, and the company agreed to guide the two towns through the process of addressing PFAS in the school's drinking water, from developing a plan to maintaining contact with MassDEP. They will get estimates, and oversee dropping a camera into the well to look for flaws.

If a flaw is found, it may be patched, or a second casing may be put inside the existing casing. A filtration system is still an option. Newton said any filtration system should separate out salt as well as the PFAS.

Wendell finance committee chair Doug Tanner has consistently held that drilling a new well is a better choice than installing a filter, which will continue to cost the school as filters are replaced.

As it would be a public water supply, a new well for the school would have stricter requirements than a private well; the school property does not have the room for the required buffer zone around the well. A neighbor has offered an easement to drill a well off school property.

The school building itself is in New Salem, and New Salem is the lead town for the project. The Wendell selectboard voted unanimously to authorize the chair of either the New Salem selectboard or its board of health to sign a contract with Tighe & Bond.

**Annual Meeting**

Wendell's annual town meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. next Saturday, June 4, outside on the common. Instead of a rain date, board members said they thought the meeting could be moved indoors, retaining what have become normal COVID precautions: masks recommended, people spaced apart, windows open, and air filters operating.

State law requires the warrant to be posted by May 28, but board members agreed to sign and post

it by the evening of Monday, June 23. Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad works in the office Mondays, and board members came in that day to sign the warrant. As constable, selectboard member Dan Keller posted a paper copy on the entryway to the office building. (See sidebar.)

**Road Glitch**

Highway commission chair Phil Delorey said that he has a contract with Davenport Construction to replace the culvert that passes under Mormon Hollow Road just west of the Diemand Farm, but he also reported a "glitch."

The new culvert, a reinforced concrete structure, will not be available until December, when construction will be more difficult. Other culvert materials may be used instead, but would need approval by the project engineer.

Installation will require digging a 40-foot-deep, 100-foot-long trench and closing Mormon Hollow Road to through traffic. Waiting for approval of alternate culvert material will delay ordering the specified culvert. A delay until spring for replacing the existing culvert would add the risk of a winter storm washing out the headwall.

Davenport's estimate is good until September, and board members voted to approve the contract.

Delorey said the Kentfield Road bridge is closed to traffic. One house not far beyond the bridge is occupied full-time, while others further south are occupied part-time. Bids for replacing the bridge were opened last Friday.

**Pond Hunt**

Fire chief Joe Cuneo informed the board of complications in replacing the dry hydrant at Bowers Pond. A dam created that pond a century ago, but now the dam's owner has started the process of having it removed. It is in the environmental study stage.

At one time the owner offered to pay for pipe needed for new dry hydrants, and two possible locations were identified. The first, west of Kemsley Academy, was not deep enough; a dry hydrant intake needs two feet of water above it, and that pond is too shallow. A survey of the second, at McAvoy's Pond in south Wendell, showed the bottom slope is shallow, but that necessary depth can be reached with a long enough pipe there. Excavating will

be a major expense.

Cuneo said Shutesbury has a dry hydrant near Lake Wyola, but Shutesbury fire chief Walter Tibbets said it has not been used in years. Tanner suggested seeing if it can be restored to use.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine suggested the pond, or swamp, between John Quist Road and Plain Road. Keller said that creating the easement for a dry hydrant at McAvoy's Pond can wait.

**Other Business**

In lieu of taxes on land it owns in Wendell, Mass Audubon is offering camperships to its Wildwood camp in Rindge, New Hampshire for the week of August 7 to 14 for Wendell residents who will be 13 or 14 years old that week. To select recipients, the selectboard is holding an essay contest.

Essays on the importance of nature, 100 to 200 words long, are due June 24 and can be mailed to the Wendell selectboard at Box 41, Wendell, MA, emailed to [selectboard@wendellmass.us](mailto:selectboard@wendellmass.us), or delivered in person to the selectboard box at the town offices.

Tanner asked the board to sign a contract with Entre Technologies of Springfield for replacing computers and upgrading the town network and security for town officials. He said the old computers can be wiped, and may be useful for high school students.

Massachusetts is allowing remote meetings under emergency COVID provision until July 15, unless that date is extended, and the Wendell selectboard regularly considers returning to in-person meetings.

Keller suggested starting summer meetings at 6 p.m. and holding them outside.

Budine pointed out that COVID cases are rising again. Outdoor meetings at dusk may attract mosquitoes and rain, but the meeting room is large enough for the board to sit apart, stay masked, and have the windows and doors open for air flow.

The open meeting ended at 8:30 p.m., and the board went into executive session, "to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel."

## Annual Town Meeting

By JOSH HEINEMANN

**WENDELL** – Wendell's annual town meeting is scheduled for 10 a.m. next Saturday June 4, on the common. Inclement weather will move the meeting to the town hall with COVID precautions. The warrant was posted at the office building by Tuesday morning. The following is a summary consolidated for brevity, omitting some routine articles:

**Article 4**, the town's operating budget, totals \$3,444,400. **Article 5** would establish revolving funds for wiring and plumbing inspections, kitchen use, recreation commission, recycling, and the veterans' memorial. **Article 7** would move responsibility for maintenance of the veterans' memorial from the cemetery commission to the selectboard.

**Articles 8, 12, 15 and 20** pay debt service on the new town buildings, the highway backhoe and front end loader, and the Mahar reconstruction loan, for a total of \$121,391. Of the \$65,789 being paid for the buildings, almost half,

\$31,512, is principal. **Article 9** would transfer \$156,000 from the highway department to the stabilization fund.

**Articles 10, 11, 13, 17, and 19** would take money from stabilization: \$25,000 for the reserve fund, \$6,000 for an independent audit, \$5,000 for tax title expenses, \$17,000 for town building maintenance and repair, and \$5,000 for fire department pagers. **Article 14** would appropriate \$5,000 for fire department turnout gear, and **Article 24** would appropriate \$8,000 for repaving the WRATS.

**Article 30** would amend town bylaws for solar and battery installations, and **Article 32** would authorize use of the town's ARPA money for computer upgrades, road upgrades, repairs to the highway barn, a used tank truck for the fire department, and a new or used highway department tractor.

**Article 31** would signal Wendell's support for a "Fair Share Amendment" to the state constitution, adding a 4% tax on income over \$1 million to pay for infrastructure and education.

## SPORTS from page A1

The two girls who represented the schools were Jaade Duncan, who finished 22nd in the 100m dash with a time of 14.98 seconds, and 7th grader Jazzlyn Gonzalez, who finished 27th in the 200m dash with a time of 30.83 seconds.

In the boys' events, Brayden McCord scored a personal best time of 12.56 in the 100m and hopped, skipped, and jumped 36'10" in the triple jump. Cameren Candelaria ran the 100m in 12.93, and Patrick Connell finished the race in 13.59.

Alexander McKay competed in the 200m and finished in 26.36. Josiah Little jumped 17'4¾" in the long jump; Brody Williams put the

shot 31'04", and in the 4x100m, the relay team of David Rodriguez, Little, Candelaria, and McKay broke their own record with a time of 48.56 seconds.

**Softball**

TFHS 16 – Gateway 0  
FCTS 4 – Frontier 0

On Monday the top-seeded Turners Falls Softball Thunder routed the Gators of Gateway 16-0 in the first round of the PVIAC Class D Softball Tournament. At least three regulars pointed out during the game that the Gateway players seemed very young. They did look young – not as young as the Turners players, but younger than most of Powertown's opponents this season.

The Thunder Ladies set the tone early. Madison Liimatainen struck out all three batters in the top of the first, and in the bottom, Emily Young led off with a double and Liimatainen homered. Blue scored two more runs in that inning as Olivia Stafford reached on a fielder's choice, Katie Wozniak doubled her in, and Wozniak scored on a Skylei LaPan base hit.

The top of the order came back to the plate in the next inning, and Turners scored twice more to go up 6-0.

In the third, Liimatainen struck out the side, giving her eight Ks out of the nine batters she faced. The only Gator who put the ball into play tried to bunt and was eas-

ily thrown out.

"They're not used to seeing 60," one of the dads observed. Sure enough, the Gators were relegated to bunt attempts, as Liimatainen consistently threw the ball past them.

In the home third, Blue blew it wide open, sending 17 girls to the plate and scoring 10 runs to go up 16-0. That's when Gary Mullins sent in his JVs.

Liimatainen was on fire in the circle. She struck out 11 batters in five innings, gave up one walk, and allowed zero hits. Offensively, Liimatainen and Young both had home runs, Wozniak hit two doubles, LaPan had a double and a single, and Paige Sulda had three hits.

see **SPORTS** next page

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**COUNCIL** from page A1

remote, due to COVID-19 – all the conferences, meetings, and events were online, which is very different from how Student Council usually is. This year it was held at the Moose Lodge in Chicopee.

When I arrived, a bunch of council members were handing out candies, notecards, and bubbles, to campaign for WMASC board elections. Kiel Williams, the current WMASC board president, then introduced the event, as well as everyone running for board positions for next year.

Maddie LeBorgne, a junior at my school, Turners Falls High School, ran for WMASC vice president against three students from other schools. There were also elections for next year's president and secretary positions. Everyone's speeches were so inspiring; they all did an incredible job!

**Breaking the Ice**

After the election speeches, we all went outside for an activity. The current board passed out paper plates with strings on them to wear as necklaces, and fun pens that looked like rocket ships. The way this activity worked was that the board would play music, and whenever it stopped, everyone would have to find someone they had never met before and talk about a prompt that was given – for example, a risk you've taken, or a moment you were proud of yourself. We were supposed to write the prompt on the other person's plate, and two words we remembered from what they said.

I was nervous to begin this activity, but it ended up being super fun, and I met a bunch of new people that I wouldn't have otherwise talked to, which was exciting.

Then we did a bunch of mini-activities, like dances and group exercises, which were also fun. My favorite was a choreographed dance everyone learned to "Timber" by Pitbull – it was exciting to be in a big group where everyone had a specific dance to do.

Everyone at the conference was outgoing and friendly, and it made me feel a lot less scared when I realized everyone was feeling kind of embarrassed, but were fully participating and having fun anyways.

Towards the end of the day, we separated into small groups and talked with students from other schools. This was enlightening, because we talked about how difficult some of the behaviors at our school are, and our administrations, and

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even our favorite spirit days and events we've helped plan! A couple students from Ware mentioned that they helped organize an Easter egg hunt for little kids, which sounded like something super fun for our own Student Council to plan.

**Next Year's Board**

At the very end of the event, the 2023 WMASC board was announced. The new president, Hadley Szydal from Smith Academy, was especially amazing, and performed her speech very well. She let me ask her a couple questions about her previous experience with Student Council and her plans for WMASC.

Hadley is a junior, and has been part of Student Council since seventh grade. "My school is super small, and it's [grades] 7 to 12, so I was fortunate enough to be able to join that early," she said.

I also asked about her favorite memory. "My favorite StuCo memory is definitely Hyannis 2020, right before the shutdown," she told me. "I met so many new people, and it inspired me to get more involved in my regional council."

Hadley said she is most excited

to work on the regional and state boards as president. "It's always been a dream of mine to be a part of these teams," she said, "and get to collaborate with the strong leaders from across Western Massachusetts and the whole state!"

She also explained what inspired her to run. "I have a few inspirations that helped me make the decision," she said. "The first one is my school's student council president, Charlotte Cavanaugh. She works so hard every day, and the work she puts in inspires me so much! My other biggest inspiration would definitely be Sophie Rice-Williams, the WMASC president a few years back. She was from Smith Academy as well, and it definitely showed me that even someone from such a small school like ours can be a big part of WMASC."

Hadley said her biggest goals are "working as a team, rather than individually, and reestablishing the love for WMASC that some younger students missed out on due to COVID."

**Stepping Stones**

The previous board members who are graduating this year also gave

speeches, which were super inspiring and fun to listen to. My favorite was by outgoing president Kiel Williams. He was enthusiastic and happy, and made the event exciting, encouraging everyone to participate.

I also asked Kiel a couple questions about his experience with WMASC. He is a senior at Minnechaug Regional High School, and has been part of Student Council for four years and WMASC for two.

"My favorite StuCo memory would have to be going to [Student Council] camp my freshman year," he said. I met so many amazing people, and made new friends. This was also the moment that really pushed me to get out of my shell, and it made me the person that I am today."

Kiel said the thing he would miss the most was bringing new schools into WMASC. "My purpose as president is to be the stepping stone for others," he said. Kiel explained what inspired him to run for president: "I saw how important it means to be the voice for others, and how you can reach so many people and inspire them."

I asked Kiel where the inspiration for his speech came from. "I tend to

write long speeches," he said. "However, this time I wanted something 'short' but also impactful.... In life we are going to be given so many opportunities, and we need to figure out for ourselves what our purpose is. Once we do that, you can achieve anything, no matter how big or small that dream may be."

After his closing speech, to fit the conference's theme of "space," Kiel read us a story about chasing our dreams, and then we all had astronaut ice cream to end the day! Astronaut ice cream is dehydrated ice cream, which is easier to eat in space.

I thought this whole day was an incredible experience. I had fun participating in the events and listening to speeches, and am grateful to Kiel and Hadley for letting me interview them. Conferences like this are enlightening, and amazing opportunities to meet new people. It really inspired me to step out of my comfort zone, and even to run for my own school's Student Council president. I would definitely recommend WMASC conferences if you ever have the chance to attend one!

**SPORTS** from previous page

Big Blue hosts fourth-seeded Hopkins Academy this Thursday at 7 p.m.

In Class C action, the third-seeded Franklin Tech Softball Eagles shut out the Frontier Red Hawks on Tuesday afternoon.

Tech scored in the first inning. Kaitlin Trudeau got on base and stole second. For Tech, a running team, this would be their only steal attempt in the entire game, but it was a good decision. Lauren Ross cracked a two-out, standup double to score her.

