

The Montague Reporter

YEAR 20 – NO. 44

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 20, 2022

Farren Owner Seeks Permit To Dismantle Entire Complex

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CITY – Trinity Health of New England, which owns the former Farren Care Center, has applied to the town of Montague for a permit to demolish the historic Catholic hospital, a plan first announced last fall.

Building inspector William Ketchen notified the town historical commission of Trinity's application, as he is required to do under a new bylaw passed last spring. The commission, which meets Monday, is required to hold a public hearing about the building, after which it may opt to delay the town from issuing a permit in an effort to encourage preservation options.

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey told the selectboard Monday night that he and town administrator Steve Ellis had met the previous week with Eric Dana, Trinity's vice president of operations, and that Dana reaffirmed the private non-profit's plan to demolish the building and grant nearly 10 acres of cleared land as a gift to the town of Montague.



The Farren's newest wing, built in 1975, is included in the scope of work.

In a written memo about the meeting, Ramsey said Dana had also "confirmed that Trinity will reimburse the town up to \$100,000 in expenses to fund a redevelopment study" for the cleared land.

The permit, if issued, would bring to an end a debate over the status of the historic hospital, which was transformed in the 1990s into a long-term care center serving high-needs clients rejected from multiple other facilities in the state.

Trinity, according to some critics, see **FARREN** page A2

Wendell Mulls Roadmap For 'Proactive' Solar Project Siting

By KATIE NOLAN

The statistics tell the story of the tension in Wendell about solar installations. In a survey conducted by UMass Clean Energy Extension (CEE) in June 2021, 89% of residents said they were "extremely" or "moderately" concerned about climate change, and 85% reported a "positive" or "very positive" attitude toward solar development.

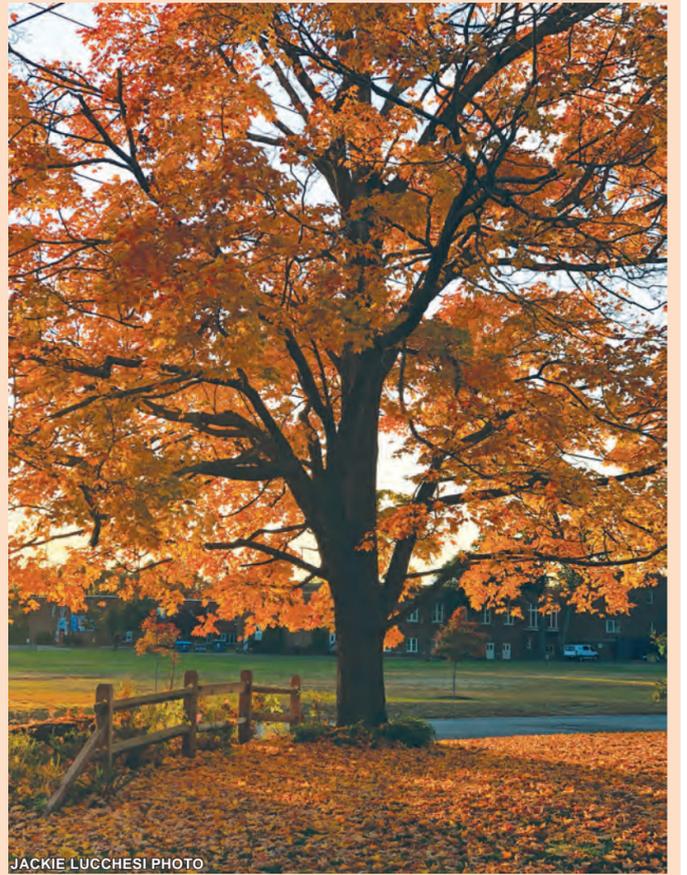
At the same time, however, between 70% and 90% said they were opposed to solar development in natural habitat open spaces, or on forested land. Approximately 90% of Wendell is forested land.

On Tuesday night, CEE's Zara Dowling presented a draft of the town's solar action plan to residents at Wendell Free Library. The plan's stated purpose is "to help guide future solar development, municipal bylaw amendments, and solar permitting decisions" in the town, and the draft plan includes resources about solar development in Wendell, limitations on solar, and ideas for steps the town can take to guide solar development within its borders.

CEE has worked with three towns – Wendell, Westhampton, and Blandford – in a pilot program to develop "a community-informed proactive solar siting and financing model" that could serve as an example for other towns. According to Franklin Regional Council of Governments planner Alison Gage, Wendell is the first town in Franklin County to develop a solar action plan.

"Towns are usually in a defensive position with respect to solar development," said Dowling, adding that the planning process developed under the pilot program will allow towns "to think about it proactively."

TIME IS SHORT



JACKIE LUCCHESI PHOTO

Sunday's setting sun lengthened shadows and lit up this deep fall foliage behind Sheffield Elementary School. Thanks to reader Jackie Lucchesi for the photo!

Land and Wires

Wendell's zoning bylaws restrict development of forested areas, limiting land clearing for "large" and "extra-large" solar projects to one acre. Outside of a solar overlay district – the former D&B landfill and the Wendell Recycling and Transfer Station (WRATS) property – solar facilities are limited to five acres, roughly the area needed for a 1-megawatt (MW) plant.

Large-scale solar generators require three-phase power transmission lines. In Wendell, three-phase lines are located along Wendell Depot, Lockes Village, and Locke

see **SOLAR** page A4

Hydro Company Agrees to Higher Winter Flows On the Deerfield

By SARAH ROBERTSON

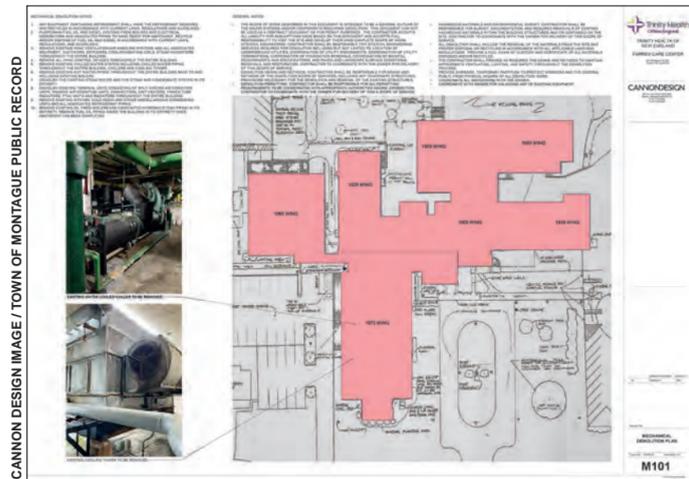
ROWE – Trout spawning in the Deerfield River could catch a break in the coming years following an agreement between Brookfield Renewable Partners and the state to increase minimum winter flows from the Fife Brook dam.

"This is a huge victory for the ecology of the river," said Eric Halloran, president of the Deerfield River Watershed Trout Unlimited Chapter. "The minor increase in river flow negotiated in this agreement will keep the eggs covered with water throughout the winter and allow more eggs to hatch in the spring. More trout will hatch and increase the number of wild fish in the river."

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) approved a water quality certification on September 27 on the condition Brookfield maintain a minimum flow of 225 cubic feet per second (cfs) from November 1 through April 15. Receiving the water quality certification is a necessary step in the company's now decade-long relicensing process through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Brookfield, a publicly traded company headquartered in Canada, owns hundreds of energy generating facilities including the 10-megawatt Fife Brook Dam and the 600-megawatt Bear Swamp Pumped Storage station facility between the towns

see **FLOWS** page A3



The scope of work, prepared for Trinity by Boston-based engineers Cannon Design, specifies that the original hospital and each of its six additions be entirely demolished.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD Power Company, Selectboard Continue Dance On Old Poles

By JEFF SINGLETON

The October 17 meeting of the Montague selectboard began with telephone poles – that is, hearings on two requests from the electric company Eversource, first to relocate two poles on Billings Road near North Leverett Road, and then to install one on M Street in Turners Falls near where Avenue A becomes Montague City Road. The discussion quickly returned to the perennial complaint that installing new poles creates redundant ones.

The board seemed amenable to the changes on Billings Road, but when it came time to vote on the M Street pole, which was to serve a utility customer building a new garage, member Chris Boutwell brought up the complaint that many redundant poles in town have not been removed by the electric company.

Boutwell proposed approving the new pole "provided we see some poles in the community removed."

"We need to be more specific," see **MONTAGUE** page A5

High School Sports: Season Wrapping Up

By MATT ROBINSON



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Franklin Tech quarterback Gabriel Tomasi (left) looks for his receiver as Greenfield's Jonathan Breor tries to block the pass during last Friday's home game.

TURNERS FALLS – This week, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles lost their second consecutive game to an Intercounty North rival. A week earlier, Tech had played even against Ware for the first half before losing it in the second. This week, after spotting the Green Wave of Greenfield 18 early points, Franklin Tech pulled to within 2 points in the third quarter but couldn't take a lead.

The Turners Falls Volleyball Thunder, meanwhile, finished out their regular season with a win and a tie, keeping their postseason hopes alive.

Football

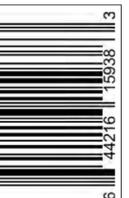
Greenfield 32 – FCTS 22

Last Friday, October 14, the Navy Blue Franklin Tech Football Eagles lost against the visiting Green Wave of Greenfield, 32-22. It was a damp, foggy night, and Green took full advantage, kicking knuckleballs right

see **SPORTS** page A6

Don't Forget To Call Your Friends

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FARREN from page A1

promised to fund a reuse study in collaboration with Montague when it sought permission to relocate these residents to a Holyoke nursing home, but reneged on that promise in October 2021, proposing to remove the buildings with no effort to market them. The company explained that an internal study, which was "proprietary" and would not be shared with the public, estimated it would cost at least \$24 million to redevelop the complex to habitable standards.

At past public meetings Ramsey, Ellis, and the Montague selectboard have all expressed support for Trinity's plan and offer.

The demolition delay bylaw, proposed amid the debate about the Farren and passed by town meeting in May, requires the historical commission to hold a hearing within 45 days of the permit filing to hear from the public and "any potential development interests." If the commission concludes a historically significant building may be salvageable, it may then vote to delay demolition for up to one year, though the building inspector may override this if the building is unsafe to let stand.

At its last meeting on September 26, the historical commission discussed the new bylaw, which had recently received legal approval by the state, and the possibility of evoking it upon a request to tear down the Farren.

Commission member Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno said that while he "could see what a number of issues would be with redevelopment" during a recent tour of the complex, he believed that a delay could be used to push Trinity to perform a "true evaluation of the building, which has never been done." He asked his colleagues to give a "sense of the commission" on the matter.

Janel Nockleby said she would "likely want to honor the historical significance of the building, and see the process through with a hearing." Ed Gregory, Chris Clawson, and assistant town planner Suzanne Lomanto all refused to offer comment.

"I'm undecided," commission chair David Brule told him. "I was intrigued by the fact that if it were invoked, we could likely get an independent study about the state of the building."

The commission will meet next Monday, October 24 at 11 a.m., both via Zoom and in the upstairs meeting room at town hall. The agenda suggests scheduling the Farren hearing for the week of November 14, and warns that "MHC should not discuss details or opinions until the public hearing."

At this week's selectboard meet-

ing, Ramsey said Trinity hopes to begin demolition in November and foresees a 10- to 12- month process, a significant portion of which would be devoted to asbestos abatement.

The application lists AOW Construction of Albany, New York as the demolition contractor, and estimates it will cost \$5 million. The scope of work specifies that the original 1900 hospital should be demolished "in its entirety," and gives the same instruction for wings built in 1928, 1938, 1958, 1960, 1965, and 1975.

Ramsey's presentation included a focus on "ancillary structures" and artifacts identified for potential preservation. A single-family house on the property, built in 1937 and eventually converted to office space, is included in Trinity's offer to the town. Ramsey said he had walked through it with members of the public works department and the building inspector, and that they found it "in very good condition."

He also shared photographs of a pavilion and a gazebo behind the hospital which he said are in "good condition" and could be "converted to a community asset." He added that the historical commission has compiled a list of artifacts including statues, plaques, monuments, and stained glass, and is requesting a "full accounting" of which items are "already spoken for" by families associated with the hospital.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested saving some of the original brick from the main complex for "a structure, or a cooking place, out by the gazebos."

The selectboard did not discuss or take any votes on a potential demolition delay. Ramsey said the board will have an opportunity to provide comment at the public hearing.



NINA ROSSI ILLUSTRATION

Brittany Cooley has been the special education teacher at Gill Elementary School for eight years. She loves helping the kids with their reading and math, and says being a part of the teaching team at the school has been a wonderful experience.

Letter to the Editors

Honoring Gary Mullins

As a resident of Montague, a teacher in the district, and a member of the softball coaching staff, I can honestly say I have not met anybody as dedicated to our community, our school and our athletes as Gary Mullins.

Gary is a loyal Turners Falls resident and worker, and as humble and kind as they come. He has dedicated his time and energy into Turners Falls Softball and Basketball for the past 40-plus years. He is the winningest softball coach in all of Massachusetts, and has brought ten state softball titles to our tiny school, which is more than any other school! In addition to these softball accomplishments, he has also led the varsity softball program to 29 league titles and 22 Western Mass titles!

