

# The Montague Reporter

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2022

## Candle Estate for Sale, Well Over Assessed Value

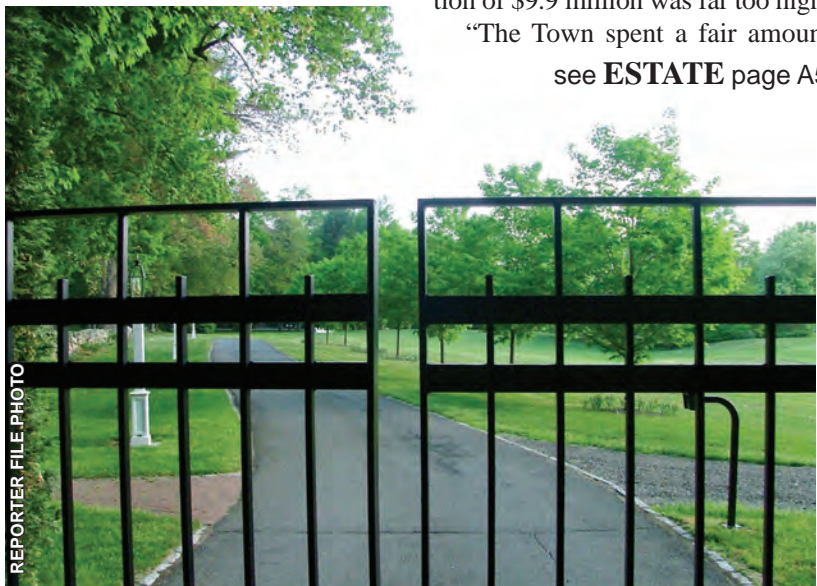
By SARAH ROBERTSON

**LEVERETT** – The sprawling estate built by the late founder of the Yankee Candle Company was listed for sale last month. The Juggler Meadow Road property includes a golf course, an indoor water park, an arcade, a spa, two giant garages for car collections, two guest houses, and a massive, six-bedroom

main house that reflects Michael J. Kittredge’s opulent taste and passion for entertaining guests. The asking price is \$23 million.

However, before he passed away in 2019, Kittredge appealed his property tax assessment with the town of Leverett multiple times, more than once elevating the case to the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board, arguing that the town’s valuation of \$9.9 million was far too high. “The Town spent a fair amount

see **ESTATE** page A5



Is it ever really possible to put a dollar value on a home? Leverett may find out.

### NEWS ANALYSIS

## Hot Summer on Beacon Hill

By JEFF SINGLETON

**BOSTON** – On July 28, Massachusetts governor Charlie Baker approved a \$52.7 billion state budget, an increase of over 9% from the previous fiscal year. Two weeks later he signed climate and infrastructure bills with hefty price tags and significant policy changes.

Perhaps because all of this took place in the middle of a major heat wave, which many of us were attempting to escape, and while the *Reporter* was on its laid-back summer schedule, some of these de-

velopments may have fallen below our readers’ radars.

But we woke up last week to the reality that this legislation could have significant consequences in our region for years to come, so we have decided to pull together an end-of-the summer “Beacon Hill Update” to get us all up to speed.

### State Budget

Massachusetts, according to *Commonwealth Magazine*, was the last state to pass its budget for the 2023 fiscal year. The budget totaled

see **BEACON** page A6

### MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Ramsey Tapped; Former Cumby’s On Offer Again; Gas Is Expensive

By JEFF SINGLETON

Following up on a long discussion the previous week of two final candidates for the new position of assistant town administrator, the Montague selectboard voted on August 29 to follow a hiring committee’s recommendation and appoint Walter Ramsey, the current town planner, to the job. Other topics they discussed included rising energy prices, changing laws about cannabis revenue, and the fate of the long-abandoned “Cumby’s” building.

Chair Rich Kuklewicz said he would work with town administrator Steve Ellis on Ramsey’s transition to the new position, and the “next steps” in the process, hiring a new town planner. Ellis noted that the town planner is a union position, so “there may be contractual obligations that the town will have” in the hiring.

Energy issues dominated the meeting, including a discussion of the town’s contracts for locking in the price of natural gas and electricity. Ken McCance of Yolon Energy, a consultant who evaluates bids for towns, shared recent quotes for gas and electricity contracts with other

see **MONTAGUE** page A7

### GILL SELECTBOARD

## Pole Opposed; Police Station Weatherization Gets Rolling

By JERRI HIGGINS

A utility pole hearing held by the Gill selectboard at their Monday, August 29 meeting elicited a challenge from a neighbor. Other business included an update from the energy commission on a conservation project at the public safety complex, and the elimination of state funding of the six-town school regionalization planning board.

A hearing for Eversource Energy to install a utility pole on town property to provide service to a new house on Dole Road was continued to the September 12 selectboard meeting due to a neighbor’s concern about the pole’s proposed placement.

“Why do you have to set another pole?” Ernest Hastings asked.

“It would reduce the amount of tree clearing in the wetland,” Eversource Energy representative Austin Harpin told him.

“There is not tree trimming enough that would amount to diddly squat,” Hastings replied. “You are talking about a little house service, but you want to put two poles in front of another person’s house?”

Harpin responded that the new

see **GILL** page A8

### EVENT PLANNING

## Could Northfield Become The Next Soul Town?



A view from the southwest corner of the Moody Center property, where a Christian music festival is planned for next August. Organizers expect to draw as many as 4,000 concertgoers.

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** – If the hills around East Northfield are alive with the sound of music next August, it won’t be the town celebrating its 350th anniversary. A Christian music festival called SoulFest will be hosted by the Dwight L. Moody Center from August 3 to 5, 2023, and promoters expect upwards of 4,000 concert-goers.

They’ll watch and listen to groups named We Are Messengers, Seventh Day Slumber, and Skillet, a Wisconsin-based hard rock band that has sold 12 million albums and recently passed two billion streams.

“Whether you’re spiritual or an atheist or anti-God, music has a supernatural quality to it,” Skillet lead singer John Cooper told the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. “Every day on social media I see people say, ‘I don’t get this Jesus stuff, but your music makes me feel better.’”

Billed as New England’s largest Christian music festival, SoulFest drew over 10,000 fans to Gunstock Mountain in New Hampshire last month. They ate fried dough, posted prayers on

the “true love” wall, and rode the chairlift to watch bands play on the top of the mountain.

SoulFest general manager Patricia Ayersman described the scene for *New Hampshire Magazine*: “The physical cross is set up near the main stage for anyone to nail something to it that they’re struggling with and to let go of that burden. It’s one of the many beautiful ways you get a glimpse of how God is moving throughout the festival.”

This was SoulFest’s last gig at Gunstock, ending a 15-year run. “They were fine people,” said Gunstock general manager Tom Day. “They just didn’t fit our business model anymore.”

“They just didn’t want us back,” SoulFest founder Dan Russell told the *New Hampshire Union Leader*.

A Walpole native, Russell attended Barrington College, a Christian liberal arts school in Rhode Island. He co-founded Fingerprint Records and produced the compilation *Strong Hand of Love: A Tribute to Mark Heard*, which was Grammy-nominated for Best Rock Gospel Album in 1994.

Russell waited until the concert see **NORTHFIELD** page A5

### G-M REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

## District to Ask Montague for More Hillcrest Carpet Cash; Intends to Replace Building

By MIKE JACKSON

**GILL-MONTAGUE** – School began for staff on August 29 and students on September 1. On Tuesday, at the first school committee meeting of the new year, superintendent Brian Beck reported that “when students returned it was very different.... there wasn’t as much trepidation and so forth as last year.”

Incoming freshmen at Turners Falls High School, the Class of 2026, will face higher standardized testing requirements in English Language after the state adjusted its threshold. Math remains the same.

Locally, too, policies have been

tweaked, and the committee met with principals during August to approve updates to student handbooks. At the middle and high school, cell phones must be off in class, but they can be used at lunch and during passing periods. Members praised principal Christopher Barnes for the moderate approach.

“It’s going to be a challenge,” Barnes said. “I hope it’s not as challenging as it was last year.”

Lunch and milk prices have been bumped up, though this only concerns students going for seconds, as the state has declared breakfasts and lunches free for all students this year.

see **GMRSD** page A2

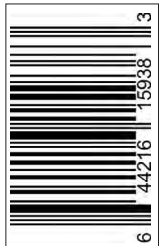
## UPSIDE-DOWN RAINBOW



Suzette Snow-Cobb of Turners Falls took this photo of a circumzenithal arc on Sunday, and credits kids playing in a downtown parking lot for spotting it first. Wikipedia explains that it “is an optical phenomenon similar in appearance to a rainbow, but belonging to the family of halos arising from refraction of sunlight through ice crystals, generally in cirrus or cirrostratus clouds, rather than from raindrops. The arc is located at a considerable distance (approximately 46°) above the observed Sun and at most forms a quarter of a circle centered on the zenith.”

### Okay, This Little Headline Thing Isn’t Going To Write Itself

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# The Montague Reporter

“The Voice of the Villages”

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August 2002

## Playing It Safe

MassDOT’s announcement this summer that it will replace the “White” bridge between Turners Falls and Greenfield sometime soon made us think to look back over the history of concerns over the bridge in that spot.

The “lower suspension bridge” lasted from 1871 to 1936, when it was swept away by a flood. We enjoyed both of these entries in our namesake paper, the Turners Falls Reporter, and we hope you will too.

Dwight Holden, the well-known Greenfield carpenter, says that two years ago he was employed by the Greenfield selectmen to do certain work on the lower suspension bridge, and that the result of his investigations convinced him the bridge must be decidedly unsafe.

He says that almost all the joists on the Greenfield side underneath the planking are rotten and have no strength, an dhas no doubt that some day, if the bridge is not properly repaired, a heavily loaded team will go through the bridge and down to the water fifty feet below.

Mr. Holden goes several miles out of his way in coming to Turners Falls, even when driving with a single team, rather than cross the bridge. One cause of the rotting of the timbers is that surface water runs down the hill on the Greenfield side and rests on the bridge. Sever-

al Greenfield people now take the Montague City bridge to get across the river.

(January 23, 1895)

There was a hearing yesterday morning before the County Commissioners upon the petition of voters of Greenfield and Montague asking that repairs be made on the lower suspension bridge over the Connecticut river at Turners Falls. The commissioners voted to have thorough repairs made at once and ordered that illuminated signs be placed at the ends of the structure to warn drivers against crossing with overloaded trucks.

It is a common practice for autos to go on to the bridge from the Greenfield hill around a blind curve at full speed, and across the bridge at such a rate that the noise can be distinctly heard at Montague City, any still night or day. Very common it is to see three heavy machines in a bunch in the centre of the bridge, all trying to pass each other in maniacal haste.

Until the authorities take strong measures to control the recklessness at a very bad danger point, we shall see the great American bolshevki [sic] persist in their death ride until the old bridge tumbles into the river with many human beings meeting a terrible end.

(June 19, 1918)

### GMRSD from page A1

Vaccine clinics will be held next Tuesday afternoon at Gill Elementary and next Thursday afternoon at the high school. Beck clarified that both COVID-19 and flu vaccines will be given.

Major flooring projects at Gill and Hillcrest elementary schools finished on time this summer, but the Hillcrest project hit at snag. Business manager Joanne Blier explained that after asbestos remediation was completed, it was discovered that another subfloor layer would have to be removed before new floors could be laid down.

This blew through the money meant for classroom carpets by \$41,562, and overshot the funds appropriated by \$13,390. To recoup losses and carpet, the district plans to ask for an additional \$60,000 at Monatgue’s October 13 special town meeting. The committee approved this by a 6-1 vote, with Nick Licata of Montague dissenting.

Hanging over the discussion was a projection that maintenance costs at Hillcrest will rise sharply in the

next few years, and an emerging plan to replace the school. The first step is for the school committee to approve sending a statement of interest to the Massachusetts School Building Association. They often reject projects at first, and often for four or five years.

Montague member Jennifer Waryas asked what would happen with those large projected costs if the state does not approve the application for five years. Everyone agreed that this was a concern. No vote was taken yet.


After meeting at reduced capacity for months, the committee received a letter of interest from Gill resident Cristina Marcalow to fill a vacant seat from her town. Marcalow attended Tuesday’s meeting and introduced herself, adding that she works at a textbook publishing company and plans to be careful about conflicts of interest.

The committee unanimously to appoint Marcalow to the seat.

The next meeting will be held Tuesday, September 20 via Zoom.



Vladimir Zaitsev of Sage Green Botanicals, an herbal apothecary located in Turners Falls, prepares house-made tinctures and custom tea blends.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

OP/ED

My Family’s Role in Erasing Native Presence in Massachusetts

By JANINE ROBERTS

**LEVERETT** – If you read Jean O’Brien’s (White Earth Ojibwe) book *Firsting and Lasting: Writing Indians out of Existence in New England*, you will soon meet Moses Rice (page 15), my sixth great-grandfather. Commemorated in June of 1855, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his death, as the “first” settler of Charlemont, Massachusetts, words spoken then powerfully illustrate *firsting* the experiences of colonialists to replace the history of Indigenous peoples, and also to refute Indian claims to land and rights.

As I read further, and grappled with Dr. O’Brien’s hundreds of examples of colonialists trying to erase Indian presence, I wrestled with this question: How can we delve into and understand the ongoing impact of settler colonialism on those who were here first?

I moved here – via Washington State, Kuwait, Newark, Argentina, Philadelphia – forty-five years ago. Strangely, I felt very at home. As part of my graduate studies, I had to research and create a family tree. Intriguingly, I discovered a branch from Lincolnshire, England had sailed to Boston on the *Griffin* in 1634. Subsequent generations had migrated to Sudbury, Worcester, and then Charlemont. I was surrounded by relatives, albeit dead ones.

I was particularly taken by stories about Moses because two of his young cousins, Timothy and Silas Rice, were taken captive in Sudbury in 1704 by a French and Indian raiding party. When, three years later, their father went to Kahnawake, a Kanien’keha:ka/Mohawk town on the St. Lawrence River, to “redeem” them – buy them back, a common colonial practice – the two boys refused to return. Adopted into Kanien’keha:ka families, they became part of the sizable Mohawk-Puritan community about which I knew nothing.

Also, in a different raid, Moses was scalped in 1755 in Charlemont – purportedly the last settler scalped in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. (Cash was given for scalps. For example, in 1723 the colonial government paid 100 pounds sterling for scalps of Indian men older than 12, and 50 pounds sterling for those of women and children.) I walked the land where Moses died and visited his grave behind Zoar Outdoors on the Deerfield River.

I traveled to Kahnawake. There, in Saint-Francois-Xavier Mission, I traced the names of Silas Tannahorens Rice, his wife Marie Tsiakahawi, and their five

children inscribed in a huge baptismal record book. Later, I met some of their descendants at Old Deerfield Mohawk-Puritan reunions.

But Dr. O’Brien’s decade of research into local histories of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island, detailed in *Firsting and Lasting*, as well as her other books, asks more from me, and others descended from colonialists. What do we need to further learn about how Indigenous peoples inscribe land with identity, religious beliefs, kinship networks, and how that means homeland for all, not the Puritan grabs of individual tracts?

Each of my ancestors’ migrations across the colony meant huge dispossessions of Massachusetts and Nipmuc territory – territory that was crucial for their hunting, planting, and gathering. Roaming colonial pigs ate essential foods like nuts, and destroyed corn, bean, and squash plantings. Starvation and debt often forced Indians to sell land to survive.

When I opened another book by O’Brien, *Dispossession by Degrees, Indian Land and Identity in Natick, Massachusetts, 1650-1790*, I found other Rice relatives (pages 82-83 and 106). Matthew Rice of Sudbury is described: “He was singled out as particularly blatant in his trespass and bold in his flouting of Indian rights: ‘Some of us have discoursed with him about it he sayd wee are poore creatures and have noe money & if you goe to law & I cast you you must goe to prison and there Lye & rott.’”

Land taken and subsequently sold over several Rice generations enabled my grandfather, Moses Rice, to dispossess Pocumtuc peoples of 2,700 acres of land in Charlemont in 1742.

This history needs to be known and acknowledged. As does the resistance of Indigenous peoples in the Northeast such as creating protection policies for their land, and defending themselves in the 1600s as detailed in Abenaki scholar Lisa Brooks’s book *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War*.

To learn more together, On Native Land: Leverett Advocacy and Education Group and Historic Northampton invite all to a Zoom gathering with Dr. O’Brien next Wednesday, September 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. To register, go to [www.historicnorthampton.org](http://www.historicnorthampton.org), click “Events & Programs,” and click the link under “Firsting and Lasting: Writing Indians out of Existence in New England.”