In the field, Tech was amazing. One of the Hawks tried to bunt in the next inning. The ball popped up high, and Tech's catcher was blocked by the ump. Trudeau raced all the way from third base, stuck out her glove, and made the catch about four feet

from the plate.

In the home second, Cordelia Guerin hit a shot into left field and was tripled in by Kendra Campbell. Campbell then scored on a Keira Stevens sac grounder, and Tech went up 3-0.

Franklin's final run was scored in the third. Hannah Gilbert laced a base hit between third and short, and Lauren Ross hit a bouncer over third base to send Gilbert to third.

Kylee Gamache came up next. She hit a ground ball, and Gilbert pretended to sprint. But this was a feint. The infielder looked at Gilbert, who was stepping back to third, and decided to get the easier out at first. She threw the ball to first, and Gilbert sprinted home.

In the sixth, Frontier's leadoff batter drilled a line drive to reach first.

She attempted to steal, but catcher Gamache whipped the ball to second, and the runner was tagged out.

In the seventh, Frontier was down to their last out. The batter tapped a bunt and Trudeau sprinted at it, scooping up the ball and making the throw to first to end the game.

Tech is a great fielding team, but so is Frontier. They made spectacular catches, robbing Franklin of base runners, and Tech players were thrown out twice at home plate. Four Lady Birds – Campbell, Lauren Ross, Gamache, and Stevens – had RBIs in the game. In the circle, Ross scattered three hits, hit a batter, and struck out six.

The Eagles travel to Williamstown this Thursday to challenge the second-seeded Mount Greylock Red Mounties.



... And in baseball: Turners Falls' Jackson Cogswell hammers a single during the Class D quarterfinal at Pioneer Valley in Northfield. The Panthers bested the Thunder, 7-1.

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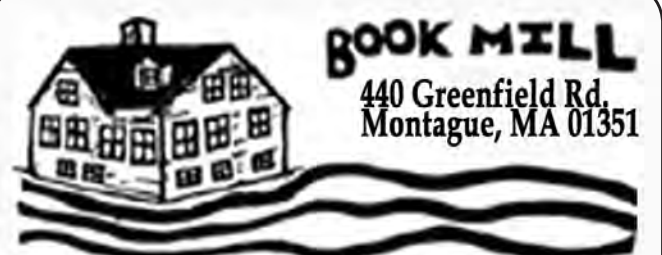
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## LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on June 6th, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting (link available at [leverett.ma.us](https://www.leverett.ma.us)) to review an RDA submitted by Friends of North Leverett Sawmill for routine dam maintenance at Slarrow Sawmill.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays and Thursdays 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

## LEVERETT CONSERVATION COMMISSION NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Leverett Conservation Commission, in accordance with the Wetlands Protection Act (MGL c.131 §40), will hold a public meeting on June 6th, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m. via GoToMeeting (link available at [leverett.ma.us](https://www.leverett.ma.us)) to review an RDA submitted by Chris Volante of Kestrel Land Trust for routine trail maintenance at Ruth McIntire Conservation Area.

The application is on file and is available for public inspection in the Conservation Commission Office on Mondays and Thursdays 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. or by appointment at (413) 548-1022 ext. 3.

PAID CONTENT

## Fuel Security Regulation Requires Nominal Price Change in Leverett's Community Choice Electricity Program

**LEVERETT** – A new fuel security contract imposed by system regulators has resulted in the need for nominal price adjustments in Leverett's Community Choice electricity program. Importantly, the rate residents pay will continue to remain below Eversource's current Basic Service rate.

At the request of ISO New England (ISO-NE), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has approved a unique fuel security contract with the costs associated with such contract imposed on all market suppliers. The fuel security contracts will support the continued operations of two generating units located just north of Boston and deemed critical by ISO-NE to maintain both fuel security and system reliability over the next two years (from June 2022 through May 2024). This cost allocation has resulted in a minor increase of \$0.002 per kilowatt-hour in the overall cost of electricity.

Leverett consumers use an aver-

age 600 kilowatt-hours of electricity per month. With the adjusted cost included, this means ratepayers' average bill will increase by approximately \$1.20 a month compared to current program rates. This price adjustment will be effective with the July 2022 meter reads and remain fixed through December 2022, when the current contract ends.

The Leverett Community Choice Power Supply Program continues to provide local ratepayers with two different options for their electricity:

- The Standard Plan uses 100% National Wind Renewable Energy Credits (RECs).

- The Optional Plan uses 100% MA Class I Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). Mass Class I RECs may serve to increase Massachusetts job opportunities in the renewable energy field.

The programs' initial cost per kilowatt-hour and adjusted cost per kilowatt-hour are detailed in the chart below.

### Leverett Community Choice Program Product Rates Per Kilowatt-Hour

Opt-Out Product	Current Opt-Out Rate Per kWh	Price Increase Per kWh	New Opt-Out Rate Per kWh	% Increase Opt-Out
100% National Wind RECs	\$0.10052	\$0.002	\$0.10252	1.99%
Opt-In Product	Current Opt-In Rate Per kWh	Price Increase Per kWh	New Opt-In Rate Per kWh	% Increase Opt-In
100% MA Class I RECs	\$0.12289	\$0.002	\$0.12489	1.63%

It is important to note that all electricity suppliers operating in Massachusetts, including Eversource, are subject to the new fuel security and system reliability regulation and the related pricing adjustment.

### Increased Local Control, Renewable Energy

Leverett launched its electricity program in March 2019 in an effort to develop an energy program that would be affordable and incorporate renewable energy. The creation of Leverett's energy program has allowed for greater control over the environmental characteristics and the price of the electricity residents use. Both of Leverett's program options help to decrease ratepayers' carbon footprint.

For added consumer protection,

there are no enrollment, early termination, or cancellation fees attached to the Leverett electricity program. To date, approximately 150 Massachusetts communities have created their own community choice electricity programs to benefit residents.

Basic Service rates change twice a year or more, depending on rate class. As a result, the aggregation rate may not always be lower than the Basic Service rate. The goal of the aggregation is to deliver savings over the life of the program against Eversource Basic Service. However, such savings and future savings cannot be guaranteed.

For additional information about the Leverett Community Choice Power Supply Program, visit [colonialpowergroup.com/leverett](https://colonialpowergroup.com/leverett) or call (866) 485-5858 ext. 1.

## LEVERETT from page A1

could use to make a decision. She said she felt the step was appropriate "in light of the strong feelings I heard at town meeting."

Barshak also suggested that the \$30,000 expenditure of CPC funds for consultation should be "sequenced, not dovetailed" with the opinion survey, and should come after a decision on the building's use of the building. She added that if the building is sold to a private entity, the buyer should come to the CPC to request funding.

Selectboard member Melissa Colbert said she thought more input was a "great idea," and turned to logistical issues, saying she "wants to be convinced" other institutions such as the Leverett Historical Commission (LHC), which "support open forums," were not enough. A resident replied that if the LHC facilitates the discussion it will be "geared toward" historical use, and not open and impartial. Barshak added that the town garage is also a historic building, but the town would not let the LHC "call the shots" on it.

Tim Shores of the planning board suggested that the sustainable economy committee, LHC, and planning board should be invited to provide input. Barshak responded that anyone can weigh in, but reiterated that she "doesn't want any particular committee involved in developing the conversation."

Selectboard chair Tom Hankinson suggested the board take two weeks to digest the ideas that were presented, and take up the proposal for an *ad hoc* facilitator and input-gathering at the next meeting.

Greater public awareness and participation in decision-making were also called for in a discussion on speeding and a dangerous corner on Two Mile Road. Several residents had previously sought measures to make the road safer, resulting in a walkthrough with highway superintendent Matt Boucher and the decision to install two speed bumps.

Michael Pistrich, who lives on Two Mile Road, spoke at Tuesday's meeting and did not object to that proposal, but expressed concern that the process was not shared with the whole community from the beginning.

Pistich said that upon learning of it from a neighbor, 13 of 25 households responded to an email on the subject, and said he thought there should be something like a "public comment period" preceding such decisions.

Colbert noted that selectboard agenda items were "all posted," and making sure that people were aware was a "big part of our work." Colbert said that currently, "we rely on neighbors, but formalizing the process may be something to discuss."

Further discussion was also held on addressing a "terrifyingly disastrous corner" on the same road, and Boucher agreed to provide a proposal for dealing with both issues at the next meeting, at which the public

will be welcome to participate. "We're talking," said Hankinson, "This is your chance to have input."

The board authorized Richard Nathhorst to reach out to UMass microbiology professor Stephen Rich for a cost estimate of a mosquito-monitoring program, which would assist the town in opting out of the state's spraying program. Nathhorst said the idea occurred to him during a recent discussion with Hankinson, and touted Rich's expertise in zoonotic diseases ("originating and/or being maintained in natural animal populations, but which occasionally spill over into human populations").

Town administrator Marjorie McGinnis said the opt-out application is due Friday, May 27, and requires a vote of the selectboard, which was then taken and unanimously approved.

Fire chief Brian Cook spoke favorably in response to two messages suggesting Leverett explore greater collaboration with other area fire departments, particularly Shutesbury's. Cook noted that Shutesbury's current chief, Walter Tibbets, was retiring, but said his support of greater collaboration was not related to the idea of a shared chief position, but made sense for other reasons.

Cook said he did graduate work on fire department regionalization, and did not see large, immediate, economic benefits to increased collaboration, but that those could take place through a longer process. He said the near-term benefits would include increasing the number and timeliness of responders, and cross-training and access to equipment. "I don't see any negative side to reaching out," he said.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Hankinson relayed a humorous suggestion from resident Jim Field that Leverett could bring in more firefighters by buying the Dakin Center and converting it into affordable, bunk-style housing for students who serve in the department. "You wouldn't even have to change the cages," he quipped.

The board appointed newly-elected member Patricia Duffy as its representative to the six-member police oversight committee which will oversee the town's joint-policing arrangement with Wendell. The contract with Wendell calls for each town to appoint three members: one from the selectboard, one from the finance committee, and one resident.

Prior to signing the contract, liaising had been conducted informally by former board chair Julie Shively. Duffy's appointment is the first step in meeting the contractual oversight obligation for formal, quarterly, meetings. Police chief Scott Minckler will report to the committee once it is formed.

The board appointed Brian Emond to the veterans' district committee, and Julia Firl to the conservation commission.



## MUSICAL from page A1

"This year, the festival is bigger than ever," they said, "with more interactive elements, too, including a traditional music jam, an expandable brass band, and a singing group on the common – all with musicians who are Montague and Franklin County neighbors."

Described as a "musical house tour" and "reverse caroling," the event, now in its sixth rendition, is Franklin County's answer to Boston's Porchfest. In prior years, the Montague festival held porch concerts which included Duncan and Nemeč's house and others on Taylor Hill.

The concept of environmentally-friendly walking and biking from venue to venue is now in place, and the music festival will be held around the village common, the Montague Common Hall, the first Congregational Church, a renovated barn at 2 North Street, a pergola at 67 Main Street, and a porch at 7 North Street.

Duncan and Nemeč say GMMGN aims to foster community connections between neighbors, as well as a love of playing and listening to music. Its "mission" is to introduce Montague-ans (and others!) to the hidden musical talents that live next door and down the road. It's also a chance to visit with

neighbors and to formulate lofty artistic community-oriented projects for the coming years.

Jeanne Weintraub will host performances in a renovated barn behind her house on North Street. Years ago, she explained, the barn was retrofitted with lighting, a sound system, and bleacher seating to accommodate the Traveling Rhubarb Circus, which her daughter performed in. As she led me into the barn for a tour, my eyes caught sight of a beautifully painted 17-foot May pole, resting peacefully in the barn's center.

Weintraub also mentioned her home was once the childhood home of David Kaynor. Kaynor, head fiddler in the Montague May Day Celebration, passed away in June of 2021, due to ALS. I feel his connection to the Montague music scene and festival, and through this event, his spirit lives on.

Kaynor played many instruments, from piano to trumpet, and taught himself banjo, guitar, and then the fiddle. It is no surprise that there is now a whole new generation of fiddlers popping up all over Montague Center. Many of them are performing in GMMGN on June 4.

I can also see a parallel line drawn to Matthew Duncan, who like Kaynor plays a variety of instruments, from piano to accom-



ATAMIAN ILLUSTRATION

dion, to the bassoon, which he recently picked up. He chose to move to Montague Center to be with Nemeč, and was also drawn to the community's love of music.

The history of the GMMGN festival traces back to 2007, when neighbors Lesley Greene and Gretchen Hildreth started the first Porchfest in Ithaca, New York.

Hildreth imagined a festival after hearing Greene and her husband playing ukuleles on their front steps. The two quickly got to talking about how much they liked music played outside, and noted there were so many musicians who lived in their neighborhood that they could put on a festival. It happened within months: the birth

see **MUSICAL** next page

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**MONTAGUE** from page A1 region, funded by a state grant. The chart, which also showed data for Greenfield, Deerfield, and Sunderland, listed 31 cases in Montague for the week ending May 19.

Although there was no town data for previous weeks, Ellis said that “the number is very similar to the previous week – I can say that comfortably.”

For the first time, the chart also showed data on the number of influenza cases, listed as 28 for Montague. There was also a “reverse” chronology, starting with the most recent week, showing the weekly trend for Franklin County as whole. This showed steady increases in cases, adding up to slightly over 50% over the past month.

Ellis said COVID hospitalizations “continue to rise,” but the number in acute care remain low.

#### Trash Hauling

Ellis introduced Tyler Finnegan, the new community liaison from Republic Services, the town’s trash and recycling hauler. Finnegan described his experience of over 20 years in the trash collection industry. He said Republic Services will be moving to a five-day collection week – they currently do not collect on weekends or Mondays – and has negotiated a new schedule and route changes with Montague public works superintendent Tom Bergeron.