He has not only been a coach in our district. He also dedicated over 30 years as a teacher of both health and PE, and was our athletic director for many years. All throughout his time in the district, he has put hours of his time into making the student experience all that it can be.

He believes in our school and its students, and makes every attempt to be sure the student athletes in his programs reach the most success possible. He knows that tough love can go a long way, and that by holding students to a high standard, they will see the most growth. He has created a legacy of past athletes who attribute their success beyond Turners Falls High School to his coaching and encouragement.

While I could go on and on

about how much of an impact Gary has had on my own life and on the Turners Falls community, I will simply say that he is a great human and a pillar of our community. He has earned any recognition he may receive, and certainly deserves to have the softball field that has put our tiny town on the map named after him. Celebrating people who are as dedicated and loyal as Gary is really important to our school, and sets a positive example of the type of community member we value.

The naming of the softball field is in its final stages of consideration, and will be determined at the October 25 School Committee meeting.

Jen Luciano
 Montague

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Calling All Trick-or-Treaters!

TURNERS FALLS – Please come and show off your costumes before the Rag Shag Parade on Monday, October 31 between 3 and 5 p.m. on Avenue A in Turners Falls.

Local businesses and organizations will be inviting costumed youngsters into their work places with sweet rewards. Look for a bright Halloween-themed hanging displayed in local business store front windows or doors as the welcome sign. Participating locations will start at the Town

Hall, and extend all the way down the Avenue to Cumberland Farms!

Montague police chief Chris Williams and his friendly staff will have a watchful eye on the downtown for safety reasons.

Make your way to the Rag Shag Parade at 5 p.m. in the Aubuchon's parking lot. Come join in the fun! You could win a prize. Adults are encouraged to dress up and accompany their youngsters.

Sponsored by the Montague Business Association.

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The Montague Reporter is seeking a newspaper carrier for a small route in Greenfield. Is there a youngster in your household or in a friend's who might enjoy delivering the newspaper? We are not ruling out an adult who would like to combine exercise with community service! We can provide a small stipend.

The route is pretty much in downtown Greenfield, and can be walked or bicycled. It can be done Thursday late afternoon or evenings, or Friday after school, and only consists of about 20 subscribers at present.

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Compiled by **CHRIS PELLERIN**

In this week's column: fun or scary fall and Halloween events, performances, nature hikes, a séance, and cemetery tours!

This weekend Cloudgaze and Eggtooth Productions offer **A Happening**, at the Shea Theater in Turners Falls. The collision of evocative art forms, including but not limited to music, dance, theater, sculpture, painting, and film with a "choose your own adventure" structure creates a powerful immersive experience for performers and audience alike, where lines between witness and participant are disrupted and dissolved.

A mainstay of this festival is the "Marketplace," which occupies the theater space and features vendors working across varied mediums. The theme of this year's Festival is "Storytelling." Participants are invited into a strange and mysterious tale, a whimsical myth in which the magic of music brings stories to life.

Please note that the audience will be asked to climb stairs and traverse dimly lit spaces. There is a ticketed

performance from 7 to 10 p.m. this Friday, October 21, and free admission this Saturday during the Great Falls Festival to see the installations.

Window World of Western Massachusetts is excited to invite you to join them in their fight against childhood cancer at their **fall fundraiser for St. Jude** this Saturday, October 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Apex Orchards in Shelburne Falls.

The event includes activities for the whole family such as apple picking, hay rides, live music, food trucks, games, raffle prizes, and face painting. All proceeds benefit St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. To learn more, visit window-world-westernma.com/St-Jude.

The **Great Falls Festival** (formerly Pumpkinfest) will be held for the final time on October 22 on Avenue A from noon to 8 p.m.

Admission is free. Costumes are encouraged, and the event features music and performances, children's activities, and pumpkin decorating. There will be food vendors and a beer garden. Shuttle buses are provided from Turners Falls High

School and Sheffield School.

Kids and their caregivers can also enjoy a **Halloween Party** at the Carnegie Library from 1 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 22. Spooky fun at the library includes a scavenger hunt, wearable crafts, a photo booth, the Turners Falls High School Scribble Bot, and live music from 1 to 2 p.m. with Carrie Ferguson. Costumes are encouraged, but not required.

The LAVA Center at 324 Main Street in Greenfield hosts a program called **Grief/Art** for creatives, writers, and those who need to express sadness. A gentle space will be created, and prompts will be offered for expression, this Saturday, October 22 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Next Thursday, October 27, from 6 to 7:30 p.m., they will host *Recuerdos as Remembrance*. Recuerdos are Mexican forms of small memories or mementos of people or events of significance. If you bring your memory, they'll have some ways for you to honor that memory. Both programs are by donation.

The Erving Conservation Commission has scheduled a **trail work party at the Poplar Mountain Conservation Area** Sunday, October 23. They will meet at 9 a.m. – some will attend earlier and some in the afternoon – at the new parking area on Old State Road in Erving.

Most of the work is lightweight clipping, hand saw cutting, and removing branches. During the summer a couple trees and many branches came down on the trails and need to be cleared. Some areas are overgrown with ferns that need to be cleared, and trash pickup is needed along the road. RSVP to conservation@erving-ma.gov is requested, but not necessary.

The Town of Montague acquired Highland Cemetery on Millers

Falls Road on the approval of Town Meeting members in May 2021. Cemetery commission members Judith Lorei, Annie Levine, and Mary Kay Mattiace are excited that this acquisition will allow for the opportunity of **natural/green burial** in a wooded section of the property starting in 2023.

Anyone interested in this alternative to conventional burial will be able to learn more of the details in two upcoming informational tours lasting 45 minutes each, rain or shine, on this Sunday, October 23 at 11 a.m. and on Saturday, November 12 at 11 a.m.

On Sunday, October 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. you can join Clare Green to hike the **Hockanum Overlook Trail** in Warwick. Bring water, snacks, poles if needed, and sense of wonder. It is a moderate trail, with a view to the east, overlooking Wheeler Pond along Route 78 and Brush Valley with old stone walls. Cross-country skiers will want to return to enjoy this loop in the winter.

For questions, directions, and to sign up, call Green – the trip leader, a board member of the Athol Bird and Nature Club, and a member of the local Warwick Trails Group – at (978) 544-7421.

The **National Spiritual Alliance** (NSA) at 2 Montague Avenue, Lake Pleasant is hosting a Halloween Séance with Reverend Steve Hermann from 7 to 9 p.m. next Friday, October 28. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased at eventbrite.com/e/438703312417.

On Saturday, October 29 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., the NSA will offer a Monthly Psychic Medium Fair. The cost is \$30 for a 25-minute reading. Schedule your appointment at (413) 367-0138.

Send your local briefs to editor@montaguereporter.org.

FLOWs from page A1 of Rowe and Florida. The dam was completed in 1974, as was the pumped storage station originally intended to store excess energy generated by the nearby Yankee Rowe nuclear power station.

Trout Unlimited participated as the only non-governmental intervenor in the negotiations over the terms of the recertification. The state Division of Fisheries and Wildlife and Division of Natural Heritage and Endangered Species also participated in the negotiations.

"Achieving Intervenor status gave us a seat at the table and a stronger bargaining position than we could ever have achieved by simply commenting on the outcome from the sidelines," Halloran said. "We're incredibly pleased with this outcome, and there were many years of hard work and countless hours of volunteer time that led to this moment."

In 2017 and 2018, Trout Unlimited hired biologists and gathered dozens of volunteers to assess the health of the wild brown trout population in the Deerfield River. Their research found that the prior minimum flow of 125 cfs was causing nearly 40% of the trout egg nests, known as redds, to die during each winter.

Brookfield representatives had previously disputed the idea that trout were spawning in the upper

reaches of the Deerfield River, according to Michael Vito, past president of the Deerfield chapter of Trout Unlimited.

"The reason for the studies was not only did we have to prove it to Brookfield, we had to prove it to the state as well," Vito said. "Because of the hydro-peaking, the flows were so disrupted. A lot of people found it hard to believe a spawning season would last under such duress."

Trout Unlimited's study became the premise for the newly negotiated minimum flow of 225 cfs. The change will go into effect between 2025 and 2026 after the power company completes necessary upgrades to the facility, Vito said. The Deerfield River has 10 hydropower dams along a 70-mile stretch.

"This river has been heavily, heavily altered," Vito told the Reporter. "I have no idea what a natural flow would be."

The state is currently conducting a study of the river and whether it could become a viable Wild Trout Management Area. Most of the adult fish in the Deerfield River are stocked rainbow trout. MassDEP's water quality certification also requires the company to allocate \$125,000 for ecological restoration projects yet to be determined.

Brookfield representatives did not reply to a request for comment before press time.

Lineages of Discrimination, Activism Converge at Film Fest

By **MIKE JACKSON**

GREENFIELD – "Film is a venue through which people can share a common experience – they watch a film and relate it to their own life experience," says Molly Chambers, co-chair of the social justice committee at All Souls Church. "I've heard amazing stories, in the discussions we've had after the films, about people's experiences of racism."

Chambers, a veteran of the Civil Rights movement, moved to Greenfield with her multiracial family in 1973, and her children grew up facing racism in the community. The family soon became involved at All Souls Church. For the last 19 years, Chambers' committee has curated an annual Anti-Racism Film Festival, where the public is invited to participate in facilitated discussions of difficult topics.

This year's featured film is special on a personal level: *Descendant*, a new documentary receiving accolades on the festival circuit nationally, was co-produced by her own daughter, Greenfield High

School graduate Essie Chambers.

The film follows the story of the last American slave ship, the *Clotilda*, and the descendants of the enslaved people it transported. Many now live in Africatown, Alabama, where they face environmental racism thanks in part to companies owned by the descendants of slave owners.

Descendant, backed by Obama film company Higher Ground and acquired by Netflix, screens in the final 6 p.m. slot of the festival, which takes place this Sunday, October 23 at the 399 Main Street church. (For a full schedule, see the listing on Page A4.)

The entire festival begins at 1:30 p.m., with four films of various length interspersed with three discussions, each facilitated by a different local organizer of color.

Attendees are welcome to come and go, admission is free (with donation encouraged), masks are required, and attendees will be served vegan dinner prepared by Stone Soup chef Kirsten Levitt, to dine in or take out, for a sliding-scale donation.

Wendell to Convene STM

By **JOSH HEINEMANN**

As required by law, the warrant for Wendell's October 26 special town meeting was posted on Wednesday, October 12.

The first four articles would pay bills of prior years, charged to the custodian, the board of health, the planning board, and the WRATS, with a total of \$4,552.63.

Article 5 would take \$50,000 from stabilization to pay for remediation of PFAS in Swift River School's water supply. Article 6 would establish a capital stabilization fund for Mahar Regional High School, and Article 7 would establish a special education stabilization fund for Mahar.

Article 8 would make changes in the introductory paragraph of Wendell's zoning bylaws.

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RECYCLE

PAPER
Week of October 24
in Montague



more info? call: 863-2054

**19th Annual
Anti-Racism
Film Festival**

**Sunday,
October 23, 2022**

All Souls Unitarian Universalist
Church of Greenfield
399 Main Street, Greenfield

FREE ADMISSION
Facilitated discussion to follow films.

Schedule:

1:30 p.m. *Ta-Nehisi Coates, "We Were Eight Years In Power" (YouTube video)*

2:10 p.m. *Danger of Silence*
2:15 p.m. Discussion led by Carl McCargo

3 p.m. *Thirst For Justice*
4 p.m. Discussion led by Strong Oak

5:15 p.m. Supper: A nourishing
vegan meal of local food, boxed
for takeout or to eat indoors.
Sliding scale donation of \$4
to \$10. No one turned away.

6 p.m. *Descendant*
7:45 p.m. Discussion by Momadou Sarr

Call (413) 773-5018
or (413) 772-0003
for more information.

SOLAR from page A1

Hill roads, and along the Millers River north of Bear Mountain.

Dowling said the grid needs to be improved in order to allow for solar development. "Could towns advocate for grid expansion where they want?" she asked. Wendell's plan presents several ideas for the town to consider, including lobbying National Grid to extend its three-phase line, possibly to Mormon Hollow Road to allow solar development at Diemand Farm and the former D&B landfill, or to Morse Village and New Salem roads to allow generation at the WRATS.

Open space committee chair Dan Leahy commented that extending the three-phase line might have unintended consequences, including solar installations in places the town doesn't want. "That three-phase line is a curse to us," he said.

Room for Growth

According to the 2021 survey, 62% of residents supported a goal of solar development sufficient to meet community needs. Dowling said the residents, businesses, and town departments in Wendell use approximately 5 MW of electricity. CEE estimated that usage will increase to approximately 10 MW by 2050, as electric vehicles and heat pumps become more common.

If every developed site in town were used for solar electricity generation, Dowling said, the town could produce approximately 6 MW.

