

The Montague Reporter

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EDITOR@MONTAGUEREPORTER.ORG

THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

OCTOBER 27, 2022

WENDELL SELECTBOARD

Keller to Retire From Wendell Selectboard

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Selectboard member Dan Keller opened the Wendell selectboard’s October 19 meeting by saying after 20 years on the board, he does not intend to run for reelection next May. Keller’s time on the selectboard followed 17 years on the finance committee.

He thanked the other board members, previous board members, town citizens, and workers for “twenty years of harmonious work, Olympic-quality and unique.” He said the town wouldn’t be “done with” him, as he will still be on the board of assessors, and that it is time to start drumming up interest in his replacement.

When Keller started working for Wendell, town officials took their paperwork, on actual pieces of paper, home for storage between meetings. While in office Keller oversaw construction of the town office building and library, and the water system that serves town buildings.

The former library was turned into the senior center, and the selectboard office moved from Wendell’s

see **WENDELL** page A4

GILL SELECTBOARD

Citizen Issues Call to Reform Distribution of Roadside Wood

By KATE SAVAGE

The hottest point of contention at Monday’s Gill selectboard meeting was over wood disposal.

Gill resident Joe Williams asked the selectboard to create a policy for wood from trees cut along the town roads. He suggested wood could be left at the brush dump at the end of River Road, or taken to the Montague community wood bank where it could be accessed by those in need of heating assistance.

Highway superintendent John Miner stated that the cheapest option is often to run wood through a chipper on the spot, but material too big for the chipper has been taken to the brush dump.

Following a recent storm, “one small load of wood” was kept by an employee, Miner said, “but he’s the one who held onto the saw for 10 hours a day, and I think giving him one load isn’t a lot to ask.”

Miner said the “majority” of the wood went to the brush dump.

“No. Don’t tell me that,” countered Williams. “That did not go down to the brush dump, because I was there. It never went there.” Williams asserted the wood was taken to New Hampshire instead. “I’m gonna say that’s misappropriating town property,” he added.

“It wasn’t town wood – it was off state property,” Miner responded. “I’m not sure where you’re getting your info from, but I can tell you it’s wrong.”

When Williams insisted again that he saw it happen, Miner asked, “So you saw the employee that lives in New Hampshire loading it up?”

see **GILL** page A8

BETWEEN THE WORLDS



The earliest marked grave at Montague’s Old South Cemetery belongs to Elijah Root (1756-1759).

A Small Leak Stirs Up a Sore Subject

By JEFF SINGLETON

MONTAGUE CENTER – There is a leak in the roof of what is probably the oldest public building in Montague – the old town hall in Montague Center which currently bears the title “Montague Center Library” on its facade.

The town selectboard agreed on Monday that the leak needs to be fixed, and agreed with a proposal by town administrator Steve Ellis to use up to \$10,000 of a \$50,000 earmark put into the state budget by representative Natalie Blais for Montague town roofs.

Chair Rich Kuklewicz expressed doubts about putting more money into the structure. “But, if the roof is leaking we have to deal with it,” he said. “I have my opinion about maintaining a building that gets used very little, but if the roof is leaking and it’s our building we need to remediate the problem and then figure out what the long-term solution is.”

According to a 1954 history of the town issued as part of its 200th anniversary, the building was constructed in 1858 at the time when Montague Center was in fact the population center of Montague.



Montague’s “old town hall” now serves as a branch library.

Turners Falls had not yet been created as an industrial village, Lake Pleasant’s identity as a spiritualist encampment was several decades in the future, Millers Falls was a stop on the east-west stage called “Grout’s Corner,”

see **SMALL LEAK** page A6

High School Sports: V-Ball Thunder Surges

By MATT ROBINSON



Turners’ Tatianna Carr-Williams (left) battles at the net with Hampden Charter’s Jose Melendez as Blue’s senior hitter Steph Peterson (center) watches. The Thunder tamed the Hampden Charter School of Science West Lions, sweeping three sets in a PVLAC Western Mass quarterfinal game on Wednesday.

TURNERS FALLS – The Pioneer Valley Interscholastic Athletic Conference (PVIAC) announced the Western Mass fall tournament schedule this week, and several teams from Franklin Tech and Turners Falls made the cut. Both girls’ volleyball teams earned playoff spots, and both played games this Wednesday.

The fifth-seeded Franklin Tech boys’ soccer team was also in action Wednesday, traveling to Palmer to challenge the number-four Pathfinder Blue Panthers.

This Thursday, both schools’ field hockey teams will compete in the PVIAC tourney: second-ranked Tech will host number-three Hampshire Regional in Class D, while in Class C, number-four Turners travel to Northfield to take on the top-seeded Pioneer Black Panthers.

Also this week, Franklin Tech’s football team let a lead slip through their fingers after several players left the field with injuries.