Finnegan said Monday service will begin on June 6, and will require moving some street pickups to the first day of the week.

Ellis asked Finnegan to provide him with “anything we need to post on the town website or Facebook page.” Kuklewicz suggested that Ellis inform the public through “one of those reverse calls, as the time gets closer.”

The board endorsed a new two-year contract with Republic which, according to Ellis, contains a 4.7% rate increase.

#### Cannabis Impact

Ellis reviewed the status of leg-

islation, currently making its way through the state House, revising cannabis regulations and subsidies with the goal of creating greater economic and social equity. He said cities and towns supported most of the equity provisions, including a state fund to subsidize economically and socially disadvantaged entrepreneurs, but had concerns about proposals to retroactively rewrite host community agreements.

Ellis said some of the language in legislation, which has passed both the Senate and House, could eliminate so-called “impact fees” after the agreements which negotiated them expire.

“When we have the bill in its final form, I think it will make sense for the board to look and consider exactly what the implications of the final product will be, and for how we conduct our business,” Ellis said.

The legislation that has passed both the House and Senate radically changes the way community impact fees may be calculated – from a percentage of sales, as fees are currently calculated under host agreements in Montague, to an annual estimate of the measurable cost of local cannabis use on the community, potentially subject to review by the state Cannabis Control Commission.

#### Gas Faces

Two members of the Montague energy committee, Ariel Elan and Sally Pick, presented the board with a letter endorsed by the committee opposing the proposals of natural gas distribution companies, such as Berkshire Gas, to the state Department of Public Utilities (DPU) as undermining the state’s climate goals.

The letter criticizes the gas companies for rebranding methane as “renewable natural gas,” and criticizes the DPU for abandoning the goal, mandated by the legislature, of making “emissions reduction to slow climate change” a core criterion for evaluating energy companies.

“Overall,” the letter continues, “we urge the DPU, under its emissions-reduction mandate, to use its

technical resources and authority to work toward the removal of all forms of oil and gas, as well as wood, from the state and regional electric grid... and as heating sources.”

Lord said that while the letter was clear on the dangers of methane and on the flaws in the DPU’s process, “I do not believe it is clear what the Montague energy committee’s position is... What is your ask?”

“Really? Wow,” said Elan. “We can fix that.”

After Kuklewicz expressed similar concerns, Elan and Pick agreed to bring a revised letter to the next board meeting.

#### Meeting Our Makers

The board approved two “makers’ market” festivals that will take place in different villages on the same day, Saturday, June 11.

One will take place on the property of Kathy Lynch and Dean Garvin at 17 Center Street in Montague Center between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. This event, which will be held in the field that has been used for the Barbès in the Woods music festival, will have 30 vendors, a food truck, and acoustic music, as well as yoga and dance classes.

The other makers’ market, sponsored by RiverCulture in collaboration with Nova Motorcycles and the Pioneer Brewery, will be located at the end of Second Street on property rented by Santo Taco.

A one-day beer and wine license application for the brewery was presented by parks and recreation director Jon Dobosz. Steve Valeski of the brewery said he had talked to the police chief, and there would be an officer on duty from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m..

#### Other Business

The board voted to approve a proposed agreement with the state to establish a “sole assessment center” for evaluating candidates for the new sergeant position in the police department, created by the May 7 annual town meeting.

Ellis reported that congressman Jim McGovern has filed a \$675,000

federal earmark request for street-scape improvements in downtown Turners Falls. He said each member of Congress is allowed to request a set dollar amount of earmarks – only some of which will be included in the federal budget – and that “we will not hear about this” until the FY’23 federal budget is resolved, typically in January or February.

At the end of the meeting, Ellis quickly reviewed a recent response plan from FirstLight Power by the engineering firm Tighe & Bond in response to the winter hydraulic fluid spill at the Turners Falls dam. The dam is owned by FirstLight Power, which is currently in the process of renewing its long-term license from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to operate the dam.

Ellis did not go into great detail about the four-page plan, which was in the selectboard’s packet, but said that the power company is “being very forthcoming, [and] did not take too long to get us a copy of the report.”

As May 30 is a holiday, the next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 6.



#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE G-M SCHOOL COMMITTEE

## Anderson Appointed

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – A Montague seat on the regional school committee left open after last week’s election was filled Tuesday by former member Haley Anderson, who had received two write-in votes.

Anderson accepted the position and volunteered to act as the committee’s Montague liaison to the six-town regionalization planning effort and serve on a union negotiation subcommittee. She told the *Reporter* that chair Jane Oakes had been “working on [her] for a few weeks” to rejoin the committee, on which she served from 2018 to 2021.

At the next regular meeting on June 14, members will submit evaluations of superintendent Brian Beck.

The following day is the last official day of school for students, though many summer learning opportunities are planned in the effort to combat pandemic learning loss.

## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here’s the way it was on May 24, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.*

#### Old Home Week on Falls River Bridge

The Falls River Bridge on Route 2 between Gill and Greenfield, now under repair by Northern Construction of Palmer, is the third Falls River Bridge to cross the stream.

Just upstream are the abutments of the first bridge, built in 1802. The most northerly second bridge, an iron bridge that once led to West Gill Road, further upstream, was built in 1901, discontinued in 1959, and turned over to abutter Burton Reid. John Conley of Greenfield tore that bridge down for scrap in 1964.

But the state Department of Transportation has come to the rescue in the nick of time, before the present Route 2 bridge over the Falls River joins the other two in the history books.

Northern Construction, the contractor for the multi-year, multi-million dollar renovation, has hired Northern Tree Company, also of Palmer, to clear-cut both sides of the bridge, resulting in about 24 cords of wood. Once Northern Construction finishes pulling the stumps, Northern Tree will truck them to their yard to reduce them to chips in a tub grinder.

#### Clark, Cogswell, and Lyons Sweep for School Committee

May 21 was a day of upsets and organization as volunteers with names and addresses on strips of stickers deployed under canvas tents to within 150 feet of

each and every polling place in Montague and Gill to help propel write-in candidates Lesley Cogswell and Shelly Clark to convincing victories over school committee candidates Jeff Singleton and Charles Kelley, candidates whose names actually appeared on the ballot.

By 7:00 a.m., a tidy blue canvas tent had popped up at the edge of the sidewalk on Fifth and K Street at Precinct 5, as supporters of Misty Lyons, Clark, and Cogswell called cheerful greetings out to voters on their way to the polls. The write-in stickers made it easy for anyone wishing to vote for either write-in candidate to do so. The strip stuck to the ballot space as if meant to be there. Throughout the day at each precinct in Montague and also in Gill, voters found nearly identical covered tables staffed by backers of Cogswell, Clark, and Lyons, with a stack of printed name and address strips for the write-ins handed out cheerfully.

Montague town clerk Deb Bourbeau said in all 959 individuals voted, a 17.08% turnout of total registered voters. Lyons was the top vote-getter in the three-way race for two 3-year Montague seats, with 811 votes. Cogswell came in second as a write-in with 699, and Singleton came in last with 452.

Singleton beat Cogswell 139 to 76 in Precinct 1, his Montague Center home turf, but lost in the other five precincts, getting swamped badly on the Hill, where Cogswell trounced him 169 to 26 in Precinct 3 and 153 to 39 in Precinct 4. Singleton bested Cogswell in Gill, 140 to 117, with Lyons running first at 173. Clark trounced Kelley in the race for a two-year seat, 549 to 430.



#### MUSICAL from previous page of Porchfest Ithaca.

Similarly, after Duncan and Nemeč moved to their house on Taylor Hill, Matt heard Irish music resonating from a house next door. He said he picked up an instrument and started playing a response to the neighbor’s sound. Then he kept changing instruments, and back and forth the music played.

Since their birth in Ithaca in 2007, more than 100 Porchfest festivals have popped up all over the US, from cities like Boston, Minneapolis, and San Antonio, to suburbs like Decatur, Georgia, and idyllic small communities like Wellfleet and Montague Center. It’s a wave of positive music vibes spreading throughout the land, creating human connection.

Scott Doyon of Decatur, Georgia performed at the Ithaca Porchfest a few years ago, and described the event like this: “Porches become stages, yards become venues, and radical generosity and good will rule the day.” Pre-fest music begins on Saturday, June 4 from 10:30 a.m. to noon with a public contra dance session led by Rebecca Weiss and Becky Hollingsworth. Bring your

string instrument and join in at the Montague Common Hall.

A table will be set up on the common where attendees are encouraged to make donations to support the festival. A map of locations and the schedule will be available, and all locations are within walking distance. No tickets are sold, though those who make donations above \$10 will receive a sticker which organizers say amounts to a “merit badge for the day.” All proceeds after expenses will be divided up and given to the musicians.

The festival will officially open at noon with the Expandable Brass Band playing familiar favorites. Anyone with an instrument is welcome to join in as they march to each venue; after this opening *cortège*, the band will play on the common.

Each band or performer will play one 35-minute set, and each venue will host two or three groups, with 20 minutes in between sets. During the breaks you may hear strolling musicians playing on the common. The event wraps up around 5:30 p.m.

Early performers this year include The Frost Heaves & Hales, playing a rock set; Mary Fraser on the fiddle; a bassoon quartet called Becky’s

Badass Bassoons; Michael Nix with solo banjo; and funk music by the band Vimana.

Later in the afternoon, you will find Steven Katz on solo cello; Harvey Diamond and John Lentz doing a vocal jazz set; the Montague Common Singers leading a sing-along; and Pat and Tex LaMountain presenting their original folk tunes.

At 3 p.m., check out Klez Kabal’s klezmer music; Mark Fraser and Matthew Duncan on cello and piano; and Louise Mosrie’s country-style music. Around 4 p.m. Sophisticated Lady and the Tramps will perform vocal jazz, Brian Bender and Robby Roiter will present some jazz too, while AyreCraft will play Renaissance music.

Ending the afternoon are Addie, Becky, and Joe performing Eastern European music, and

Fatty Bolger playing funk. The strolling musicians on Main Street between sets will include Mary Fraser and Friends, Tim Van Egmond, and Rebecca and Rose.

To see the full schedule, visit the website at [www.montaguemusic.org](http://www.montaguemusic.org) or [www.facebook.com/MontagueMusicFest](http://www.facebook.com/MontagueMusicFest).



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GILL from page A1

the parking lot, where there are cars.

The selectboard voted to opt out of the state mosquito spraying program this year. "We are still in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito Control district," explained Crochier, "The health department is working towards getting an agent that is licensed to provide the town with some pesticide help for the mosquito larvae, and all the other wet spots."

Nearly 50 residents came to the meeting. 24 articles were on the warrant, and most passed unanimously with no discussion. Two were passed over: one which pertained to road funding, and one about moisture and mold in the town hall basement.

**Article 2** sought to expand senior citizen property tax exemptions, asset limits, and eligibility to the maximum allowed by law. State law provides a \$500 discount off eligible seniors' tax bills, and another exemption based on assets rather than income could provide others with a \$175 discount. **Article 3** asked for support of an amendment to the state constitution which would impose a 4% tax on incomes over a million dollars. Both were unanimously approved.

Voters unanimously approved accepting Cove View Lane as a town road (**Article 4**) and updating the animal control bylaws to reflect state standards (**Article 5**). **Article 6** revamped the recreation committee from a range of three to five members from a previous five-member requirement, and allowed non-residents to serve as long as a majority are Gill residents.

**Articles 7** through **9**, which put money into revolving funds, set salaries, and gave a 6% cost of living raise to town employees, were all approved without discussion, as was **Article 10**, the town's \$1,896,295 omnibus budget. \$1,751,288 was

unanimously approved for the Gill-Montague Regional School District in **Article 11**, as well as another \$10,000 to install a computerized building management system at Gill Elementary School (**Article 12**).

The next four articles funded software for the assessors, gave them \$27,500 to appraise power company property and \$7,500 for litigation, paid for a new electronic vote tabulator, and funded the cable access operations.

**Article 17** approved \$25,000 from capital stabilization, \$75,000 from general stabilization, and up to \$141,407 in borrowing to purchase a Pierce "Responder" 4-wheel drive fire truck and related accessories. A 2/3 majority vote was required, and the borrowing will now require a townwide Proposition 2½ debt exclusion vote.

Deputy fire chief Bill Kimball said the new truck would replace the department's open-cab truck which no longer meets safety standards. "It accomplishes the same goals as the 1987 truck," he said. "It carries the same amount of water; it has a 12,050 gallon per minute pump which is well adequate."

"It would have been good to look at the omnibus budget first," said finance committee member Tupper Brown. "There will be a 6.3% increase in the tax rate.... I think it is good to know where we are going to end up if we keep voting on these articles that are in front of us."

Snedeker said the budget process started "much earlier this year," and that there had been "contention" over how to spend the town's ARPA funds, as well as accounting inflation, but that the requested truck is "a lot less expensive than the vehicles that we were looking at even two years ago," and well suited to Gill's rural roads and "difficult driveways."

**Article 18**, for \$81,593 to purchase an International Model CV515 dump truck with a plow, wing plow, stainless steel all-season body, and related accessories for the highway department, was also approved by a 2/3 majority. \$31,593 will come from unappropriated funds, \$20,000 from capital stabilization, and \$30,000 from an account reserved for repairs to the department's 2009 Sterling dump truck, which was determined unrepairable last year.

**Article 19**, which would have raised or appropriated funds for conducting an assessment of the town's roads and road-related infrastructure, was passed over by a majority vote. Brown, who voted "nay," said he requested it be passed over to "raise a consciousness" of the town's "collapsing" roads. No remedies have been offered, he said, because there is "no money."

"We ought to be talking to other towns actively, and talking to legislators actively," he said. "We ought to be raising hell about it, because it is a serious problem – we had a wonderful road system 20 years ago or so, and a recommendation to keep it up, but we could not keep it up. We have to make the state solve the problem, or think of some other way to do it."