Janine Roberts, Professor Emerita at UMass-Amherst, lives in Leverett.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

Have you been wondering about the **history of Turners Falls**, with its unique position on the river and canal? Maybe you'd like to know more about the power canal, soon to be drained of water for its annual inspection and repair, or the old factory buildings looming between the canal and the river.

An exciting series of programs this September and October will provide answers to these questions and more, thanks to a collaboration between the Great Falls Discovery Center, the town of Montague, RiverCulture, several esteemed local historians, and the Montague Public Libraries. The program series is called "The Turners Falls Canal District: Rediscovering the Past, Planning for the Future."

There will be history walks, a river clean-up, audio tours and presentations focusing on Indigenous history, community planning workshops, and other events. Stay informed through our pages! The first event will be September 22, when you may take a stroll along the drained canal and absorb local history from an interpreter during a two-mile walk. Meet at the entrance to the Discovery Center at 5:30 p.m.

This Friday, September 9 the Great Falls Coffeehouse presents the **Artful Codgers in concert** at the Discovery Center at 7 p.m.

This local group, with Joe Blumenthal on bass, Art Fuleihan on guitar and banjo, and David Ferish on guitar, plays originals and covers of traditional and contemporary folk, bluegrass, and classic rock. There is a sliding scale suggested donation, which goes to support educational programming for the Center.

Attend a **Gravestone Rubbing Workshop** presented by Brenda Sullivan of the Gravestone Girls at the New Salem Public Library on Saturday, September 10 at 10 a.m. Meet at the library for an overview of cemetery geology, stones types, symbols, and other points of interest, then go next door to the cemetery with Sullivan for a demonstration of the proper techniques to do your own rubbings.

The Gravestone Girls work to

educate and help preserve gravestone art in New England: [www.gravestonegirls.com](http://www.gravestonegirls.com). All materials are provided at this three-hour workshop. For more information and to register, call (978) 544-6334 or email [n\\_salem@cwmmars.org](mailto:n_salem@cwmmars.org).

The **Leverett Village Co-op's last Artisans Market** is this Saturday, September 10 from noon to 4 p.m. The outdoor market features 18 arts and crafts vendors with live music from the classic rock band Isosceles. Local food writer Claire Hopley will sell her signed cookbooks, and there will be massage therapy and tarot card readings. DJ Brian Boyles will spin records between sets. Call (413) 367-9794 for more information.

Meet **local author Sue Fuller** at the Carnegie Library as she shares some words and yoga poses from her book, *Big Words for Little Hearts*, on Saturday, September 10 at 11 a.m.

Her book is described as "an engaging guide that helps children learn how to promote mindfulness in their everyday lives. Simple repeatable mantras help children create a daily focus, breathing exercises allow children to build upon social-emotional skills and yoga poses maintain healthy minds, bodies and souls."

**Cinmastorm Beer and Film Club** offers another free double feature this Saturday, September 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. The theme is "Twisted Metal," and the movies are *Sorcerer* and *Duel*.

A **Death Café, a casual group discussion of death** with no agenda or themes, will be held at the Gill-Montague Senior Center on Fifth Street in Turners Falls next Monday, September 12, from 5 to 7 p.m. Organizers write that the objective is to "increase awareness of death, with a view to helping ourselves to make the most of our (finite) lives. Get together, have tea and cake, and talk."

The Café is cosponsored by the Council on Aging. Registration is required; contact Suzette Snow-Cobb at [suzettesnowcobb@gmail.com](mailto:suzettesnowcobb@gmail.com) or (413) 824-0232.

Fiddleheads Gallery in Northfield has put out a **call for artists** for an exhibit called "Sticks and Stones." Submissions may be in any media, but must contain sticks, stones, or both. Submit your work, up to six pieces per artist, by September 20. The exhibit will run September 23 to November 6. Contact [margedvaa@gmail.com](mailto:margedvaa@gmail.com) for details.

The **Deja Brew Café & Pub in Wendell** is open again on Saturday nights, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m., for food, drinks, beers on tap, and live music under the pavilion. Family-friendly, gluten-free options, and no cover charge. Find them on Facebook to find out who's playing or call (978) 544-2739.

**Village Neighbors will hold a volunteer orientation** at the Wendell Senior Center and over Zoom next Wednesday, September 14, at 6:30 p.m. The volunteer-run non-profit is dedicated to helping elders lead independent and engaged lives at home in Leverett, New Salem, Shutesbury, and Wendell. Email [volunteers@villageneighbors.org](mailto:volunteers@villageneighbors.org) or leave a message at (413) 345-6894 x3 to receive a Zoom link or additional information.

**Firsting and Lasting: Writing Indians Out of Existence in New England** is a Zoom presentation by Dr. Jean M. O'Brien next Wednesday, September 14 at 7 p.m.

Dr. O'Brien will discuss how local historians writing between 1820 and 1880 promoted the myth of Indian extinction by focusing on "firsting," which refers to the practice of listing the firsts of the proud English (e.g. first born, first settlement) and then "lasting," in which local histories told of the tragic disappearance of the last members of the Indian population, who had not disappeared at all.

O'Brien will describe how these patterns were perpetuated, and how they inform our present day. The event is sponsored by the On Native Land: Leverett Advocacy and Education Group. Register to attend at [tinyurl.com/firstinglasting](http://tinyurl.com/firstinglasting).

LifePath HomeShare is a program in which **two or more people share a home and expenses** to their mutual benefit. Each arrangement is unique, according to the needs of the individuals.

Find out more at a virtual information session on September 14, from 1 to 3 p.m. on Zoom. There will also be in-person info sessions at the Montague town hall on Monday, September 19 from 11 a.m. to noon, and at the Gill-Montague

Senior Center on Thursday, September 22 from 10 to 11 a.m.

Contact LifePath to register; call (413) 773-5555 and ask for the "ICRC."

The Franklin County Perinatal Support Coalition will host a **Community Baby Shower** from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. next Saturday, September 17, at Court Square in downtown Greenfield. Many family support organizations will be on hand with information, raffle prizes, and free gifts for parents and parents-to-be.

Last fall over 100 families attended the event and brought home information about local programs plus over \$2,800 in free baby clothing and supplies from the Village Closet, a distribution program from It Takes a Village. For more information, see [www.hilltownvillage.org](http://www.hilltownvillage.org) or call (413) 650-3640.

Connect to yourself and to the forest with an **afternoon of yoga and hiking** with instructor Libby Volkening at FirstLight's Northfield Mountain next Saturday, September 17 from 1 to 3 p.m.

"We'll shift our focus between our inner and outer landscapes to deepen our presence and attune to nature as it manifests in our own bodies and the world around us," reads the event description. "The hiking will be mostly silent, at a moderate pace with some elevation gain, and will alternate with periods of a mixed-level, integrated yoga practice combining conscious breathing, mindful movement, and meditation."

Beginners are welcome; sign up for this free program at [www.bookeo.com/northfield](http://www.bookeo.com/northfield). Bring water, dress in layers, and wear soft-soled shoes that allow your feet and ankles to move freely. Rain or shine, though thunder cancels the event.

The **Brick House is gearing up for an exciting fall** full of arts, mental health, academic support, and special workshops for youth.

The teen center on Third Street in Turners Falls is open Mondays through Thursdays from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m., with Expressive Arts on Mondays, Social-Emotional Learning on Tuesdays, free time on Wednesdays, and an LGBT+ support group and Get Moving on Thursdays.

There will also be a cyanotype printing workshop for ages 11 to 20 on Monday, September 26 at 2:45 p.m. Reach out to Megan at [mrichardson@brickhousecsrc.org](mailto:mrichardson@brickhousecsrc.org) for more information.

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Photo correspondent Ed Gregory reports from the General Pierce Bridge rehab project in Montague City. "The six-inch concrete sub-deck is now in place," Ed writes. "New railings are being assembled along the south side of the structure (at right). The shadow of the three-tier railing runs the length of the nearly completed sidewalk. North side railings are complete. Mid-September will bring the deck water barrier diaphragm, in the form of a trio of spray-on applications, and after an adequate dry-set time for the water barrier, a 1.5-inch asphalt application will complete the deck surfacing. The bridge project continues to be completed prior to the original target date."

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## NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD

## Wendell, New Salem Agree on PFAS Filtration

By JOSH HEINEMANN

At their August 31 meeting, the Wendell selectboard continued to discuss how to deal with PFAS contamination in the well water at Swift River School. No clear and obvious solution stood out, as all options are expensive, and all come with a downside. Wendell's selectboard favored one approach, the New Salem selectboard another, and as the towns must share the cost they must come to an agreement.

If a plan was not underway by the end of September, the state would begin fining the school \$100 per day.

Agreement between the towns was further complicated because the New Salem selectboard is in transition. One of its three members resigned in the spring and a second, Hugh Mackay, is staying on only to keep a quorum until a special election on October 25 fills both that seat and his.

Wendell selectboard member Dan Keller said he favored "doing it right on the first try" for the long term, and drilling a new well. Shallow test samples may help ensure that a new well would be free of PFAS, and private wells in the neighborhood have tested negative.

It is not certain that the school property has room for a new public drinking water well, however, as it would legally require a 150-foot buffer zone between it and other development. A neighbor has said he would allow an easement, and necessary supporting infrastructure, but that easement would have to extend into eternity.

Open space committee chair Dan Leahy said a staff member came from the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to help with siting a new well.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said DEP would approve the option the New Salem selectboard offered when the problem first be-

came public a year ago, the installation of a filtration system. Wendell finance committee chair Doug Tanner has argued that this would be expensive to install, and guarantee ongoing expenses as the filters would need regular replacement, with the cost of filters likely to rise.

After the school closed for the summer, the engineering firm Tighe & Bond oversaw an inspection of the contaminated well, which discovered flaws in the well casing. Replacing or repairing the casing is a third option, but also expensive.

Until the water runs clean, the school administration encourages students and staff to bring water from home, and provides bottled water for those who forget.

After the town selectboards agree on what to do, the towns will have to authorize money to pay for it. The project may be eligible for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) relief funds, but Tanner cautioned against Wendell using that money.

On Tuesday, September 6, the Wendell board attended the New Salem board's meeting, and on Wednesday, New Salem selectboard member Carl Seppala came to Wendell to continue the discussion.

This time, the Wendell board agreed to go along with the filtration system proposal, on the provision that the towns make a "firm commitment" to work together to drill a new well outside the school building. Seppala said he supported this plan enthusiastically.

Wendell town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said he would contact Tighe & Bond to begin the project of installing a filtration system at the school.

While New Salem has enough money set aside to pay for its share of the installation, Wendell must still determine where its funds will come from. Tanner reiterated his opinion that the money should not come from ARPA funds. If the town decides to pull money from

the stabilization account, it will require a town meeting vote. A special town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26.

## Managing Projects

Project manager Phil Delorey said he is still working on a \$75,000 earmark for capping the town's old landfill, which is under and behind the present Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS). He hopes and expects the capping will be done within a year and a half.

Delorey reported the library now has gutters and a pipe in the ground to direct roof runoff away from the building. The library cellar walls can be painted.

The town is still waiting for roof work on the highway garage, and the police station is still waiting for a backordered new garage door and minisplit.

Delorey said he thought the Mormon Hollow Road culvert might be delivered September 15.

The new brush-cutting tractor is insured and in use, and the road crew is at full strength, although superintendent Rich Wilder is facing retirement.

## Info Tech

Johnson-Mussad said he attended a tour of Mahar school, and was impressed by the facilities manager and the school itself.

Separately, he said he had been delegated to help install a firewall at the town office building, turning off the office WiFi for a while the previous Wednesday afternoon. He said the building's internet hub is at 100% of its capacity, and should be supplemented with a second hub.

Keller said Jim Slavas is the expert on how those things are connected, and Budine said the board should see if Slavas can attend when Pat Bierly from Entre Technology, the company handling the town's information technology (IT), comes to town next. She also said

she will be meeting with the UMass Collins Center about applying for a state Community Compact grant for "best practices" in IT.

## Other Business

The selectboard held the annual tax classification hearing before their regular meeting began. As in prior years, they voted unanimously to maintain a single tax rate for the whole town, reasoning that the few businesses in town are small and employ townspeople, and should not be penalized with a higher rate.

With one vote and by consent agenda, the board approved minutes from four prior meetings, rental agreements for the town hall – Monday evenings for the Wendell chorus, and on the equinox for the energy committee, appointed Anna Gyorgy to the energy committee, and approved a municipal statement of commitment with the North Quabbin Public Health Collaborative.

Budine said she had found a volunteer, Danny Boyden, to put up and take down the flags the town flies along its main road during the summer. Replacing the flags as they wear out costs \$200 to \$500 a year, a sum that Paul Richard used to donate, until he moved away. Tanner said the expense could be covered under the building maintenance account.

Former selectboard member Christine Heard volunteered to help get the newsletter out. Articles should be sent to her.

At the end of the August 31 meeting, the board went into executive session "to comply with the provisions of any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements."

At the September 7 meeting, the board unanimously approved a contract with Miriam Warner, who has been serving as interim library director, to be permanent library director. Her benefits will be accrued retroactive to July 1.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Redistricted Dems To Hobnob, Pass Torch

**SHUTESBURY** – On September 18, the 7<sup>th</sup> Hampden Coalition will sponsor a meet and greet event to introduce Aaron Saunders, Democratic candidate for state representative for the newly configured 7<sup>th</sup> Hampden District.

The event will run from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Shutesbury Athletic Club, 282 Shutesbury Road in Shutesbury. Everyone is invited. Light refreshments will be served, and beverages will be available at the SAC.

Saunders is a first-time candidate for state office. He has over 20 years of experience in local, state, and federal government including six years as chief of staff to former state senator Gale Candaras and seven years serving on the Ludlow selectboard.

Entirely public school-educated, Saunders is a 2003 graduate of the University of Massachusetts. He lives in Belchertown with his wife Melissa and their three children.

Prior to the redistricting based on the 2020 US Census, the 7<sup>th</sup> Hamp-

den District consisted of Ludlow and parts of Belchertown, Springfield, and Chicopee, and was represented by Jacob Oliveira of Ludlow.

The new 7<sup>th</sup> Hampden includes New Salem, Pelham, Petersham, Shutesbury, and Wendell as well as Ludlow and all of Belchertown. Currently and until January 2023, these towns are represented by four state representatives – Independent Susannah Whipps (New Salem, Wendell, Petersham and one district of Belchertown); Democrat Mindy Domb (Pelham); Democrat Natalie Blais (Shutesbury); and Democrat Jacob Oliveira (Ludlow and portions of Belchertown). The redistricted 7<sup>th</sup> Hampden will be represented by a newly-elected representative.

State representatives Whipps, Domb, and Blais, who are all running in November to serve in their own reconfigured districts, and Oliveira, who is running for state Senate, will also be on hand to pass the torch to Saunders and introduce him to the towns they have represented.

## Flood Relief Benefit

**LEVERETT** – Please join Hands Across the Hills (HATH) for "Bands Across the Hills," a musical fundraiser for Kentucky flood relief, next Saturday, September 17 at 7 p.m. at Leverett Crafts & Arts. Three bands will play – Box Shop Trio, Deep C Duo, and Beyond the RALM – along with singers: Sarah Pirtle, a founding member of HATH, and the Kentucky-trained Norma Jean Haynes.

Funds collected on GoFundMe

(<https://gofund.me/ea879ba>) will go to two organizations in Letcher County, Kentucky that have been involved in HATH since the start: Cowan Community Action Group and Hemphill Community Center. Both are playing a central role in flood recovery efforts, which will take not weeks but months and years.

A \$10 fee for concert entry and the bar (cash or check only) is separate from GoFundMe donations.

## Join the Bluefish!

**MONTAGUE** – The Montague Parks & Rec Department is accepting names for the Bluefish Swim Team's list of prospective new swimmers. The Bluefish is a competitive and recreational swim team that competes in the Pioneer Valley Swim League and has served area youth for over forty years.

The Bluefish is not a learn-to-swim program. All prospective swimmers must have basic knowledge of all four strokes. Swimmers will be accepted on an as-needed basis, and must be able to success-

fully complete an in-pool swim test.

Practices are held Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, and meets, which take place both home and away, are on Saturdays. The season is held from mid-October through mid-March.

Fees vary; call for rates. New swimmer registration is currently open to Montague youth only, but non-residents may enter their names starting Wednesday, September 21. Please call (413) 863-3216 for more information, or visit the team website at [www.montaguebluefish.com](http://www.montaguebluefish.com).

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**NORTHFIELD** from page A1

to announce he was looking for another venue. “We know this news may be both surprising and sad,” he told the crowd, “but we want to assure you that while we love our Gunstock home very much, we truly feel that we are walking through the door that God has opened for us.”