Football

Palmer 28 – FCTS 20

Last Friday, October 21, the Franklin Tech Football Eagles lost an away game to the Palmer Panthers. Franklin, who outscored the Panthers in the first half, fell victim to game-ending injuries and lost by a touchdown.

see **SPORTS** page A6

Farren Hearing Scheduled Amid Confusion Over ‘Development’

By MIKE JACKSON

MONTAGUE CITY – The Montague historical commission met Monday morning and set November 16 as the date for a public hearing on the Farren Care Center, a decommissioned long-term care facility whose owner has requested a permit for demolition.

The hearing is required by the town’s new demolition delay bylaw, as the Farren is considered historically significant. After the public has a chance to weigh in on the prospects for its redevelopment, the commission may vote whether to delay the issuance of the permit by up to a year in order to allow time for potential developers to line up a plan.

Overshadowing this routine step, a misunderstanding appears to have led to inaccurate news that a Vermont developer has taken a “renewed interest” in redeveloping the building.

Bob Stevens of the Brattleboro firm Stevens & Associates told the *Reporter* this week that “nothing has changed” in the firm’s position on the Farren since initial conversations

see **CONFUSION** page A6

Emergency Shelters Come Under New Management

By SARAH ROBERTSON

GREENFIELD – Two emergency shelters for people experiencing homelessness will change hands next spring from one non-profit to another, as ServiceNet transitions management of its Greenfield and Northampton shelters to Clinical and Support Options (CSO).

“Our general approach is to emphasize housing, as opposed to shelter,” CSO vice president of housing and shelter services Bill Miller told the *Reporter* when asked if there are plans to expand the facilities. “While we may expand the total number of beds available in the shelters, our emphasis will be helping people who are currently homeless become housed.”

ServiceNet managers announced last August that they would not seek to renew the contract with the state Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) to operate the shelters at Wells Street in Greenfield and Grove Street in Northampton. CSO applied for the contract, which begins next April, and is widely expected to receive it.

“[W]e remain committed to serving the individual homeless population through our outpatient clinics, substance use recovery programs, mental health recovery programs, family shelters, supportive housing, and much more,” ServiceNet CEO

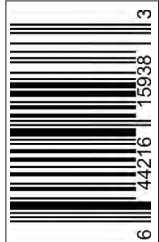
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The Veil Between Tricks and Treats Is at Its Thinnest

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The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002



Assistant librarian Jean Daley poses with terrarium supplies from a recent event in the makerspace at the Erving library. The makerspace has lots of craft supplies for beading, scrapbooking, and other activities. The new library building opened its doors March 1, 2020, and had to shut them quickly ten days later. Its colorful spaces include a teen room, children's room, business center, meeting rooms, kitchenette, and courtyard.

REPRINT

The Rag-Shag Parade

Trick-or-treating began in the 1930s, but before that, Halloween had emerged as a night of mischief.

The **November 6, 1918** *Turners Falls Reporter* recounts:

On two nights last week a gang of bellowing, insolent hoodlums turned out at Montague City to show how the devilry we hear about in the war zone originates. The gang tore off gates from homes, and when ordered off by a man who got up from a sick bed to do it, fired a stone or air rifle bullet at him through the window glass.... Obstructions were put on the street car tracks and a bonfire was built between the tracks at an ugly curve, all of which criminality was liable to cause serious accidents or loss of life.

And from **November 5, 1919**:

There were a number of Hallowe'en parties and the boys all over the village celebrated in energetic fashion. Some of the streets were profusely decorated with cabbage stumps and leaves, souvenirs of Hallowe'en battles.

The **November 1, 1921** *Greenfield Recorder* describes "Bonfires, ringing church bells and at time a perfect bedlam of noise" in Turners Falls, comparing it with the night before the Fourth of July, the traditional local holiday of mob rule.

In **1924** in Greenfield, "householders are hunting for steps missing from their houses, trellises, door mats, piazza chairs and garbage cans," while on the property of Thomas White, "the coping on the retaining wall was pried off and dumped on the sidewalk."

Turners Falls appears to have innovated on **October 31, 1925**, "[t]he most unique, and certainly one of the most enjoyable occasions ever held for the children of Turners Falls," when "thousands of people witnessed a fantastic parade" of "ghosts, witches, goblins, and other grotesque characters," "headed by a rough rider on a pony." This culminated with costume judging, followed by an acrobat show, a projected movie, popcorn and a bonfire at Unity Park. The *Recorder* credited Playground Director Claude Hubbard with the idea.

The **1928 parade** was huge: Hallowe'en was celebrated here last evening by practically every child in town, at least it appeared as if any boy or girl old enough to walk was either in the parade or along the side lines. The school children met at their respective rooms at 5:45 and went from there to the corner of Seventh and L streets from where the parade was started promptly

at 6 o'clock. The St. Mary's drum corps headed the parade and the line of march was down L street to Fourth street, thence to the Avenue, down the Avenue to Seventh street, from where they counter-marched up the Avenue to the Shea theatre.