Brown said he thought regionalizing "all of our public activities" into municipal districts might provide a solution.

Crochier said that FRCOG offers road studies through the District Local Technical Assistance fund. "We did not put it on our list this year – this came up late in the budget process," he said. "But I will also point out, we have a 2004 road study that shows we ought to be doing two miles of road a year. And in roughly 2008, the town chose to stop spending about \$80,000 a year on oil and stone because of the recession, and we never replaced that."

"There is a push at the state level to try to get more funding for streets," added Snedeker, who also noted that the town does not have the tax base to afford paying for two miles of road a year.

Highway superintendent John Miner said that two miles of road would cost the town "about an extra \$250,000 per year."

**Article 21**, which would have added funds to an account for remediating "water, humidity, and mold" from the town hall basement, was also unanimously passed over. Purington said the project was larger than the town currently has

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Gill's annual town meeting, held indoors and all on one day this year, was attended by 46 residents.

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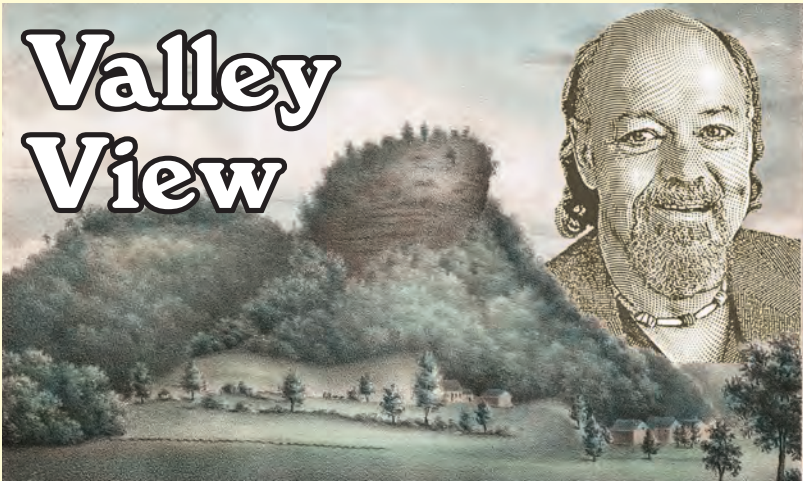
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MAY 26, 2022

*Above: Birdhouses and more are the seasonal decor at a downtown Turners Falls home.*



ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – I recently visited an old South Deerfield mill site I discovered some 60 years ago as a young lad trout-fishing on the Mill River.

The field trip with historian friend Peter Thomas ignited a research mission, starting at the dam and the steep ravine below, and ending at the expansive old farm today owned by the granddaughter of the man who took me on my first deer hunt in his western woodland acreage.

Honestly, as a boy, I never gave much thought to the tidy stonework and streamside ruins of a collapsed wood-frame mill that had deposited a decaying pile of revelatory rubble on a small platform of land at the head of a deep gorge. Large, rusty sprocket wheels told me it was a mill site, and I left it at that.

What mattered most to me at the time was the site's sporting, not historical, value. Frisky trout were always available in the deep, silty channel above the mill dam and, better still, in the splash pool at the base of a 10-foot waterfall dropping through a tight dam-top constriction. I remembered the place as soul-soothing. The sound of the waterfall hitting bedrock was calming, the steep, wooded downstream view peaceful indeed.

Before I was licensed to drive, my mother would drop me off mornings below the Mill River bridge at the intersection of Route 116 and Mathews Road. Equipped with spinning tackle, a bait can full of lively nightcrawlers, an aluminum-framed nylon net, and a wicker creel, I'd fish the pools and runs downstream a mile or so to a wooden farm-bridge crossing in Settright's pasture.

There I'd drop a worm or two in the pool below before walking up a short, steep escarpment to a small orchard and squeezing through barbed-wire fencing at the end of a dirt driveway. I'd walk to the back door, past where the ell met the carriage sheds, knock hard enough to be detected, and go inside to rotary-dial my mother for a ride home.

Back then, widow Nellie Settright was still going strong, approaching if not over 90 and sharing her home with daughter Marge and son-in-law Bill Van Petersilge,

a World War II Marine war hero who had miraculously survived many perilous island landings on the Pacific theater. Old Nellie, the great-grandmother of current farm occupant Carrie Chickering Sears, seemed ancient to me.

The Settright farm came into being not long before the Revolution, under Moses Nims (1718-1791) of Old Deerfield. His son Elisha inherited the farm and, not long before his death, sold it to his son Rufus in 1809. Seven months later, Rufus sold it to Erastus Clapp, a Pine Nook farmer who moved across town to Mill River.

Precisely when the 18<sup>th</sup>-century Federal farmhouse today standing was built is unclear. A Greenfield newspaper story about Mr. and Mrs. Francis Clapp's surprise 40<sup>th</sup>-anniversary party held there on May 8, 1900 said the home was then 110 years old, and had been in the Clapp family for 91 years. This would bring us back to 1790, possibly the year a new main block was built, transforming the smaller original dwelling into an ell, a typical generational evolution for historic valley farmhouses.

The Settright family came to Deerfield from Greenfield just before the Civil War, buying a North Mill River farm on Dublin Plain before adding the Clapp farm on South Mill River to its holdings in 1884. Although the northern farm was sold to developers of Mathews and Stillwater roads in the 1960s, the family maintains ownership of the old Nims/Clapp farm.

Today the sign over the barn's milk-room door reads "Indian Acres," a name adopted in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century because of the many Native American artifacts collected from tillage east of Route 116.

Getting back to the upstream mill site where we began, my interest in it grew with my newfound interests in genealogy and local history, which blossomed after the 1989 death of my spinster great-aunt Gladys. My Grandfather Sanderson's older sister, "Antie" was our family-history steward, carefully guarding old records and photos. When she died only weeks short of her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday under life tenancy in the home I owned, her dresser-drawer collection of family history data immediately see **VALLEY VIEW** page B4

## It Takes a Farmer to Raise a Village

By JERI MORAN

**MONTAGUE CENTER** – In 1964 the Kretzenger family moved to Montague Center and opened their family farm, Hunting Hills, on Route 63 as a nursery business. Suzanne Kretzenger was a young child then and loved helping her father, Mel, in all aspects of the business, learning plant propagation, raising plants and preparing them for sale, running a greenhouse, and learning what it takes to run a business. She still loves most of it.

As small family farms often do, driven by market forces and the talents and interests of the owners, Hunting Hills has changed what it has to offer over the years. For years her mother, Anne, and Suzanne had a bakery in the farm building; that's been gone for some years now, as are the trees and shrubs that Mel grew.

They have raised farm animals over the years: cows, pigs, geese – but raising them became uneconomical. Currently there are nine sheep; they used to breed them and sell spring lambs, but now the "ladies" are enjoying a leisurely, dignified retirement.

Suzanne's particular interest is greenhouse plant production. She currently sells annuals, perennials, vegetable seedlings, herbs, and hanging baskets, with a specialty in geraniums of all kinds and colors.

see **FARMER** page B5



MORAN PHOTO

*Suzanne Kretzenger, owner of Hunting Hills Farm, with plants.*



## A Summer Paradise In Canada

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – If you started on Prince Edward Island, then drove 754 miles up the craggy coast, you'd reach the tip of the Gaspé Peninsula, also known by its French name, *Gaspésie*. It would be an eight-hour slog, which explains why we chose to fly from Montreal to Québec City and then flew 2½ hours to Gaspé.

This place might be a bit hard to get to, but once we arrived, we were very happy to be there. Gaspé is vast, and very lightly populated, and has places that make you gasp. Really.

The Percé Rock is just one example... and the 47 lighthouses that dot the rugged northern coastline make great photo stops, too.

Face to face with a moose? Close enough to hear the breathing of a pod of humpback whales? Yep, we did all of that during our July visit to Gaspé, which left us wanting to return.

The capital of Gaspé is the town with the same name, with about 15,000 residents perched just below the tip of the peninsula, Cap Bon Ami, which is a national park called Parc National Forillon. The long tip of the park sticks out into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and it's a whale migration route, so each open-topped whale-watching vessel that



HARTSHORNE PHOTO

*Percé Rock is a famous symbol of the Gaspé Peninsula in Québec, Canada.*

goes out almost always returns with thrilled passengers, who can get as close to a humpback or right whale as possible.

### Wet and Worth It

On our first night, we discovered the most rockin' place in town, hands down – Brise-Bise restaurant. Arriving too late for dinner, we were treated instead to a fantastic rhythm and blues band, with horns blasting

and people dancing and having fun. Outside, a huge crowd of 20-some-things mingled, enjoying the music and the view of the water from the balcony.

In Gaspé we stayed at the Hôtel des Commandants, comfortable and affordable lodging with a surprise view, which we discovered the next morning at breakfast.

But we had no time to enjoy the see **TRAVELS** page B8



# Pet of the Week



©ARMODY COLLAGE

## “TOMMY”

Tommy came to us from another shelter, so we don't have any information about his previous life experiences or preferences.

We have been able to learn a bit about Tommy while he has been in our care. He is an independent cat and will check in with his people but is not overly affectionate. He would likely do best in a home with older kids and adults. He is good with other cats but we are not sure about dogs.

Change is hard for Tommy and he will be going home with a behavior plan that will need to be followed in order for everyone to transition successfully.

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



## Why Can Bluetooth Be Such a Pain?

By RYNE HAGER

**TURNERS FALLS** – Most of us are familiar with Bluetooth and either the products we use that need it or the omnipresent runic icon staring back from our phone or laptop's status bar. But knowing the “what” behind Bluetooth and its wireless abilities doesn't explain the “how.” Understanding the context of how it works can help you better use it to its utmost – or at least troubleshoot problems when they crop up.

The abridged version is that Bluetooth is a set of standards that allows many devices, including phones, computers, and audio equipment, to wirelessly communicate with one another using a 2.4 GHz wireless signal. If that number sounds familiar, it's the same sets of frequencies that some Wi-Fi networks and other wireless consumer devices use, and that detail will become important later.

Although Bluetooth has a longer history that dates back to the '90s, it finally became an integral technology for almost everyone back in 2016 – time immemorial, in tech terms. That's when Apple, in what it called an act of “courage,” eliminated the headphone jack from the iPhone 7, pushing many of its customers since then to consider wireless audio devices.

With Bluetooth having stewed in consumer products for over 15 years at that point, wireless headphones and earbuds were starting to become common. Losing the jack saved Apple internal space for increased battery capacity and other design changes, and made it easier to give devices water-resistant designs.

Bluetooth makes devices more svelte and eliminates a dangling cable for audio, but it's not all better. While an audio jack just “worked” when you plugged something into it, Bluetooth requires that devices be individually configured, imposes new requirements like built-in batteries that have to be charged regularly, and can introduce issues for audio output such as latency – for example, when you are watching a movie and spoken dialogue appears to lag behind the motion of an actor's lips. On top of that, users may have to deal with problems like stut-

tering audio in playback, or random disconnections.

Remember how I said that Wi-Fi can use the same frequencies that Bluetooth does? In congested environments, that can be an issue. Out here in the relative “country,” we don't have to worry too much about frequency congestion, but in even mid-sized cities these frequencies can become saturated, with overlapping Wi-Fi networks, landline cordless phones, and other devices that use the 2.4 GHz ISM frequencies – they're not “reserved” for Bluetooth and Wi-Fi, *lots* of products use them. Poorly designed or older microwave appliances can even leak interference into the 2.4 GHz band while they're running.

While there are technologies that try to mitigate the effect of this interference – one example is Bluetooth LE, which uses “adaptive frequency hopping” – you can still end up with a digital shouting match when too many devices are yelling for attention and there isn't enough spectrum for all of them to talk at the same time. If you've ever walked around downtown Boston or New York City with a pair of Bluetooth earbuds and noticed it tends to cut out more often when you're in certain areas, that could be part of why it happens.

There aren't any perfect solutions for these problems, but I do have a few tips that can help in certain circumstances.

If you have issues with stuttering headphone audio and you keep your phone in your rear pocket, consider moving it to the front, where your phone won't have to “talk” to your headphones as loudly to be heard over potential interference. Keep that general idea in mind when using Bluetooth devices – the closer a host and client device are, and the less obstructed the path between their antennas, the better they're likely to work.

So a phone in a pocket or on a counter will have a slightly easier time than one in a purse or drawer, and certain case materials like metals or vinyl “skins” with a metallic foil metal finish can also attenuate (read: hurt) the signal.

For older Bluetooth devices that just don't work as reliably as you want, consider replacing them with

something that uses more recent Bluetooth specifications and hardware. Bear in mind, though, that your phone, computer, or other host device may *also* need to support the new technologies to fully take advantage of the improvements.

Look for icons and standards like “aptX” and “Snapdragon Sound” on the Bluetooth audio products you buy – these indicate that the device is using tech that better adapts to poor signal conditions, and can offer higher-bitrate playback for improved quality and lower latency.

For issues at home – if you live in a denser environment, notice a lot of overlapping Wi-Fi networks nearby, and have trouble with Bluetooth devices staying connected – you might consider making sure your network hardware supports the 5+ GHz frequencies, and moving your home's compatible devices up to those shorter-reaching, but actually much faster and wider, bands. This may reduce local congestion in the frequencies your Bluetooth devices need to work.

For some, Bluetooth's conveniences might make up for its hidden costs. But if you can't deal with them, you don't *have* to use it.

Most phones can be used with an external dongle to plug in wired headphones, and they don't cost a whole lot. Apple sells one for its phones at just \$9, and for a little more, you can get a USB Type-C connector for recent Android phones or other devices.

Lots of other wireless devices, like keyboards or mice, still come in wired varieties, and some wireless models from companies like Logitech don't directly rely on Bluetooth – though most are still using the same 2.4 GHz frequencies. Even though I pride myself as living on the bleeding edge, there are plenty of situations where I prefer the reliability and consistency of a cable. Thankfully, in most circumstances, it's still an option.