On the other side of that door was James Spencer, chief operating officer of the Moody Center. The Kansas-based non-profit owns 25% of the land that was once the Northfield Mount Hermon School. The other 75% belongs to Thomas Aquinas College.

Spencer has a Ph.D. in theological studies from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois. He eats, writes, and talks the gospel, but a land developer and concert promoter he’s not.

“I’m not answering any questions,” he said in a brief telephone exchange. “I’m not going to talk about the event until I go through the licensing process with the selectboard.”

Union Leader reporter Jonathan Phelps wrote that the genesis of this

move happened when Harris tried to get Spencer to renew his Moody Center sponsorship of SoulFest. “What do I have to do to get you back?” asked Harris. “Do I have to bring the festival to you?”

Eureka. Spencer offered up several football fields’ worth of hillside seating, a 2,300-seat auditorium in case of rain, and enough parking space to hold 3,000 cars.

According to the Union Leader story, he told Harris he’d spend a “couple million” on a main stage and other improvements.

Among other things the concert will need are portable commodes, security, litter patrol, stagehands, and police to direct traffic. “We had a lot of paid staff on the event,” said Day. “There’s a lot of moving parts that go into it before the band gets to the stage.”

The natural amphitheater goes from Moody Street over to where Dwight and Emma Revell Moody are buried and down to the Moody Center itself, a large white framed structure near Route 63.

“We are pulling together plans that will be submitted and presented

as part of the town permitting process,” Spencer wrote.

He’ll be bumping elbows with Thomas Aquinas College, a well-regarded Catholic school with a flagship campus north of Los Angeles in Santa Paula. It takes its mission seriously; students learn from professors – called “tutors” – versed in the teachings of Aristotle and Plato.

“We’re not affiliated with the Moody Center,” said Dr. Steven Cain, the dean of the school’s New England campus, “and they have not contacted us.”

Town administrator Andrea Llamas said on Tuesday she had “no idea” when the SoulFest permit process would begin. Meanwhile, it’s full speed ahead. Tickets start at \$55 for one day and go up to \$122.60 for all three days.

“Are there houses there?” asked Day. “They’ll be able to hear the Christian rock music.”

Loud and clear.

Chip Ainsworth writes sports for the Recorder and news and opinion for the Reporter. He lives in Northfield.



**ESTATE** from page A1

of money on the assessment and appeal process, including bringing in specialist assessors and lawyers,” former Leverett selectboard member Peter d’Errico told the Reporter.

After years of litigation, the Appellate Tax Board released a report in January 2019 ruling that the town had overvalued the property by about \$3.4 million for the 2014 and 2015 fiscal years. As a result, Leverett had to return \$67,642 and \$68,859 in tax abatements to Kittredge for those years.

Another abatement request which began in 2018 was settled when the town agreed to return roughly \$40,000 last fall.

Kittredge purchased the original three-bedroom home at 113 Juggler Meadow Road for \$144,000 in 1984, around the same time that he moved the Yankee Candle Company headquarters from Holyoke to its present location in South Deerfield. He had already acquired a number of neighboring properties by 1998, the year he sold 90% of Yankee Candle to a New York private equity firm for \$500 million.

He used his wealth to consolidate an estate that eventually included 17 parcels of land in Leverett and a number over the border

in Amherst, converting one neighbor’s house into a “clubhouse” with a pool, bar, and spa and demolishing another to build garages for his collection of around 80 luxury cars – among them an original Batmobile. One of the garages, according to the Appellate Tax Board report, was devoted entirely to Porsches.

The elder Kittredge established multiple trusts to manage the acquisitions. The 2014 and 2015 tax appeals involved the Meadow Nominee Trust and the Pocomo Road Nominee Trust, the latter named in honor of another large home he owned on the Nantucket waterfront, which sold for \$15 million in 2005.

In the years since he arrived in Leverett, he invested about \$50 million in land acquisitions and renovations, Mick Kittredge, his son and heir to the estate, told the Wall Street Journal this summer.

Eight buildings are included in the sale listing, which advertises a recording studio, a home theater, a performance venue, two wine cellars, multiple bars, and four tennis courts among the luxury amenities. The main house has grown to 25,000 square feet.

“The front door opens to a foyer, with a stairway to the second floor and two massive wings to the right

and left,” reads the listing from Boston luxury real estate company Douglas Elliman. “Surely one of the most spectacular rooms on the property is the two story great room: it is easy to envision elegant soirees and grand celebrations in this sun-drenched space... The atrium-like ceiling and second floor balcony lend a feeling of spaciousness and light, while the oversize fireplace warms on even the chilliest winter nights.”

For the 2014 fiscal year, the Leverett assessors’ office valued Kittredge’s property holdings at \$9,921,900. That assessment dropped to \$9,864,300 in FY’15 after the town missed a deadline for a written notice of inaction and granted an abatement. Kittredge’s trusts appealed both assessments to the Appellate Tax Board.

Ellen Anderson, an appraiser hired by the trusts, argued during the appeal that the amenities in the residential home “suffer from functional obsolescence and superadequacy and, therefore, contribute little to the estate’s value,” according to the tax board’s final report.

Anderson’s testimony also suggested that pools are often considered by potential buyers to be detrimental, and that the water park on the site would be so costly to



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Top: The property’s indoor water park, which an appraiser hired by the Kittredge family’s trusts argued in state appellate tax court actually makes the property less desirable, as it would require maintenance or possibly demolition.

Below that: “It is easy to envision elegant soirees,” the real estate listing boasts.

maintain it would likely be demolished or repurposed. She argued the property should be valued at around \$1.8 million.

“The appellants’ appraiser further noted that potential buyers for this type of property generally prefer to live in Eastern Massachusetts or own a second home on the ocean or in the Berkshire Hills. The subject property falls into neither of these categories,” the state’s 2019 findings read. “Both appraisers had to venture far from Leverett to find what they considered to be comparable properties, but even the vast majority of these properties were considerably smaller than the subject property in both acreage and residence square footage.”

At some point Leverett’s representatives offered a lower valuation, suggesting that the estate might have been worth just over \$8 million during the 2014 fiscal year and \$8.1 million in 2015.

Under the board’s decision in January 2019, the correct “fair cash value” for both of the years in question was \$6.5 million.

The online real estate listing has been shared widely, making headlines in national and international publications. The Los Angeles Times describes a “private oasis with an amenities list that puts other luxury listings to shame.” Business Insider notes a “Bellagio-inspired indoor water park.” The Miami Herald published an article entirely comprised of online comments reacting to the listing’s opulence.

The \$23 million package, however, does not include the entire estate. A separate guest house at 6 Amherst Road was listed earlier this year for \$3.99 million, and a small apple orchard is also for sale separately.

With global attention turned toward the town, the hope in Leverett is that a new neighbor will pay their taxes.

“A major fear has been that the property would be bought by a school or church or other non-taxable entity,” D’Errico told the Reporter this week, “though I doubt that there is any school or church that would want to explain why they invested in a pleasure palace for the terminally bored.”

Nancy Grossman and Mike Jackson contributed additional reporting.



The main house at the Juggler Meadow Road property has expanded from the three-bedroom Kittredge bought back in 1984.

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BEACON from page A1

\$52.7 billion, an increase of 9.3% over the previous year. The large increase was partly due to last-minute revenue estimates which came in significantly higher than expected when the budget process began.

The primary form of direct aid to cities and towns, known as Unrestricted General Government Aid, increased in the budget by 5.4% this year to a total of \$1.23 billion. For Montague, the budget produced an increase of 6.4% to \$1.66 million. Other towns in this paper’s readership area received increases of between five and six percent.

As far as school aid is concerned, Chapter 70, the main form of aid to school districts including regional schools, increased statewide by 9% to nearly \$6 billion. This reflects not only increases in per-pupil spending, but also premium rates for schools with high numbers of low-income and special education students.

Up until last year, school districts which did not qualify for aid increases under the state formula received a token increase of \$30 per student. That figure was doubled to \$60.

For the Gill-Montague Regional School District, this translated into a 9.1% increase in Chapter 70 aid. The Pioneer Valley district, meanwhile – the subject of a feasibility study of a new combined district with Gill and Montague – was allocated the \$60 per student, for an increase of under 1%.

Other allocations in our readership area include Mahar (5.1%), Amherst-Pelham middle and high school (0.82%), and Greenfield (12.5%). The wide differences in these increases reflect not only variations in enrollment but also reimbursements for special education, low-income students, and changes in local wealth as reflected in the “minimum contribution” expected of towns.

Infrastructure Bill

On August 10, approximately two weeks after Baker signed the new budget, he signed an \$11.4 billion transportation and infrastructure bond bill.

According to the Massachusetts Municipal Association, the bill included projects funded under the recent bipartisan federal infrastructure bill, as well non-federally funded roads and targeted programs, like the state’s Complete Streets program.

Readers will be interested to know that this bill also contained provisions advanced by Montague’s state representative Natalie Blais and state senator Joanne Comerford – one increasing rebates for purchasers of electric bicycles, and another reducing reporting requirements for towns receiving small amounts of aid from a state assessment on so-called “transportation network companies” such as Uber and Lyft.

The rebate provision establishes a \$1 million state program to provide rebates of \$500 to all e-bike buyers, and \$750 for low-income purchasers. A press release from Blais’s office earlier in the month estimated that electric bicycles cost between \$1,000 and \$4,000, which is “far too expensive for most Massachusetts residents,” and argued that the rebates will “not only increase transportation options but also fuel economic development, improve health outcomes, and help us to meet the Commonwealth’s climate goals.”

The announcement stated that the idea for the rebate program came from a conversation with a constituent in the town of Shutesbury, and added that a recent poll found that 67% of all residents favored e-bike rebates.

The other provision addressed reporting requirements on aid received from a state “assessment” of 20 cents on each ride provided by companies such as Uber and Lyft. Half of that revenue is allocated to the state agency MassDevelopment, and the other half is split up among Massachusetts cities and towns based

on where the rides were initiated..

The problem, according to Blais’s office, is that towns allocated small amounts of this aid are still required to file detailed accounting reports, “creating an unnecessary bureaucratic burden... particularly frustrating for small towns with staff that are already stretched thin.” The press release gave the examples of Deerfield, which received \$39.30 from this fund in 2020, and Charlemont, which was allocated \$0.20.

The new provisions in the bill would reduce reporting requirements for any municipality that receives less than \$25,000 annually.

Climate Bill

The very next day, August 11 – and in the midst of a major heat wave – Baker also approved a major “climate bill,” designed to move the state closer to its goal of zero net carbon emissions by 2050.

The omnibus bill, titled “An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind,” follows Governor Baker’s veto of a climate bill earlier in the year and an uncertain legislative process. The final law was the product of considerable push and pull, with Baker ultimately agreeing to major compromises in an effort to remove red tape from the offshore wind sector.

Besides aiming to spur wind development, the bill eliminates the designation of industrial-scale biomass plants for subsidies under the state renewable energy portfolio, but makes the gas from certain anaerobic sludge digesters eligible for incentives, and allows investment in new geothermal technology.

Of local interest, the law allows solar development on agricultural land as long as such development does not impede agricultural use, while also establishing a commission to study such “dual-use” sites, which have been controversial in towns such as Northfield.

Blais and Comerford both co-sponsored provisions expanding solar net metering, making multiple solar projects on the same property eligible to sell electricity to the grid, an adjustment expected to help both condo owners and farmers benefit from building solar.

The bill increases the rebate for certain zero-emission passenger vehicles to \$3,500, offers \$1,000 to purchasers trading in their gas-powered vehicles, and requires all new vehicles in the state to be zero emissions by 2035. It also establishes a “Charging Infrastructure Deployment Fund” to expand the availability of electric vehicle charging stations. Another fund was set up to reward companies bringing green jobs to underserved communities.

In a signing statement, Baker said he signed the bill because it maintains the state’s national leadership in addressing climate change. “However,” he added, “because this legislation rejected virtually every meaningful amendment I put forth, this bill does not have the same shared sense of purpose that all previous climate legislation embodied, which is unfortunate.”

Baker is reported to have said that in particular, a provision allowing communities to prohibit fossil fuel use in new buildings “gives me agita.” The law allows up to ten Massachusetts communities to participate in a “demonstration program” that prohibits or restricts fossil fuel use in new buildings or major construction projects.

While environmental groups have been generally supportive of the bill, there have also been complaints that it did not go far enough. The Conservation Law Foundation wrote that the final bill fell short in protecting low-income “environmental justice” communities, and “does not go far enough in removing fossil fuels from our homes, buildings, and public transit at the pace necessary to address the climate crisis.”

Mike Jackson contributed additional writing.



NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Town Meeting Voters Asked to Fund Safer Loader to Roll Over In

By KATIE NOLAN

At a joint meeting with the finance committee and capital planning committee on August 29, the Erving selectboard approved a five-article warrant for the special town meeting next Wednesday, September 14.

Two of the articles concern an appropriation of \$60,000 to lease a wheel loader, with an option to buy, and an authorization to sign a four-year lease for the wheel loader. The town’s current wheel loader, also called a front-end loader, is 16 years old and lacks rollover protection.

The remaining articles concern \$22,000 for a walk-in refrigerator and freezer for Erving Elementary School, to add to \$45,000 already appropriated; \$7,173 in expenses from the previous fiscal year; and correction of a typographical error in the Franklin County Technical School budget.

The special town meeting will be held on the grounds of the senior and community center at 1 Care Drive, starting at 7 p.m.

The board approved signing purchase and sale agreements with Obear Construction of Millers Falls for two surplus town properties. Obear plans to develop the former Graded School Building at 18 Pleasant Street into four market-rate apartments, and to renovate the former Erving Public Library building at 17 Moore Street into a single-family residence.

The board decided to support FirstLight Power’s request to the Federal Energy Regulatory Com-

mission for extending the deadline for a comprehensive agreement on relicensing the Turners Falls Hydroelectric Project and the Northfield Mountain Pumped Storage Project. “Based on the progress that has been made towards a comprehensive settlement agreement,” the selectboard’s letter states, “the Town of Erving supports the schedule outlined by FirstLight, including the proposed completion date of December 31, 2022.”

The board approved release of a scope of work for the town branding program. The tasks included in the scope of work are designing a town logo, creating a town branding style guide, designing town signs and creating specifications for the signs, and fabricating and installing the signs.

The board continued reviewing the work of General Code, LLC, the company which is codifying and revising the town bylaws. Once the review is complete, the revised bylaws will be voted on at a town meeting.

The board gave a third and final reading to proposed town policies on criminal and sex offender information, drug- and alcohol-free workplaces, COBRA (continuation of health insurance after job loss), HIPAA (privacy of health data), and Americans with Disabilities Act non-discrimination. All of the policies were approved, with the exception of the COBRA policy, which was tabled for further discussion at a future meeting because selectboard members felt some of the language in the policy was unclear.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Open House to Greet New Library Director

NEW SALEM – New Salem will welcome its new library director, Tracie Shea, at an open house on Tuesday, September 13 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the library’s new community room. Light refreshments will be served. Townspeople are encouraged to come say hi, and also thank former acting director Linda Chatfield and the people who served on the new director search committee. At 7 p.m. there will be a short program to recognize the new director and those people who worked to achieve this new beginning for the library.

“We invite people to come by to welcome Tracie and thank the people who made this transition to a new director possible,” said library trustee Judith Northup-Bennett. “Trustees and Friends of the Library will be there, as well making it a good time to bring any ideas you have for future programming. It’s an exciting time as the library starts to fully open, and we look to expand its resources and programming for the community.”

Shea, of Hardwick, started her work as library director in July. She brings a range of experience in library, business, and community work. She has worked as interim director of Hardwick’s Paige Memorial Library as well as being active in

that library’s Friends group and the Board of Trustees. She honed her organizational, data management, and technical skills as office manager at Palmer’s St. Paul Church and the Hardwick Farmers’ Cooperative Exchange, and has extensive programming and volunteer coordination experience through her decades of work with the Massachusetts 4H program and the Hardwick Community Fair Association.