There were at least 800 children in line and the costumes were of a great variety, many of them showing much originality and all combining to produce an atmosphere of weirdness. Hallowe'en is unquestionably children's night and the younger ones especially took keen delight in sending the cold chills of fear coursing up and down the spines of their elders as they bobbed up before them in the fantastic costumes and masked faces.

At the Shea theatre, the marchers entered the wide-flung doors and for 10 minutes or more filed to their places in the theatre. When all had entered it was found that very nearly 1,000 children were in the house.... A cartoon was then thrown on the screen and then came one of the "Our Gang" comedies to the immense delight of the audience, who thoroughly enjoyed the antics of the little actors.

Yet there was **no parade in 1929**:

The idea of a Halloween parade such as has been held here in previous years has this year been abandoned. When the idea was originally formulated, it was for the purpose of keeping the children off the street. In former years the parade was held and then the participants were the guests of Dennis J. Shea at a movie show. In this way the children were kept off the streets until well after nine o'clock. The moving picture machine has since been moved, however, to the new Shea theatre and while this theatre has been offered, the regular show at 7:30 would make it necessary for the children to be out by that time. Vandalism would in no way be done away with if they were turned out into the street in organized groups at this hour, so the idea of the parade was wholly forsaken.

And indeed, **mischief ensued**:

In spite of the drizzling rain the youngsters of this town observed Hallowe'en in the customary fashion. While the lower flat including Avenue A was rather quiet, it seemed that the younger element of the whole town moved up on the hills.

Hardly an ash-can on High street is in its usual place; and few and far between are the telephone poles that are not adorned by them. The large roller used for the tennis courts which had been moved half way down the hill several nights ago, was forced to the bottom of the hill

and damaged. At least fifty to seventy-five youngsters, and older fellows plundered this section in a very noisy fashion. The front steps on the residences of Porter Farwell and Herbert W. Alvord were exchanged.

Most of the damage on the middle flat was done with old vegetables. At about 10:30 o'clock some daring merry-makers rang the bell on the Oakman school building....

The **November 5, 1941** *Turners Falls Herald* records a parade, "preceded by the high school band," which "marched south on Avenue A to Seventh street, and countermarched to the bridge."

Best costume that year was a tie between Gladys Bowman of Third Street and two-year-old Carol Eddy of Millers Falls. And, just as before, "all children in costume who marched were given a free theatre ticket by Denis J. Shea."

It's unclear when this parade came to be known as the Rag Shag, an appellation originally reserved for the Fourth of July parade.

According to the **November 1, 1955** *Greenfield Recorder-Gazette*, the "rag-shag" in Turners drew 350 marchers, who "received candy and saw movies in Hibernian Hall."

Cops reported a "tame time in Turners" that year, while over in Greenfield, pranksters sprinkled broken glass in roadways, called a false fire alarm at 2:38 a.m., and ripped up mailboxes and trees.

Kids these days don't seem to be let out in any numbers by themselves, and everyone likes to pretend the olden days were more innocent. The Rag Shag is kept alive in Turners by a small but loyal core of volunteers, even if its original purpose of pacification has been buried by the sands of time.

But wouldn't it be great if it ended in a free community movie night at the Shea Theater? **October 31, 2023**, we're looking at you!

An earlier, shorter version of this editorial ran on October 26, 2017.

Letter to the Editors

Hard Work Noticed

I would like folks to know about the hard work of Wendell Tree Warden Clifford Dornbusch, and residents working with him, in the midst of some recent rough decisions.

National Grid has slated over 150 roadside trees in Wendell for potential clearing, due to power line concerns. Many residents felt that many of the trees were healthy and should be left to grow. Some residents expressed more concern about the safety issues involved in power outages.

I know there are many sides to the issue, as expressed at a public hearing and on our town listserv. Clifford took time to write a lengthy explanation on our listserv, explaining the process further and addressing many concerns.

He explained that he looked at each tree with resident Pru Smith, a trained forester, and a National Grid representative. He explained that they assessed each tree for the potential of pruning rather than re-

moval, and many of the trees will be maintained in this way due to their close attention.

I was really touched by his public letter taking into consideration everyone's feelings and thoroughly documenting and sharing the process with residents. It sounds as though he and Pru spent many hours looking at trees very thoroughly. I'm sure they both devoted these many hours from their own love for trees and desire to preserve as many as possible.

I know that there are a lot of feelings about the potential outcome and the process in general as it involves National Grid, but I do want to take the time to recognize the wonderful efforts of Cliff and Pru in this process.

I am really glad we have a tree warden and community members like Pru, who are so dedicated. Thank you so much, Cliff and Pru!

Seal LaMadeleine
Wendell

CORRECTION

A photo caption on Page A1 last week described the Farren Care Center's "newest wing, built in 1975," but pictured the wing built in 1965.

The two dates were transposed in scope of demolition work drawn up by an engineer, and we perpetuated the error!