Wendell currently has about 50 residential photovoltaic systems, ranging in size from 2.5 to 13.5 kilowatts (kW), and representing a total of 322 kW of solar capacity. There is a small array on the library roof, and one privately-owned large-scale ground-mounted solar array in, developed by clearing wooded land, which produces 1.4 MW.

There are no solar installations at any businesses or institutions. The plan pointed to four that may have either rooftop or parking lot space capable of supporting solar: Diemand Farm, Kemsley Academy, Pine Brook Camp, and the complex comprised of the Wendell Country Store, Deja Brew, and the post office.

It recommended the town reach out to these

institutions to determine their interest in solar generation, assist them in estimating costs and rebates, and in the case of Diemand Farm, consider extending three-phase power along Mormon Hollow Road.

In the future, the draft plan estimates, it will be feasible for about two-thirds of Wendell's homes to install photovoltaic systems, with a resulting generation of approximately 1.6 MW. It recommends providing homeowners with information about photovoltaic systems, analyzing options for financing their installation, and encouraging multiple homeowners to install systems at the same time.

For homes where photovoltaic systems are not feasible, the plan suggests sun-rich neighbors sharing the costs and benefits of a system with shady neighbors, or residents working together to develop a community solar array.

Leahy commented that conservation should be included in any solar development plans, and at educational forums presenting the plans.

Electron Farming

Some 491 acres in Wendell are agricultural: either in pasture, hay production, or cultivation. The draft plan states that there are apparently no farm-based solar installations in the town, with the exception of one barn-mounted residential system.

CEE's survey found that 69% of Wendell residents opposed solar development on land used for vegetable production, and 77% opposed solar development on pastureland.

The draft plan suggests installations on barn roofs as well as solar greenhouses and solar canopies for farm vehicles. It recommends reaching out to farmers, assisting them in applying for grants, and possibly advocating to extend three-phase lines closer to farms.

Public Property

According to the draft plan, the town office building, town hall, Wendell Free Library, and the highway garage are the largest electricity users, followed by the WRATS, police station, senior center, and salt shed. Swift River School,

which Wendell shares with New Salem and is located in that town, uses more than any other site.

In the CEE survey, 72% of residents indicated they felt Wendell should invest in solar development on town buildings and parking lots to meet municipal needs.

The plan identifies Swift River School, the highway garage, and the town office building as having the largest roofs and paved areas. CEE estimates that 385 kW of energy could be created on these roofs and 487 kW over the parking lots – a total amount greater than combined school and municipal usage.

While the 12.6-acre WRATS property might accommodate as much as 2.5 MW of solar generation, it is located about a mile from the nearest three-phase distribution line. The selectboard has discussed installing a photovoltaic system on the highway garage roof, starting next spring, after roof repairs.

The plan recommends conducting site evaluations of the town buildings to determine the feasibility of solar installation, exploring funding options, and conducting financial analyses.

Dowling noted that the recent Inflation Reduction Act allows for a direct payment of 30% of the costs for new solar installations, allowing rebates to towns for the first time.

Next Steps

The draft is currently being forwarded to various town boards and committees for review and comment, and to find out what actions specific committees might want to take. It will be available on the town website for comments from citizens.

After all comments are addressed, the selectboard would be asked to approve a final plan.

This plan, and the interim documents used to develop it, would then be made available on the UMass CEE website as examples for other towns to follow.

After her presentation, Dowling said UMass students from a class she is teaching will work with 10 more towns, including Montague, to develop solar action plans of their own this spring.

NOTES FROM THE ERVING SELECTBOARD

Polishing Policies, Making Them Bylaws

By KEITH WATERS

The agenda for Monday's Erving selectboard meeting was policy-heavy – many specific policies were named but in-depth discussion only took place regarding a few.

One that was touched on was the No Smoking Policy. Selectboard chair Jacob Smith clarified that the smoking prohibition within 50 feet of public doors only applies when the area in question was still on public land.

The Blood Borne Pathogen Exposure Control Plan Policy got a bit more discussion. Selectboard member Scott Bastarache noted that the policy mentions students, and asked if it affects schools. Town administrator Bryan Smith said that it does.

Member William Bembury asked whether the town could train an employee to give the pathogen training, as the policy requires the training to be repeated every year. Bryan Smith replied that it is almost all OSHA training, and all online, so it would not be possible.

Bembury also pointed out that the policy does not codify when an

exposure event is too big for town staff to deal with. Bryan Smith said he would work on that. He also pointed out that while the town wastewater facilities have a washer and dryer capable of the kind of cleaning that needs to be done after pathogen exposure, the town might want to consider getting a dedicated set for this function.

The police department's Cadet Training Policy also received some discussion, though it was short as Chief Holt was not at the meeting. All three board members expressed a desire for the cadet program to prepare people to be hired as officers, and not remain cadets for an unlimited time. Bryan Smith said he would invite the chief to respond to these concerns at an upcoming meeting.

While those three policies were all on their second required public reading, eight more were given a first read, and the board did not have much to say about them. Bryan Smith explained that a number of policies are being written with the goal of getting them into the town bylaws and out of the personnel handbook, which has gotten

quite large and needs to be reprinted every year.

Assistant [to the] Director

Senior center director Paula Betters was in attendance to discuss her request for an assistant. She explained that she does all the work there and needs help, as if she is away or indisposed things cannot get done, and most nearby senior centers have a volunteer coordinator and many volunteers.

The board agreed she should have help, and said the budget exists for a part-time position. There was some discussion about the position's title: Betters suggested Activities Coordinator, but the selectboard thought Administrative Assistant would be more fitting. More work will be done on the job description, and it will be discussed further in the future.

Other Business

The International Paper Mill still needs to be dealt with, and previous quotes for its demolition have expired. The board and Bryan Smith agreed to approach engineers Tighe

& Bond to request updated quotes.

Erving is in need of an animal control officer and animal inspector. Until these positions are filled, the Athol animal control officer and the Orange animal inspector can fill in.

The town's water bills were sent out missing a charge, and will be reissued.

The final thing needed to finish the Arch Street sewer main project is repaving the parking lot at Tim's RV. The town needed to cut a giant hole in this parking lot for the project, and a sub-adequate job was done filling it in. The town will hire Johnson Asphalt of Northfield to repave it at a cost of \$9,600.

The board approved the warrant for the state election on November 8.

The town is getting rid of two large sets of chairs, one set of 60 and one set of 24, as well as a couple of large air conditioners and a 2010 Ford F-550 and a dump body. These will all be advertised in the *Around Town* newsletter.

The selectboard is meeting for an executive session discussion this Thursday, and its next full meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 31.

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MONTAGUE from page A1

said member Matt Lord, adding that he was afraid the board would be holding the garage-builder “hostage” by making the approval contingent on the company taking action elsewhere in town.

After a lengthy discussion, which included the additional complaint that a pole map Ever-source had provided to the town was inaccurate, the board approved both pole requests. But chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested a “drop-dead date” for removing the redundant poles, enforced by a moratorium on all pole requests, “even though that is counterproductive.”

Members were amenable to this strategy, but did not take a vote on it.

Pirate Sump Pump Spied

Public works superintendent Tom Bergeron came before the board to share some action pictures, taken by the DPW’s new robot camera, of liquid flowing through a sewer in Millers Falls. The town is attempting to ascertain the sources of infiltration into the village’s sewers.

He identified potential evidence produced by the camera of dirty water from an illegal sump pump.

Bergeron proposed that the hours at the transfer station be changed to end at 1 p.m. on Wednesdays, but extended to 2:30 p.m. on Saturdays. The facility opens at 7 a.m. both days. The board approved these changes.

The board approved an increase in the cost of disposing mattresses, from \$20 to \$35 per mattress, and at Bergeron’s request declared a John Deere slicer and seeder as “surplus property” for sale.

A \$9,000 grant application was approved to the town’s insurer, the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency, to add guard rails to the ramp at the transfer station, and lockout-tagout equipment at the

Clean Water Facility (CWF).

At the request of CWF superintendent Chelsey Little, the Board changed their previous vote on rates for septage handling for Montague and Gill from \$80 to \$95 per 1,000 gallons.

Little said the previously approved rate was the result of a “typo.”

Navigable Waters

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey came before the board with a number of updates and requests, including a review of the status of the proposed demolition of the former Farren Care Center in Montague City (*see article, Page A1*).

Ramsey said Montague’s comprehensive plan, titled “Five Villages: One Future,” is now entering its writing phase. The project is funded by a state municipal vulnerability grant, and each chapter includes discussion of the potential impacts of climate change on the town. The board also executed an agreement with the Franklin Regional Council of Governments to assist with the plan.

Bids on a project to address perennial flooding on Montague City Road, also funded by a municipal vulnerability grant, were opened the previous week. Ramsey said he would meet with the state Department of Environmental Protection and federal Army Corps of Engineers to finalize permitting.

Ramsey told the *Reporter* that the Army Corps was involved because the project touches on “navigable waters of the United States.”

Bringing On More Staff

Town administrator Steve Ellis reported on various hiring committees. Applications for a new town planner are due this Friday, and those for public health director on November 3. Ellis warned that due to the holiday season and the need for notification of current employers, the positions may not be filled before the beginning of 2023.

The part-time assistant to executive assistant Wendy Bogusz, Ellis added, does not have its own hiring committee, but he said he and Bogusz would begin interviewing candidates this week.

Acting as the personnel board, the selectboard appointed Michael Babineau as a wastewater technician, and executed a \$35,000 state grant for a wage and classification study of town employees.

Energy committee co-chair Sally Pick came with questions about forming an *ad hoc* committee to oversee a “Community Planning for Solar Project,” in collaboration with University of Massachusetts students. Pick asked whether she, as a potential *ad hoc* member, could meet with students and staff without posting the meeting as required by the state open meeting law.

Ellis answered that such discussions did not need to be posted, but the committee as a whole needed to abide by the law. Later in the meeting, he announced that a training on the open meeting law will be held on November 17.

Plenty of Work

The board voted to award the latest contract for Avenue A streetscape improvements to the firm H.M. Nunes and Sons Construction of Ludlow.

Ellis reviewed the status of projects proposed to be financed

by federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. He said that of the \$2.4 million “available” to Montague, approximately \$1.34 million has already been allocated to infrastructure projects, particularly at the Clean Water Facility, and another \$400,000 to projects “reviewed favorably.”

Ramsey then presented a list of proposals totaling \$415,000, including upgrades to the town hall parking lot, a library study, and a park improvement project in Montague Center.

The board voted to send this list to the capital improvements committee for consideration.

Fair and Clean Elections

At the request of town clerk Deb Bourbeau, the board approved the warrant for the November 8 state election. In addition to voting locations, the warrant lists Montague’s representative in the US Congress, members of the state legislature, and officials such as the governor, attorney general, Northwest district attorney, and Franklin County sheriff.

The warrant also contains questions placed on the ballot by initiative petition: an amendment to the state constitution imposing a 4% tax on income over \$1 million, and a vote contesting a recent Massachusetts law allowing drivers to earn a driver’s license with limited proof of US citizenship.

There is also a non-binding referendum on a carbon fee.

Bourbeau announced that early voting will start this Saturday at the town hall annex and continue for the next two weeks during “normal business hours,” which do not include Fridays. Voting will also be available on Saturdays, October 22 and 29, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. (*see sidebar*).

At Bourbeau’s request, the board gave police chief Chris Williams the role of assigning officers for security duty at polling stations. She said this was in response to a new law which made the selectboard the “sole authority” for security at the polls.

Other Business

Misty Jacques of the Patch neighborhood was granted the use of public property for a Halloween trick-or-treat event from 4 to 9 p.m. on Monday, October 31. Yard signs in the vicinity of the Eleventh Street bridge were also authorized.

The board voted to approve another use of public property on the same day, for the traditional Rag Shag parade. The parade will leave the Aubuchon parking lot at 5 p.m. and proceed along Avenue A to the Discovery Center.

The board decided not to meet on Halloween themselves, but to “keep an eye,” according to Kuklewicz, on their potential agenda for a Tuesday meeting that week. Their next regular meeting is on Monday, October 24.

A meeting with the six-town school regionalization planning committee, which is considering the pros and cons of consolidation of the Gill-Montague and Pioneer Valley districts, is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, November 7.

The board retired into two executive sessions at the end of the meeting, to discuss negotiations involving FirstLight Power property and to discuss potential litigation.



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The Town of Montague is seeking qualified applicants for the position of **Health Director**. The Health Director will understand and enforce all regulations, codes and laws pertaining to public health, particularly food establishments, housing, swimming pools, recreational camps for children, and body art establishments, as well as Title V. Preferred qualifications for this position include a bachelor’s degree in public health, environmental science, biology or related field, and 3 to 5 years of experience in public health inspection and enforcement work – or an equivalent combination of education and experience. A full job description is available at: www.montague-ma.gov/p/1506/Health-Director

The Health Director is a full-time, 35-hour per week benefitted position that ordinarily works Monday–Thursday. The Town of Montague offers an attractive benefits package, including health, dental, life, and long-term disability insurance, pension, deferred compensation, and paid vacation, sick and personal time. Salary range \$62,170 to \$76,139 depending on qualifications and experience. The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity employer and is interested in candidates from a diverse range of cultural, ethnic, and racial backgrounds, and who are otherwise well-prepared to understand and address the needs of the diverse population we serve.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and letter of interest to Michael Nelson, Search Committee Chair, C/O Anne Stuart at: healthclerk@montague-ma.gov.