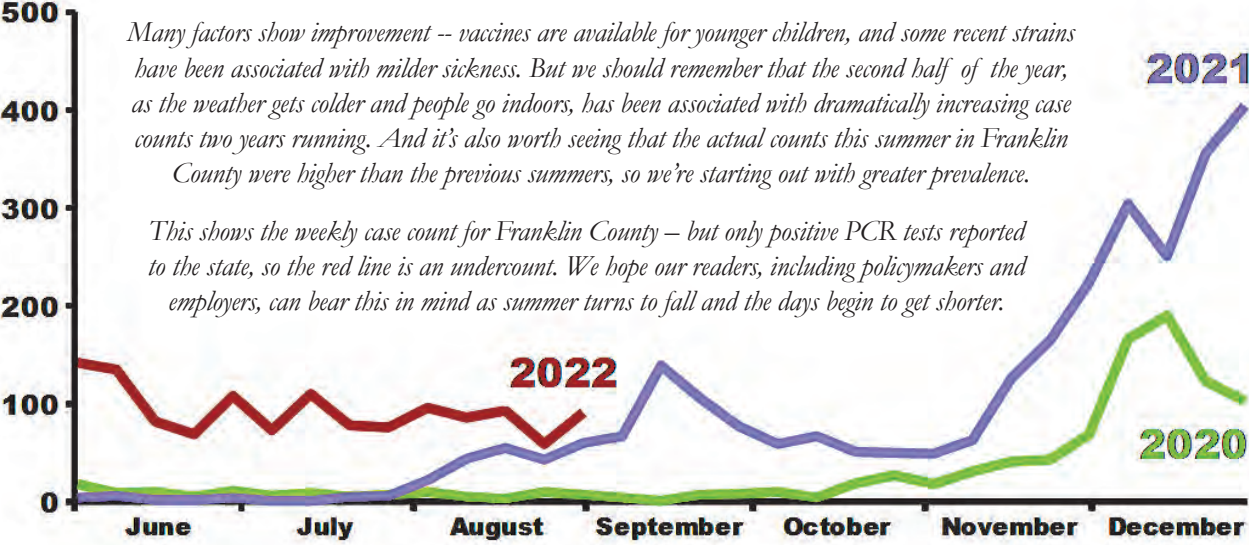
Linda Chatfield became acting director last fall when longtime director Diana Smith retired. “Linda’s over-and-above effort and leadership this past year are greatly appreciated,” said library trustee Eli MacCullagh. “What could have been a turbulent time was stable due to the efforts of Linda, and the staff.”

The library search committee worked from late fall to June to find the best person for the director position. Committee members were Betsy Bergantino, chair; Hugh MacKay; Jennifer Bamford; Sue Dunbar; Eli MacCullagh; and Lisa Finestone. “The town was very fortunate to have these people contribute their time to bring us to the next chapter of the library,” said Northup-Bennett.

For more information, contact the library at [n\\_salem@cwmares.org](mailto:n_salem@cwmares.org) or (978) 544-6334.

THE THING THAT’S NOT EXACTLY OVER

The state Department of Public Health stopped posting daily COVID-19 case counts this summer, and moved its weekly county-by-county data release from Wednesdays to Thursdays, after this paper goes to press. About a month ago, Baystate Health stopped sending this newspaper requested data about COVID hospitalizations. So we’re debuting a new type of chart.



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MONTAGUE from page A1

small towns in the region, and discussed factors impacting prices.

McCance provided quotes from five companies for electricity, but only one, Sprague Energy, offered quotes for gas. His presentation showed quotes from the previous three days for contracts of varying lengths, and led to a long, complex discussion of the factors impacting daily prices and the virtues of longer versus shorter contracts.

The war in Ukraine was cited, and McCance presented charts showing rig counts and changes in the price of liquefied natural gas as he detailed factors influencing the price of gas used to generate electricity and serve residential customers. He called the increase in natural gas a “Teutonic shift.”

“We could spend all night talking about this,” marveled Kuklewicz.

The board ultimately voted to rescind a motion made the previous week to sign a two-year contract, and to delay a final decision until the next meeting – unless the price of natural gas falls below 65 cents per hundred cubic feet, in which case Montague would enter a one-year contract.

The board then voted to approve the lowest price for electricity that would appear the following day as the basis for a three-year contract. Ellis noted that this rate only affects the “supply side” of the electric bill, reflecting the amount of energy used, and not the delivery costs.

To put the two contracts in context, Ellis told the *Reporter* that Montague’s electricity expenditures last fiscal year totaled \$273,000, while the town spent only \$8,300 “across all of our gas meters.”

Energy committee members Sally Pick and Chris Mason requested that Montague apply to be part of a “solar initiative” sponsored by the Clean Energy Extension at UMass-Amherst.

According to a brochure provided to the selectboard, UMass students will be “conducting a solar resource and infrastructure assessment, identifying solar financing and ownership options and other potential community benefits, conducting a community solar survey to understand resident preferences, and preparing a Community Solar Action Plan.”

The board approved applying for the project, which Pick said was time-sensitive, as applicants will be considered on a “first-come, first-served basis, and there is already a lot of interest in other towns.” Student research is scheduled for September through May, with “final documents” expected in June 2023.

The selectboard also voted to create a new five-member “solar committee,” which in Pick’s words would represent “different entities in town,” to monitor the project.

#### Impacts Blunted

Montague has asked local service agencies to put a hold on spending public cannabis impact revenue on projects already approved by town meeting, amid uncertainty over recent changes in state law concerning “community host agreements” with cannabis companies. Although the board did not take a vote, it expressed informal approval of communication between Ellis and local agencies advising a spending moratorium.

Changes in state law in August require that the “impact fees” cannabis companies give to municipalities

be based on a dollar calculation of negative impacts of the drug on local communities, rather than a percentage of the vendor’s cannabis sales.

Implementing this change will require significant guidance from the state Cannabis Control Commission, which has not yet issued regulations. Ellis said there are not only significant changes in the calculation of fees but questions about whether the new law could retroactively change contracts already negotiated, and the revenues derived from them.

Ellis said that impact revenue provided to the town by 253 Farmacy, which operates a grow facility and retail shop on Millers Falls Road, has totaled \$631,000. He said these funds have either been spent or allocated to a range of projects, including an after-school program to provide alternatives to substance abuse, licensed alcohol and drug counseling, police training to identify “cannabis intoxicification” among drivers, a program to “strengthen families” at the Brick House Community Resource Center, and engineering and sidewalk design for an intersection near the cannabis store.

“There’s just a lot of uncertainty about the ground we are standing on as we consider the expenditure of those funds,” Ellis explained, adding that he felt the town is “proceeding at risk if we make any further expenditures” before the state commission issues regulations. He noted that the spending freeze would not apply to the Brick House’s program because it is “98% done.”

The board did not take a formal vote, but member Matt Lord volunteered to work more closely with Ellis to monitor the new legislation and the programs the town has already funded.

#### Try, Try Again

Still in his role as town planner, Walter Ramsey came before the board to discuss a new initiative to develop the former “Cumby’s building” at 38 Avenue A. The building is owned by the town’s Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC), which also markets property in the industrial park. A plan by a local company, New England Wound Care, to transform the building into a commercial-residential facility was recently abandoned for lack of financing.

Ramsey announced that a recent appraisal had valued the property at \$40,000. The EDIC had decided to market it through a real estate agency, Greenfield Group Real Estate, owned by former Greenfield mayor Bill Martin. The proposed listing would prohibit the construction of a drive-through business, or a “formula-based business with a standardized façade,” or a parking lot.

The new owner would be required to remove the existing structure, Ramsey said, and would need to sign a “land development agreement” with the town. The state Department of Conservation and Recreation, which owns the neighboring Discovery Center, would need to sign off on the sale.

Peter Chilton, owner of Nova Motorcycles in Turners Falls, said he had expressed interest in the property to Martin, and was told there was already an offer on the property which was “under contract.” Chilton asked whether the first offer would “lock out” other potential bidders.

Ramsey responded that “there is no offer, no contract,” and that the

EDIC would have the final say in the disposition of the property.

“It’s totally different than selling a commercial property,” Kuklewicz said. “I would encourage you to talk to Walter.” A development company associated with Nova has been granted the right to redevelop the former highway garage at the opposite end of Avenue A.

#### Vigilance Endorsed

Nancy Maleno came before the board on behalf of the Betty Allen chapter of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), requesting that it endorse a proclamation declaring September 17 through 23 “Constitution Week.” Noting that a similar proclamation had been endorsed the previous year, she also requested that “bells be rung at 4 p.m. in Montague when the last signature was placed on the Constitution.”

The proclamation calls on the board to “ask our citizens to reaffirm the ideals of the Framers of the Constitution in 1787 by vigilantly protecting the freedoms guaranteed to us through this guardian of our liberties, remembering that lost rights may never be regained.”

It was unanimously approved by the board.

Maleno was asked whether the DAR encourages debate about the Constitution, which has been a controversial document over the years, including among professional historians.

“We view it as a living document,” she responded. “Living, breathing, and changing to fit the world around us. We don’t hold to a very strict, narrow point of view.... [but] we promote patriotism.” She added that the Constitution is not a “perfect document,” pointing that the “Commonwealth of Pennsylvania” was misspelled in the original version.

#### Other Business

Ellis reported that FirstLight Power has appealed to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for an extension from August 31 to December 31 of the deadline for reaching an agreement on a new license to operate its local hydroelectric facilities. He asked whether the town of Montague, which includes significant FirstLight property and has signed a tentative agreement improving recreational access to the Connecticut River, would support the extension.

The board voted to support the extension, though several members expressed doubt about the company’s ability to finish the process by December – “looking,” in Lord’s words, “at the groups they still have to work with.”

The board approved requests from Marcy Gregoire, who operates the Nice. Snack Parlor at 147 Second Street near Unity Park, for the use of public property and an entertainment license for a “car show” on September 11. The event, which will take place between 4 and 8 p.m. and will feature a DJ, will close the lower end of Second Street.

“Basically, Nova Motorcycles owns all of that, so we won’t be interfering with anyone’s driveway,” she said. The snack parlor operates out of the motorcycle shop.

Brian McHugh of the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority requested that \$2,820 in community development block grant funds earmarked

for construction oversight of the Hillcrest Elementary playground renovation be transferred to housing rehabilitation. McHugh said the playground construction would not start for a year and a half, and thus and required no oversight

The board approved the request. At Ellis’s request, the board voted to execute an agreement with the firm Wright-Pierce for “on-call” engineering services, and gave the town administrator the power to determine the “bid award,” which he

said was not the same as a contract, for the reconstruction of the town hall roof. The bidding process ended September 1, and the “construction season is brief,” he explained.

At press time, all the roof bids were in and were betting vetted by Ellis and the architect hired by the town.

The board voted to hold its next meeting on September 12, in person. They retired into an executive session to discuss collective bargaining.



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# LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was on September 6, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

### Leverett to Revisit Cell Tower Bylaw

Representatives of the town's *ad hoc* cell tower committee met with the selectboard on August 28 to try to improve communication in advance of a planned town meeting on October 9, where a less restrictive cell tower bylaw will once again be the topic of discussion.

Annual town meeting in the spring failed by three votes to gain a two-thirds majority to approve a new bylaw that would have loosened the restrictions that presently make it extremely unlikely a commercial cell tower company would ever locate a tower in Leverett. The current bylaw allows for cell towers only in one of Leverett's three small, low-lying commercial zones.

The planning board proposed a bylaw last winter that would have permitted cell towers by special permit, with defined setbacks from residences, schools, and conservation areas, anywhere in town.

Following the failure of their proposal, the selectboard appointed a committee to look into the issue of possible health effects linked to cell transmissions and reconsider the recommended setbacks. The committee is made up of appointees from the factions that supported and opposed the bylaw.

But all three members of the selectboard have also stated on a number of occasions that their intent is to bring the same bylaw that went down to narrow defeat in spring back before the special town meeting whether or not the *ad hoc* committee comes to consensus.

Hearing of this, Nancy Gross-

### Turners Falls: 500 Jobs Envisioned at Turnpike Road





Meeting on the Wednesday following Labor Day, the Montague selectboard approved for priority development 183 acres of town-owned land off Turnpike Road – the former town landfill and adjoining parcels to the rear of Judd Wire – for a planned Green industrial park, where as many as 500 jobs could eventually be created once the park reaches maximum buildout.

Town planner Walter Ramsey said the board's approval of priority permitting status for the property was the first step in getting the project off the drawing board. The next would be the approval, from the upcoming special town meeting on Monday, September 10, of priority status for permitting the acreage.


Ramsey said priority permitting would put Montague in line for state grant funding to develop the parcel, which also has the strong support of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments “because there's such a shortage of developable land in the county.”

He said when the industrial park is fully developed it could provide a home for companies providing as many as 500 jobs, and \$573,000 in annual tax revenue for the town.

Ramsey said no traffic study had yet been done on the proposed Turnpike Road industrial park.



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**GILL** from page A1

pole would go in front of the customer’s house.

“No,” said Hastings, “it would be in front of *my* house.” Hastings said he believed that utility service to the new house could be provided without having to install another pole “30 feet apart, in front of my house.”

“I do not know anywhere the power company has two poles set 30 feet apart,” he continued. “If this man can tell me where there are two poles set 30 feet apart, I would like to see them.”

Selectboard member Greg Snedeker asked Harpin whether it would be possible to use an existing pole. Harpin said he would find out what could be done.

**Energy Conservation Project**

Energy commission chair Vicky Jenkins and member Claire Chang updated the selectboard on their commission’s work toward reducing fossil fuel use at the public safety complex. Janet Masucci, also an energy commission member, was “wearing two hats,” working as usual as the meeting videographer.

Jenkins told the board her commission is working to get a new Green Communities grant application in before a October 2 deadline.

“It is one of the most complicated buildings, because it has three different departments,” Jenkins said of the building.

The public safety complex was recently accepted as a project for the UMass Clean Energy Corps, an interdisciplinary service-learning program headed by Ben Weil, an assistant professor at the UMass-Amherst Building and Construction Technology program.

The energy commission and town administrator Ray Purington had met previously with Mark Rabinsky, the Green Communities coordinator at the state Department of Energy Resources (DOER), and Matthew McTigue, an energy-efficiency consultant with Eversource Energy and MassSave. MassSave itself is an energy-efficiency collaboration between DOER and several electric and gas companies, which sponsor its work.

Jenkins said that only two of the four state approved contractors McTigue recommended got back to her. One, Energy Source, provided the commission with “a full complement of information,” including quotes for both weatherization and heat pumps. The other proposal, from Energy Resources, only included weatheriza-

tion costs and information.

Chang said Energy Source’s quote for insulation inside the building at the wall and roof boundaries would come to about \$36,000 after utility rebates, while Energy Resources quoted about \$38,000, after rebates, for exterior foam board insulation.

“There are several missing pieces of information,” said Chang. “Ben [Weil] did not specify what the outside cladding would be. He said we would need to do that, but it is not clear to me whether that is included in this proposal. I think that is a very big question mark.”

Chang also said that the town would likely have to contribute a portion of the cost, as it did with the town hall weatherization and heat pump project.

The energy commission was approved to pursue the recommendations from Energy Source and submit the project draft to the selectboard for review.

**The Goopy Middle**

Jenkins told the selectboard she had spoken with Jan Ameen and Amy Donovan of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District about a town-wide food composting program, but that they did not think the costs of a curbside program would be feasible in Gill.

Jenkins said that she and Purington would meet with Ameen and Donovan sometime in October to talk about other food-composting options to pursue with residents.

Snedeker suggested that Jenkins start by surveying resident interest, and Jenkins said she had already planned to post an item about a composting program in the town newsletter.

“You’ve got a lot of people who are already composting,” said Purington. “You have a decent number of people who are not going to. It is the others that are the sweet spot for this conversation.”

**School Regionalization**

“We found out a week ago that the finalized state budget that the governor signed did not have any regionalization funding in it,” said Snedeker, referring to the six-town regionalization planning board (STRPB), formed in 2019 to study merging Gill, Bernardston, Leyden, Northfield, Montague, and Warwick into a new regional school district.

Snedeker told the selectboard the STRPB had received about

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\$500,000 a year in grant funding from the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education over the last few years to carry out its work.

He added that the Southern Berkshire Regional School District (SBRSD) “is in the same boat” regarding funding sources, and that he planned to meet the following week with SBRSD project manager Jake Eberwein and 8-Town Regional School District Planning Board chair Lucy Prashker to share ideas about other potential financial resources.

**Other Business**

The fire department was approved to contract up to \$1,600 with Fire Tech & Safety of New England,

Inc. of Tyngsborough for its annual breathing-air-quality compression testing, and \$1,500 with Air Cleaning Systems, LLC of Hanover for the repair and maintenance of the department’s exhaust fume extractor system. The department was also approved to declare a Genesis Jaws of Life unit as surplus equipment.

Joanne Stafford was appointed as an election worker through June 2023.

A Hazardous Waste Collection Day will be offered on Saturday, September 24. Pre-registration is required by next Friday, September 16. Registration, and more information, are available at [franklincountywastedis-trict.org](http://franklincountywastedis-trict.org).