Kudos to Louise Croll, who spotted the mistake immediately:

"I was a pediatric patient there in 1964 when the foundation was being worked on," Louise writes. "Jack-hammers were used all day long below my window on an upper floor of the original building. My uncle worked there doing maintenance and my mother was an RN there. I was a volunteer there about 1975, the date attributed under the photo."

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Montague Reporter
177 Avenue A
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editor@montaguereporter.org



Compiled by CHRIS PELLERIN

Franklin County Technical School presents its fourth annual **Halloween Trek@Tech** this Thursday, October 27 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. This is a costumed event, free for kids pre-K to sixth grade, at FCTS, 82 Industrial Boulevard, Turners Falls.

NELCWIT and the Salasin Project present a **Clothesline Installation and Candlelit Vigil** in honor of Domestic Violence Awareness Month this Thursday, October 27 from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the Greenfield Common.

The Clothesline Project is a visual display of violence statistics that of-

ten go ignored. Each shirt is made by a survivor of violence or by someone who has lost a loved one to violence. The color of each shirt represents a different type of violence.

Materials will be provided if you want to decorate a shirt. You can present a story, poem, song, or memorial during the open mic beginning at 5:30. Register with *katri@nelcwit.org*. The rain location is 17 Long Avenue in Greenfield, masks would be required indoors.

The **Greenfield Arts Walk** steps off on Main Street in Greenfield this Friday, October 28 at 5 p.m. This month will feature artist and *MR* columnist Trouble Mandeson, and musician Violet Walker. The event

happens on the last Friday of every month. For more information, a map of locations, or to apply to have your work featured, visit *madhouse-multiarts.com/greenfieldartswalk*.

Show off your spookiest costumes and sing your favorite songs at **Costume, Karaoke, Catwalk**, a free, family-friendly, sober event at 68 Federal Street, Greenfield on October 28 from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Pizza, sandwiches, and candy will be provided. Hosted by the Recover Project. For more information, call (413) 774-5489.

The LAVA Center is offering a **Halloween event** in partnership with Greenfield Community College this Friday, October 28 at 6:30 p.m. at 324 Main Street in Greenfield. Join Lillian Ruiz, GCC professor and enthusiast of all things scary, to learn a bit about the history of Halloween, and then watch the ultimate scary movie, *The Exorcist*, in its extended “Version You’ve Never Seen,” along with a short documentary about the film and its cultural impact.

This event is free; donations will be accepted to help fund future events. The movie is rated R and is intended for mature audiences only. Contact *info@localaccess.org* or (413) 376-8118 for more information.

This Saturday, October 29, **Seeds of Solidarity Farm** in Orange is offering a free farm tour with mocktails at 10:30 a.m., followed at noon by a talk, “You Finished Cancer Treatment: Now What?” by Dr. Amy Rothenberg.

Dr. Rothenberg will discuss lifestyle and natural-medicine approaches to addressing symptoms left over from cancer care, and strategies to help prevent recurrence. She is a licensed naturopathic doctor in Northampton and author of the forthcoming book *You Finished Treatment, Now What? A Field Guide for Cancer Survivors*. The

farm is located at 165 Chestnut Hill Road, Orange.

Reminder: Kids can don their costumes and trick-or-treat at participating local businesses along Avenue A in Turners Falls from 3 to 5 p.m. next Monday, October 31, and then make their way to the **Rag Shag Parade**, which gathers at 5 p.m. in the Aubuchon’s parking lot. Prizes will be awarded. Adults are encouraged to dress up and accompany their youngsters.

In Montague Center, local storyteller John Porcino will spin **spooky tales on the steps of the library** on Halloween every half hour from 5 to 7 p.m. – short sets, perfect for a break during trick-or-treating!

The LAVA Center also announces a month of programming serving and featuring **local writers** and their fans in November. For a complete calendar of events, visit *localaccess.org/write-nov/*. The mini-workshops, led by Jan Maher and Doug Selwyn, are one-hour activities for dipping one’s toes into specific writing techniques and formats.

Wednesday, November 2 focuses on sensory awareness, and adding sensory detail to writing. Friday, November 4 is flash fiction day; one-minute plays is the topic on Sunday, November 6, and Tuesday, November 8 features “interview a picture,” a process for finding stories and poems in visual prompts.

MassHire Franklin Hampshire Career Center will hold a **New England Regional Virtual Job Fair** on November 15 and 16. The Job Fair will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day, and pre-registration is required. An employer list will be located at *mass.gov/massachusetts-virtual-job-fair*. Contact *bizteam@masshirefhcareers.org* to learn how to participate.

Send your local briefs to *editor@montaguereporter.org*.

More Letters to the Editors

Leahy For Saunders

I am writing about the state House of Representatives campaign between Republican Chip Harrington and the Democrat Aaron Saunders in the 7th Hampden District that now includes the towns of Belchertown, Pelham, Shutesbury, Ludlow, New Salem, Petersham, and Wendell.