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SPORTS from page A1

at the linemen every single kickoff. And Green would make plenty of kickoffs en route to their victory.

Tech won the toss, and decided to kick. The Wavers got the ball on the 27 and orchestrated a long, painful drive, chewing up almost nine minutes. It culminated in a touchdown, but the 2-PAT attempt went incomplete.

An Eagle lineman jumped on the bouncing kickoff, and Tech took over on their own 46. Their drive stalled, and on fourth and 5 the punt was blocked, and Green took over on the 16. Four plays later, Franklin found themselves down 12-0.

Again, the extra point failed, and Greenfield lined up for another onside kick. Tech's next drive ended on a third-down sack, forcing another Eagles punt. This time, though, the hike went over the kicker's head, and Greenfield took over deep in Tech's territory. Two plays later, Green went up 18-0.

The Eagles weren't deterred, and neither were their fans – or the cheer squad. The ensuing kickoff was miffed, and an Eagle jumped on the loose ball, giving them possession on their own 24. With some timely passes and smart running, the Blue Birds drove up and down the field, and finally scored to make the score 6-18.

The Eagles' D stopped Greenfield's next drive and Tech took over, but the next play proved disastrous, and Greenfield ended up scoring on a pick-6. As the game went into half-time, Greenfield was leading 24-6.

The second half kickoff bounced off the turf, and Tech took over on their own 36. With the mistakes of the first half behind them, and their fans and cheer team hollering, Tech ran a seven-play drive right into the end zone. This 2-PAT was good, and Tech had narrowed the lead to 24-14.

On the Wave's next possession, they were forced to punt, and this time Tech went on a six-play, 60-

yard drive to score again – and score the 2-PAT again. With under a minute left in the third period it was 24-22, a new ball game.

Greenfield took over at their 21. A missed coverage gave them a long passing gain, and a QB keeper extended their lead to 30-22. At this point it was still winnable for the Eagles – it all hinged on stopping the PAT, which they had done all night long.

But with 6:48 left to play, Greenfield finally snuck one into the end zone to spread the lead to 32-22.

Tech was able to drive down the field to give them a first and goal from the 9, but a sack and an illegal procedure penalty gave the ball back to Greenfield, and they simply went to one knee to end the game.

Gabriel Tomasi threw for 103 yards in the game, with Nathaniel Fuess catching three passes for 89 yards. Jet Bastarache and Ethan Smarr caught one pass each.

Josiah Little amassed an incredible 157 yards on the ground, on 31 carries. Tomasi ran the ball seven times for 24 yards, and Bastarache had one carry for 6. Tech



Turners' Brooke Thayer (at center) shoots past Mohawk goalkeeper Cleome Gardner for a goal as the Thunder earn a 4-1 over the visiting Mohawk Trail Warriors.

Field Hockey

TFHS 4 – Mohawk 1
TFHS 1 – Mahar 1

Meanwhile, across town at Turners Falls High School, the Field Hockey Thunder were finishing their regular season on a positive note, beating the Mohawk Warriors 4-1 last Friday and tying against the Mahar Senators 1-1 on Wednesday.

During the Mohawk game, Alex Quezada scored in the first period and then gave an assist in the second as Ledwin Villafana shot one into the goal to give the Thunder a 2-0 lead.

Brooke Thayer scored Blue's next goal in the third, also assisted by Quezada, and she returned the favor in the fourth, giving an assist to Quezada for the game's final goal.

The Thunder closed out the regular season on Wednesday with a 1-1 tie against the Mahar Senators. Villafana scored Powertown's goal with an assist from Quezada.

With the regular season over, coach Renee Tela and her team now await the Western Mass seedings – and a possible slot in the MIAA's statewide post-season tournament.

did manage to run back three onside kicks, with Shaun Turner gaining 15 yards and Dillon Gagnon 14.

Tomasi scored 12 points and threw for 2 more, Little had a TD and a rushing 2-PAT, and Fuess caught the other 2-point conversion.

Unlike Greenfield, Tech did not kick any onside kicks. Landen Hardy kicked off four times for

162 total yards. On the other side of the line, Bastarache made a sack and caused a fumble, while Hardy made 12 tackles and Vincent Renaud made 10.

The loss gives Tech an overall 2-4 record, and a 1-2 record in the Intercounty North. Next week they play a road game against another ICN foe, the Panthers of Palmer.

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Mattress Recycling Program Begins October 24

FRANKLIN COUNTY – The Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is working with five towns to accept clean, dry mattresses and box springs for recycling. This program is open to residents in all District towns. The program is *only* for clean and dry fabric covered mattresses and box springs, including foam and crib mattresses.

Beginning on October 24, residents must take clean and dry mattresses and box springs to a recycling program in Bernardston, Colrain, Deerfield, Montague, or Wendell. The Mass-DEP now prohibits all clean and dry mattresses and box springs from going into the trash for landfill disposal, and these will be rejected if brought to a transfer station for disposal.

All regional mattress recycling sites charge \$35 per mattress or box spring, regardless of

size. Check the specific information for each site before bringing a mattress for recycling:

Bernardston Transfer Station, Nelson Road, Thursdays and Saturdays 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Checks only.

Colrain Transfer Station, Charlemont Road, Saturdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Cash or checks.

Deerfield Transfer Station, Lee Road, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Checks or money orders.

Montague Transfer Station, Sandy Lane, Turners Falls, Wednesdays 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturdays 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Checks only.

Wendell Transfer Station, New Salem Road., Tuesdays noon to 5:50 p.m. and Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cash or checks.

Franklin County residents can also use the Greenfield Transfer Station on Cumberland

Road, which is open Tuesdays through Fridays 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and Saturdays 7:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mattresses and box springs cost \$30 each, plus a \$5 host fee for out-of-town residents.

Shopping for a new mattress? Ask your mattress seller if they will take your old mattress away when they deliver the new one. Some retailers will include this service as part of the delivery, and some charge a fee.

District towns include Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately. For more information, visit franklincountywastedistrict.org or call (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD).

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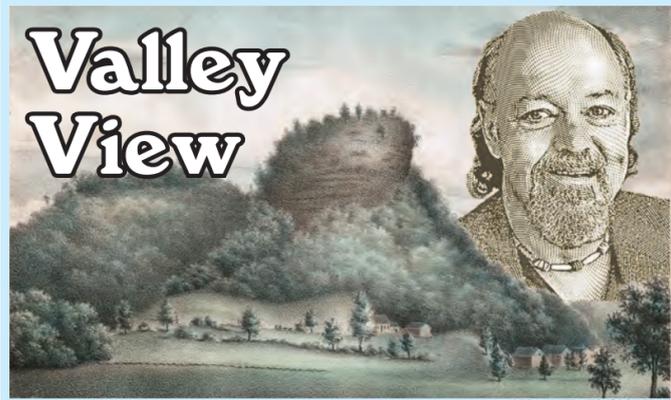


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OCTOBER 20, 2022



Valley View

ORRA WHITE HITCHCOCK PRINT

By GARY SANDERSON

GREENFIELD – Born a Cancer moon child on the last day of June, I am deeply influenced by full moons.

How many times have I, on my way home from an eventful night – be they good, bad or just, plain peculiar – noticed a bright full moon illuminating the after-midnight sky and thought, “Why, of course, I should have known...?”

This narrative is based on one of those, spawned of lunar influence even though our most recent full moon was, at time of the occurrence, hidden deep behind cloud cover. It was a totally appropriate sighting driven by the Hunter’s Moon. A powerful force minus somber moonlight and the long, soft shadows it casts.

There was nothing remarkable about that morning’s start. After lying there awhile in dark silence, thinking, listening, I heard a car from the western hills pass from Brook Road. It told me the downstairs tall clock would soon strike six.

It gets light late these days – too late for early risers. Frankly, Daylight Savings can’t come soon enough for me. Not complaining. Just saying. Daybreak walkers like me are vulnerable hoofing dark roadways.

On my way to the fan-stairs leading down through a closed stair closet to the front door, I peered out a south window to the dark front yard, which appeared to wear a frosty glaze. Hmmm? Our first autumn frost?

I’d know the answer as soon as I got out there for my daily two-mile walk around the sleeping neighborhood. A robust pace completes the task in half an hour. Not bad, I guess, for a battered old warhorse with many dings and dents. At this point, not far off from a demolition-derby rig or glue horse.

My agenda before exiting the house includes a few essential chores, mostly directed at the woodstove. First, I open its damper and door on my way to the kitchen for two anti-inflammatory Ibuprofens. Then, properly medicated in modern American tradition, it is back to the stove to remove spent ash and build the first hot fire of the day – one that removes any potential overnight creosote buildup.

By the time I return from my brisk walk, the fire will be booming to a temperature above 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Then I’ll add a couple of bigger chunks and allow them to fully ignite before closing the damper to a controlled, soapstone burn I manage throughout the day.

Maintaining a good, efficient wood fire has become a lost art – one I still take great pride in.

By the time I stepped outside to walk, it was just after 6 and still dark under overcast skies. A barred owl was hooting from the western woods. Another answered from the north. Not unusual: Owl hooting is common where I live. Those familiar with barred owls know their cadence well: “Who cooks the stew, who cooks for you *awwlllllllll*.” Gotta love it. As a turkey hunter, I huffed that identical call from a hollow, wooden owl-hooter to start toms gobbling from the roost.

Outside, I discovered that dull glaze on the lawn was, indeed, our first frost. Not a hard, crunchy killer-frost, but surely hard and crunchy enough in some pockets to kill uncovered tomatoes and peppers. Even at that point, I cannot say I was aware of a full moon. Had it been there, it would have been embedded as a first and lasting impression. I never miss a full moon. Clouds must have rolled in overnight.

It was still dark as I crossed the bridge over Hinsdale Brook and leaned a hard right with Green River Road, barred owls still saluting the new day. I soon passed three dying soft maples with notices posted on their trunks. I had seen the signs the previous day, but couldn’t read them from the road. This time, curious, I walked right up to the third one and could read “Tree Removal Hearing” in big, bold, black 60-point letters.

Interesting, I thought – maybe the town’s going to remove them. Seems whenever I need a tree work I pay through the teeth. I must be doing something wrong... and getting taxed to death in a town known for its high residential rates...

On my daybreak walks, I often bump into wildlife. In recent weeks I have encountered a doe and her two fawns several times, crossing the road through people’s yards along Punch Brook. It’s all about timing. The first time I saw them it see **VALLEY VIEW** page B3

SPOOKY STUDIES

BEFORE HALLOWEEN AND SCREAM... ITALY’S GIALLO REIGNED SUPREME

By NATHAN FRONTIERO

TURNERS FALLS – What do Michael Myers, Ghostface, and pizza have in common? Prolonged encounters with them may lead to abdominal discomfort, and you can trace their origins to Italy.

The masked and black-clad killers of American slasher films have roots in the *giallo* – Italian for “yellow” – a horror subgenre named for the pulp paperbacks popularized by *Il Giallo Mondadori*, a series of crime novels with distinctive yellow covers from Italian publishing house Arnoldo Mondadori Editore.

The giallo film combines elements of murder mystery, thriller, and horror, with occasional forays in the psychedelic or supernatural. Produced cheaply and quickly from the late 1960s through a heyday in the ’70s to a decline in the ’80s, they relish in schlock and excess, as lurid in their color palettes as they are in their depictions of

sex and violence.

Drawing inspiration from both the German *Krimi* – a popular crime film genre often based on Edgar Wallace novels – as well as the work of Alfred Hitchcock, Italian director Mario Bava originated the giallo in 1963 with *The Girl Who Knew Too Much*. Photographed in high contrast black-and-white, the film follows an American tourist (Leticia Román) who becomes embroiled in a long-running hunt for a serial killer after witnessing a murder in Rome.

The Girl Who Knew Too Much established the giallo’s narrative chassis, but Bava crafted the iconic look for the genre’s villains in his 1964 follow-up, *Blood and Black Lace*. That film’s killer sports a featureless nylon mask, fedora, trench coat, and leather gloves, an ensemble that would persist in the costuming of many giallo successors.

Set within a Roman fashion house whose models the murderer



Mario Bava’s *La ragazza che sapeva troppo* (*The Girl Who Knew Too Much*) originated the giallo in 1963.

hunts down in an effort to acquire a scandal-filled diary, *Blood and Black Lace* boasts gloriously vibrant jewel tones courtesy of Eastmancolor film stock and Bava’s see **GIALLO** page B4

Notes From a Heartfelt Life Part II: Learning to Paint

By TROUBLE MANDESON

GREENFIELD – I grew up with an older sister who is a very talented artist. She studied art through high school and college,

earning her BA in printmaking and then a teaching certificate. She went on to become a high school art teacher, and ran after-school mural clubs in many of the schools where she taught.