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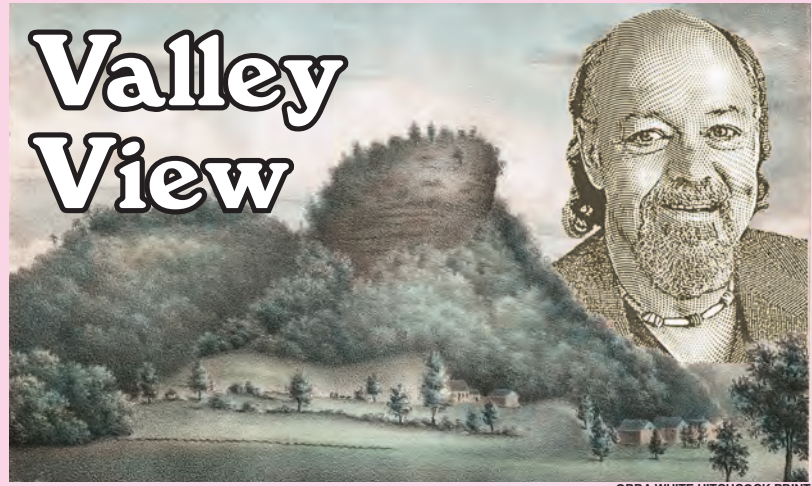
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FEATURES@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG OF THE MONTAGUE REPORTER SEPTEMBER 8, 2022



**Valley View**

By GARY SANDERSON

**GREENFIELD** – Under the microscope today is a peculiar carved stone and a forgotten colonial home that met the wrecking ball many years ago, both from Deerfield.

First, the stone. Round in form and about the size of a human hand, it surfaced recently in parched Fuller Swamp Brook, where it was picked up by a curious woman walking the Wapping field behind the old Samuel Childs Farm. News of the discovery came to me by Saturday-night phone call, breaking early-evening silence as I closed in on answers about the aforementioned historic South Deerfield home, to which we'll return.

Not recognizing the caller-ID name, I didn't answer. But when the Smart TV revealed that a message had been left, I went right to it. Messages are usually a good sign.

The caller was Brent Pitcher, a fit, quiet man I know from the Nolumbeka Project, a local Native American advocacy group honoring Northeastern tribal heritage. He wanted to share digital photos of the interesting stone, texted to him by the discoverer. She was convinced it was the work of human hands, maybe Native American, depicting a beaver face with two buck teeth.

Having been immersed for the past two or three years in South Deerfield deed research that had more than once meandered through Wapping and the Bars, I knew there was an early placename "Beaver Dam" and a small stream named "Beaver Dam Brook" right there in the South Meadows, where the stone was found. So, of course, I

was interested. Plus, how could I ignore a find that could be related to the deep-time Beaver Myth of Sugarloaf and the Pocumtuck Range? In my mind, this beaver stone could have had legs to interesting places.

My immediate reaction upon hanging up was, "Hmmm. Why does this stuff happen to me?"

Little did Pitcher know that I had spent much time in recent months reading about ancient, ritualistic, stone, bone, and ivory portable-art objects recovered from Paleoindian mastodon bone-fields. These talismans have been recently identified by archaeologist friend Dr. Richard Michael Gramly. Inspired by an initial discovery during an excavation he led in 2015 at Middletown, New York, Gramly and ancient-religion guru Dr. James B. Harrod have together examined and identified many previously unidentified primitive art objects stagnating in curated collections.

This year, Gramly published a groundbreaking compendium of essays, *Human and Proboscidean Interactions in North America*, to which Harrod made many important contributions. Much of their discussion focuses on North American portable zoomorphic art objects with deep connections, imagery and symbolism linking them to the Old-World Gravettian culture dating back 33,000 years, and ancient Eurasian and northeast Asian people who eventually crossed the Bering Strait to North America.

The first such portable-art specimen recognized in North America was a piece of ivory shaped like a mastodon in profile. Gramly noticed it when recording materials unearthed during his Bowser Road dig north and west of New York City. He and Harrod then closely re-examined the curated Hiscock Collection at the Buffalo (New York) Museum of Science – a well-known assemblage of skeletal mastodon remains and artifacts – to confirm their suspicion that other examples would appear in existing collections. Then, yes, the Hiscock Collection did indeed contain previously unidentified portable art, some of it from the earliest sled burial known to man.

And, get this: the Clovis sled runners were crafted from mastodon tusks, split lengthwise in half.

Since then, a fascinating, see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3



Our columnist is helping find out who carved this beaver.

# Tuned for 35 Years to Americana Roots

By GRANGER SMITH-MASSA

**MONTAGUE** – As we continue to live through difficult times, it's always good to find some way to relax. Playing a mix of acoustic Americana music, the Falltown String Band helps us do just that. Founded in 1987, they celebrate their 35th anniversary this year and are still going as strong as ever. Frequently playing at Turners Falls' own Rendezvous, along with many other places in Western Mass, Southern Vermont, and Southern New Hampshire, the band brings the joy of folk music to the community.



The Falltown String Band – from left to right, Jack Nelson, Marcia Day, Jason Burbank, Danny Shedd, Steve Alves, Sue Shedd, and Marvin Shedd – at the Rendezvous in 2015.

The band was founded by Ed Phelps with his friends Pam Allan and George Nolan. Together they had spent time jamming out in their kitchens, reveling in a shared love of playing folk tunes. After realizing the emotional power of the music they were playing, they decided to take it on the road. They wanted to bring the love of acoustic music to the community, and Phelps especially saw the band's mission as showing people Americana music and giving it a chance to thrive.

So the Falltown String Band began. "Falltown" was an older name of the town of Bernardston, where the band started. The band has gone through significant evolutions since those first days, and is currently composed of five core members,

completely different from the original lineup. Even through this evolution, the band continues to perform with Phelps' original goal in mind.

Falltown String Band's members make for a colorful cast full of stories and humor. Jack Arensmeyer has been the longest-standing member of the band, having played in it for 34 years. Following him are Marvin and Sue Shedd, playing guitar and flute respectively for 31 years, clearly enjoying their time playing. ("Once again, we've had too much fun," said Marvin after a recent performance at the Rendezvous.)

Jason Burbank has played with the band for 31 years as well, playing the Celtic folk music that inspired him to pick up the violin in

the first place back in grad school. "I had the choice of one for \$50 with strings, or one for \$35 without," he recalled of that moment. "I chose the one with strings, but I forgot I needed a bow!"

Jack Nelson, who has played upright bass for the band for 27 years, is an artist now local to Turners Falls – he pointed out the sandblasted bus windows that he made as *decor* for the Rendezvous.

The band's music is hard to narrow into one genre, because Americana is difficult to define. The selection includes anything from Celtic folk music, to the Beatles, to the jazz song "When the Saints Go Marching In." Many of the pieces

see **FALLTOWN** page B8

## NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE

BY TROUBLE MANDESON



An icy treat of sorbet made from golden zucchini, sugar, lemons, and mint. (See recipe on Page B5.) Be creative and try different herbs like lavender or thyme.

**GREENFIELD** – One of the things I love about summer is the plethora of squash, most notably zucchini and, for purposes of this specific column, the lovely golden-yellow zucchini. It is said to have a slightly sweeter flavor than the green, which might be the reason why it works so well as an ingredient in this recipe for frozen sorbet which I'm sharing with you here. It makes up a tart, sweet, and gorgeously golden dessert.

I love frozen treats, and the simplest is frozen fruit. My mom would slice oranges in half, peel bananas and wrap them in waxed paper, wash and put grapes in a bowl, and stick this unadorned fruit salad into the freezer.

The bursts of fruity flavor as the fuzzy fronds of frozen citrus are spooned out is a real summer treat. As are the explosions of ice-cold goodness from frozen grapes – there's a bowl of them in my freezer now.

But the best treat of all was, and really still is, the frozen banana. No fruit is more emblematic of my childhood than a chocolate-covered frozen banana, which I devoured while frolicking on the shores of a southern California beach with my family and a raft of cousins, aunts, and uncles.

(Cocina Lupita, a food truck near the common in Greenfield, sometimes sells frozen bananas, so watch for the handwritten sign to go up!)

Another simple treat, which requires a bit more

see **HEARTFELT** page B5



# Pet of the Week



## “HARRY”

Poor Harry couldn’t whip up enough magic to make things work with Hermione and Ron. Originally part of a trio – you might even say a love triangle – Harry soon found himself on the losing end of the battle for Hermione’s affections.

Bullied out of the food bowl and off the shared perches, the lovelorn Harry ultimately moved out to his own bachelor pad. Maybe there’s a bird out there destined to be best

budgies with Harry, or perhaps a special adopter who can fill that niche. Wizards only need apply.

Interested in adopting Harry? The adoption fee for one parakeet is \$25. 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).

## Senior Center Activities

### SEPTEMBER 12 THROUGH 17

<b>WENDELL</b> 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.	4 p.m. Mat Yoga <b>Thursday 9/15</b> 10 a.m. Fruit & Financials 10:30 a.m. Senior Farm Share 1 p.m. Cards & Games <b>Friday 9/16</b> 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics
<b>LEVERETT</b> 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 <a href="mailto:coa@leverett.ma.us">coa@leverett.ma.us</a> .	<b>ERVING</b> 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.
<b>GILL and MONTAGUE</b> The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. For more information please call 863-9357.	<b>Monday 9/12</b> 9 a.m. Interval 10:15 a.m. Seated Workout <b>Tuesday 9/13</b> 9 a.m. Good for U 10 a.m. Line Dancing <b>Wednesday 9/14</b> 9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact 10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Bingo <b>Thursday 9/15</b> 9 a.m. Core & Balance 10 a.m. Barre Fusion <b>Friday 9/16</b> 9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew
<b>Monday 9/12</b> Death Cafe (by reservation) 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Exercise 12 p.m. Pot Luck Lunch 1 p.m. Knitting & Handcrafts <b>Tuesday 9/13</b> 1 p.m. Chair Yoga 2 p.m. COA Meeting <b>Wednesday 9/14</b> 10:15 a.m. Aerobics 11 a.m. Chair Aerobics 11:30 a.m. Friends’ Meeting 12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo	

## SEPTEMBER LIBRARY LISTING

<b>Montague Public Libraries</b> <i>Turners Falls: Carnegie</i> (413) 863-3214 <i>Montague Center</i> (413) 367-2852 <i>Millers Falls</i> (413) 659-3801	<b>Erving Public Library</b> (413) 423-3348 <b>Gill: Slate Library</b> (413) 863-2591 <b>Leverett Public Library</b> (413) 548-9220 <b>Northfield: Dickinson Library</b> (413) 498-2455 <b>Wendell Free Library</b> (978) 544-3559
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### MONTAGUE

**Every Wednesday:** *Story Time Outside.* Meet Meghan Doyle for stories, songs, and a Take-and-Make craft. Carnegie Library, 10 a.m.

**Every Thursday:** *Playgroup Plus.* Guided and free play with music and activities. Designed for preschoolers; older children welcome. Carnegie Library, 10 a.m.

**Saturday, September 10:** *Children’s Author Visit and Yoga Session.* Meet local author Sue Fuller as she shares words and poses from her book. Carnegie Library, 11 a.m. to noon.

**Multiple days:** *Paws to Read.* Read to trained therapy dogs Emmy or J-Lo to improve literacy skills. 3rd Monday, 3rd Thursday. Call (413) 863-3214 to reserve a 15-minute spot for your child or teen. Carnegie Library, 4 to 5 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 21:** *Author Series.* Richard Anderson reads from his latest novel, *A Home Run for Bunny.* Refreshments. Montague Center Library, 6 to 7 p.m.

**September 24 to 30:** *Climate Ribbon Project.* Look for displays at all three libraries during open hours.

**Thursday, September 29:** *Montague Center Book Club.* Email [kmartineau@cwmmars.org](mailto:kmartineau@cwmmars.org) for more info. 17 Center Street, 7 to 8 p.m.

### ERVING

**Every Wednesday:** *Bilingual Storytime and Playgroup.* Hora Del Cuento y Grupo De Juego Bilingue. 10 to 10:45 a.m.

**Thursday, September 8:** *Artist Open House.* Informal meet and greet with award-winning local artist Kenneth E. Zilisch. Variety of media including pastels and woodcuts. Show remains on display through October 27. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday, September 11:** *Vocal Jazz Ensemble Concert.* All ages welcome. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

**Monday, September 12:** *Paws to Read.* Kids read to a therapy dog for 15 minutes. Handler present. Call (413) 423-3348 to reserve a spot. 4 to 5 p.m.

**Sunday, September 18:** *Teacup Flowers.* Make your own flower arrangement in a teacup. Materials provided; RSVP required. 2 p.m.

**Sunday, September 25:** Movie, *Laura.* Part of monthly *Film Noir* book and movie series highlighting strong female characters. Popcorn and cold drinks. 1 p.m.

**Monday, September 26:** *For Teens Only,* ages 12 to 19.

Fresh popcorn, cold drinks, chat with a librarian, movie of the month. 3:30 p.m.

**Thursday, September 29:** *Vine Stars.* Make your own decorative vine star. Materials provided; RSVP req’d. 5:30 p.m.

### LEVERETT

**September 1 to 14:** *The ROY G. BIV of Local Fungi.* Exhibit by Annaliese Bischoff on the trail behind the library.

**Mondays and Wednesdays:** *Online Qigong.* Free class, everyone welcome. More info on [leverettlibrary.org](http://leverettlibrary.org), or email [CommunityQigong@gmail.com](mailto:CommunityQigong@gmail.com). 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**Every Thursday:** *Play Mahjongg.* Free, everyone welcome. Bring your own tiles or try with ours. Email [leverettlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:leverettlibrary@gmail.com) for more info.

**Every Saturday:** *Tai Chi.* Free classes, everyone welcome. Space limited, masks required. Call Dennis for info: (413) 367-9760. Intermediate to advanced 10 to 11 a.m., beginners 11 a.m. to noon.

**September 15 to 30:** *Story Walks.* Find a new Story on the trail behind the library every Thursday.

**Saturday, September 24:** *Dedication Ceremony* for the “Leverett’s Past, Present, and Future” mural by Judith Ingles. 3 to 5 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 27:** *Black Writers Read.* Dashaun Washington, Regine Jackson, and Christopher J. Sparks will read from their current works of poetry and fiction. 6:30 p.m.

### NORTHFIELD

**Every Tuesday:** *Drop-in Knitting.* Join fellow knitters and crocheters to chat and share projects. 6 to 8 p.m.

**Thursday, September 8:** Environmental Awareness Group, *Plant Dreaming Deep* by May Sarton. Pick up a copy at the library. 6:30 p.m.

**Friday, September 9:** *Kids’*

*Friday:* Free play with our giant collection of LEGOs. 2 to 3 p.m.  
*Live Music at the Creamie:* Ted Thronton and Joe Bedard perform oldies from the '50s and '60s. Northfield Creamie, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 14:** Readings: Nonfiction, Fiction, and Poetry: *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley. Pick up a copy at the library. 3 p.m.

**Thursday, September 15:** *Garden Design 101.* Landscape consultant Mary Jo Maffei shows how to incorporate principles from architecture, interior design, garden design. Masks encouraged. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, September 20:** Friends of the Library. For more info email [friendsofdml01360@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdml01360@gmail.com). 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday, September 22:** *Sarah Clay and the StarCats,* live jazz under the tent at the Northfield Golf Club. Drinks available for purchase. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

**Friday, September 23:** *Trivia Night.* Teams of 1 to 6 players. Drinks for purchase. Northfield Golf Club, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

### WENDELL

**Thursdays, September 8 and 22:** *Fiber Arts / Handwork / Mending Circle.* Needles and thread available. 6:30 p.m.

**Every Friday:** *LEGO Club.* Drop-in program for ages 5 and up. 4 p.m.

**Every Saturday:** *AA Group,* 7 p.m.

**Every Sunday:** *Outdoor Free Community Yoga.* All levels. Gazebo, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Every Tuesday:** *Watercolor Art Group.* 5 to 6 p.m.

**Every Wednesday:** *Outdoor Playgroup.* Email [budine@erv-ing.com](mailto:budine@erv-ing.com) for more info. 10 a.m.

**Wednesday, September 14:** *Mostly Beginners Conversational Spanish.* Six-week course, registration required. 7 to 8 p.m.

**Monday, September 26:** *Adult Fiction Group.* Registration required. Zoom, 10 to 11:30 a.m.

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*The Dwelley and Billings place, one of Deerfield's oldest buildings, in a circa 1900 photograph.*

**VALLEY VIEW** from page B1

well-executed, zoomorphic sculpture of a mastodon in profile, carved in bone, has come to light in an Ohio museum collection. And the search goes on.