I recently received a mailing from Chip Harrington in which he proclaimed that he is “THE ONLY TRUE ENVIRONMENTAL CANDIDATE!”

The Environmental League of Massachusetts and Clean Water Action looked at both candidates in this race, their stances on the issues, and their actions on environmental priorities, and chose to endorse Aaron Saunders.

Responsible energy siting is a clear example where Aaron is in sync with many Western Massachusetts residents and municipal officials. Here are two excerpts from Aaron’s Solar Energy Incentive Vision:

“Clear cutting of forests and wooded areas for large scale solar installations must not be incentivized by state funding, programs, tariffs, grants, credits, or any other means. Trees, through carbon

sequestration and storage, are recognized as an essential element of our carbon reduction goals...”

“Municipalities must be protected from incurring the technical and legal costs of defending appropriate bylaws and local decisions. Small and rural communities often do not have the resources for protracted legal fights brought by deep pocketed developers. Our communities should not be strong armed into allowing irresponsible solar development on account of a lack of funding.”

Aaron is also committed to ensuring that we have “robust investment in land conservation” from the State to help support our efforts to conserve the region’s farms, forests, and wetlands. Aaron is motivated to find solutions to the inequitable and underfunded Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) paid by the State to small rural towns who have large State land ownerships within their boundaries.

Having spent my entire career in land conservation, I support Aaron Saunders for state representative.

Dan Leahy
Wendell

‘Seriously’ ...

When push comes to shove, the beloved, or certainly beholden, of D.J. Trump are touted as fools in legal venues across the country.

The defense of the Fox News Corporation, speaking on behalf of Tucker Carlson in the Dominion Voting Systems lawsuit, is simply this:

“No reasonable viewer would take him seriously.”

Sidney Powell, attorney and

leading figure in pushing the lies that voting machines were rigged, is also being sued by Dominion. Her attorneys give a similar defense: “No reasonable person would conclude that her statements were truly statements of fact.”

This is legalese for: *Everyone who takes us seriously is a fool.*

Mary Kay Mattiace
Montague City

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Key Ramp Closed Friday

GREENFIELD – The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT) is announcing the closure of the on-ramp from Route 2 westbound to Interstate 91 southbound in Greenfield. The on-ramp will be closed on Friday, October 28, from 9 a.m., until 5 p.m.

Drivers will be directed to take Interstate 91 northbound to exit 50 in Bernardston. Drivers will then continue to Route 10 south-

bound to merge onto Interstate 91 southbound.

Appropriate signage, law enforcement details, and advanced message boards will be in place to guide drivers through the work area.

Drivers who are traveling through the area should reduce speed and use caution.

All scheduled work is weather dependent and may be impacted due to an emergency.

Greenfield Carrier Sought



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.

If you are interested, please contact the newspaper at *circulation@montaguereporter.org* or call (413) 863-8666.



CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

RiverCulture 2022

Holiday Event Calendar

RiverCulture is looking for events happening in Montague between November 19 and New Year’s Day

Pop-up shops, Theater, Craft Shows
Art exhibitions, Open mics, Music
Winter concerts, New Year events,
Kids’ holiday activities etc.

Insert will be included in the 11/17
Montague Reporter



Please send the date, time, place and a brief description of your event to:
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Week of October 31 in Montague



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863-5066

WENDELL from page A1

old schoolhouse to a trailer at the highway garage and then to the newly-completed office building. The town financed and built a fiber-optic network to reach every home in Wendell whose occupants wanted to be connected.

Worst Trees Condemned

Tree warden Cliff Dornbusch told the board that he and citizen forester Pru Smith met with a National Grid arborist, and all agreed that 120 of the marked trees along the power company's three-phase line are unhealthy enough to be removed without further consultation. Dornbusch divided the trees into "high," "medium," and "low" hazard, the last meaning they might be a problem in five years. The selectboard voted to approve cutting the 120 high-hazard trees whenever National Grid can get the work started.

Finance committee member Al MacIntyre added that the town's fiber-optic network, which also delivers telephone service to many homes, is also vulnerable to trees falling.

Dornbusch said it would be two weeks before he could schedule a hearing about the remaining trees. He said grass growing right up to the trunk of sugar maples hurts them, and that he would do some limited pruning to try to heal the maples on the town common. He will put a circle of wood chips around each trunk, which is hoped to help the trees not only by covering the grass, but by marking a radius within which cars should not park and compact the soil.

He also said it is time to find a location for a wood bank. The

WRATS property is 12 acres, and after the former landfill is capped and a road around it is built, it would be a good spot.

Keller said the town owns many suitable pieces, and that he and Dornbusch should take a cruise looking at them.

Some Projects Progress

Project coordinator Phil Delorey said culvert replacement on Montague Road is progressing well, with some glitches, and the road should be opened early in November. Backfilling over the new culvert is slow because each layer of fill needs to be tamped down so the final road level does not sink after the road opens. Paving will wait until spring. Native vegetation, not stone, was chosen for erosion control.