Because of her designation as the artist in the family, I didn’t do a lot of art myself, and instead cultivated a love of words. My passion for reading eventually turned to my becoming a writer and a copyeditor, and for some time a grant writer, which requires very clear and articulate writing.

But I wasn’t without my artistic skills. I have a love of arts and crafts instilled by my mother. She loved needlepoint so much that she started her own company, selling kits through a local shop, and the whole family was tasked with helping. I still marvel at my mom’s ingenuity in starting her own home business as a 1970s housewife and mother.

Although new to drawing and painting, I’ve dabbled in many artistic mediums over the years. In my late teens I traded several pieces of my peyote-stitch beadwork for a pair of custom-made elk skin moccasins that sold for \$300 – can you believe I still wear them? – and in 2018 I was invited to appear on MassLive to film a five-minute demonstration of my “Shoe Art.”

I’d dreamed of painting for some years but never graduated beyond see **HEARTFELT** page B5



MANDESON PHOTO

The first of the tiny watercolors the artist produced during the pandemic shutdown, of objects found around her house or yard.

Pet of the Week



DAKIN HUMANE SOCIETY PHOTO

“DAVE”

Dave is a cute, independent girl whose favorite activity is running in her hamster wheel.

She isn't into being petted or picked up. She's better at putting on the hamster wheel show and entertaining you as she rolls around in her hamster ball. The resident dog in her previous home tried to eat her while she rolled around in

the ball, so she's probably not the biggest fan of dogs.

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



Sex Matters

a sex-positive health column

by STEPHANIE BAIRD

GRANBY – Exactly two years ago I wrote about care and hygiene of penises, prostates, and scrotums. I'd like to dive a little more deeply into all things erectile dysfunction for this column.

As I wrote in October 2020, erectile dysfunction can occur for a variety of reasons, and at any age – pandemic stress aside, *lol*. Some common psychological reasons include performance anxiety and life stress. Some people with penises may need to feel emotionally connected and safe with their partner for erections and/or ejaculation to occur. However, erratic dysfunction or increasing lack of erection may be signs of increasing cardiovascular issues.

Erectile Dysfunction

For erections to occur, there must be adequate blood circulation to the penis, healthy penis nerve endings, and interest in sexual activity.

Vascular diseases account for most of the medically-based erection issues, and may be an early warning of impending heart failure. The nerve damage that often accompanies diabetes can also reduce erectile functioning. Over 200 types of medication can impact erectile functioning, as well as tobacco, drug, or alcohol use.

If there is any question of a vascular issue impacting erection, make a doctor's appointment ASAP. Hormonal and neurological changes can also reduce erectile functioning.

The introduction of Viagra in 1998, and similar medications that facilitate erection – phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors such as Cialis and Levitra – revolutionized erectile dysfunction treatment. Folks who have medical issues contributing to erectile difficulties can benefit from these medications.

Researchers are also concerned that medicalization of sexuality can overlook the effects of relational and social sexual complaints, such as rigid gender roles, unrelenting standards of performance, relationships of unequal power, and histories of sexual victimization. Having an erection does not address a lack of emotional connection, intimacy, or physical sensuality in a relationship. Also, as some insurances do not cover these medications, does that mean erections become privileges of the financially secure?

In 2004, Drs. Barry Metz and Michael McCarthy wrote an excellent self-help book, *Coping With Erectile Dysfunction*, that offers a psychoeducational approach and guidelines that can assist people with penises. Here are a few of the many points covered in this book that addresses the social, cultural, and relational factors associated with erectile problems.

1. By age 40, 90% of people with penises will have at least one erectile difficulty, and this is *normal*. Indeed, once penis-owners surpass age 40, erections are not nearly as strong or perpendicular to the ground as they once were. This can be very shocking to folks who could always count on robust erections, and can quickly begin to impact confidence.

2. Erectile difficulty is situational – do not overreact and label

oneself “impotent,” or put oneself down as a “failure.”

3. It is natural for erections to wax and wane during prolonged pleasuring.

4. One does not need a penis to satisfy a partner. Orgasms can be achieved manually, orally, with sex toys, or with rubbing.

5. Erections do not need to occur for ejaculation. Ejaculation can come from a flaccid penis.

Premature Ejaculation

The cause of premature, or early ejaculation, is not well understood. It should be noted that what defines this “premature” is culturally relative. Many folks hold themselves to unrealistic standards for how long they believe they should last before ejaculation during intercourse. Anxiety, and/or going a long time without orgasmic release, may contribute to more quickly ejaculating. Ejaculation timing exists on a normal continuum of latency to orgasmic threshold.

If one desires to increase timing ability, the basic treatment involves resetting the brain to accommodate longer periods of intensity of stimulation without triggering the orgasmic reflex. Metz and McCarthy's excellent 2003 self-help book, *Coping With Premature Ejaculation*, offers a psychoeducational approach, and guidelines that can be used independently or in conjunction with sex therapy. Major points in their book are that premature ejaculation is very common (30%), and that with treatment, most folks can learn better control.

Traditional do-it-yourself techniques (e.g. numbing cream, focus on non-sexual thoughts) are ineffective. The most effective technique, as described in their book, is the “stop-start” technique, done first with self-stimulation and then during partner sex.

Realistic expectations are crucial. Contrary to cismale bragging and media myths, penis-vagina intercourse seldom lasts longer than 10 minutes (the average time is five minutes), and sex need not end after ejaculation – partners can enjoy and share intimacy, pleasure, orgasm, and outercourse.

Delayed Ejaculation

Inhibited ejaculation has received very little attention in research. As initially reported by

Masters and Johnson in 1970, this remains relatively rare, and its causes remain unclear. This issue may be global or situational, with most folks able to ejaculate during masturbation, sometimes with partner stimulation, and rarely during penetrative sexual activity.

Medically, multiple sclerosis may impede ejaculation, as well as medications including anti-hypertensives, sedatives, anti-anxiety, and anti-psychotic agents.

For psychologically-related delayed ejaculation, major treatment recommendations are reducing performance anxiety, increasing trust with partners, and increasing physical stimulation.

Relax Your Way

For erectile dysfunction related to anxiety or stress, learning and practicing relaxation techniques can go a long way to restoring pleasure and confidence. Taking the time to learn and experience deep relaxation in the pelvic and genital region can be life-changing.

New England Sex Therapy has a wonderful handout on “relaxing your pelvic muscle” for easy erections. Essentially, folks with penises can locate the contraction of this muscle by trying to stop the flow of urine briefly, or by “twitching” the penis. Once this muscle group is located, initially spend about three seconds tensing this area, then release that tension, spending another three seconds in the relaxed state. Continue lengthening the time of relaxation between contractions, as well as developing a continuum of awareness from 0 (relaxed) to 10 (tight).

There are several more steps involved, so contact a Pelvic Floor Physical Therapist – I know of several good ones via Cooley Dickinson in Hadley – or a sex therapist for more information and instruction in these techniques. Learning and practicing such techniques correctly can greatly enhance your sexual pleasure, and thus your comfort sharing yourself with others.

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

Senior Center Activities OCTOBER 24 THROUGH 28

WENDELL

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

LEVERETT

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

GILL and MONTAGUE

The Gill Montague Senior Center, 62 Fifth Street, Turners Falls, is open Mondays through Fridays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch available Tuesday through Thursday. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 10/24

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

Tuesday 10/25

10 a.m. A Matter of Balance
1 p.m. Chair Yoga

Wednesday 10/26

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 10/27

1 p.m. Cards & Games
4 p.m. Exercise

Friday 10/28

10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Pizza Party

ERVING

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

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

Monday 10/24

9 a.m. Interval
10:15 a.m. Seated Workout

Tuesday 10/25

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

Wednesday 10/26

9 a.m. Cardio Low Impact
10:15 a.m. Chair Aerobics
11:30 a.m. Bingo

Thursday 10/27

9 a.m. Core & Balance
10 a.m. Barre Fusion

Friday 10/28

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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CALL TO CONFIRM: (413) 423-3328



VALLEY VIEW from page B1 was too dark to tell what they were, but I suspected deer from the movement. Since then, I've seen them four or five times at the same crossing, clearly the same three deer heading to beds in the wooded wetland base of Smead Hill. A big doe and two little skippers. Likely the same deer I saw in a field behind the old Schmidt farmhouse on Plain Road. Neighborhood deer learn to live on the edge and skirt people.

Walking that same half-mile stretch of road daily, I've had many other daybreak critters cross my path. Thus far, I've seen raccoons, woodchucks, foxes, a skunk, and a bobcat. Maybe even a fisher, its dark, sinister profile moving too fast to positively identify. No bears, yet – which doesn't mean they haven't seen me. Many neighbors have seen bears. I usually bump into one somewhere along the way, but thus far, not this year.

Approaching a modern home on the corner of Nichols Drive, sold last spring by an old *Recorder* colleague of mine cashing in on the hot real-estate market, something drew my attention. I must have detected motion, but it happened so fast that it didn't register; it was still pretty dark. Perhaps 30 yards in front of me, a big, antlered buck bound across Green River Road. He was right there in my face one moment, then gone, vanishing like a ghost between two homes on the north side of the road.

Alone and likely establishing territory for the upcoming rut, he must have been feeding on fallen, protein-rich acorns from the twin red oak under which he was standing. His tall, wide antlers and long tines were visible in the dimmest of morning light, as was his extraordinary body mass, grace and agility. He was what is known in hunting parlance as a "racker" – the kind of buck many hunters never get a good look at.

I checked to see if he had stopped

to look back, as fleeing deer often do, but I never caught another trace.

I do believe that buck cleared Green River Road in one powerful bound. What's that? Twenty feet? Thirty? No challenge for such a beast. At least three years old, he's survived previous deer seasons, and will likely make it through another.

With the scent of hunters in the woods and the sound of their shots echoing off distant ridges, smart bucks go nocturnal, finding safe daytime refuge in dense swamps and shallow pockets of brushy woods bordering rivers and neighborhoods. Yeah, sometimes they do make fatal mistakes, especially when hot on the trail of a receptive doe. But you gotta be there: a simple right-place, right-time formula.

I have seen similar bucks in my travels, including hunting scenarios with gun in hand. But I'm no threat now. My hunting days have passed. For the first time in more than 50 years, I didn't even buy a license, and don't intend to – not even for pheasant season, which opened Saturday. Not interested. Hard to imagine, yet true. I've moved on. Not unlike my exit from the baseball, then softball diamonds to which I clung far too long.

My strong, primal hunter-gatherer instinct lives, but now I hunt information or the right word – pursuits I find equally rewarding. Yeah, I will miss the exercise, the handling of enthusiastic gun dogs chasing scent through crisp air and wet, thorny tangles. I'll miss the cackling flushes, the difficult, twisting wing-shots, and hunting camaraderie with wing-shooting pals.

But why kill if I'm not hungry? I guess that's where aging has led me.

So here I sit, sharing introspection inspired by that majestic buck that crossed my path under a hidden, full Hunter's Moon, the influence of which spun my wheels into a pensive place of reflection.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Counterfeit \$100; Pickup Hits Bike; Big G Street Party; Lynn Assassins; "It Is But A Goose"; 5 A.M. Pokémon

Monday, 10/10
 1:57 p.m. 911 caller reporting that he flipped his vehicle on its side in the Montague Plains. Not injured. Police, FD, and ambulance responding. Rau's requested for tow. Summons issued.
 4:37 p.m. Caller reporting three or four males in their early 20s skateboarding on the benches and sculptures at the corner of Avenue A and Third Street and recording it. Referred to an officer.
 6:35 p.m. Multiple 911 calls reporting vehicle into guardrail on Walnut Street; vehicle was reportedly driving erratically prior to crashing, and is now smoking. Operator transported to hospital and charged with operating under the influence of liquor over .08%, third offense; operating to endanger, and operating a motor vehicle with a suspended license.
Tuesday, 10/11
 9:38 a.m. Caller from Highland School Apartments states that a few packages of hers have gone missing from the mailroom in the apartment building, and she believes it is someone in the building who is taking them. Advised of options.
 12:30 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that an unwanted male party is pounding on a neighbor's back door wanting to be let in. Unable to locate.
 12:54 p.m. Animal control