Next stop is the Blue Licks Battlefield site in Kentucky, where an old collection of mastodon bones and who knows what else is awaiting examination. Gramly recently returned from his maiden voyage at Blue Licks, a two-week dig on land owned by a friend that bore intriguing fruit and promises to produce much, much more.

The minute Pitcher emailed me photos of the mystery beaver stone, I forwarded a frontal shot to Gramly. Who better to evaluate such a find? He studied the photo, and immediately said he doubted a Native American origin but would like to examine it in hand.

“I’ve never seen anything like it, which immediately raises doubt,” he said. “I’m not ready to say it’s Native American. It could be old. Maybe colonial. But it looks like white-guy work to me – an imaginative, even humorous characterization of a beaver.”

So, the jury’s still out. Stay tuned.

Now, let us return to the vexing historical snag I was trying to unravel when Pitcher’s phone call broke my investigative spell, exploring a long-ago demolished and now forgotten historic South Deerfield home. When the phone rang, I was hot on the trail of a demolition date for the North Main Street building that burned beyond repair when I was a kid. My memory of the building is vague at best. All I recall is a glum, unoccupied, boarded-up building across the street from the Karas and Manson homes and Yazwinski Farm. Nothing else.

I could easily follow the building’s history into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, but was having difficulty tracking it in deeds after 1930 – documents that would offer names helpful for keyword searching newspaper archives. Many foreign families settled in South Deerfield between 1880 and 1920, and they held no connection to the village’s founding families, and little interest in the provenance of old homes they had purchased.

The house on which we’re focusing was built by Samuel Dwelley around 1770, maybe earlier, and was recognized in 19<sup>th</sup>-century South Deerfield as the Timothy and Charles W. Billings residence. Timothy Billings (1770-1860) was its second owner. He married Dwelley’s daughter, Amy, in 1795 and lived with his in-laws before buying the landed estate in 1801. When his oldest son Francis (1797-1861) came of age, he built south of his father. The ninth of Timothy and Amy’s 12 children, Charles W. Billings (1815-1901), stayed put, eventually inheriting his father and grandfather’s home, where he died.

I knew the old Dwelley/Billings place was still standing in 1930, and gone by 1970. But was

it burned, or torn down? Hints, but no answers. The missing link was the name of the house’s final occupant – the search a tangled maze.

Finally, in an act of desperation, I posted a nighttime query on the “Deerfield Now” Facebook page, which gets a lot of traffic and can be a good resource for 20<sup>th</sup>-century memories. My post describing the building and inquiring what had become of it was launched after I had questioned two nonagenarian women who passed it in their youth. Both remembered the building as the “Miller place,” and neither knew much about either the owner, John W. Miller, or anything about the building’s demise.

Bingo! The answer came within minutes. The first respondent was Paul Olszewski, four or five years younger than me, who grew up within view of the decaying historic homestead and “messed” me. It burned, he said, and had been owned by the Legac family and eventually purchased by the abutting Hosley Brothers auto dealership.

Former selectman David Wolfram, with a long family history in the volunteer fire department, soon confirmed Olszewski’s information. The place, owned by the Legacs, burned, was boarded up, and eventually torn down. By the next morning, many others had chimed in, including some Legac family and friends.

Deeds and news accounts bore them out. The Legac family of four was dining in Florence at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday, February 20, 1964 when neighbor Albert “Babe” Manson noticed the fire from his home across the street. Manson immediately called the fire department and – according to Facebook respondent and his daughter, Diana Tardiff – raced across the street, kicking in the door to save the frantic family dog, “Sambo.”

The building’s interior was destroyed. The Legacs boarded up their home and vacated to New York. The town condemned the building as a public health hazard more than three years later, and on September 20, 1967 gave the owners 30 days to remove it or the town would do so at their expense. Less than a year later, on August 20, 1968, the vacant lot was sold to Hosley Brothers, Inc., which wanted more space for roadside display.

Although the fire, family fundraisers, and town wranglings over the building were covered by the newspaper, the stories were typically buried, and I could find not one solitary word about the historic significance of what would have been one of the village’s oldest standing buildings. No mention of the Dwelley or Billings families, or what they had meant to South Deerfield.

No wonder so many historic South Deerfield buildings with charm, character, and important tales to tell have met the wrecking ball since – all in the name of progress. That, I find sad. Sad indeed.



#### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Injured Hawk; Dirty Mouths; Several Kitchen Fires; Petty Thefts; Petty Neighbors; People Slashing Tires

### Monday, 8/22

2:17 a.m. Shelburne Control dispatched TF fire department to alarm at Eagle Creek Renewable Energy on Canal Road.

1:24 p.m. Maple Street caller reporting harassment, foul language in front of her children from another tenant.

3:11 p.m. Caller reported a broken-down van on the canal bridge. Rau’s *en route* but canceled; driver was able to get van off bridge.

4:04 p.m. Multiple calls about a German Shepherd trailing a leash on Lake Pleasant Road. Cars stopping to slow traffic and catch the dog. Owner went for treats; advised she will have better luck catching the dog with fewer people around.

7:19 p.m. Caller reported finding and taking a small kitten from Greenfield Energy Park; doesn’t know what to do. He heard more meowing but couldn’t find other kittens. No report of missing kittens in Greenfield; caller advised to contact ACO in the morning.

11:30 p.m. Randall Road caller concerned about prowlers. Officer found nothing suspicious.

### Tuesday, 8/23

1:01 a.m. Patrol officer spoke to male standing in the middle of the intersection at Eleventh and I streets.

8:30 a.m. Officer flagged down by a pedestrian concerned about an injured hawk. Hawk flew away.

12:14 p.m. After reviewing Food City footage, officer found a woman at Peskumskut Park with a stolen item. Manager trespassed her for the day.

6:20 p.m. Tree down on East Chestnut Hill Road. Removed by DPW.

11:13 p.m. Fire reported at a Fifth Street address. Second caller reported an unwanted male at the same location, as well as active fire. Officer reported the male is in his own apartment; no fire issues observed.

### Wednesday, 8/24

8:57 a.m. Neglected dogs reported on Federal Street. Officer and ACO checked outside home, found no signs of neglected dogs.

3:03 p.m. Report of fight between two males on Second Street. Upon arrival, one had left; advised the other of options.

3:27 p.m. Caller reported juveniles at Unity Park who would not stop cursing when asked. Officer advised one juvenile of the complaint.

7:33 p.m. Caller reported vehicle leaving tire marks after a burnout on Lake Pleasant Road.

8:39 p.m. Federal Street caller complained of loud music and revving engines. All quiet on arrival.

9:22 p.m. Erratically driven red SUV reported on Bridge Street. Unable to locate.

10:01 p.m. Multiple calls regarding juveniles causing disturbance at Avenue A and Fourth Street. One caller had his screen door kicked in.

10:12 p.m. Greenfield caller reported theft of \$100 from her wallet at her apartment. Advised to report to GPD.

### Thursday, 8/25

12:23 a.m. East Main Street caller reporting noisy upstairs neighbor.

8:06 a.m. White box truck reported crossing midline several times on Federal Street. Referred to officer.

8:55 a.m. Caller from Conte lab reported person kayaking in the power canal. FirstLight Power personnel spoke with person, who left the area.

1:40 p.m. FirstLight reported male in red Camry changing oil on their property. Argument could be heard in the background. Officer moved the man along.

2:57 p.m. Report of wires down on Federal Street. Officer reported pole information with a secondary line ripped off a house. Traffic stopped in both directions. Eversource notified, and road reopened.

6:40 p.m. Woman reporting male stalking her at Unity Park; there had been an incident a few days earlier. Male not present when officer arrived. Woman advised of options.

8:42 p.m. Fire alarm at Eleventh Street residence. Officer and TFFD on the scene. An oven mitt ignited after falling into hot oven, but residents were able to put the fire out.

9:09 p.m. Report of cutting sounds at Hillcrest Elementary. Likely neighbor working in his garage.

### Friday 8/26

8:07 a.m. Gunshots reported, Old Greenfield Road. Quiet when officer arrived.

2:50 p.m. Caller reported unwanted male, Turners Falls Road. Male was accompanying caller’s ex-girlfriend who was coming to pick up her property. All parties advised of options.

5:49 p.m. Millers Falls caller reporting flames coming from her oven; it won’t shut off. Referred to Shelburne Control.

7:10 p.m. Montague Street caller advised of options after three teenagers came to his house offering to do yard work.

9:39 p.m. Report of loud music and a group of about 20 kids at Avenue A and Fourth Street.

10:33 p.m. Report of candlelight vigil on the front steps of an Avenue A address that is getting loud and music is playing.

### Saturday, 8/27

8:42 a.m. Assisted with motor vehicle lockout, Old Greenfield Road. Dog locked inside the car.

2:09 p.m. Fourth Street resident walked in to report vandalism to his vehicle; believes it was done by a neighbor. Officer surveyed damage; unclear whether it is new.

4:10 p.m. Caller reported his roommate moved out and stole his PlayStation. He does not know the last name of former roommate and will call back with more information.

9:07 p.m. Caller concerned about loud noises and screaming on Park Street. Family gathering underway.

9:15 p.m. Two calls about motorcycles riding in a dangerous fashion up the Hill toward Scotty’s. Unable to locate.

### Monday, 8/29

1:56 p.m. H Street caller reported three books missing from his couch; thinks he knew who took them.

5:08 p.m. Fourth Street caller reported safety hazard of children playing on fence.

5:27 p.m. Report of youth destroying personal property on Fourth Street.

8:49 p.m. Youth reported his phone had been stolen when he went inside to refill his water bottle. Second call from his father, who was advised of options.

9:14 p.m. Caller stuck behind the fence on Migratory Way, requesting assistance. Officer let four vehicles out.

### Tuesday, 8/30

1:05 a.m. Report of a shattered window on second floor of Bridge Street apartment after a dispute with an unknown third party. Caller reported that the neighbor’s girlfriend and an unknown male recently departed the building. Upstairs neighbor is outside shouting, walking, and eyeballing him despite a harassment prevention order. Officers located male walking toward Route 2 being loud, disruptive, and belligerent, resulting in transport to station.

7:49 a.m. Caller from Greenfield Road reporting someone shooting a gun in the woods near the tracks. He noted it is not hunting season, and is in a residential neighborhood. Referred to environmental police.

10:13 a.m. East Main Street resident reported a former roommate had stolen from him; he found mail with the guy’s name on it.

10:57 a.m. Caller from Randall Road reported a tree is blocking the road; not sure if wires are involved. Barricades requested; DPW notified.

2:51 p.m. Two-vehicle accident, Route 63 and Highland Avenue. One car

towed by Rau’s.

7:07 p.m. Walk-in advised of options regarding a harassment prevention order.

### Wednesday, 8/31

7:54 a.m. Walk-in reported a lost female yellow lab on Greenfield Road.

2:11 p.m. Arrest at Cumberland Farms. Male party transported to police station.

2:25 p.m. Officer checked on a vehicle parked in the street. Driver was looking for his charging cord.

2:36 p.m. Federal Street caller reporting her neighbor is revving his engines again. No officer available.

3:21 p.m. Report from East Main Street of a tree falling near the old paper mill. Officer noted electric pole was affected; entire road was blocked. DPW and Eversource advised.

5:29 p.m. Report of non-resident sitting outside Wentworth Congregate Housing with an open container. Officer advised the container was almost empty, dumped the rest, and sent drinker on his way.

8:58 p.m. Caller reported he let his ex-girlfriend use his vehicle but discovered she doesn’t have a valid license so he asked for it back; girlfriend refusing to return vehicle. Owner also notified GPD.

9:06 p.m. Report of active kitchen fire on Adams Street. Officer on scene; fire was extinguished but house was full of smoke.

11:14 p.m. Assisted GPD with be-on-lookout order for male to be arrested for assault and battery.

### Thursday 9/1

7:26 a.m. DPW requested assistance with removal of parked car to allow for paving. Vehicle was towed by Rau’s.

8:34 a.m. Husky reported on the loose on Rastallis Street. ACO is on vacation, and police are busy assisting with downtown traffic due to paving.

11:44 a.m. Fourth Street resident reporting harassment by her neighbor, has footage of neighbor damaging her camera. Summons issued for destruction of property.

2:47 p.m. Driver on Industrial Boulevard advised to remove dark tint from his windshield.

2:58 p.m. Officer checking on vehicle on Randall Road found it was out of fuel; driver had gone for gas.

6:32 p.m. J Street caller left belongings outside, went inside for a few minutes, and when he returned items were missing. Officer advised there was a misunderstanding; peace restored.

9:15 p.m. Report of people hitting the fender of a pickup truck was unfounded. Truck has a flat tire; owner believes it may

see MPD next page

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**MPD** from page B3 have been slashed. **Friday, 9/2** 12:03 a.m. Complaint of loud patrons outside bar, Second Street and Avenue A. Advised of complaint. 2:44 p.m. Walk-in reported his car was vandalized while parked at Food City. Officer did not observe any damage. 5:48 p.m. Fourth Street caller reported suspected drug activity, gave a plate number. 9:11 p.m. Report of Federal Street resident entertaining the neigh-

borhood with loud music again. Advised resident of complaint. 10:11 p.m. Montague Retreat advised of noise complaint - reporting neighbor had hoped the noise would stop at 10 p.m. but it did not. 11:06 p.m. Complaint of loud noise coming from the Millers Falls Rod & Gun Club. Services rendered. **Saturday, 9/3** 12:27 a.m. Caller encountered three individuals in the roadway claiming to have been in a bicycle accident.

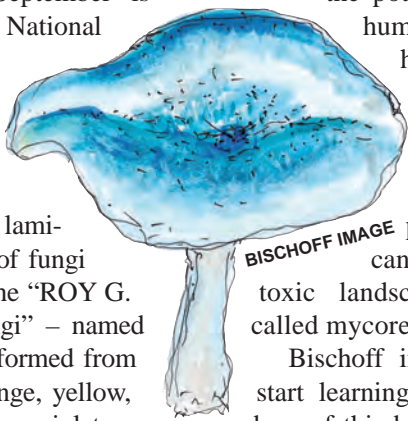
When he offered to call 911 they declined. Reporting person did not stay long, suspected it might be a scam being set up. Officer found one cyclist in the area who did not need assistance. 2:49 a.m. Report of screaming and arguing coming from a second-floor Montague City Road apartment; caller concerned about children living there. Officer visited the scene; one person will leave for the night; no physical altercation.



EVENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Explore the Fungi Spectrum

**LEVERETT** – Local artist Annaliese Bischoff presents the color spectrum of fungi in two presentations in Leverett. The exhibits are timely, because September is also designated as National Fungi Month. First, you may explore a walking trail behind the Leverett Library posted with laminated illustrations of fungi to follow. This is the “ROY G. BIV of Local Fungi” – named after the acronym formed from the colors red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, violet – and the mushrooms exhibit colors that span the spectrum. The outdoor trail will be available until September 14. The illustrations are also accessible online at [works.bepress.com/annaliese\\_bischoff](https://www.bepress.com/annaliese_bischoff) under “Recent Works.” A related exhibit at the nearby Leverett Crafts & Arts presents paintings by Lori Lyn Hoffer, “Travels and Botanicals,” in the Barnes Gallery, and the botanical illustrations from “The ROY G. BIV of Fungi” on view in the Hall Gallery. “You can also begin to learn about the important roles fungi



Clitocybe odora, “uniseed funnel cap,” illustration by Annaliese Bischoff.

play in the health of our world,” Bischoff explains. “We are learning more and more about how valuable fungi can be. They have the potential to improve human health. They have potential commercial value – they can replace plastic as sustainable packaging. They can also help heal toxic landscapes, a process called mycoremediation.” Bischoff invites viewers to start learning about the members of this biological kingdom by “learning the names of their parts – and enjoying the colors of the ones you find. Contact your local mycological society to learn more!” The Pioneer Valley Mycological Association is a very active organization that coordinates many workshops and guided walks as well as multi-day forays. Membership is \$15 for an individual and \$25 for a household. Learn more at [www.pvmamycology.org](https://www.pvmamycology.org). The Leverett Crafts & Arts is at 13 Montague Road, and the Leverett Library is 25 Montague Road.