MacIntyre, who lives nearby, said an awful amount of silt went into the brook as a consequence of the project. Delorey said he should connect with the project engineer.

The Kentfield Road bridge is in place, waiting only for weather-proofing.

The new garage door is in place on the police station with much better insulation than the old door. The minisplit for the building is still back-ordered, so the decision to keep the old oil burner in place was provident.

MacIntyre said that minisplit efficiency drops when temperatures go lower than 20 degrees, so the furnace will be important through winters even after the minisplit arrives.

Gutters and drains are installed at the library. Work on the highway barn roof has been delayed until spring because the hired contractor

made no contact with Wendell after getting the bid.

Wendell's Share

As the selectboard's liaison with New Salem, chair Laurie DiDonato said New Salem has already approved its half of a \$49,200 payment to engineers Tighe & Bond for their first proposal for PFAS remediation at Swift River School, and wants Wendell to approve its half. Commenting that the estimated amount authorized on this week's special town meeting warrant for PFAS remediation might be low, board members approved the payment.

Selectboard member Gillian Budine said the state grants aimed at this sort of work were supposed to be issued in September, but are not out yet.

Other Business

Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad reported that Wendell is now in a group purchasing arrangement for heating oil. He needs to know where the police station tank and fill are for the new vendor. Delorey offered a list of other oil fill sites for town buildings.

Trinity Solar has asked permission to do house-to-house solicitation in town for solar installation. Keller said that as a private entity they are allowed to go door to door, but the police should be notified.

Johnson-Mussad said he reviewed references from HCH Enterprises, the company that offered the town grant management services, and found them satisfactory. He said Northfield was using ARPA money to hire a grant writer for three years.

The Wendell board voted to hire HCH at their first level, \$1,995 for 10 hours of work, and pay for it with ARPA money.

DiDonato described the previous evening's presentation of a draft solar action plan created by UMass Clean Energy Extension. (See full article, *Wendell Mulls Roadmap for 'Proactive' Solar Project Siting*, in the October 20 edition of the *Montague Reporter*.) She said it was a useful start to help serve the town's needs and guide solar development in ways that benefit the town, and not necessarily large investors who see opportunity in Wendell's relatively cheap land.

Board of health chair Barbara Craddock had asked for authority to contact town counsel, but that became unnecessary when treasurer Carolyn Manley found the document they were looking for. The document created a town loan fund for the repair or replacement of home septic systems, up to \$25,000 per system.

Applications including a tax bill and a construction estimate go to the board of health for review, and the loan repayment is added to the homeowner's tax bill for 15 years until it is paid off. So far two loans have been completed, and one is in the review process.

When thanked for her effort, Craddock said Manley did most of the work.

The special town meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m. this Wednesday, October 26, was to be a trial hybrid meeting, using new Owl technology. Citizens connecting remotely may listen and speak, but only those present at the town hall may vote.



OBITUARY

Peter Gallant

1943 – 2022

WENDELL – Peter Gallant, dearly beloved husband of Pam Richardson and father of Amy Gallant, died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Apalachicola, Florida on the night of Saturday, October 15.

Peter was born in Waltham, Massachusetts in 1943, lived on the island of Nahant for about ten years, then moved with his family to Newburyport. He was a graduate of Newburyport High School and received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Boston University.

Peter had an adventuresome spirit and a curious mind which led him to seek out unusual experiences. These included a ten-year stint as a North Atlantic commercial fisherman, a summer of living in an alternative community in Washington state, a winter in a remote Costa Rican village, a thriving practice as a psychotherapist, and – most precious to him – two decades of living in an off-grid handmade stone house in the middle of 8,000 acres of the Wendell State Forest.

There, he used his creative talents to build gardens, a greenhouse, a solar electric system, and a guesthouse; the stone house had only a hand-pump at the kitchen sink, but Peter devised ways to deliver water to an outdoor shower and a wood-fired hot-tub. He cared deeply about our

planet and was anguished by the damage we collectively do to it and, concurrently, to ourselves. His guiding mantra was "All is One."

Through his psychotherapy practice and as a participating member of the Shalom community (Livingston Manor, New York), Peter had an enormous impact on a great many people. He had a way of cutting to the chase that often stunned people and resulted in profound personal growth and change. As one former client says, "Peter would bring the honest out of you!"

A colleague of many years, Jeff Hilliard, describes Peter this way:

"Peter Gallant was a courageous, dogged and fiercely compassionate therapist and mentor. He believed in telling the truth, confronting the personal shame-core, facing addiction, and critiquing the ignorant and oppressive forces in our society. He'd say: 'You have to declare who you are!' Peter loved the art of deep talking. He would come in close, risk his own authenticity, call forth and hold with care the vulnerable truths that need to get said and be heard. Trusting the real in people, he found pleasure in every uptick in intimacy and freedom. A few months ago, Peter wrote: 'Perhaps our greatest challenge as therapists is to assist people in being alert to times when the veil



lifts, casting us into a wider, deeper experience of the true context of infinity."