For more questions about consumer technology, how gadgets work, or which doodad to buy if you need X, Y, and Z, shoot me an email at [deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org](mailto:deviceadvice@montaguereporter.org). I just got a heat pump dryer after months of product research, and I'm excited to write about that in my next column!

## Senior Center Activities MAY 30 THROUGH JUNE 3

### WENDELL

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 Jonathan von Ranson at (978) 544-3758 to set up a ride.

### LEVERETT

Chair Yoga classes are held on Zoom on Wednesdays. Foot Care Clinic is held monthly. For more information, contact the Leverett COA at (413) 548-1022 x 2, or [coa@leverett.ma.us](mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us).

### GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Council on Aging Director is Roberta Potter. For more information please call 863-9357.

### Monday 5/30

Closed

### Tuesday 5/31

10 a.m. Tuesday Morning Knitters  
1 p.m. Chair Yoga  
3 p.m. Tai Chi

### Wednesday 6/1

9 a.m. Veterans' Hours  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics  
11 a.m. Chair Exercise  
12 p.m. Bingo (BYO Lunch)  
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 6/2

10:30 a.m. Brown Bag  
1 p.m. Cards & Games  
5 p.m. Meditation for Seniors (pre-register)

### Friday 6/3

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

### ERVING

Erving Senior Center is open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily.

Brown Bag lunch is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans Services the first Wednesday of each month. Erving van services available: Must call 24 hours in advance for a ride to any scheduled appointment. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

### Monday 5/30

9 a.m. Interval  
10:15 a.m. Stretch & Infusion

### Tuesday 5/31

9 a.m. Good for U  
10 a.m. Line Dancing

### Wednesday 6/1

Veterans' Services  
9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact  
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics  
12 p.m. BYO Lunch to Bingo

### Thursday 6/2

9 a.m. Core & Balance  
10 a.m. Barre Fusion  
12 p.m. Brown Bag

### Friday 6/3

Quilting & Open Sewing

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## Montague Community Television News

# Country Prints & MOSAIC

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – The town of Gill was busy this week! We have not only the annual town meeting and latest selectboard meeting, but also a presentation on Robert Darr Wert's Country Prints hosted by the Gill Historical Commission.

The latest GMRSD school committee meeting is updated, and from Montague, we have a selectboard meeting, the full performance of Professor Louie and the Crowmatix at the Shea Theater, and the film premiere of *MOSAIC*, a short documentary on health equity in Western Massachusetts.

All community members are wel-

come to submit their videos to be aired on TV and featured on Vimeo, which is linked to [montaguetv.org](http://montaguetv.org) under the tab "Videos."

MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for checkout, and filming and editing assistance can be provided. MCTV is still looking for board members; email [infomontaguetv@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com) for a link to the Zoom!

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](mailto:infomontaguetv@gmail.com).

## EVENT REVIEW

# Third Lights! Camera! Greenfield!

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – Apparently GCTV in Greenfield likes having their annual amateur filmmakers' competition each year, because they did it again at the Garden Cinema on May 4 at 7 p.m. I went to check it out again, since I enjoyed covering the last one.

I don't recall whether they did this for the last one, but someone introduces the screening, and it was all filmed for the GCTV TV channel. The crowd of people there was quite a nice one, so I guess I wasn't the only one interested. I learned from the opening credits it was the third time they were doing this.

The first thing they showed seemed to be a short film where this guy did little scenes that each time was his version of different types of films. It was all right. This was appropriately named *How To Make Movies*.

One other one was a little weird. It appeared to be about someone going through their day, which included looking at a painting and making coffee. I didn't get it. Another was one where a professional wrestler was apparently being interviewed by someone. This made

a little more sense than the one before. It seemed like he was being interviewed for a job.

One film that made pretty good sense to me was where a guy went on a nature walk with the help of some computer device. A couple of graphics showed up on the screen that backed that part up, in my mind.

A film called *A Warm Day* by Nick Ring was part of this event. It involved only computer graphics, and was very weird. A film called *A Spend Spring* was equally weird too. It involved someone just painting a picture while being filmed. Someone also did a film called *Ulysses*, which appeared to be someone talking with their bartender.

*Blossoming Idiots* was about a radio show host asking an individual some not-intelligent questions for a contest he was doing. The questions explained why this one was called what it was.

I know filmmakers like to do abstract concepts for films, which is what most of the films were like in this competition. That was also how it was in the last one I saw. I only understood two of the films, which were the *Blossoming Idiots* one and the first one I saw. I found these two to be good. They were what I liked the best out of this event.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

# River Recreation Update

**NORTHFIELD** – For the first time in two years, the outdoor and recreational facilities that FirstLight Power manages in Franklin County will be fully operational.

Viewing is open for the spring migration at the Turners Falls Fishway, where visitors can enjoy watching the fish make their way up the Connecticut River. Hours for the viewing are Wednesdays through Sundays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., through June 12.

The Fishway is located on Avenue A in Turners Falls behind the Town Hall, and there is parking on First Street. For visitors who prefer to remain outside, a monitor with a live feed from the Fishway will again be available for viewing from the bike path. The Fishway is free of charge.

Waterfront campgrounds at Barton Cove and Munns Ferry are accepting reservations, and will be open for camping May 27. Visit [www.firstlightpower.com/recreation](http://www.firstlightpower.com/recreation) and click the "Campground" link to make a reservation. Reservations are also available at (413) 863-9300.

Face masks will not be required at the campsite, unless public health guidance changes. Drinking water will be available at two locations at the Barton Cove campground, and Munn's Ferry requires you to bring your own drinking water.

The Barton Cove paddle rental facility has 50 watercraft available for rent including canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards. These can be rented for two hours or for the day. Each

rental comes with personal flotation devices and paddles. Canoe and kayak rentals begin on May 28 and run through September 5.

Canoe rentals are not offered during times of dangerous river flows, so call ahead for daily updates at (413) 863-9300. The facility at 82 French King Highway in Gill is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. The last rental of the day is at 3 p.m.

The portage shuttle will be available after Memorial Day weekend. Free paddle passes will be available to check out at the Gill, Montague, Erving, Greenfield, and Northfield public libraries.

Due to labor shortages, a captain for the Heritage river boat cruises has not been found, but FirstLight is still trying to find one and hopes to be able to offer river cruises later in the summer. If you know an experienced boat captain with a 25-ton Master's license, please direct them to [www.firstlightpower.com/careers](http://www.firstlightpower.com/careers).

Riverview Picnic Pavilion in Northfield is also accepting reservations for events. Call (413) 659-4426 or (800) 859-2960 or write to [northfield@firstlightpower.com](mailto:northfield@firstlightpower.com). The Visitor's Center at Northfield Mountain is open again, including event spaces and restrooms, but the top floor display area is closed. For more information on these go to [www.firstlightpower.com/recreation](http://www.firstlightpower.com/recreation) and click "Northfield Mountain Environmental and Recreation Center," or find them on Instagram [@northfieldmountainrecreation](https://www.instagram.com/northfieldmountainrecreation) or Facebook.

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

# 4 Bears; 2 Cats; 3 Dogs; 4 Deers; 1 Turkey; 1 Possum; Vandalism, Paranoia, and Trespassing; Lost Mom's Car

### Monday, 5/16

7 a.m. Caller reports the handicapped port-a-potty at Unity Park was vandalized again last night. He requested the info be logged.

9:25 a.m. Report of black bear on Wrightson Avenue at 6:15 this morning.

12:41 p.m. Caller reports the traffic lights at Avenue A and Third Street do not cycle properly. Info forwarded to DPW.

1:28 p.m. Deceased gray cat in the road at Seventh and L Streets. ACO advised.

8:43 p.m. Shelburne Control advising that TFFD is responding to Avenue A and Fourth Street for a report of burning plastic. Officer advises there is a small campfire on Fifth Street that TFFD will investigate.

### Tuesday, 5/17

12:36 a.m. Caller states that her friend took her dog for a walk and just called stating he was locked inside the gate area on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

12:50 a.m. Caller states he hit a deer on Millers Falls Road. Deer appears to be dead. No damage noted to vehicle. Deer moved off the side of the road.

8:13 a.m. Caller states that an older woman holding up some kind of sign was standing in a crosswalk at Avenue A and Fifth Street, then walked into traffic with her sign; drivers thought she was walking out in front of traffic, so everybody slammed on their brakes, but she didn't cross the street. Located involved female holding up a sign related to voting. She was advised of the complaint, and agreed to stay out of the road.

3:23 p.m. Caller from Montague City Road states he was walking his dog and another dog followed him home. De-

scribed as white dog with one eye and no tags. Caller states the dog is very well behaved and he has him in his backyard with water if anyone reports him missing.

3:53 p.m. Caller from Federal Street states a tree just fell on the wires near her house. Power is out in the area. Caller states cars can get around. Officer states tree is out of the road; there is some damage to an Eversource pole. Eversource contacted and responding.

4:28 p.m. Caller states she hit a turkey on Lake Pleasant Road and does have some damage to her car. Turkey is dead in the road. Officer advising he has the turkey; requesting call be made to Rod and Gun to see if anyone wants it.

9:07 p.m. Car vs. deer at Gunn Road and Federal Street. Report taken.

10:41 p.m. Caller states her dog found a baby possum whose eyes are not even open yet. She is wondering what to do with it or who she can call. Caller given number for Environmental Police and also website for wildlife rehabilitators in Massachusetts.

### Wednesday, 5/18

2 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street concerned about a man cutting down a large tree that could fall into the road or onto a parked car.

11:19 p.m. 911 caller reports she struck a deer with her vehicle on Turners Falls Road and damaged her vehicle. Caller states she is uninjured and declined an ambulance. Caller went on to state she is currently alone and upset. Caller indicated her vehicle was in the middle of the roadway with its hazards on. Officer requesting an ambulance for the female party. Shelburne

Control contacted. Rau's requested for tow. Officer advises female signed refusal for transport, and is with a friend at this time.

### Thursday, 5/19

9:38 p.m. Caller from Seventh Avenue reporting that he thinks someone is using a smartphone to record the inside of his house; he can see the reflection of the light from the phone in his TV. Caller states that when he got up from his chair to go look, the person took off. This happened last night and tonight, and possibly once in March. Referred to an officer.

### Friday, 5/20

2:58 a.m. Caller reports seeing a truck near the Environmental Police station that appeared to be going up to people's mailboxes and looking into them. Area search negative.

11:11 a.m. 911 caller from North Taylor Hill Road concerned that a small animal has gotten inside her home. ACO checked house; nothing found.

12:45 p.m. Caller from Griswold Street states that he let someone borrow his truck and now she won't return it. Shelburne Control advised to be on lookout.

2:53 p.m. Caller states that a large tree has fallen on her car in the alley behind Second Street. DPW notified and responding to remove tree. FD responding to check for other hazards. Second caller advising that the tree is not actually on the vehicle but rather next to it. Officer advises that the tree has been taken care of.

7:28 p.m. Caller from Canal Street reporting that a male party on a dirt bike was doing wheelies and passing vehicles. Officer advises he checked several areas; no sign of subject.

10:17 p.m. Caller from Meadow Road reporting that people are trespassing on his property; they stated they were looking for mushrooms. Officer advises that the parties have been verbally trespassed and the caller does not want to pursue anything further.

10:40 p.m. Caller locked behind gate on Migratory Way. Services rendered.

11:19 p.m. Caller reports a gathering of 10 to 15 kids in the area of the skate park. While checking area, officer noticed some people run/disperse. No damage observed.

11:41 p.m. Caller reports he is at Food City with a cleaning crew and advises there are currently three men on a bench; concerned they might be up to something. Officer advises that the three individuals were waiting for a ride.

### Saturday, 5/21

2:45 a.m. Caller from Ran-

dall Road reports there are people outside of her house making noise and bothering her; states that these people are never caught and she wants something done about this. Caller called back and inquired about a restraining order for her neighbors, but declined to speak with on-duty sergeant about obtaining one. Officer advises no answer at door and nobody seen in area. Caller called back and requested officers check area again. Officer advises nobody in area; will be standing by in area.

10:33 a.m. Caller reporting that there is a dead cat on the sidewalk in front of a house on Third Street. Owner of cat located.

8:25 p.m. Caller from Park Street stated that her neighbor is having a big party and it is very loud. Officer advises a birthday party is going on; if the noise persists after 10 p.m., then he will speak with them.

9 p.m. Caller requesting assistance with opening the gate on Migratory Way; he is stuck behind it. Officer advises that there were three cars behind the gate.

9:35 p.m. Caller from East Main Street reporting people trying to get into the building, banging on the doors and windows; has been going on for about an hour. Officer advises that a resident was trying to get in and did not have his keycard; appeared to be intoxicated; refused to give his information; however, they were able to identify which apartment was his.

11:39 p.m. Control advising they took a report of a deer that looks like it was struck by a car on Millers Falls Road. Officer dispatched animal.

**Sunday, 5/22**  
2:24 a.m. Caller states he got a call from his sister on Central Street stating that a mama bear and two cubs are in the area, coming onto her porch. Caller states they took off prior to the officer's arrival. Officer checked area; unable to locate.

3:16 a.m. Caller states he had parked his car near Black Cow Burger Bar and went to dinner then was hanging with some friends. While walking home, he realized his car was no longer parked on the road. Caller states he walked up and down the street in case he forgot where he parked, but he has not located his vehicle and is wondering if it had been towed. Caller states he does not know the plate; car is registered to his mom. Ran mom and got plate number. Vehicle located on L Street; caller must have forgotten where he parked it.

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**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1 captured my fascination.

Soon led to George Sheldon's *History of Deerfield*, I found my waterfall fishing place identified on Page 269 as the town's first mill site, dating back at least to 1689. Amazing. That's 15 years before the infamous Queen Anne's War raid on Old Deerfield in 1704.