Two Fundraisers for the *Reporter!*

By REPORTER STAFF

**TURNERS FALLS** – A fundraiser called “Local: Poems, Place, and Paper” invites poets from the local community and beyond to read their work online on Saturday, September 17 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. The ONLINE event is free for attendees, with a request that they donate to *The Montague Reporter*. This effort has been put together by Lis McLoughlin, who was the editor of the *Reporter’s* NatureCulture page for several years. She now coordinates the Writing the Land project ([www.writingtheland.org](https://www.writingtheland.org)), which pairs poets with conserved lands, and creates anthologies sold to support land protection. McLoughlin was moved to propose the fundraiser because she believes strongly that independent reporting makes a difference. “*The Montague Reporter* covers the lo-



cal effects of the global climate emergency, and it covers the effects of our local decisions on the environment,” she writes. “From wastewater treatment to the relicensing of the dams and Northfield

pump station, the paper connects the dots. I appreciate articles digging into issues I care about, and would like to give back a little.” Thanks, Lis! Register to attend at [www.tinyurl.com/mrpoetfund](https://www.tinyurl.com/mrpoetfund) and if you’d like to read, use the email on your invitation to register. Readers include Gary Greene, Marty Espinola, and the *Montague Reporter’s* own Poetry Page editor Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno. The *Reporter* is also offering a fundraising premium – the gift of a custom newspaper-printed apron available to donors who make a gift of \$100 dollars or more. This generously-sized, unisex apron has adjustable ties and two pockets. The cotton cloth was custom printed with a page of the newspaper by Spoonflower, a North Carolina company offering digital fabric printing. Several volunteers cut and sewed the aprons.

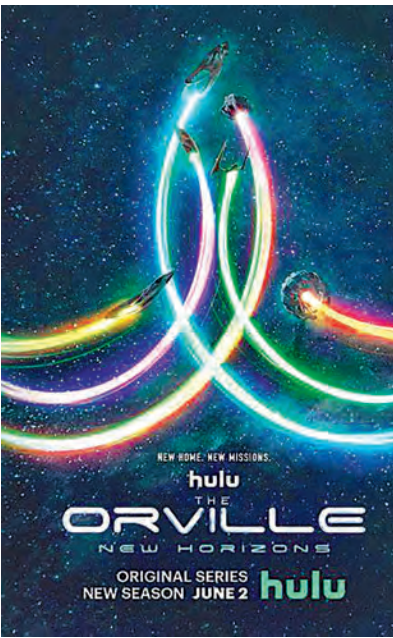
TV REVIEW

The Orville: New Horizons

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I have seen enough episodes of Seth MacFarlane’s *The Orville* to know it’s a somewhat-version of *Star Trek* in the form of a comedy drama, and to know some of the storylines they have done, and ones they are continuing to do in Season 3. The season, which they called *New Horizons*, premiered on June 2 on Hulu. This show is like *Star Trek* when it comes to focusing on social issues. The first time, I believe, was with gender issues involving females in an episode. That matter continued somewhat in Season 2, and bears fruit in a large way in the new season, in a sequel episode called “A Tale of Two Topas.” In fact, I rather liked that episode better than I did the initial episode that featured the issue. The same went for “Twice in a Lifetime,” the sequel to a Season 2 episode called “Last Impressions.” On top of some of the plotlines

being more to my liking in Season 3, I would say they are also doing some of the writing better. For example, in the beginning of the “Last Impressions” storyline, they used the show’s version of a holodeck to make this story happen. In “Twice in a Lifetime,” this time around they used time travel, which was way better for the story. In one of the other storylines that I thought was good, about a robot species called the Kaylon that were slaves, it was shown exactly how badly they were treated. That knowledge made one crew member on the USS Orville actually give Isaac, the friendly Kaylon that is still on the ship, a real chance. I should mention that this species is basically what you would call the “big bad” of the season. That episode is called “From Unknown Graves.” The latest social issue that they focus on in the show, in an episode called “Electric Sheep,” was suicide. This show still has moments of



comedy in it, but now it feels more like a sci-fi drama series. Some people might call this a carbon copy of *Star Trek*, and they might be right. I agree with that because I am a reasonably huge fan of *Star Trek*, but I think it’s a good copy of the show. Based on the current season, I would be surprised if they don’t get a fourth season – that is how much it is to my liking.

EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Weaving With Wood*. Chris King, a scientist, engineer, and artist from Worcester, up-cycles and repurposes found materials into art. In this exhibit he transforms marine, textile, and yard waste into fabric, panels, and sculpture, and investigates color theory, material texture, and information storage in knots. Through September 28. Artist’s reception Saturday, September 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. On Sunday, September 18 at 11 a.m., King leads a workshop on making rope, creating macramé, and weaving. **Rendezvous, Turners Falls:** *Intertine*, mixed-media work by Turners Falls resident Desi Lowit. Through November. **GCTV Studios, Greenfield:** *Alternative Abstracts*, paintings by Drew Hutchinson. Through September. **LAVA Center and Looky Here, Greenfield.** *Art Beyond Four Walls*, from the Salasin Project in collaboration with the Franklin County Sheriff’s Office programs. More than 70 pieces from men and women who are or who have been

incarcerated and the community artists from the Weekly Watercolor group who represent a welcoming bridge towards healing after release. Through September. Closing reception Friday, September 30 at 5 p.m. **Artspace, Greenfield:** *Ocean House*, mixed media by Stacy Pea. Reception this Friday, September 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Through September. **Leverett Crafts & Arts, Leverett:** *The ROY G. BIV of Fungi*, a rainbow of fungi illustrations by Annaliese Bischoff. *Travels and Botanicals*, oil paintings by Lori Lyn Hoffer. Through September, with a reception on Sunday, September 18 at 3 p.m. **Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro:** *Mundane Monsters*. Kristoffer Ørum combines augmented reality, 3D printing, video, wireless transmissions, and sculpture to summon forth everyday beasts from the cracks between the real and the imagined. Through October 7. **Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *DVAA Members Exhibit*, through September 18. **Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *William Hays*, color-reduction woodcut and linocut prints of the New

England landscape and architecture. *Carolyn Webb*, drawings and prints using patterns surrounding grief, colors, reflections. Reception Sunday, September 25, at 2 p.m. Through October. **Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Color, Light, Reflection*. Coop members Sandra Denis, Flo Rostenstock, and Sally Chaffee present colorful paintings, jewelry, textile art, and collage. Through September. **Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Then and Now*. Ron Maggio’s mixed-media series, “Grid: Point of Departure,” and Rochelle Shicoff’s painting series, “A Day Such as This.” Through September. **Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Owlen Dowling*, monotypes, intaglio, and drypoint. *Eliza Jane Moser*, paintings. *Dean Nimmer and Unique Fredique*, fluxist art. Through October 1. Artist reception this Friday, September 9, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. **Brattleboro Museum & Art Center:** *Felt Experience*, group show of felt artists. Also exhibiting: Beth Galston, Frank Jackson, Mie Yim, Nebizun, Roberley Bell, and Oasa Duverney. Through October 10. [www.brattleboromuseum.org](https://www.brattleboromuseum.org).

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**HEARTFELT** from page B1  
preparation, is shaved ice. It seems to me that my mother’s frozen orange half was the precursor to this modern treat. On my trip to Hawai’i this year I found it to be a very popular treat there.



*Frozen grapes are just about the easiest frozen treat to make. Pop ‘em in your mouth right from the freezer for a burst of icy fruity goodness.*

Nice. Snack Parlor at Nova Motorcycles in Unity Park serves shaved ice and slushies, basically shaved ice in flavored juice. Nice. serves both traditional flavors and herbal combinations like lavender-blueberry and lemon-ginger. I grew up with the 7/11 version known as the “Slurpie.” It came in poisonous neon colors like chartreuse and hot pink and was flavored with something resembling fruit and lots of sugar.

Popsicles are the next evolution of frozen treats. My family used Kool-Aid poured into the six-holed molds with the plastic holders that were always yellow. I loved homemade more than the boring two-stick popsicles from the store that would be snapped in half and shared

with a sibling or friend. (Did any kid ever get to eat both halves?)

Luckily, here in the Valley we have Crooked Stick Pops which are available at many local vendors including Ice Cream Alley on Main Street in Greenfield. Flavors include Smoky Peach Tea, Maple Pear, Vietnamese Coffee, and many more awesome combinations. There’s even “The Green Monster,” made with kale and pineapple.

I asked owner Julie Tuman the most popular flavor. “It’s “the ‘vanilla’ of fruit flavors,” she told me. “Strawberry.”


And the worst flavor she’s ever made? After tasting an amazing Mediterranean salad dressing made with preserved limes, she attempted to duplicate the flavor. She made a full batch of 28 popsicles but when unmolding them she knew something was off – the smell was totally wrong. She took a bite and immediately spit it out. “It was wretched!” she said. “All the good things from the salad dressing were gone.” Sometimes the best ideas simply don’t translate.

The last item of mention is sorbet, which, unlike sherbet, has no dairy and needs sugar or alcohol to freeze into a scoopable treat. I’m sharing a fantastic recipe with you that makes a gorgeous golden yellow sorbet that is tart and sweet. Your kids will love it without realizing it’s made from a vegetable.

*Trouble lives in Greenfield with Wifey and Mama Catt Elliott and manages the office part-time for a nearby farm. She loves to talk, read, write, garden/farm, cook, and make art.*



## ZUCCHINI LEMON MINT SORBET



*Although summer squash grows in various hues, the golden variety is perfect for this recipe, as the final color is everything.*

*Two large (or four small) golden yellow zucchini  
1/2 cup sugar, more or less to taste  
1/4 cup fresh-squeezed lemon juice  
1 Tbsp. grated lemon rind  
1 or 2 sprigs fresh mint (or thyme) with leaves, minced*

Cut the zucchini in half lengthwise and remove the seeds with a spoon. Chop it into large pieces and throw it into a blender or food processor.

Add sugar, lemon, and herbs, and purée.

Put the purée in a sieve over a

bowl and push it down with a spoon to get every drop of juice. Or use a piece of cheesecloth twisted around a wooden spoon to squeeze out all of the juice.

Place the bowl in the fridge for two hours, then whiz it around for about 20 minutes in an ice cream maker to smooth it.

If you have no ice cream machine, freeze the sorbet in a metal bowl or cake pan, taking it out two or three times over the next hour to stir it, crunch it up, and pat it flat. The more times you do this, the smoother your sorbet will be.

# MCTV News

## New Youth Filmmaking Class!

**By HANNAH BROOKMAN**

**TURNERS FALLS** – Hey teens! Want to join our frightening filmmaking class? MCTV will be partnering with the Brick House this October to create some haunted local content. Reach out to Megan at the Brick House to learn more.

Our new content this week includes Do It Now, Christmas in “July,” and Home Body and Frank Hurricane live, as well as updated meetings from the Montague selectboard, Gill selectboard, and Montague finance committee.

All community members are welcome to submit their videos to be aired on Channel 17 and featured on the MCTV Vimeo page. MCTV is always available to assist in local video production as well. Cameras, tripods, and lighting equipment are available for check-out, and filming and editing assistance can be provided.

And remember, MCTV is still looking for board members!

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 [infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguetelevision@gmail.com).



## Securing Online Accounts: Easier Than You Think!

**By RYNE HAGER**

**TURNERS FALLS** – Marketing is everything. When it comes to features in a new gadget, technical improvements like longer battery life or a better camera, communicating those changes in a way that potential customers can both learn about them and find them desirable is the essence of marketing. You have to *want* it – and marketing is the science of *want*.

But, frustratingly, some subjects are easier to market than others. Your online security is actually a really important matter, but that’s one of the few subjects that are almost impossible to dress up attractively. Right now, there’s a quick and relatively easy change you can make to most of your online accounts that can provide a big boost to your security. But because of a lack of marketing and a bit of confusion regarding the options, you might not be aware of it.

It’s called 2FA, or two-factor authentication. All it means is that when you go to sign in to an account, you have set up a *second* piece of authentication you have to provide at that time – basically a second kind of

password, though it doesn’t have to be a long string of letters and numbers you need to memorize. In fact, it’s better if it isn’t, because passwords are every bit as dumb as so many people think they are. I know that sounds like some kind of Ludite take, particularly coming from a tech reporter, but it’s true. Passwords suck, and a lot of companies are actually trying to get rid of them entirely.

The reason for that is the same reason that 2FA is good for your security: Passwords can be shared. Like “open sesame” in “Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves,” these invocations can be easily eavesdropped on. And thanks to technology, there are countless ways to do that now, from man-in-the-middle attacks that essentially “listen” to the line between you and a site, to phishing attacks that convince you an email came from somewhere it didn’t before asking you to log in at a fake site.

A password might make a good *first* line of defense, but all too often it’s actually the last one. 2FA complicates a password, something you know, with a second factor of au-

thentication, something you have. There are a few different ways to do that, and some are certifiably better than others.

The most common method of 2FA you see these days is actually the worst. That’s where a company sends you a message on your phone, usually containing a six-digit number you have to enter on a form during the sign-in process. The number isn’t the issue; it’s the fact that this only proves that you have access to a phone number.

While that seems like a high bar to clear, American carriers have been the target of plenty of hacks over recent years, and socially engineered attacks have consistently proven that someone can just Google up your name, call your carrier claiming to be you, and easily get your phone number transferred to a new SIM card where these messages can then be easily intercepted.

Yes, SMS-based 2FA might offer a tiny bit of added protection, but if an attack is actually targeting you specifically, it’s only adding as much security as the carriers keep – which is to say, not a lot.

Email-based 2FA, where you

are sent a similar code via email, is slightly better. But again, you’re only as secure as this other account is.

There are two kinds of 2FA that I like because they add substantially to your security – and counter-intuitively, the one that is easier to use is actually the better one.

The first solution is to use an “authenticator” app. This system uses the same code-based approach where you have to punch in a few digits when you are logging in, but no one sends them to you. Instead, you have a program on your computer or phone that generates these codes as needed, and you just copy and paste them in.

Apps like Authy, Google Authenticator, and Microsoft Authenticator can do this, and setting up an account to use them is as easy as pointing your phone at a QR code. Because these codes aren’t transmitted over your phone or email, they can’t be intercepted, though they’re still subject to things like phishing attacks.

The best solution, by miles, is to use a hardware 2FA key. This is a dongle that looks a little like a thumb drive, and contains a secure cryptographic element. The short version is that each of these keys is unique and can’t be copied. Whenever you sign up for a new account, you tie this key to it, and when you need to prove you are who you claim to be, you either plug it in or tap it against the back of your phone.

Paired with a username and password, this is quite secure. Someone half a world away could have all of your account credentials, but they can’t get in without this little dongle. And while someone could steal it from you in person, they’d also have to know who you are and get your

username and password from you as well for it to do any harm.

Future standards for these dongles, such as FIDO2, even plan for a world without passwords. I know that sounds like it should be a step backward for security, but it’s not, and companies like Apple, Google, and Microsoft are already gearing up for the benefits these passwordless sign-in systems will provide.

These hardware two-factor security keys don’t cost a ton of money, though I wouldn’t buy one from just anywhere. The biggest name out there right now making these is a company called Yubico, and they have keys that range from about \$25 to \$60. Other companies like Google and Kensington also sell them. My advice: Buy *at least* two with the ports you need, put one on your key ring, and keep the other at home somewhere so you don’t lose it.

Security is a hard subject to make attractive, particularly because it can mean doing actual work to keep yourself safe online, and we’re all pretty lazy. And really, if something like our Netflix account gets hacked, it’s not a big deal. But think for a moment about your important online accounts – your email account, your online banking, your retirement account. If someone else got access to those, it’s a different story, isn’t it? Having to tap in a six-digit code or plug in a little hardware dongle to get into those accounts doesn’t sound like a very big deal, if you consider the alternative.

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)!

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PERSPECTIVE

# Our Mental Health Care Systems Are Broken

By CATHERINE DODDS, M.D.

**TURNERS FALLS** – In July, British comedian John Oliver featured the US mental healthcare system on his HBO show “Last Week Tonight.” It was not a flattering picture. While I found his take on this topic a bit sensationalized, the fundamental issues discussed are ones that I encounter every day in my work as a primary care physician.

Our mental healthcare system is in crisis. There are many driving forces behind our current unusually high levels of anxiety and depression, which have affected roughly 40% of the US population during the past few years: The COVID-19 pandemic, and the accompanying social isolation and collective trauma. The 24-hour news cycle, grabbing our attention with primarily negative events. Social media and the rise of “doomscrolling,” as well as getting absorbed in its societal divisiveness and self-esteem-lowering comparisons.

It’s normal to feel some worry or sadness at times. But when those feelings and responses become severe, prolonged, and debilitating, they can lead to mental health problems.

There are many reasons why people might not seek help when they are in mental or emotional distress, including the challenges of dealing with a fragmented system, high potential costs of care, and stigma around seeking treatment for mental health concerns. But even when someone is eager to get care for their mental health needs, it can be challenging to find a way to access it in a timely fashion and in a way that works for them, whether remotely by phone, video, or text, or with an in-person provider located close enough to be convenient.