officer advising that he picked up a loose dog in the Old Sunderland Road area and took it to the shelter.
 2:39 p.m. FL Roberts employee reporting that a customer tried using a fake \$100 bill. The clerk would not accept it. Investigated.
 7:07 p.m. Caller states that sometime in the last week, someone stole \$2,000 to \$3,000 out of his home. Officer spoke with caller and advised him of options.
 8:40 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reporting her vehicle stolen. Male party called that station regarding the vehicle; stated he knows the police are looking for him; requested number for state police. Officer spoke with male to attempt to get his location, but he hung up. MSP advised.
 8:54 p.m. A 42-year-old Leominster man was arrested on a straight warrant.
Wednesday, 10/12
 10:24 a.m. Caller from Fourth Street believes that a neighbor has stolen some packages of hers, and that same neighbor is harassing her. Advised of options.
 12:05 p.m. 911 caller reporting that a bicyclist was hit by a pickup truck on Avenue A. Driver and cyclist are now arguing in front of CT River Liquors. Officers on scene. Bicyclist appears OK: alert; walking around. Truck operator not around anymore. Cyclist states that they exchanged information and will handle it on their own. Involved party called back and is reporting more damage to his bike than he thought.
 1:51 p.m. Officer assisting with traffic at School and Main Streets while a motorist cleans up a mess.
 3:35 p.m. Caller reporting a two-vehicle accident outside Greenfield Co-op Bank on Avenue A; both cars have moved off roadway and people are out of vehicles. No medical assistance needed. Rau's requested for one vehicle. Citation issued.
 5 p.m. Caller states that her daughter told her that a male party, approximately 30 years old, was giving boxes of M&Ms to the kids walking home from school on L Street today out of an 18-wheeler truck that has a red cab and white trailer. Officer advises there was no answer at the door of the owner of the 18-wheeler.
 5:05 p.m. Caller states that he rents storage space on Canal Street, and someone broke in and stole some tools and other items. Referred to an officer.
 7:09 p.m. Officer executing search warrant on Fourth Street with Anti-Crime Task Force. A 45-year-

old Turners Falls woman was arrested and charged with possession of a Class B substance with intent to distribute and possession of a Class A drug, subsequent offense.
 7:21 p.m. 911 caller requesting assistance with moving her vehicle, which is stuck in the mud on Migratory Way. Officer advises he was able to get the vehicle unstuck.
 10:33 p.m. Neighbor disturbance on Central Street. Advised of options.
Thursday, 10/13
 10:44 a.m. Walk-in reports a Troy-Bilt rototiller stolen from his property on Chestnut Street. Report taken.
 3:14 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street reporting that there are people sitting outside in a fancy white car again.
Friday, 10/14
 2:17 a.m. Loud noise disturbance on Central Street. Officers spoke with involved party.
 7:36 a.m. 911 caller reporting that a tree has fallen on two vehicles in a driveway on North Leverett Road. Nobody inside vehicles; no wires involved. PD, DPW, and MCFD responding.
 6:41 p.m. Caller states that two males with a yellow Volvo appear to be trying to cut into the new curbs that were put in on Canal Street. Caller states they have a gallon of water and a stone-cutting tool, and he saw sparks. Unfounded.
 7:31 p.m. Caller reporting that his storage unit on Canal Road was broken into and some items were taken.
 10:50 p.m. 911 caller reporting loud noise disturbance by neighbor at Keith Apartments. Officer advising area all quiet; no issues.
 11:09 p.m. Anonymous caller states that he was woken up by loud arguing and talking from people on foot and in a vehicle at Second and L Streets. Caller overheard people on foot saying they were from the Boston/Lynn area, and would be shooting people in town. Officer advises units checked area from First Street through Seventh Street and did not locate anyone. Officer also spoke with local bar employees, who stated there have been no issues tonight.
Saturday, 10/15
 6:18 p.m. Caller reporting fireworks being set off in the Patch; believes they are coming from the G Street area. Referred to an officer.
 6:45 p.m. 911 caller reporting fight in progress on G Street; not sure if it's the second or third floor tenants. Officer advises units clear; spoke with all

tenants; nothing reported.
 7:41 p.m. Caller reporting sheep near roadway on Federal Street. Dispatch contacted owner and she will head down. Officer clear; goats were already gone upon his arrival.
 8:07 p.m. Caller reporting fireworks on G Street again; states several neighbors are walking down towards the house that is letting them off. Units cleared for another call. Received several more calls from residents complaining of the fireworks, stating that they are landing on roofs and in other people's yards. TFFD toned out for safety reasons and report of an outside fire. Officer advises it is more than just a cooking fire. Gill PD en route to assist. Officer clear; states everyone was cooperative and they were advised they needed to contact the FD to get a permit. No fireworks were observed by the officer, but all parties were advised that no more fireworks are to happen. Male party called the PD for a cooking permit; info taken; advised FD would be there shortly.
 9:53 p.m. Caller reporting that the party at the house on G Street is really loud, and she can't get her kids to sleep. Referred to an officer.
 11:19 p.m. Caller reports a female party screaming loudly and slamming doors at Keith Apartments. Officer advises female party was located outside of her residence; when approached by police, the door was slammed. Female party advised of complaint through door.
Sunday, 10/16
 12:39 a.m. Caller reports loud party on G Street keeping his family up. Officer advises music has been turned down at this time. Advised of complaint.
 10:17 a.m. Caller advising of a dead bald eagle in the water near the buoys at Unity Park. Officers confirming bird is deceased in the water. Environmental Police notified and responding. Animal pulled ashore; not an eagle; it is but a goose.
 10:50 a.m. Caller states that she was walking last night on Fifth Street and a large white pitbull came running at her and bit her. No skin was broken. Caller does not know exact address. Info left for ACO.
 1:10 p.m. Report of threatening and harassment at Unity Skatepark. Aggressive male gone upon officers' arrival.
Monday, 10/17
 4:59 a.m. Officer checking on individual at Unity Skatepark. Officer advises male is OK; playing Pokémon Go on his phone.

LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here's the way it was on October 18, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.

Center School Redevelopment Moves Forward

After hearing more than seven hours of public testimony over the course of three nights, most of it from neighbors opposed to a plan to redevelop the former Montague Center School building into 22 units of high-end, solar powered rental housing, the Montague zoning board of appeals on Wednesday voted 4-1 to give Greenfield developer Mark Zaccheo the green light to move the project forward.

After half an hour of internal deliberation among the board, the packed meeting room fell silent as zoning board chair Ernest Brown announced, "I'm going to say those magic words: We're going to vote."

Vice chair John Burek was alone in opposing the motions made by John Reynolds to allow Zaccheo permission for multi-family use in a neighborhood business zone, a change in lot size requirements to allow 22 apartments in a lot of less than 3 acres, with about an acre in wetlands, and, crucially, a variance from the town's zoning bylaws to allow seven of the apartments to be built smaller than the minimum required of 700 square feet.



It Takes a Village to Build a Footbridge

For years, since the old footbridge collapsed in a winter storm, people have walked or skied or snowshoed in the wildlife management area at the end of North Street in Montague Center, and been stopped at the Sawmill River. All that will change in the next few weeks when a new bridge will bring people to the fields and woodland walks on the other side.

The bridge is the culmination of a community effort begun last spring by Montague Center resident Josh Goldman. This week he said, "Over 50 people donated a total of nearly \$6,000. We're officially done with fundraising for the bridge, but if additional gifts come in we'll use them for clean up."

The fundraising committee was comprised of Josh Goldman, Leigh Rae, Harry Miller, Ferd Wulkan, Chris Mason and Mark Lattanzi.

On Sunday, in an email message to this committee and other interested residents, Wulkan wrote,

"The bridge is under construction at long last! Getting the final approval took quite a bit longer than expected due to the inevitable logistical complications, but it's really happening now – the contractors got the project started this Saturday; the utility poles should be installed Tuesday; the decking and railing will follow later this week. Thanks to each of you for helping make this happen.

"It was remarkable how many members of our community pitched in to raise the substantial amount of money needed! And special thanks to Josh Goldman for coordinating this project."

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GIALLO from page B1

adeptness with lighting and composition. In a notable scene, a soon-to-be victim steps cautiously through a dark mansion as a green light flashes eerily on and off in the distance. The blinking is strictly mood-setting rather than a plot-mandated element of the scene, an example of how the genre's murder sequences prioritize aesthetics over realism.

Dario Argento further refined the template for the genre in *The Bird with the Crystal Plumage*, his 1970 directorial debut. Like Bava's *The Girl Who Knew Too Much*, this film follows an American in Rome (Tony Musante) who witnesses a brutal attack – in this case, as he's trapped between the windows of an art gallery – then finds himself in the killer's crosshairs while struggling to solve the case in collaboration with local police.

Argento's entry ignited the popularity of the giallo in Italy, and introduced additional emphasis on the grisly stylization of the murders, including point-of-view shots from the killer focusing on their black leather gloves and various knives of choice. Bava's 1971 giallo *A Bay of Blood* and Argento's *Deep Red* in 1975 each heightened the gore to a level American slashers would come to wholeheartedly embrace during the ensuing decades.

Essential Elements

The general formula for a giallo is as follows: An innocent bystander stumbles into a murder mystery. This protagonist is vulnerable in their environment, either because they're a tourist or because their psychological



Mario Bava's 1964 film *Blood and Black Lace* introduced a distinctive look for the giallo killer that became popular in the genre.

state is fraying under the stress of the violence around them. They face the doubting perspective of friends and local authorities. The police are almost always useless, even especially bumbling, in their efforts to catch up to the killer. A final confrontation reveals unforeseen connections among the cast, or subverts the viewer's expectations of the murderer or their motive, and it is often only through chance intervention or a sudden accident that the hero(ine) escapes death.

These plots can transpire in glamorous or creative settings – among the denizens of photography and film, high culture and *haute couture* – or connect to more intimate arenas, such as cults or families with fraught histories. Devious spouses, malicious exes, and homophobic bigots are among the murderers who eventually receive their just desserts, and the climaxes of certain gialli give the killers a one-and-done taste of their own gruesome medicine.

Comedy is also frequently used as a tonal buffer to the violence,

pushing the pointedly trashy thrills of some gialli toward camp. Giallo composers intensify this dissonance between the silly and the outright terrifying in their original scores. While some scenes find staccato piano and string notes ascending like glass stairs to doom, elsewhere the music feels more like impish Muzak or sleaze jazz, slanting scenes where some poor soul meets the wrong end of a razor through a veil of ironic sweetness until the moment collapses into absurdity.

Lead characters, victims, and even killers in gialli vary with respect to gender and sexuality, and there is a tension between the blunt moralism of their plots and their extensive depictions of chauvinistic violence. Slasher and sexploitation elements overlap heavily in these movies, as directors place beautiful actresses in assorted states of distress and undress, but even in front of the most leering cameras, stars like Edwige Fenech maintain formidable and dignified presences

for the depth and vulnerability of their performances.

Fenech, though equally known for her work in Italian sex comedies, is one of horror's grandes dames, a glamorous scream queen to whom such American slasher actresses as Jamie Lee Curtis and Neve Campbell are indebted. Whether thwarting a vicious plot on her life in *The Strange Vice of Mrs. Wardh* (Sergio Martino, 1971), confronting devil worshippers in *All the Colors of the Dark* (also Martino, 1972), or facing escalating threats in her high-rise apartment building in *The Case of the Bloody Iris* (Giuliano Carnimeo, 1972), Fenech plays allure, shock, and resilience with panache.

Enduring Appeal

Many gialli are available to see in pristine restorations, via boutique home video purveyors like Arrow or streaming services like Shudder. Still, their charm is often in their scrappiness: synchronization slippages between images and dialogue (which may be subtitled Italian, re-dubbed English for international distribution purposes, or recorded separately in either language); the dewy plastic luster of red nail polish standing in for blood, a choice pointed out in the comprehensive documentary *All the Colors of Giallo*; the not-always-convincing makeup, models, or prosthetics employed to depict mutilated bodies, which at times provide a form of inadvertent comic relief to the morose proceedings.

Hollywood didn't wait long to riff on the trappings of giallo. John Carpenter's *Halloween* and the Ir-

vin Kershner-directed *Eyes of Laura Mars*, adapted from a spec script Carpenter also wrote, both emerged in American theaters in 1978. The latter film scans more as a direct American translation of the giallo, with a killer stalking a famous fashion photographer (Faye Dunaway) who portrays stylized violence.

While the initial entry of *Halloween* bore the straightforward stamp of the giallo, *Scream* (1996) offered a metafictional sendup of the oversaturated American slasher formula, itself derived from the oversaturation of conveyor-belt gialli. That series' franchise impulses have diluted Wes Craven's original vision – more blatantly after his death – but it's darkly amusing to see how far off the rails the insatiable bloodlust of this filmic family tree has gone.

In 2018, the French giallo tribute *Knife+Heart* offered a distinctly queer slant to the genre, melding the slimy and sinister as a killer with leather gloves and mask stalks a cast of gay porn actors and their lovesick lesbian director in 1979 Paris.

Even in their paint-by-numbers incarnations, gialli exude rich style that continues to serve filmmakers' palettes today. Compared to the austere trends found in some corners of modern horror, or in digital cinematography more broadly, I can't help pining for the rough-hewn edges of Italy's moody and mischievous subgenre.

With its potent thrills and persistent influence, the giallo offers sensational entertainment for a scary movie night in – and an illuminating slice of cinema history.



SCENE REPORT

A Halloweed Bash at the Fairgrounds

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

GREENFIELD – I went to an event this summer at the Franklin County Fairgrounds that was put on by Green & Mind. I found some artists there I liked, and kept contact info on them to do profiles on. I liked the music there as well as the hip-hop dancers called Style FX.

So on October 15, I decided to check out a Halloween event called the Halloweed Bash, that they were apparently doing for the fifth time at the Fairgrounds. At this event, because it was a Halloween event, there was a haunted walk-through. Something called the High Olympics was also happening, and a best booth contest. Lastly, food and music were there, like the last event I went to.