Peter is survived by his wife, Pam, his daughter Amy, his granddaughter Eliza, his favorite dog, Poppy – all residents of Apalachicola – and the last of his six sisters, Mary Courage, of Newburyport, Massachusetts.

There will be a gathering in Peter's memory in Wendell next spring.

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Montague artist Patrick Gardner has made hundreds of unique hats over the last half-decade, and a many are on exhibit this week at the Greenfield Savings Bank branch in Turners Falls.

Gardner, 35, is a member of LifePath's Adult Family Care program, and his work was recently featured in the organization's publication The Good Life. Many of his hats are dedicated to a specific person or holiday, and he is eager to share them with the community. Check them out at GSB this week!

NOTES FROM THE MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

Assistant Assistant Appointed

By JEFF SINGLETON

The October 24 meeting of the Montague selectboard was dominated by appointments of new town staff and volunteers, with the highlight being the appointment of local resident Shayna Reardon as administrative assistant to selectboard executive assistant Wendy Bogusz.

The new part-time position, approved at last May's annual town meeting, is intended to take some tasks off Bogusz's plate. Bogusz said Reardon "is very easy-going, and will be a good fit for the office." She also said Reardon will generally be working from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., but may "swap" some of those hours to produce a longer day on Thursdays, when the selectboard's weekly meeting agenda is compiled.

Town administrator Steve Ellis said Reardon will work in the office formerly used by the town nurse, who is moving to the newly renovated town hall annex.

The board also elevated police patrolman Jacob Dlugosz to the new additional sergeant position, also created at the spring town meeting. Police chief Chris Williams said Dlugosz, a graduate of Turners Falls High School who joined the force in 2018, was the highest scorer on the required "assessment center" test.

Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz suggested an official "pinning ceremony," but Dlugosz indicated he would decline the offer.

Kendra Campbell, a senior at the Franklin County Technical School, was appointed to a grounds maintenance position at the airport through a "co-op" program, and Jeffrey Bache was awarded the job of Montague's alternate gas and plumbing inspector.

Lake Pleasant resident Deborah Frenkel was selected for a three-year term on the Cultural Council, and a slate of five residents were chosen to populate the solar planning committee, an *ad hoc* group working with UMass students on a Montague solar planning project.

Final Resting Places

Judith Lorei, *ad hoc* chair of the cemetery commission, came before the board to discuss the impending retirement of the caretaker of the town cemeteries, Mike Fleming. Lorei said that Fleming, who has served as the caretaker for 20 years, will retire after this year, and she asked the town to think about what should replace him.

There are eight town cemeter-

ies in Montague, and seven private cemeteries. Lorei said that town cemetery maintenance budget is under \$12,000 annually "in part because Mike has given us a good deal for all these years." She noted that this level of funding does not allow for extensive tree work, brush clearing, or stone wall fixing.

Lorei said the commission would probably come before a winter special town meeting to request a budget increase for the spring clean-up, and is considering a more permanent increase to go before the annual town meeting in May.

Kuklewicz asked whether any thought had been given to handing off cemetery maintenance to town employees. Ellis said that there have been conversations about the option with public works superintendent Tom Bergeron and the finance committee, but it would require an increase in staffing.

"It is our assumption that it would be more cost-efficient to seek competitive bids," Ellis said. "If it comes in at more than \$90,000 per year, we would have a conversation about having town staff do it."

The board did not take a formal vote on the issue.

Respiratory Illnesses

Melanie Zamojski, chair of the board of health, reviewed the latest COVID-19 metrics, as shown in a "traffic light" presentation developed by a four-town public health collaborative.

The color-coded system combines data on clusters, numbers of cases, hospitalizations, and wastewater testing. The traffic light Zamojski showed placed Montague and the other three towns in the yellow category, which meant mask wearing is "encouraged" but not "recommended."

Zamojski noted that the board, through a newly-appointed hiring committee, has begun the process of finding a replacement for former public health director Daniel Wasniuk, who vacated the position in early October.

Ellis said that Greenfield health director Jennifer Hoffman, who also attended the meeting to speak about a state grant to upgrade health departments in the region, is assisting the Montague department with "key issues that may arise."

Cultural Expressions

RiverCulture director Suzanne LoManto came before the board to discuss two proposed events, one

reportedly small and minimalist and the other large and ambitious.

The smaller event, which the board approved, will involve "lightly amplified Montague musicians," according to the agenda, at Peskeompskut Park this Sunday, October 30 from noon to 6 p.m. "Groups of friends, maybe two or three, with one person on a mic," said LoManto. "It's a public event [for] people who are out and around."

Selectboard member Matt Lord said that he thought it was "nice that little things like this can happen."