Sheldon believed, but could not prove, that there was already a sawmill on the site in 1689 when the town contracted Hatfield millwright Capt. John Allis to build the town's first grist mill on the stream, which rises in Conway and runs through Deerfield and Whately before entering the Connecticut River in Hatfield.

When Allis died in 1691, the town reached out to Northampton merchant/fur trader Joseph Parsons Sr. to complete the mill. Sheldon thought the millstone still on display in Memorial Hall's front yard was in action by late December 1692. By 1700, however, the mill had vanished, most likely destroyed by Native warriors.

By the time Deerfield hostilities had settled down enough for the construction of a new grist mill, millwrights favored closer sites on the Deerfield and Green rivers, which doesn't mean the Mill River mill site grew obsolete. To the contrary, Sheldon identifies a Phelps sawmill standing there in his day, 200 years later.

Sheldon's assertion was supported more recently in the November 2020 obituary of a man who bought the old mill site in 1971 and built a home on the west bank, not to mention a bridge leading to it. The obit identifies the deceased's property as the site of *three* sawmills, which is an understatement: Three different owners operated a sawmill there during the last third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century alone.

Since learning of the 1692 Allis/Parsons corn mill, I had many times entered into historical discussion about the site, describing my memories of its layout, with a dam leading across the stream to a pile of mill rubble on the opposite bank. Although an informed abutter I have



PETER THOMAS PHOTO

*Stonework on the west bank of the Mill River in Deerfield once framed a dam that powered a series of mills.*

known for many years told me the rubble disappeared long ago, I had never bothered to investigate. Thus, I was not prepared for what I recently discovered.

After more than a half-century, I found that the stream and scene had changed dramatically. There was no dam, no waterfall, no deep channel above or pool below.

*Hmmmm?*

Could it be that after so many years, my memory was confusing the site with old mill sites on other trout streams from my fishing past? It wasn't impossible, but I didn't think so. Still, it was a vexing issue.

Because the site is well-hidden from Route 116 travelers, I had never caught a glimpse of the home resting on a secluded terrace across the stream, or the bridge leading to it. Those features, for starters, stuck out during my recent visit. Then, upon closer inspection from the bridge, it was immediately obvious that much else had changed as well. Thinking on my feet, I mentioned the perceived changes to Thomas but was not totally certain. Maybe I was misremembering.

Still perplexed a few days later, I finally placed a phone call to the aforementioned informed abutter, whom I knew would set me straight. He confirmed that there was once a dam and a narrow 10-foot water-

fall, with a deep channel above and a splash pool below. He, too, had caught many nice squaretails and rainy-day brownies above and below the dam.

"Don't worry," he assured me, "you're right on point. A flood took out the dam, some stonework, and the first bridge built there. It wasn't [hurricanes] Irene or Katrina – before that. The first bridge was a bad idea. It sat on culverts, resting atop layers of loam that had accumulated for centuries above the dam. The bridge was low. Floodwater overwhelmed it and washed out everything, including the old dam."

How about the rubble? Did he recall the wooden remains, the decaying roof truss and rusty sprocket wheels strewn on the opposite bank?

No. That was before his time. His father would remember them, though. Unfortunately, the man's not available for comment. Maybe they were swept away, too. Or maybe the homeowner beat Mother Nature to the clean-up chore.

So, there you have it – the tale of the old Allis/Parsons mill, and a downstream farm below. The Mill River runs through them. The mill is gone, but not forgotten. After 330 years, sturdy streamside stonework survives, and the legend lives on.



from floral to landscape, abstract to realistic, Art Nouveau-inspired to original designs. Through May.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Cold Water and Millicent: Nancy Meagher*, oil paintings of water and color pencil drawings from her historical fiction book for children, featuring a fish named Millicent. Through May 28.

**A.P.E. Gallery, Northampton:** *Phyllis Kornfeld's Cellblock Visions*, artwork created by incarcerated people Kornfeld has worked with since 1983. Through May 29.

**Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Drawing with Light*, photographs by Bill Arnold; *The Kurds*, paintings by Charles Miller; *Peace Song Art*, paintings by Robert Markey; *Like Lace*, new work by Beth Ann Bezio; *A Peaceful Place*, paintings by Emerald Glenn. All through May 31.

**Brattleboro Museum & Art Center:** Work by M. Carmen Lane, Roberto Visani, Yvette Molina, Mildred Beltré Martínez, Sachiko Akiyama, Louisa Chase, and Anne Spalter. Information at [www.brattleboromuseum.org](http://www.brattleboromuseum.org).



## Surviving Breast Cancer

By Julie Cunningham

### Part 24: A Late But Happy Mother's Day

**AMHERST** – Mother's Day was special to me this year because of what it represented. On Mother's Day last year, I was bald and beginning to wear wigs – and boy, was it *hot. Hot hot hot.* Wigs are not convenient. You have to either glue them on or wear a hat, or tighten the wig so tight it hurts your head. You have to wear wig caps that give you a headache, and to top it all off, if it's warm outside your body temperature skyrockets.

So last year I was feeling uncomfortable and looking into a year of treatment, chemo, and surgery. I wasn't sure how everything would go, or what they would find. And sure enough, it turned out to be a long year.

However, I made it. This year, just sitting at lunch with my real hair and not sweating was a gift. It's really odd how the little things matter.

This year, my small human made me a bookmark at school, and I loved it. We spent the day together, and aside from a mishap at Walmart, it was a perfect day.

Leave it to Walmart to almost ruin a perfect Monday. The reason it was almost a disaster is I'm leaving tomorrow with my small human to Disney. I need my license to get on the airplane, and my debit card to pay for things. So after an almost perfect Mother's Day, I took Hunter to Walmart to buy some shorts and some pants. He's going through pants really quick, ripping holes in all of them while playing, so I needed cheap pants quickly.

Enter Walmart in New Hampshire – I won't name the exact town where this took place. Hunter and I went through the store and got him three pairs of shorts, one pair of pants, and one shirt. I got some fruit and some cat treats, and it was reasonably pleasant and quick getting through the self-checkout. It was a bit chaotic because Hunter wasn't behaving, but I had the situation handled.

We left, and I packed the bags, my small human, and my purse into the car. Right before I turned the key to leave, I thought to check to make sure I had my wallet. I had my phone and all the other necessities I had packed, but no wallet. The thing is, I knew I just had it because I had paid for everything.

I got Hunter out of the car and went to the self-checkout again. With very little sense of urgency, the person managing the self-checkout told me in a lackluster voice that there was no wallet, and I had to go to the customer service counter. My heart pounding, we walked over. I

was behind a woman and her adult son and I watched the only woman behind the counter ignore me while she was on the phone. She was just staring at the wall, not moving, not making any expression. So I spoke.

"Excuse me, I lost my wallet, can you help?" I asked. I got zero response. She didn't even look. So I tried again.

"Excuse me, I lost my wallet. I need some urgency here, this is a big deal." I didn't say anything about the upcoming vacation, but I knew if they didn't find it I had to call the police. I wanted to make sure they knew this was an urgent matter. If I did have to call the police, I could at least say I tried as hard as I could to find the wallet, but received very little help from the workers. At that moment, I turned to the greeter, who saved the day.

"Excuse me! I lost my wallet. I need some help." I said.

At that point the woman in front of me chose to snap. "*Be patient!*" she snapped.

I ignored her completely. The man who was the greeter got a manager, and the manager began to help. She walked over to the self-checkout: no wallet. I told her that I was going to go check in my car one more time. One more time. Just in case. Because sometimes when you're stressed and not thinking you miss something.

So I walked out, and there was my wallet on the hood of my car – a place I would never have put it – with everything in it. It was creepy, but I was grateful. I'm assuming someone found it, watched me walk to my car, and placed it on the hood hoping I would find it before it escalated.

I walked back in and thanked the manager for her help, and reminded myself that it's Walmart. I can't expect good customer service. But if I had lost my wallet, there was little chance of replacing my Real ID in time to get on the plane tomorrow, or my debit card in time unless I went directly to my bank and waited.

The last time I did that, they couldn't verify my signature, because I had changed it, and they asked me if I remembered the woman who set me up with my bank account – 35 years ago, when I was two years old and my mom got me a savings account for college. No, I did not remember her name. Nor did I remember the account number of the savings account I had closed a few years earlier. Or any of the odd questions they asked.

So, I didn't want to go through that again. Thankfully, it all worked out, and we are looking forward to what I hope is a great trip.

## EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Cast of Swans*, works on paper by printmaker and painter Karen Axtell. Through June 1. Reception this Saturday, May 28 at 1 p.m.

**Artspace Gallery, Greenfield:** *Fabric Art: Simplicity, Color, Motion*, floor-to-ceiling quilts and textiles by Dona "Holly" Hall. Through May.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *INteRotiNE*, drawings and paintings by Desi Lowit. Through May.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Tom Swetland*, collage, assemblage, mixed media, and junk sculpture of assembled found objects by self-taught artist and former Federal Street Bookstore owner Swetland. Through May.

**Hawks & Reed Ballroom, Greenfield:** *Submerged, an oceanic art odyssey* by mother and son artists Nina Rossi and Jon Bander. Mixed media, soft sculpture, paintings, welded metal sculpture, and ceramic works. Through June 15.

**Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *SEWN*, improvisational quilts by Sheryl Stroud; *Visual Sampler*, paintings by Louise Minks. Through May.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *Photography*, by New England photographers. Through June 12.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *2022 Quilt Group Show*, quilts by Timna Tarr, Lee Sproull, Carson Converse, Wen Redmond, Sarah Stroud, Ann Brauer, Carol Anne Grotrian, and Audrey Hyvonen. Through June 27.

**Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Grace in Motion: From the Beat of the Hoof to the Beat of the Drum*, paintings by Fabio and Sara Deponte. Through May.

**Local Art Gallery, Mill District, Amherst:** *Valley Artist Portraits*. Isabella Dellolio photographed 20 local artists for a project putting their portraits on Valley Bike kiosks. Through August 31.

**Greenfield Savings Bank, Amherst:** *History in the Making*, hooked rugs and wall hangings. Chris Pellerin's rugs range in style

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## FARMER from page B1

Of course, the traditional geraniums are good plants for grave-side planting and hanging baskets, but Suzanne also grows the smaller scented geraniums which, if you are not familiar with them, you might not realize *are* geraniums, as they are grown not so much for their flowers – which are smaller and more delicate – but for the scent and shape of their leaves. You can get ones that smell like lemon, mint, chocolate, apple, pine, spice, or other fragrances, and they are pretty carefree in the summer.

But a small farm needs to be flexible, so Hunting Hills also sells eggs, firewood, straw, hay, and to extend the selling season, wreaths – lots of wreaths – right up through the end of the year. In season, you may find rhubarb and asparagus, also.

The farm has regular customers who depend on the availability of all these products, and on the information about plants that Suzanne gladly shares with them. She has a compendium of knowledge about the plants and what they need, and if she doesn't have a particular plant someone wants, she probably knows where they can go to get it.

Suzanne listens to what her customers want. Last fall I asked her if she could have some Hungarian wax peppers for sale this spring because they are not easily found elsewhere; I have my peppers ready to plant this weekend because Suzanne made it possible.

Suzanne's partner, Jere Lively, works jointly with her in many of the farm's operations; they both mow fields, harvesting hay and straw. Jere also brings some special skills which Suzanne says make it possible for the farm to continue running well. He maintains the tractors and other equipment, which is critical, and he builds what they need for the business. Last year he built new benches to display the plants, which Suzanne really likes. He built the chickens a new "chicken condo," and he cuts the firewood which they sell. He also makes birdhouses.

Suzanne says she and Jere work really well together, which makes life so much easier. Both of them also hold down outside jobs to supplement the farm income, particularly in the off season.

Something Suzanne considers equally important that she learned from her family is the obligation to one's community, something she has certainly acted on. She was the first woman to be an active member of the Montague Center volunteer fire department. There isn't room



MORAN PHOTOS

Kretzenger stocks lots of her favorite geraniums.

here to tell the story of how she helped rescue a family from a flood caused by the severe storm and flood of June 1996, but you should ask her, it's quite a tale!

She also has been a town meeting member, served on the board of health, was a library trustee, and has been a poll worker at election time. For years she put the barrel of flowers in front of the Montague Center library branch and cared for it through the season; now the Friends of the Library have taken over that task, from Suzanne's example.

Suzanne plants flowers on the town green, takes flowers to May Day for people to wear, sets up a place on the green for trick-or-treaters on Halloween eve, and used to sponsor an Easter egg hunt, until it got so big the town developed their own event. She supports church events and any other activities of the village that need a hand.

Another tale too long to tell here is how she and another town treasure, Ralph Rau, and his tow truck saved a tree on the town green which Suzanne had originally planted; it had been completely toppled over by a car accident. They succeeded, and the tree is still there and growing, years later.

From talking with her, one gets a feeling for the two most important community interactions she has these days. One is as an educator to everyone, including agencies like DCR, about conservation, soil management, the need to preserve farmland, and so on. The other is the need for everyone to pitch in

and pick up roadside trash.

Suzanne has regular routes she travels in the area – "I don't necessarily stop at the town limits sign," she says – getting rid of all the nip bottles and fast food remains, and general litter and junk, her comment being "if everyone could just stop and pick up some of it, our community would be even more beautiful." Sigh... And she also, just because she is kind, will leave vases of flowers at friends' houses at random times.

Her greeting to folks is often "Hey neighbor" – not because they live next door, but because we are all in this together. While we were doing the interview for this article, a fellow in a pickup truck came in and shyly said, "I know you don't have the bakery anymore, but I remember when you did, and I hope you have something I can buy to eat because I didn't have time to get lunch." Suzanne explained that they didn't sell ready-to-eat food, but she went to a basket and pulled up a couple packets of dried fruit and gave them to him, declining any money, so he bought some asparagus and went away happy, saying, "You're the best." She keeps that basket available, she told me, because he's not the only one who comes by, and she wants to be able to help.