I found a couple of artists there again who I want to do profiles on. One vendor was selling some sweets that you would expect to be at a Halloween event, one of them being gummies.

Of course, because it was a Halloween event, some people were dressed in costumes. One was a

witch, and two people were Roger Rabbit and his wife. As for the music, I saw a hip-hop musician perform a rap at one point, and at another, I heard a singer sing a ballad wonderfully.

Besides the few people in costumes I mentioned, the place also was decorated for Halloween. That included an inflatable hand with an eye in it, and a huge prop spider on a water tower, next to a spider's web with another spider in it.

The attendants for the haunted walk were also in costumes. One was a cowboy, and the other was a demented clown. I'd like to mention other costumes people were in: a serial killer bunny, and a couple more witches. A food truck had the perfect fit, too, for Halloween, by offering people candy apples. Two other trucks did the same, offering cotton candy.

Some of the art I liked for a profile idea was interesting. One artist was making paintings with spray-paint. This was kind of right up my alley, because I like spray paintings enough to have seven of them

myself. Another piece of art that I really liked was a sculpture of a head decorated like something out of Mexico's el Día de Los Muertos. I took a picture of it.

The haunted walk was decorated for Halloween – in fact, the whole deal was a walk-through that consists of walking through two buildings. The first had an inflatable fun-house sign at the opening. Like the brochure said, the walk had visual acts, scary props, and animated scare scenes. I found this first part to be rather unimpressive, and not very enjoyable – although I did like a fortune teller prop they had, and a visual scene that was playing in there.

The second part was much better. It featured some props that actually moved and startled people. A couple of dressed-up actors in this building did a superb job of scaring people. One was dressed up as a mummy with red eyes.

If the purpose of the walk was to scare people, like a haunted house, then the second building accomplished that. I found that area of the walk to be the best part of the Bash.



WLOSTOSKI PHOTO

Above: The inflatable opening to the "haunted walk" through two of the fair buildings.

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HEARTFELT from page B1

crafting with fabric paint. Finally, during the long months of the pandemic, I picked up a pencil and began to draw and watercolor tiny renderings of things I could see from where I sat: a vase with feathers; a Buddha statue; a string of prayer flags.

Eventually I reached out on social media to other artists asking for art trades. For months, interesting objects arrived in my mailbox from people who dug the idea of trading their pandemic art. It's also where I learned about zines, small, self-published pieces of work that are often traded and collected.

It was an epiphany to find that I wasn't half bad. I revisited my thoughts on pursuing the finer arts, and decided I'd given my sister long enough to be the family artist – I was going for it.

My first project was two issues of a tiny XXX-rated zine telling the story of naughty nuns, which I sold to collectors of erotica. Each issue was copied and hand-bound before shipping.

I went on to create two larger-sized comic books, graduating from hand-drawn zines to paying someone else to print and bind my publications. *A Collection of Kick-ass Women* and *A Handbook to Smashing the Patriarchy* were soon for sale on Etsy and in local Greenfield venues.

I received good reviews for my publications, and my own faith in my artistic abilities grew. It was time to try putting paint to canvas. This was something I'd mulled over



The author's very first acrylic painting on canvas: a portrait of her and her wife. She reports being quite surprised at discovering a talent for capturing faces.

for years, but I pushed through my complicated feelings and bought my first canvas, brushes, and tubes of acrylic paint.

I was so nervous, I was sure I'd end up with awful brown blobs and nothing recognizable. I had no idea about mixing colors or what kind of brushes to use. Sure, I'd been painting with watercolor, but watercolor sort of does the painting for you. I knew that with acrylic, whatever stroke of paint I put down would stay just the same, and that produced some anxiety.

I consulted with an artist friend who suggested I try the grid method for my first painting. I found a sweet pic of wifey and me, digitally laid a grid of lines over it, and then printed out a large copy. I then drew a grid of the same proportions onto my canvas and proceeded to copy the photo onto the canvas, square-

by-square, in pencil. As the portrait emerged, I felt a great sense of accomplishment. Not only were they obviously human, but they even resembled us both quite closely.

I was sure that I would ruin the drawing by painting it, but I was determined to see it through. Another tip I learned from my pal was to start with the dark spaces first, and to "never use black, but a dark gray or brown." Using another version of the original pic printed in high contrast, I dipped my brush in dark gray paint and began to experimentally dab at the corners of the eyes and inside the ears. I made vertical lines on the face and painted the parts in shadow.

I began to see the dabs come together to form images, and the painting began to resemble the portrait. I grew more confident and applied flesh tones of beige, pink, yellow, and brown. I painted in the teeth, the lips, my dark eyeglasses, and the four cascades of long brown-to-grey hair that flowed around both of our shoulders. Then I finished with white highlights, and stepped back to take it all in.

I was astonished to find that I hadn't ruined it at all – in fact, I had created something that was, well, actually quite good. I mean it *looked* like us! It was us! I had done this amazing thing and it worked, I mean, it really worked. I had painted my first portrait, and I loved it. I was mesmerized. Why hadn't I ever tried this before?

Since that first experience with painting last year, I've already done several portraits, and I am now working on a farm landscape that was actually commissioned as a gift. Did you hear me, peeps? I'm getting paid to paint!

Obviously, the moral of this story is to just do it, even if you're scared or uncertain. Just do it.

Trouble Mandeson lives in Greenfield with her wifey and energetically wrangles a farm office, loves to copyedit, write, and read, and volunteers everywhere food is served. Notes From a Heartfelt Life is a special three-part supplement to her monthly food column Notes From the Heartfelt Cafe.

MANDESON PHOTO



CATHY GOUGH PHOTO

The artist at work in her makeshift art studio at one end of her living room. Remnants of her "Shoe Art" project can be seen on the shelves behind her.

MR Wrapping Paper Edition Artist Profile #3

By REPORTER STAFF

This summer we invited people to submit design proposals for a special Wrapping Paper Issue to be printed in November. This fundraiser for the *Montague Reporter* will feature full-color designs printed on double pages of newsprint, meant to wrap presents in. Seven of these pages will feature the work of local artists, with a cover image of *MoRe* headers from the past year.

We received 34 submissions to our call, and chose seven from the proposals we received. We are so excited to bring these wonderful designs to life in this special issue, which will go to press on Thanksgiving week!

Elizabeth Bradley proposed a spread in celebration of the flora and fauna of the Montague Sandplains, including bear oak, pitch pine, lowbush blueberry, wintergreen, and insects and birds that are

characteristic of this rare and special habitat.

We asked each artist the same three questions, and Elizabeth answers us this week:

MR: *What would you want your wrapping paper to say and feel like for the person it is being gifted to?*

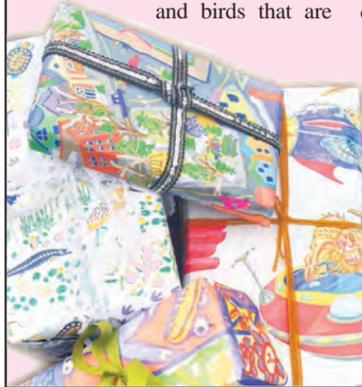
EB: We are lucky to live near the Montague Sandplains, a 1,500-acre wildlife refuge and unique ecological area that is home to rare and threatened species. I hope the wrapping paper moves people to appreciate the beauty of its native species, and to learn more about them.

MR: *What gifts would you want to receive wrapped in your paper?*

EB: Since it is a local paper, I'll have to pick some local gifts! A mug from Familiars in Northampton, new sci-fi or fantasy from the Imaginary Bookshop in Greenfield, or a glass paperweight from Salmon Falls Gallery in Shelburne Falls.

MR: *What other gifts have newspapers given you over the years?*

EB: Subscribing to a paper connects you to the pulse of the community. I've discovered new places to visit, events to attend, and music and art to enjoy that would not have otherwise been on my radar. Reading the paper over coffee on a lazy weekend morning is a gift itself.



Montague Community Television News

Butterflies to Ballots

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – Learn how to attract native pollinators to your farm or garden, delight in sights and sounds from South America from this year's Migration Festival at the Discovery Center, join the audience of RiverCulture's Music in the Park Series with Caroline Davis, Myrtle Street Klezmer and more, and lastly, take some time to learn how your tax dollars are being spent in the MCTV coverage of the special town meeting from October 13.

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 checkout, 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 infomontaguetv@gmail.com.

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the
poetry
page

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

– William Carlos Williams

edited by Christopher Sawyer-Lauçanno
Readers are invited to send poems to the
Montague Reporter at: 177 Avenue A
Turners Falls, MA 01376
or to: poetry@montaguereporter.org

Our October Poetry Page

What she would give to have an hour with him? (Asking for a friend.)

She would give almost anything to have an hour with him.
She doesn't even know what she would do with it.

She might talk too much.
Tell him everything about all she thinks she knows.
It isn't advisable, that's understood.
But her heart is in her head and mouth over him.

She would give almost anything to have an hour with him.
To feel his skin and breathe him in near to her heart.
To feel in his chest, *sotto voce*, anything at all he wanted to say.
What would that be like?

She is already talking too much and he is not even near.
What would she do really if he were near?
Would she just stop and stare like a deer on the highway?
Would she just pretend to be busy and scurry away?

She would give almost anything to be that deer and have him drive by.
Maybe he would slow down and stare.
And she would think: "He is looking at me
like I am looking at him, and he knows I am looking at him like that".

She wondered if he would like her house.
It has an embarrassingly muddy back porch.
Would he think she was a bad person
because she hates to clean?

What she would give to have an hour with him.
She might give herself a half hour of that hour in silence
to become whole for the first time and connected
to feel how she really feels.

She might give herself some credit for the depth of loneliness,
desire, and despair she must be feeling to be so captive.
She might begin to feel the great release required of her
to know this invention, love, is an ache which can never be required.

What she would give for this one hour is her deepest gratitude
for his kindness, for the cascade of beauty which now follows her.
For perfection of the most exquisite solitude she has ever known.
And then her allotted time would quietly expire.

– Edna French
Montague

Once More, Into the Freud!

My thoughts line up in reaction formation
repressing the tendency to resigned sublimation

as my neuroses strive toward force projection
against camouflaged fears of deep repression,

their best defense a rationalization
or complete denial of the current situation,

identifying with the entrenched aggressors
impugning the peace-of-mind protestors,

but like all weary soldiers praying for displacement,
begging HQ for unwitting replacements,

their undoing's the shrapnel from far-flung mortars
hurled in ritual from the battlefield's borders

as the bearded Medic inquires of his wounded brothers,
"Where does it hurt – and what did you think of your Mother?"

– Gary Greene
Greenfield



WRITING THE LAND

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Ionian Autumn in Cambridge

The day the last bees of the season
came to suck the swollen roses,
the cold blue breeze blew leaves
sent them racing across the lawn.

And I read a book about Ionia,
stared at my grey skies.
Then suddenly, lifted by Grecian
sun and light and balm

I saw the wavelets ripple
on the pebbled shore,
saw the white houses
perched on ochre clifftops,

saw the gnarled olive groves,
branches bent earthward seeking relief,
smelled fish smeared with olive oil
cooking over the charcoal braziers,

shut myself off from bees and leaves
but not from the smiling sun,
so rare here, so present there
which guided my craft
into the safe harbour of Ithaca.

– Gene Grindel
Cambridge, England

Upside

Being dead has its advantages.
No more sunburns.
No tedious meetings, running long.
No goddamn performance reviews.
Finally losing that stubborn weight.
No more deductibles.
No need to exercise.
No more telemarketers.
Or politicians.
No ticks, no taxes.
No debt or jury duty.
No sitting in traffic
or waiting at the DMV.
No mowing. No weeds.
No babies on airplanes.
No computer viruses,
hackers, or haircuts.
No pain.
No self-doubt,
no additional regrets,
no grocery lists.
No more wondering
what it will be like to die.
No more weddings to attend
and just the one last funeral.

– Gary Greene
Greenfield

Victim of the Window For Georgina

She sits in her chair
chin propped in her bony hands.
Outside it's raining
for the tenth straight day.
Grey sky begets grey buildings.

Each day she's marked the progress
of the widening pools
on the neighbours' flat roofs,
watched the clouds
that seem to move so slowly,

great monstrous things,
looming and blooming,
spouting pent-up water,
lumbering just above the horizon,
but promising some day, some blue.

– Gene Grindel
Cambridge, England

Contributors' Notes

Gene Grindel, Reader in Classical Languages at Clare College at the University of Cambridge, has published many books of poetry as well as translations from Latin and Greek.

Gary Greene is a Greenfield native and author of *Poems in a Time of Grief*. His work has appeared in the *Montague Reporter*, where he was the featured poet in January 2021, Oprelle Publications' poetry anthology *Matter*, online at wittypartition.org, and in *Nine Mile Books & Literary Magazine*. His poem "A Poem About Not Getting a Dog" will appear in the June 2023 edition of *Rattle*. He has placed in the top three in the Poet's Seat Poetry Competition and the Robert P. Collen Poetry Competition. His latest book, *The Lonely Years*, is currently seeking a publisher.