Telehealth has been an interesting and, in my opinion, mostly positive development in the healthcare system in the past few years. It improves access – therapy/counseling visits are no longer limited to office hours or a specific geographic location. And for severely anxious, agoraphobic patients, leaving their home to get to a therapist’s office can be a significant barrier, a barrier that is removed by the option to have a phone visit from home. That said, remote or virtual care is not the right approach for everyone, and options for both virtual and in-person care must be expanded.

Payment reform for therapy and counseling services is also essential. Counseling with a qualified, well-trained professional, such

as a social worker or psychologist, is much more expensive than most patients realize. These costs should be adequately covered by insurance so that providers are adequately compensated and to ensure these services are available to any patients who need them.

Rural areas tend to have less healthcare access in general, and that is true of mental health access as well. And people of color are less likely to find a mental health provider who understands or relates to their cultural background, as the vast majority of psychiatrists and therapists are white.

More than one-third of Americans live in an area where there are not enough mental health providers to meet the minimum needs of the local population. Even in areas with better access, it is often hard for people to get the care they need. There are simply not enough counselors and psychiatrists out there. Many have become burned out, resulting in them limiting their practice or leaving clinical care entirely.

There is a silver lining here, and a reason for hope: we are, as a nation, starting to make mental health care a governmental and societal priority. As outlined in the State of the Union Address in March, the federal government has proposed several steps to help. While throwing money at a dysfunctional system is not the best long-term solution, it is at least a start.

Current government proposals included in the American Rescue Plan to strengthen and improve the mental healthcare system include:

- Better-funding existing programs for provider training, loan forgiveness, and community-based mental health services.
- Increasing the use of community health workers, who can provide certain support services without the long training path required of social workers, nurse practitioners, and physicians.
- Improving support for current frontline healthcare workers, to reduce high levels of burnout for these providers.
- Strengthening suicide prevention measures for physicians, who have suicide rates two to five times higher than the general population.
- Replacing the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline with a new nationwide mental health crisis line with broader goals and services. When people call, text, or chat with the crisis line, they are connected to trained counselors who listen, understand how their problems are affecting

them, provide support, and connect them to resources if necessary. This crisis line has been active since July, and can be reached by dialing “988.”

- Improving ways to navigate the current mental health care system, primarily through national online databases, webpages, and searchable directories, to make it easier for people to locate and receive service.
- Integrating mental health and substance use treatment into primary-care settings.
- Expanding the VA’s system of mental health care services for veterans.
- Improving mental health care services in jails and prisons, and improving transition for ongoing care from incarceration back into local communities.
- Setting up pilot programs to study delivering mental health services in settings like libraries, community centers, and homeless shelters.
- Increasing funding for school-based mental health services for students, including retention of counselors who work in school settings.
- Regulating social media companies to limit psychological damage due to age-inappropriate content, unhealthy social comparisons, harassment, child sexual exploitation, stalking, and cyber-bullying.
- Enforcing insurance coverage parity laws enacted in 2008 requiring that behavioral health services be covered at the same level as other, non-behavioral health services.

From my perspective, nearly 10 years into my career as a primary care physician, having worked in multiple states and different types of practice settings, I see a long uphill climb in the government’s proposed mental health initiatives. But I also see reason to hope.

In my current work in a community health center, I have access to a psychiatrist and counseling staff, and our wait list has recently improved from four-plus months to one to two months, primarily by limiting the goals and duration for each individual patient in order to be able to help more patients in the short term. For those who need long-term therapy for months or even years, however, the current system still has a severe shortage of counselors.

Nearly all the sites I’ve worked at have attempted to offer embedded, co-located mental health services as part of our community-based primary care clinic. But keeping a social worker, psychologist, or psychiatrist working long-term in a primary care

POLITICS

# US Government Invests in Technology and Clean Energy

By SPENCER SHORKEY

**MILLERS FALLS** – This summer, the Democratic Party showed us that they are capable of pulling together and effectively wielding legislative power at the federal level, passing crucial investments in technology and clean energy.

On July 27, the senate passed a \$52.7 billion investment in the domestic semiconductor industry and research, dubbed the “CHIPS and Science Act.” Democratic coal baron Senator Joe Manchin of West Virginia secured the support of Republican senators for the CHIPS vote by declaring two weeks earlier that he would not support any clean energy funding. (Republican senators have been resolute in opposing any clean energy spending.)

However, minutes after the 64-33 Senate vote on CHIPS, a double-cross by Manchin was revealed: he and Senate majority leader Chuck Schumer had actually been negotiating in secret a bill geared to invest in clean energy. This bill was named the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and on August 7 it passed the Senate by a 51-50 party line vote.

The IRA contains a landmark \$369 billion in funding for clean energy, which will result in cutting the US’s greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. The bill helps to achieve that through tax credits toward solar and wind manufacturing, consumer- and utility-scale renewable energy projects and electric vehicles (EVs), and numerous

rebates for home energy efficiency and decarbonization. The IRA also invests in disadvantaged communities by cleaning up pollution and providing extra infrastructure and support to establish clean energy in those areas.

By sometime in 2023, homeowners can expect to see rebates for home energy via efficiency upgrades. This includes \$1,750 for heat pump water heaters, \$8,000 for home heat pump systems, and \$840 for electric stoves or heat-pump clothes dryers. A myriad of tax credits for other home efficiency improvements will also be implemented. The IRA includes tax credits for EVs, up to \$7,500 for new and \$4,000 for pre-owned, and a 30% credit for commercial EVs.

Major domestic semiconductor projects and EV battery plants have already been announced in the weeks since CHIPS and IRA passed, including a \$20 billion semiconductor plant by Intel, and \$4.4 and \$5.6 billion battery factories by Honda and Toyota respectively. Ford and General Motors each have already made multi-billion dollar commitments for several battery factories in the US. And Tesla has already built several “gigafactories” since 2016.

Although there are still many concerns surrounding supply chains and rare earth minerals in the drive to retool our energy and technology infrastructure, government and industry are finally starting to scale up these investments in the future, which should give us all a little more hope.

setting has proven challenging in reality. Insurance reimbursements are lower than counselors can earn in private practice, and for years there has been more demand than supply for these mental health services.

Recognizing and treating mental health disorders is part of my work every day, and it has been a larger part of general primary care practice than I realized during my internal medicine training. And unfortunately, caring for patients with mental illness is draining. Patients with mental illness tend to have greater needs, take more time, and be more challenging to help than others. When it comes to prescribing medications that impact people’s minds, staff may need to build a higher level of trust and understanding with patients than for other conditions.

Frontline workers in mental health care have high rates of burnout and turnover, and that’s not a problem more money can necessarily fix, though providing more

staff support, an easier system to work within, and more time off for self-care can help.

While I have a comfort level with medications and coping strategy discussions, I am not a trained psychiatrist, counselor, or therapist. And relying on primary care to fill the gaps in behavioral health care is just kicking the can from an area of our system that is severely stretched to another part that is only slightly less stretched. There aren’t enough primary care providers to take on more mental health care work, either.

The government’s proposals are a comprehensive and accurate list of what needs to be done, at a minimum, to keep our mental health care system functional. We’ll see what comes to fruition, and what continues to be a challenge for the many millions of Americans who find themselves suffering from anxiety and depression. Our mental healthcare system is in crisis, but we can all work to make it better.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Parlor Room, Northampton: *StompBoxTrio*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Little Mazarn, Aisha Burns*. \$ 7 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Ci-mafunk*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Boon, Bobbie, Aaron and the Clones, Ester*. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *AV Immersion: Liz Durette and Dave Seidel, Greg Kowalski's Elegy for Harold Budd*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Spouse, ExTemper*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

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

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Chinobay*. \$ 7 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Elder, Belzebong, Dreadnought, Lungbuster*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Jennifer Vanilla, Elsa, Pussyvision, DJ Pinky Promise*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Ex-Temper, Tetchy, Valley Gals*. \$ 8:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Antenna Cloud Farm, Gill: *Kam-erin*. \$ 5 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthamp-

ton: *Now Music, Genie Santiago, Dustin Bowlin, Ava Sophia*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Cinemastorm* movie double feature: *Sorcerer* (1977) and *Duel* (1971). Free. 7:30 p.m.

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Southern Rail*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rave in Virgo* feat. *DJs Bad Virgo, Lucie R, Mike, Hedone*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *The Skatalites, DJ I-Ganic*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Backlot Cinema movie: *Repo Man* (1984), music by *Moving Day*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

Lunder Center, Williamstown: *Elkhorn, Sound For*. Free. 4 p.m.

Bombyx Center, Northampton: *David Sanford Big Band*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *John Also Bennett, Lieven Martens, Weston/Meginsky duo, Jen Gelineau, Myk Freedman*. \$ 8 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *L'Eclair, Carinae*. \$ 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Banny Grove, donnyfromtheposter, Beetsblog, Jetties*. \$ 8 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Neil Hamburger, Ang Buxton, DJ Krefting*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. Free. 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *The Devil Makes Three, JP Harris*. \$ 6 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Will Dailey, Scott Meyers*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Enter the Haggis*, \$ 8 p.m. in the Ballroom; *Owsley's Owls*, \$ 8 p.m. in the Perch.

The Drake, Amherst: *Frozen Corn, Spectre Folk, Wes Buckley*. Free. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Mamma's Marmalade, Eric Lee, Moon Hollow*. \$ 7 p.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *Meshug-gah, Converge, Torche*. \$ 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Deep River Ramblers*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Ruth Garbus, Hollow Deck*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *FAT Featuring Mitch Chakour and Scott Murawsk*. \$ 8 p.m.

Tillis Hall, UMass-Amherst: *Blind Boys of Alabama*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Arcadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Easthampton: *Arcadia Folk Festival*. \$ 9 a.m.

Mount Toby Friends Meetinghouse, Leverett: *Bev Grant,*

*Carolann Solebello*. \$ 4 p.m.

Latchis Theater, Brattleboro: *Roger McGuinn*. \$ 7 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: *William Basinski, Lea Bertucci*. \$ 8 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Popa Chubby*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Tim Wolf*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

1794 Meetinghouse, New Salem: *Elizabeth Chang, Jiayan Sun*. \$ 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Choke Out, Mammothor, Cortez*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *They Might Be Giants*. \$ 8 p.m.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *M. Ward, Courtney Jaye*. \$ 8 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Wes Brown with Matan Rubinstein*. Free. 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Sugar Biscuit, feat. DJ LeFox*. "Femmes to the front." \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Felice Brothers, Will Lawrence*. \$ 8 p.m.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Steve Koziol presents Beetle 7, Kevin Smith, Leo Hwang*. \$ 5 p.m.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

FreshGrass Festival, North

Adams: *Trampled by Turtles, Old Crow Medicine Show, Billy Keane*, more. \$ 6 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Noise Nomads, Matriarch, Kjostad, Underwear*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *David Wax Museum*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Guided By Voices*. \$ 8 p.m.

Colonial Theater, Keene: *Richard Thompson*. \$ 8 p.m.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

FreshGrass Festival, North Adams: *The Del McCoury Band, Gary Clark, Jr., Skip Marley, Jerry Douglas*, more. \$ 11 a.m.

Palladium, Worcester: *NOFX, Descendents, Face to Face, TSOL*, more. \$ 1 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Hollow Teeth, Tides, Capo Kong, Riverbed, Rakefire, Shortest Life*. \$ 6:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Whiskey Treaty Roadshow with Dan Blakeslee*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Oliv-ia Nied*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

FreshGrass, North Adams: *Tanya Tucker, Taj Mahal, Yola, Thee Sacred Souls*, more. \$ 11 a.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Speedy Ortiz*. \$ 7 p.m.

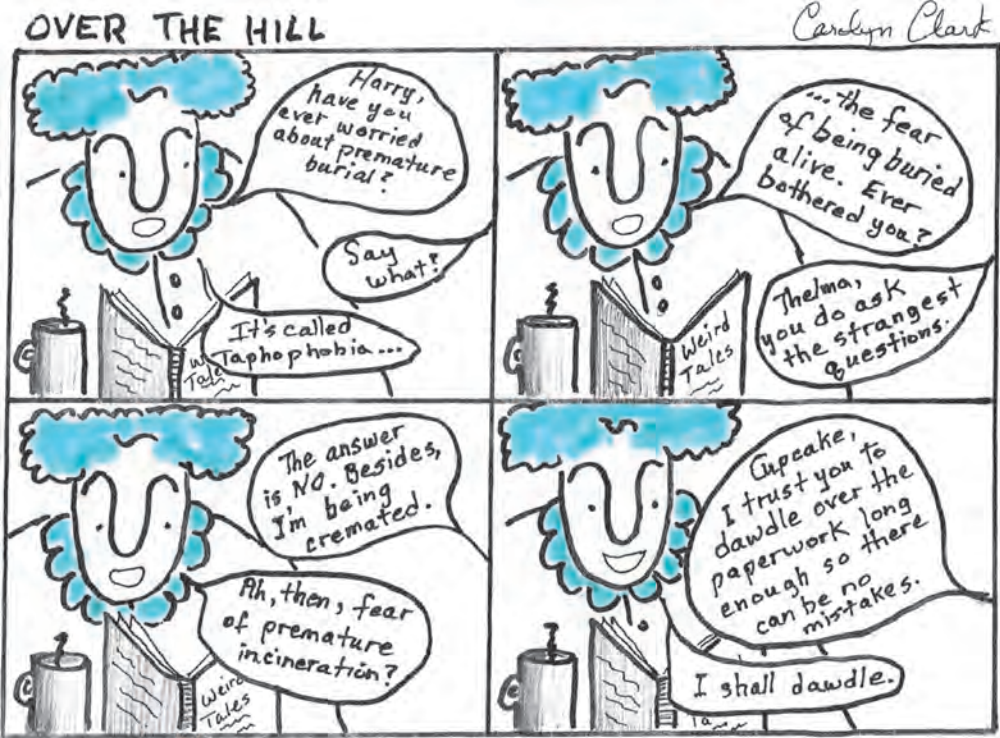
Palladium, Worcester: *311, Tropicadelic*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Nova Arts, Keene: *Yo La Tengo*. \$ 7 p.m.



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**FALLTOWN** from page B1  
that Falltown plays are part of American popular culture history – a way to describe this music could be “oldies,” or as Marvin puts it, “roots” music.

“I always feel that it’s all connected,” he says. “Even when we work in a little bit more of so-called ‘modern’ music, it’s connected to the roots pretty firmly.” As the band sees it, Americana is a mix of music with a long and evolving history. With that variety there’s a little something for everyone.

Working with Ed Phelps’ original goal in mind, Falltown plays a wide variety of venues to bring Americana music to the community. They play regularly at the Rendezvous, but that isn’t the limit of their reach. The band has played at county fairs, local farmers markets, and nursing homes. They’ve played events as well, including wedding anniversaries, all the way to a 75th anniversary, as well as 80th, 90th, and even 100th birthday parties.

“I figure we’re filling a need,” says Shedd. “We’re brightening their day for an hour, or whatever we play.” During gigs they share in the joy of playing as well as listening, giving people in the audience a chance to sit in with the band to

perform and sing along, and even to become new members.

With how broad their reach is, some people have become inspired to play music themselves after listening to them. Shedd recounted one time in particular when a woman carrying a guitar came up to him and said that she was inspired to learn to play because of seeing the band. They have even had Ed Phelps’ original song, “Bob’s Auto Parts,” played on a car radio show in Seattle and on NPR’s *Car Talk!* With such an outreach and a strong effect on people, the band is inspired to continue playing to give back to their community.

The Falltown String Band continues to be a strong part of local culture. Playing to great applause at their most recent gig at the Rendezvous, it’s clear their presence is welcome in the community. They found the roots of music and the joy of playing, important parts of the Americana experience.

*The Falltown String Band plays at the Rendezvous, on Third Street in Turners Falls, on the second Wednesday of every month at 8 p.m. Find them on Facebook, or reach out to Marvin and Sue Shedd at (413) 648-9151.*



PHOTO COURTESY FSB ARCHIVE

*The band at the Shea Theater, taken for a “Shea Radio Days” event in 1991. Clockwise from upper left: Ed Phelps, Guy Stockslager, Jack Arensmeyer, and Jason Burbank.*

# MONTAGUE

*At right: Ginny McGann of Turners Falls traveled to Middletown, Delaware with the Montague Reporter to visit her sister Jann.*



JANICE CAVALLARO PHOTO



PHOTO COURTESY OF J. VON RANSON

*At left: Wendell resident Jonathan von Ranson, visiting with his grandson Ethan in his family’s backyard in Calgary.*

# REPORTER

# ON THE

*Montague residents Owen and Lydia Martineau, ages 8 and 6, caught up on their summer Montague Reporter reading while vacationing in Centres, France. They were joined by friends Lilah and Nolan Ryland, 12 and 7, of Rodez, France.*

SHANNON MARTINEAU PHOTO



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