Hunting Hills is open for business seven days a week, and Suzanne and Jere are there most of the time during the busy selling season. They do not accept credit cards at any time, and they have also set up a method for self-service, with instructions written by the money box. The plants all labeled and priced. She also has installed a camera security system and says she has caught a few thieves, gotten her belongings back, and reported them to the police. She is running a business, not a charity.

Running a farm is an ongoing source of pride and anxiety. One gets to be one's own boss, make the decisions, and have that sense of control. But due to a bad decision, or bad weather and other things one can't control, one can quickly be on the brink of financial disaster. One has to be smart and careful, and a bit of luck doesn't hurt. Suzanne Kretzenger is smart and careful, and Hunting Hills has been here for almost 60 years.

Support your local farmers! They help – in a big way – to make this such a wonderful place to live.



## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

### Sixteen Vehicles Driven Badly; Several Others Just Seem Suspicious

#### Friday, 4/1

10:35 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway states a tractor trailer is tailgating, speeding, and unable to maintain the lane.

11:25 a.m. Served paperwork, Walnut Street.

12:19 p.m. Returned license plate found on roadside to resident on Main Road.

3:37 p.m. Montague PD transferred a call about a vehicle driving erratically over the bridge toward Gill.

6:41 p.m. Caller from Chappell Drive requested that an officer pick up some bullets he found in the house.

#### Saturday, 4/2

6:40 p.m. Welfare check, French King Highway. Located two adults and a child down by water while dam was open. Concerns due to water levels.

#### Sunday, 4/3

3:31 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with accident on Gulf Road. Rollover with vehicle into a tree and injuries.

#### Monday, 4/4

2:02 a.m. Caller from Center Road reported his unoccupied vehicle rolled out of the driveway, across the street, and down ten feet into a ditch.

10:44 a.m. Medical emergency, French King Highway.

11:06 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway states that he is an assessor, currently being followed by a party in a silver Chevy sedan who tried to run him off the road, and is in fear for his life.

#### Tuesday, 4/5

1:16 p.m. Received a report to be on the lookout for a ten-wheeler tractor trailer last seen getting on Route 91 northbound from Route 2. Truck is driving all over the road and may be continuing on Route 2 eastbound.

3:46 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance on North Street.

#### Wednesday, 4/6

12:18 a.m. Medical emergency on Boyle Road, unwitnessed fall.

10:30 a.m. Caller from Boyle Road reported a chlorine-type smell. Checked area, unable to locate smell.

7:55 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance on the French King Highway.

#### Thursday, 4/7

5 p.m. Dog bite reported on Main Road.

8:21 p.m. Assisted Northfield PD with breaking and entering on Caldwell Road.

#### Friday, 4/8

5:30 p.m. Assisted

Montague PD. Montague dispatch advised their units are tied up and requested that

Gill PD check Fourth Street for kids fighting.

Checked area. Lots of kids out, no fighting.

5:43 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with respondent person.

#### Saturday, 4/9

1:07 p.m. Removed piece of metal from the French King Highway.

7:44 p.m. Call from the French King Highway about a Subaru and Accord that were all over the road and may have been racing.

#### Sunday, 4/10

9:29 a.m. Assisted Erving PD with disturbance, Old State Road.

10:57 a.m. Tree on wires, Pisgah Mountain Road. Road not blocked.

#### Monday, 4/11

5:01 p.m. Welfare check for Erving PD.

#### Thursday, 4/14

1:58 p.m. Caller from French King Highway asked to speak to an officer about someone stealing his stonewall.

3:32 p.m. Assisted water department on Main Road.

3:41 p.m. Caller from Main Road advises a camper with no plate or inspection sticker has been in the lot for two days, would like an officer to determine if someone is living in it.

#### Friday, 4/15

12 a.m. Caller struck a deer on French King Highway. No injuries.

10:52 a.m. Two-car accident reported on the French King Highway.

6:58 p.m. Caller reported three motorcycles parked in the middle of Route 2 on the French King Bridge.

#### Saturday, 4/16

11:39 a.m. Caller from Mountain Road reported that he was having a small campfire along the high-tension lines and now has a brush fire.

9:26 p.m. 911 hangup from Trenholm Way. On callback, spoke with a female party who said it was a phone issue.

3:23 p.m. Report of a white Jeep being driven erratically on French King Highway.

#### Monday, 4/18

3:30 p.m. Caller reporting a vehicle heading toward Gill passing multiple vehicles at once in a no-passing zone, almost getting into an accident.

#### Tuesday, 4/19

6:13 a.m. Suspicious

vehicle reported parked in an unusual location on the Gill side of the French King Bridge.

10:10 a.m. Loose dog, Main Road.

#### Wednesday, 4/20

3:23 p.m. Montague dispatch took a report of a Hyundai with a sprayed-over license plate at the lights in Gill and continuing eastbound on Route 2.

#### Thursday, 4/21

11:59 a.m. Unwanted person reported on Highland Road.

4:23 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with disturbance on West Main Street.

#### Friday, 4/22

4:24 p.m. Multiple callers reported an accident with injuries between a car and a motorcycle on the French King Highway.

9:42 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported on the French King Bridge.

#### Saturday, 4/23

1:16 p.m. Suspicious vehicle reported for a few days in the area of Lyons Hill and Center roads.

2:45 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with two-car accident, with injuries, on Northfield and Turners Falls roads.

6:47 p.m. Assisted Orange PD with arrest on French King Highway.

#### Monday, 4/25

3:32 p.m. Welfare check on the French King Bridge.

4:25 p.m. Caller reported an unattended campfire in the fields at Pisgah Mountain and River roads.

6:49 p.m. Officer requested for a small boat stuck in the sand bank on the river. Boater states he is all set; he has a cell phone, and will call 911 if he needs assistance.

#### Wednesday, 4/27

12:25 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway said she stopped to have lunch and when she went to start her car it wouldn't start.

#### Thursday, 4/28

8:15 a.m. Suspicious person reported at store on the French King Highway.

11:01 a.m. Helped Erving PD with unwanted person, Old State Road.

#### Friday, 4/29

10:04 p.m. 911 misdial from Pisgah Mountain and River roads. No need for fire, police, or ambulance.

#### Saturday, 4/30

11:40 a.m. Dog barking complaint from West Gill Road.

6:39 p.m. Officer requested on Main Road to help clerk with a possible false ID.



Jere Lively, Kretzenger's partner, with the sweet farm dog Daisy.

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the  
poetry  
page

It is difficult  
to get the news from poems  
yet men die miserably every day  
for lack  
of what is found there.

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno  
Readers are invited to send poems to the  
*Montague Reporter* at: 177 Avenue A  
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# Our May Poetry Page

## Best Seller

*After reading of Weetamoo and Mary Rowlandson*

Near bloody, searing apex of cruel two years of war,  
a privileged white woman became a fawning beggar.

Her Native captor, sachem, repeated set examples:  
foraging the forest, setting up her tipi.

Reaching nether regions far from either's homeland,  
immersed in wooded silence except for freshet river.

The queen would sometimes dress and paint in many colors.  
Her subject criticized her as Biblically ungodly.

When time it came at last for thrall emancipation,  
they did not say goodbye, the gulf was just too deep.

White woman reunited. Indian later drowned.  
The story – a best seller – prerogative of victor.

– Michael Bosworth  
Brattleboro

## Ball Playing, Byberry Mental Hospital, 1926

A game of baseball, Sunday afternoon,  
when orderlies were free to jump right in  
and mix with many patients waiting soon  
for chance to strut their stuff in front of kin.  
At Byberry most had known psychosis mess  
yet able still to swing the bat, to burst  
in running fast - all kinds of nervousness  
would disappear in scrambling down to first.  
The female clients watched from distant perch.  
The doctors also played, were booed and bowed.  
A challenged patient could not run but lurched,  
then firmly stood on base, he looked so proud.  
Though in the game the team of inmates lost,  
they went for broke, with only home uncrossed.

– Michael Bosworth  
Brattleboro

## All My Relations

Thru the woods and down to the lake shore  
I am walking where many have walked before:  
The deer, the bobcat, the beaver, the squirrel,  
The Native Peoples and all our animal Relations...  
The small birds fly from tree branch to tree top,  
Waterfowl glide swiftly upon sunlit the waters —  
The ducks, the loons, the geese with their babies,  
All wild creatures come to drink of these waters,  
These sacred waters that are called Leverett Pond —  
But the poison of the White Man's Way is now coming,  
Those who do not look to the future where we are all Ancestors...

The White Man says that the weeds are a nuisance:  
So the only way is to add poison to the pond waters —  
The deer, the geese, the beaver don't know how to read,  
Nor did our little dog, who drank the waters and died...  
Why are there are so fewer babies than there were before?  
And what of the eggs with soft shells that don't hatch?  
What of the frogs, turtles, salamanders who never return?  
What of the secret swimmers in the dark depths of waters  
Who hide in the gently waving green fronds and grasses —  
Who will remember the Life that was once here before?  
Who will speak for those who cannot speak with spoken tongue?

The White man says that poison is the only way:  
So we need the herbicides to make way for the boats —  
More boats are coming, so more weeds must be cleared!  
The boats must go thru, so more pond life must be killed!  
But more is killed by these chemicals than the milfoil weeds,  
The milfoil grows in deep waters, is not so much affected,  
But the Life of the Pond suffers the tragedy of its loss...  
This loss winds its way down to the Seventh Generation  
From the White Man's Way that would poison our Mother...  
Thru the woods are down to the lake shore, I must go once more  
With salt tears, I am walking where many have walked before...

We are all connected, all Life on Mother Earth,  
Ho. Mitakuye Oyasin. All My Relations.

– Sarah Greenleaf  
Wendell

## I Ask the Trees

Listening to the news,  
Drinking morning coffee,  
Wet rain, chilly cold this late in our Southern New England Spring.

Staring out the window,  
Looking at the trees.  
Defiantly green, do they even notice this out of season day?

I wish for spring's renewal  
Its promise of hope,  
but I see only bitter cold & leftover winter sleet.

Clickbait, likebait, provoke.  
Black Lives. White Lives. Either way it's mostly hate.  
This morning's news has only grievance to share.

But come spring, trees still turn  
From winter gray to summer green  
Why don't trees, like me, feel out of place in this soulless world

"Tell me your secret"  
I ask the trees,  
And then I stand politely, hopefully waiting for an answer.

And year after year seasons circle {—  
die, sleep, awake, try again;  
} forever repeating;

Slowly, tentatively, I begin to grow  
Tendrils above and roots below.  
Tiptoeing past the barriers of what confines my mind

I am older now than many trees.

And all the angst that dominated my world  
Has blurred into non-existence.

As a tree, I see further.  
There is always hope

– Kathleen Morris  
Lexington

**Special Note:** This issue goes to press 346 years after the Great Falls Massacre. Perhaps coincidentally, perhaps not, two contributors sent in poems that to my mind, resonate and reflect on the fraught legacy of the long Anglo-American-Native American conflict. I am pleased to offer these poems, and the others, in the spirit of Emily Dickinson who wrote: "It takes a poet to distill amazing sense / From ordinary meanings."

## Contributors' Notes

After a gap of almost 50 years, retiree **Michael Bosworth** has returned to creative writing with renewed enthusiasm. He had poems published in two collections in 2021: *A 21st Century Plague* and *Poems in the Time of Covid*.

**Sarah Greenleaf** grew up in Leverett and has often enjoyed the beauty of Leverett Pond. She encourages people to stand up for our Mother Earth at this time, especially in protecting her Waters. She advocates that people listen to the voices of women and Native people at this time for solutions to the World's problems, and to the voices of those who cannot speak in words, All Our Relations.

**Kathleen Morris** writes: "I have been a great fan of the *Montague Reporter* since 20 years ago when I read the story of the boat that nearly went over the falls in Turners Falls. Even though I live in Lexington, I read the *Reporter* every week."

ALEXANDER ROTONDO PHOTO

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# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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#### THURSDAY, MAY 26

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *NOW Music Variety Show* feat. Taylor Mickens, Andy Robinson, Zoe Tuck, more. \$ 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Carcass, Creeping Death*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Maurice Louca*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masala Jazz*. 9 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 27

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Ravenwood String Band*. Free. 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Fred Cracklin, First Children, Bricklayer*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Gaslight Tinkers*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Men in Motion*, male revue. \$ 9 p.m.

#### FRI-SUN, MAY 27-29

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Solid Sound Festival* feat. Wilco, Bonnie "Prince" Billy, Terry Allen, Sylvan Esso, Iceage, Eleventh Dream Day, Sun Ra Arkestra, Nels Cline, many more. \$ See [solidsoundfestival.com](http://solidsoundfestival.com) for info.

Camp Keewanee, Greenfield: *StrangeCreek* feat. *Dumpstaphunk, Max Creek, Badfish,*

*Consider the Source, Bella's Bartok, Adam Ezra Group, Formula Shortage* and many more. \$ See [strangecreekcampout.com](http://strangecreekcampout.com) for info.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 28

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Eleanor Levine*. Free. 6 p.m.

Hitchcock Brewing Co., Bernardston: *Rosie Porter and the Neon Moons*. Free. 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Phantom Erratic #19* feat. *Beam Splitter, Matriarch, Funhole*. \$ 8 p.m.; *Hyper/Happy/Hard* feat. *DJs Angelfish, Bad Virgo, nusa-gi*. \$ 10 p.m.