Edna French has lived in New England, and in the town of Montague, for years. Also a photographer, a recent focus included urban structures imprinted by human nature: "Town Without Pity" and "Town Without Pity (next door)." Professional success includes proposal writing and research for education, arts, and community health fundraising.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Eleanor Levine & Band, Ruddy Duck, 2/3rds the Bird*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Vimana*. Free. 9 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Imarhan, Harman, The Haughey Cello Project*. \$ 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: Eggtooth Productions presents *A Happening*. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew, Wendell: Dance party with 2 *Car Garage*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Rave in Libra* with *Dutch Experts*, DJs. \$ 8 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewing, Turners Falls: *Halloween Party with Bobby C*. 8 p.m.

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film, *Belladonna of Sadness* (1974) with live soundtrack by *The Empyreans*. \$ 8 p.m.

Academy of Music, Northampton: *Jonathan Richman, Tommy Larkins*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Liz Bills & the Change, Sandy Bailey (full band)*. \$ 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *A.P.I.E., Luxor Rentals, Blues Ambush* (solo). Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22

Great Falls Festival, Turners Falls: *After Glo, James Blonde, Curly Fingers Dupree, Jimmy Just Quit, No Joke, Tommy Fuentes Band, Adelaide Faye & Peter Kim, Eli Elkus*, many more performers, vendors, children's activities, etc. Free. 12 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *The Cropdusters, The Green Sisters, Wild Bill and the Flying Sparks, The Pistoleros*. \$ 4 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *La Neve, Feminine Aggression, Valley Gals*. \$ 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Fracture Type, Crash the Owl Party, My Friend Tony*. \$ 8 p.m.

Race Street Live, Holyoke: *Titus Andronicus, Country Westerns*. \$ 8 p.m.

Hutghi's at the Nook, Westfield: *Wishful Thinking, The Agonizers, The Schenectavoids*. \$ 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Wild Pink, Gold Dust, Lost Film*. \$ 9 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Robert Ashley*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Landowner, Stuck, Slant of Light*. \$ 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

Nova Arts, Keene: *Washer, Rick Rude, All Feels, Jentri Jolimore*. \$ 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Masala Jazz*. Free. 8:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27

Bombyx Center for Arts & Equity, Florence: *Club D'Elf* with *John Medeski*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: Cajun Two-Step night with *Honky Tonk Angels, Les Taiauts*. Free. 7 p.m.

33 Hawley, Northampton: *Tatsuya Nakatani Gong Orchestra*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Asbestos Farm, Hadley: *Rick Rude, Washer, Valley Gals, Scorpion Porch*. \$ 9 p.m.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

Palladium, Worcester: *GWAR, Nekrogoblikon, Crobot*. \$ 6 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Greg Davis, Tiny Vipers, Seth Chatfield Gong Bath*. \$ 7 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Bluegrass and Beyond*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Chronophage, Faucet, Jeanines*. \$ 7 p.m.

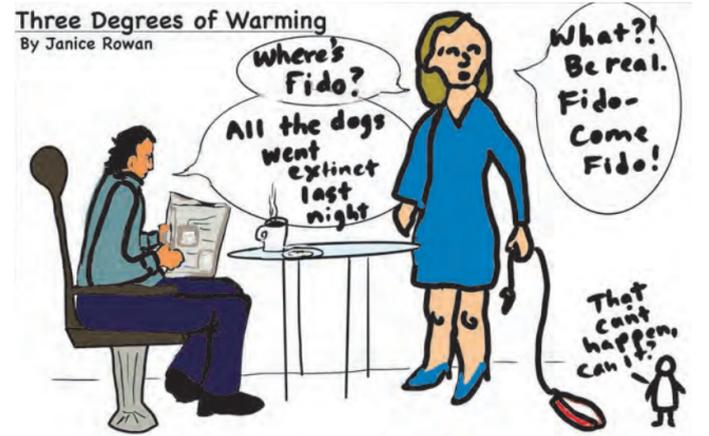
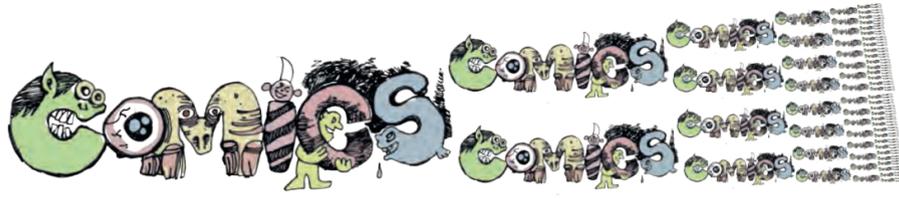
Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Gaslight Tinkers, DiTrani Brothers*. \$ 8 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Minivan, Elsa, Pussyvision, DJ Tambo*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Pathogenic, Aversed, Graviton*. \$ 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Mountain Movers, Noise Nomads, Id M Theftable, Wednesday Knudsen, Motorhawk, Tarp, Frozen Corn, Liz Durette, Stella Kola, Gastric Lavage, Arkm Foam/Stella Silber Duo, Sam Hadge, Liam Grant, Sagan & Sigourney, Spectre Folk, DJ Snacky Fresh, Thirst and the Liver, Roofless, Zamzax Goom*. Free. 12 p.m.



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MAX HARTSHORNE PHOTOS

A dreamy little hotspot on the New Hampshire seacoast.

SOUTH DEERFIELD – Portsmouth, New Hampshire is one of the most dynamic and exciting little cities I've had the pleasure of visiting in years. It's exploding with artists, creative people, film, cafés, breweries, and the requisite high rents that come when a city becomes cool. Portsmouth is definitely here.

A visit to the city of 22,000 was well timed: The New Hampshire Film Festival was happening over the weekend we were there. This 20-year-old fest brings 100 New Hampshire films and people who love movies to six venues, including the 900-seat, elegantly renovated two-level Music Hall and the Music Hall Lounge, across and down Congress Street, which offers 116 seats and a convenient bar.

Both venues have stocked rosters of film, music, theater, and spoken word for months to come. You can tell, with a calendar this full, that people will fill the venues, and they do.

Monte Bonahan, the Music Hall's director of communications, told us that the place dates back to 1878 and was built as a Baptist meetinghouse. At one time, up until around 1900, there were four big theaters in Portsmouth. In 2007 this beautiful space with the large colorful cushions and dramatic bar was hewn out of the granite. The bathrooms are most elegant, with curving rock inlays. They must be seen to be believed!

Right next door to the Music Hall Lounge is the marvelously retro Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club, a beautifully restored three-level music emporium and events venue with a circular stage and elegant balcony seating, a full menu, and jazz luminaries like legendary bassist Ron Carter playing nightly. They also have rooms where you can take a comfy seat and watch the music on the screen, or get a table upstairs in the balcony for a bird's eye view of the jazz.

It's a big swing to build a new fan-

WEBSITES

Portsmouth Info and Events

www.goportsmouthnh.com

Jimmy's Jazz and Blues Club

jimmysoncongress.com

Buoy Shack (Kittery, Maine)

www.buoyshack.com

cy club around jazz, as the audience for this type of music is aging. Then again, young and old listeners joined us at the show we saw on a Thursday evening. It was *avant-garde* bebop and freestyling on a baritone sax, piano, xylophone, and drums, called Joel Ross and Good Vibes. Good feeling in there. You can tell they are in the business for the long game, and that makes the best music clubs – the owners aren't cutting corners, and are letting the music rule.

"History" is defined by being able to walk inside houses from the 1800s and meet reenactors who can replicate what people were like in the old days. At Strawberry Banke, we did just that. Our guide Katie took us through many period homes, including one that had two side-by-side doors: one opened into a 1955 house, and the other one from 1800s.

They also have replica general stores from both the 1700s and 1943, with period-costumed actors to give it all a little more verisimilitude. Really a fun and interesting place to stroll around and see stuff.

Dining in Portsmouth

We had plenty of interesting choices in Portsmouth's compact downtown. Everything was very easy to get to from our hotel on Vaughn Street, the AC Portsmouth Downtown Waterfront, which was built three years ago and offers water views and a cool four-floor bar and restaurant.

The hotel is a frequent venue for weddings, bar mitzvahs, and other events, and the staff works hard to make everyone happy. We would give it high marks for a standard hotel – not luxe, but who's looking for that?

Our restaurant choice was French: La Maison Navarre, on Congress Street. On street level it's a coffee place that also sells interesting and decidedly French food ingredients, like Moutarde de Meaux and tins of French sardines.

The espresso bar is hopping by day, but up the stairs, there is a French restaurant called MN Wine Bar. Dinner was escargots, drenched in pesto garlic butter, complete with the requisite set of tools to pry them from their shells and consume them with a tiny fork... in one bite.

My partner's chicken almondine was well-seasoned, breaded and perfectly tender. With lots of veggies on both plates, we were quite

happy. A French-inspired wine list made it even more authentic, which we loved.

Breakfast found us at the popular Popovers on the Square, where both outdoor tables and window seats provide a great view of the passing parade on Congress Street.

Another fun local spot for a seafood nosh is just over the other side of the Piscataqua River in Kittery, Maine. The Buoy Shack is a stellar spot with views of the busy river, with passing lobster boats, tugs, and all manner of crafts making their way to the ocean past Kittery. Try the jumbo lobster roll. Some lobster lovers in Connecticut put on mayonnaise, but not us – we preferred the classic New England/Maine style, with butter.

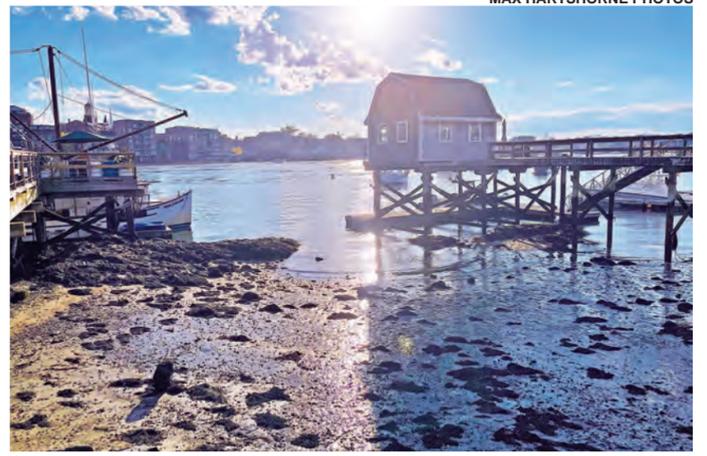


Downtown Portsmouth is compact and full of fun shops, cafés, music venues, and 1880s architecture.

Lobsters and Workers

The owner of a lobster boat that docks here told me that the lobster business has really rebounded from the shortages and price problems of a few years ago. Now the supply is going to mostly domestic and local markets instead of China, he said, and that has kept the prices reasonable, and the supply is great. I guess all of the lobsters haven't yet fled our shores for colder Nova Scotia, as some marine biologists warned a few years ago.

The only problem our lobsterman and the owners of Buoy Shack reported was not being able to find enough help. The restaurant would be open seven days, they said, if they had the staff. And nobody young wants to go out on a lobster boat any more, so he fishes six days



The Buoy Shack in Kittery, Maine, across the river from Portsmouth.

all by himself.

The housing prices here are high, with some one-bedrooms in town around \$2,200 per month. You can live farther away in southern Maine or New Hampshire for less, but living downtown is going to cost you.

Portsmouth is a canine city. You come across every breed of dog being walked on the streets or frolicking in the dog parks, South Mill and Pierce Island, where the hounds can run leash free. It's clearly a popular topic of conversation, inquiring about breeds and pedigrees – just

homelessness and crime that is hard to avoid in many West Coast cities. Here it feels almost crime-free, and everyone is taken care of.

Food Halls & Art Walks

There is an exciting project under construction in Portsmouth – the West End Yards food hall, one of those popular large open spaces where dozens of different food purveyors staff food stalls, and people gather at large tables to share the foods and the booze served in the surrounding kitchens.

Boston has several of these, Atlanta has five, and they are popping up everywhere. Anthony Bourdain was planning on opening his own food hall in Manhattan before he passed away in 2018.

In many ways, Portsmouth has exactly what everyone under 40 wants these days: a car-free, casual life where a dog can go everywhere, you can walk most places, and there is a lot of nightlife and a good art scene.

Friday's art walk answers that question, as many galleries open their doors and the public enjoys the stroll. In December at Strawberry Banke, there will be a series of weekend candlelight strolls through the city's historic homes, with hundreds of lighted candle lanterns with costumed role-players popping out with seasonal greetings.

Portsmouth is a dynamic gem of a city any time of year, and hordes of visitors can attest to its charm. I advise you to plan a visit soon to experience it for yourself. Hipsters and others can take Amtrak from New York City to Durham, New Hampshire, and it's only 20 minutes away by car to Portsmouth, a quick Uber.

Driving is also easy: just head north on 95, and take the exit before the big bridge.

Local travel editor Max Hartshorne writes about traveling around our region, and a little beyond. Max is the editor of GoNOMAD Travel, published since 2000 in South Deerfield. Find him online at www.gonomad.com, and listen to his new GoNOMAD Travel Podcast.

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