Hutghi's At the Nook, Westfield: *Wishful Thinking, Scott Helland* *Guitar Army of One, Musclicah*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Opel, Whalom Park*. 9 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, MAY 29

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Sunday Sessions*: outdoor party to benefit Touch the Sky, with *DJs Heartballoon, Lena Meginsky, and DJ Mike*. Free. 3 p.m. Indoors, *Ditrani Brothers, Olivia Nied*. \$ 8 p.m.

Amherst Cinema, Amherst: Screening, *Freakscene: The Story of Dinosaur Jr*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Freakscene Afterparty* feat. *DJs J. Mascis, Louisa and Phillip Reichenheim*. \$ 9 p.m.

#### MONDAY, MAY 30

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Made-*

*line Goldstein, Pregnant, Clock Serum, Dutch Experts*. \$ 7 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1

Look Park, Northampton: *The Head and the Heart, Jade Bird*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 2

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *NRBQ, Jake Manzi*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 3

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Annie Brobst*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 4

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Fun Fest* feat. *Lorena Garay and Surcari, Carrie Ferguson's Grumpytime Club Band, Akwaaba Ensemble*. Free. 12 p.m.

Young Men's Club of Hadley: *Country In the Country*, feat. *Rodney Atkins, Craig Campbell, Lindsey LaBelle*, and more. \$ 3 p.m.

Mystery Train Records, Amherst: *Allysen Callery, id m thetable, Jeff Gallagher, J. Burkett, Owen Manure*. Free. 5 p.m.

Four Star Farms, Northfield: *Ragged Blue*. Free. 6:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Tracy & The Valley Revival*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Birthday Ass, EIEIEIO, The Leafies You Gave Me*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Christine Ohlman, Rebel Montez*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Yemen*

*Blues*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 5

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Dearest Hearts, Hoonah, The Library Band, James Bird*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Sam Moss, Eleanor Buckland*. \$ 7 p.m.

#### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *NRBQ, Jake Manzi*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Central Heat Exchange, The Musical Chairs, Lost Film*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Marlon Asher*. \$ 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *Circuit Des Yeux, Dutch Experts, Humanbeast*. \$ 8 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Jonathan Richman*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 10

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Superchunk, Torres*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 11

Unity Park, Turners Falls: *Unity Park Festival & Maker's Market*, with *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$ 2 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *The Green Sisters*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 12

Belltower Recs, North Adams: *Major Stars, Headroom, Emily Robb, Blues Ambush*. \$ 5 p.m.

#### TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *The Zappa Band*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 16

The Drake, Amherst: *The Slip*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 17

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Bill Frisell & Thomas Morgan duo*. \$ 6 and 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Rendezvous, Sarah Donner, Carrissa Johnson*. 9 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 18

Nova Arts, Keene: *Kristin Hersh, Fred Abong*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Brattleboro Youth Rock Festival* feat. *Pencil Biters, Golden Marilyn, Big Destiny, Granite Danes, Man Made Tragedies, Moxie*. \$ 7 p.m.

Belltower Recs, North Adams: *Baldwin/Silbert Duo, Matt Weston, Lucia Stavros, Daniel o'Connor*. \$ 7 p.m.

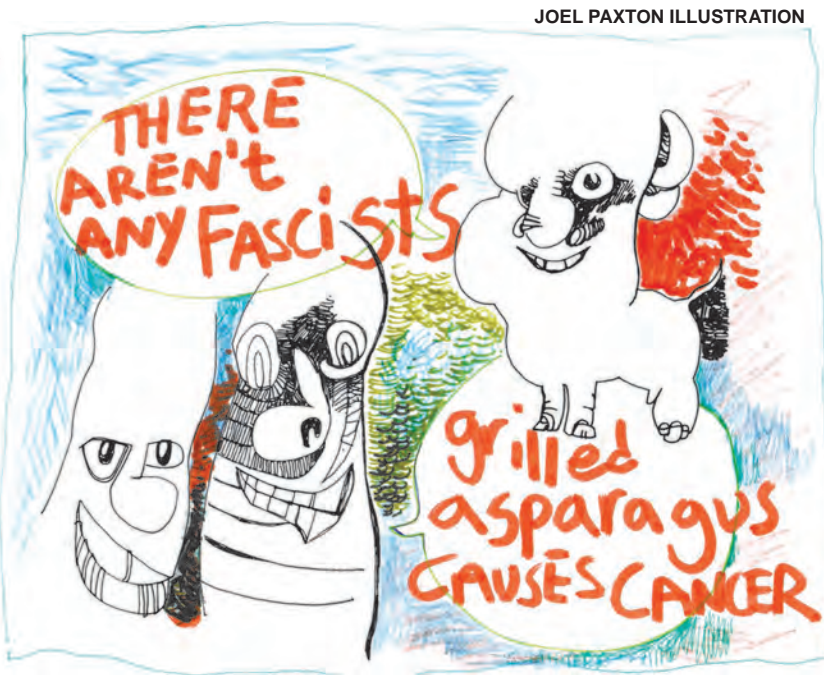
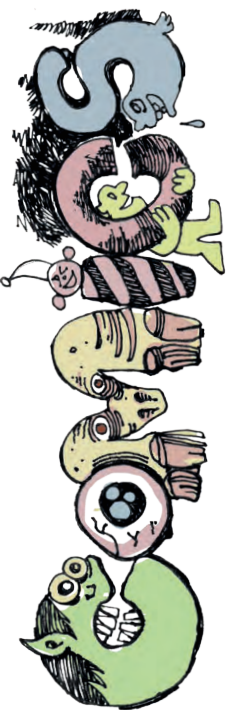
Mount Toby Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Mara Levine, Gathering Time*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *James Montgomery Blues Band, Muddy Ruckus*. \$ 8 p.m.

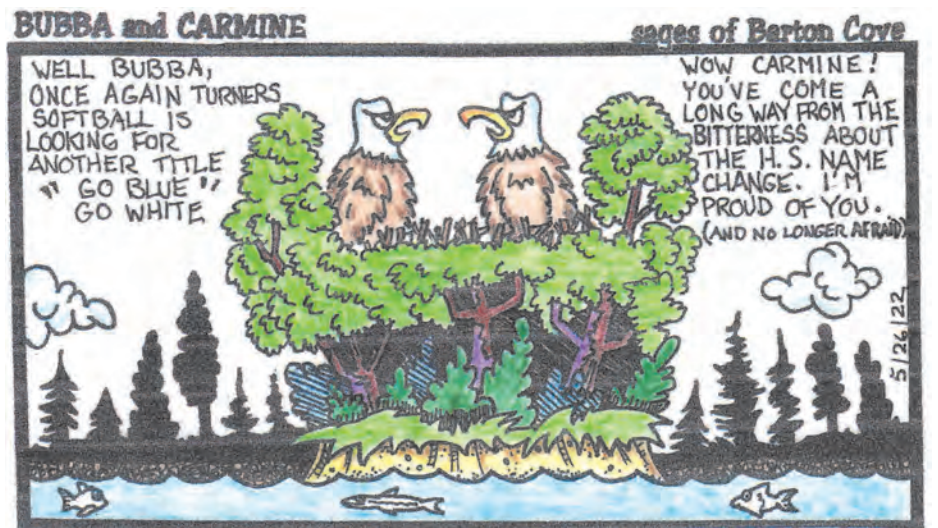
1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Beth Logan Raffeld Quintet*. \$ 8 p.m.

#### SUNDAY, JUNE 19

Palladium, Worcester: *George Clinton, Parliament-Funkadelic, Dopapod*, more. \$ 4:30 p.m.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION



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**TRAVELS** from page B1

view, as we were off to a small boat in the Forillon National Park to meet some humpback whales with *Croisieres Baie de Gaspé*.

I wondered when I got up to the dock where the big whale-watching boat was. We were accustomed to the large two-level vessels that ply the waters of Cape Cod and New Brunswick, but this time our boat was open, and with a much smaller number of passengers, around 19. The captain explained that with an open boat fewer people get seasick, and it's much easier to spot the whales when there are no walls around.

We headed out with gray, foreboding skies, and in just a matter of minutes it began to rain. But we were equipped: everyone wore the company-issued, long yellow rain slickers. The torrent began, and lightning flashed and thunder rolled.

But as the cheery French-only speaking naturalist guide said, "Like children, we will enjoy the trip; we won't let the rain keep us from having fun." (The morning whale watches have English-speaking guides, too). And when the first

of about 20 humpbacks made their appearance, we were all pleased to agree, it was well worth it!

Forillon National Park has miles of trails and beaches to roam, including the very tip of the peninsula, Land's End. Cap Bon Ami features dramatic soaring cliffs and you can sometimes spot whales right off the coast. In Cap des Rosiers, a long boardwalk skirts the rugged seaside..

**Touring the Coastline**

Like many visitors, our destinations in Gaspésie would take us up along the northern coast, where 15 lighthouses dot Route 132. The road winds past sparkling beaches, beautiful vistas, and wide-open farm fields.

We stopped for two nights at Sainte-Anne-des-Monts, a perfect place to explore both the mysteries of St. Lawrence and the Gaspésie National Park. Our accommodations here were sleek and modern. Hôtel et Cie and its restaurant, La Broue dans l'Toupet, fit the bill perfectly.

Exploramer is a place where you can discover many interesting things about the sea; an exhibit about sharks was fascinating, and a lot of it was hands-on, making it perfect for travelers with kids. With their own JV Exploramar vessel that takes visitors for a 90-minute excursion out into the St. Lawrence, you can learn about oceanography and fishing, traditions that go way back in this town. Sadly, on the day we visited there were blowing winds that kept the boat tied up at the dock.

But we did get a chance to tour the shark exhibit and see the local aquatic life in their circular aquarium, including a rare blue lobster and all manner of crustaceans and touch pools. Guide Patrick Kenney told us the region's Blue Fork sustainable seafood program, lists 40 species that are not endangered, including whelk, Stimpson clams, seal meat, dulse, and turbot. Yes, the seal is one of the most abundant species found here.

Exhilarated by the surroundings, we drove inland into Gaspésie National Park, which is about 60 km long, in the center of the peninsula. A briefing with a guide directed us to the trail leading to the Lac aux Américains, named for geologists who once worked here.

An easy hike revealed the beautiful pristine lake, and next to it a rustic cabin that looked like it would be a good place to stay for the night. There are many options for rustic camping, semi-serviced camping, and canoeing here.

Following the ranger's tip, we headed next to the top of Mont Ernest-Laforce, where soon we were face to face with a female moose! While we sat in awe, up ahead a second moose stood even closer by the trail, munching on weeds and oblivious to our clicking cameras.

The commanding view was 360 degrees of green, an incredible reward for the hike, with more moose on the way down.

**Percé Rock**

Our itinerary took us out of Gaspésie and into the Bas-Saint-Laurent region for a night when we visited Rimouski, a lively town of around 50,000 residents on the river with the Promenade de la Mer, a walkway featuring two-level seating areas to watch the impressive sunsets when the tide goes out about a quarter of a mile. On the night we were visiting, a 10-day street festival was still underway, with pedestrians only and beer stands on every corner.

It was just eight miles to the east that in 1914, a ship carrying thousands of passengers sank, and we learned all about the tragedy at the Pointe-au-Père Maritime Historic Site the next morning. The *Empress of Ireland* was mostly filled with Irish and other European immigrants returning to the continent when a coal ship collided with the vessel in fog, and more than 1,000 perished, almost as many as in the Titanic sinking.



HARTSHORNE PHOTO.

*Gannets at Bonaventure Island.*

The building housing the museum is built to resemble what the doomed ship looked like when it was found by divers in the 1960s, with a cantilevered shape resembling the broken vessel.

Canada's second-tallest lighthouse awaits here, with 128 steps to climb and an exhibit of photographs covering 50 years of underwater archeology at Parks Canada.

Our road trip continued south to Percé, one of the most beautiful towns in Gaspé. Maybe it's that rock... the Percé Rock, which dominates the view offshore, and to its right Bonaventure Island, where hundreds of thousands of gannets nest and raise their young atop the rocky cliffs.

We found Percé to be a fun town, with a main street reminiscent of Ogunquit in Maine. Its center might just be the La Maison du Pêcheur, where a big line snakes out the door every night. The seafood restaurant is right on the water, and was recently renovated after a winter storm tore off its front. Our lobsters and the ambiance were just perfect; in fact, we came back the next day to have lunch after touring Bonaventure Island.

If you visit Percé, besides gawking at the marvelous rock, taking the excursion with Les Bateliers

de Percé is a fantastic day trip. You get close-up views of the rock, and then you're dropped off at Parc National de L'île Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Percé, where 250,000 nesting birds reside. First, you can view the birds as they squawk and alight from the tall cliffs on the ocean-facing side, then you can hike to the edge and see them up close atop Bonaventure Island.

It takes about two hours. Bird lovers will be enthralled at seeing all the gannets up close.

Another nearby attraction that is very popular is the Géoparc de Percé, perched atop a mountain facing the river. It has a suspended platform with a glass floor that's guaranteed to make you queasy, but the view is pretty killer. There are also exhibits about local fossils and a fun indoor play area for kids.

Gaspé, or Gaspésie, is indeed a destination you'll never forget. Some day Americans might just get around to discovering it. But for now, you'll have it mostly to yourself, so go!

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



**WEBSITES**

**About visiting Gaspé:**

[www.tourisme-gaspesie.com/en/](http://www.tourisme-gaspesie.com/en/)

**Québec Maritime:**

[www.quebecmaritime.ca](http://www.quebecmaritime.ca)

**Marine life activity center:**

[www.exploramer.qc.ca/en](http://www.exploramer.qc.ca/en)

**Whale-watching boat:**

[www.baleines-forillon.com/en/](http://www.baleines-forillon.com/en/)

**La Maison du Pecheur review:**

[tinyurl.com/LaMaison-Pecheur-Perce](http://tinyurl.com/LaMaison-Pecheur-Perce)

**Québec's official tourism site:**

[www.quebecoriginal.com](http://www.quebecoriginal.com)

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