The next and significantly larger proposal was for a vintage car show in the fall of 2023, potentially with as many as 300 cars parked along First Street. LoManto said she was not making a formal proposal, but that the town is "looking for a little input, because there has never been a large car show in downtown Turners Falls."

Nick Kramarczyk, Rachel Levey, and Derek Benoit, who have organized smaller car shows at Nova Motorcycles on Second Street and approached LoManto with the idea last summer, attended Monday's meeting.

"Who is the parking guru?" asked Lord.

"I've put on a lot of shows in the past," replied Benoit. "This will probably be my tenth or eleventh."

LoManto said she would try to put the event on a regional schedule of car shows. "We don't want to step on anyone's toes," said Kramarczyk. The discussion ended without a formal vote.

Fixing Bridges

Ellis addressed what he described as widespread rumors about the "imminent reopening" of the General Pierce Bridge between Montague City and Greenfield. He said the contractor, Northern Construction Service, is signaling the bridge will reopen in March, several months before the most recent May deadline.

Ellis then announced that the state Department of Transportation has expressed "significant concerns" about the Eleventh Street bridge, which spans the power canal between Avenue A and the Patch neighborhood.

He said this bridge may require an "engineered solution," though the agency has not yet set a weight restriction on the bridge or suggested an impending closure.

Fires and Floods

Assistant town administrator Walter Ramsey came before the board

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Downtown Turners Falls Winter Emergency Parking Regulation

The Montague Selectboard will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 7** at 6:45 p.m. in the Selectboard's meeting room at the Montague Town Hall, One Avenue A to hear public input and finalize the regulation. Optional Remote participation details at www.montague-ma.gov.

Text of proposed regulation:

- The Superintendent of Public Works is authorized to declare a Winter Emergency whereby no overnight parking is allowed on streets in downtown Turners Falls or the Patch neighborhood between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- A winter emergency may include snow and/or ice events and can be in effect for multiple days, at the discretion of the Superintendent of Public Works.
- The Town of Montague website (www.montague-ma.gov) shall be the official record of the winter emergency status.
- Vehicles may utilize parking on downtown streets during all other times including during overnight hours, provided a winter emergency is not in effect.
- Public Parking during a Winter Emergency is available at the municipal lots on 1st Street, 3rd Street, the Discovery Center, Canal Street, 6th Street, and on the odd-numbered side of L Street between Prospect Street and 5th Street. The Department of Public Works is authorized to publicly post, in each parking area, parking restrictions to allow for lot cleanup following a Winter Emergency.
- The townwide winter parking ban remains in effect for all areas of Montague outside of the downtown area as shown on the map published at www.montague-ma.gov.
- The Montague Police Department is authorized to enforce this regulation.

Richard Kuklewicz, Chair

MONTAGUE HISTORICAL COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO CONSIDER PRESERVATION DETERMINATION FOR FARREN CARE CENTER

PUBLIC HEARING TO BE HELD BY THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION
AT 6:00 p.m. ON **WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2022**
TOWN HALL - DOWNSTAIRS MEETING ROOM IN PERSON
OR THROUGH REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM

The hearing is in response to an application for a demolition permit from AOW Construction, LLC, on behalf of Trinity Health Care of New England. The permit requests permission to demolish the entire **Farren Care Center**, at 330-340 Montague City Road, including ancillary structures.

In accordance with the Historic Preservation Demolition Delay Bylaw of the Town of Montague, the Montague Historical Commission will hold a public hearing to consider whether or not The Farren Care Center *a.k.a.* Farren Memorial Hospital, a state-recognized building of significance, be Preferably Preserved.

In accordance with the Demolition Delay Bylaw, the Montague Historical Commission may impose at this hearing a delay in demolition for a period not longer than 12 months should a majority of the Commissioners vote that the Farren Care Center be preferably preserved.

Public comment at the hearing is invited. Additionally, comments may be submitted to the Historical Commission at Town Hall at any time prior to the hearing. An agenda will be posted prior to the meeting with information regarding remote information.

David Brule, Chair

with a request to modify a \$200,000 grant from the federal Environmental Protection Agency, used for hazardous materials cleanup at the site of Building 10 of the town-owned Strathmore complex, which was destroyed by arson.

Ramsey said a balance of \$77,765.77 remains in the loan, which the regional brownfields committee says can be converted into a "sub-grant for other projects in the area." This proposal, he said, is partly a result of Montague working "proactively to facilitate redevelopment of the site."

The board approved the modification of the original agreement. "One more little chapter in the saga of the Strathmore closing," said Kuklewicz.

Ramsey announced that the low bid for the Montague City Road flooding mitigation project was submitted by Clayton D. Davenport Trucking of Greenfield. However, he recommended holding off awarding the contract until the next meeting so federal and state permitting of the project can first be finalized.

Ramsey also announced a "third and final" Canal District planning meeting would be held at the Discovery Center at 6:30 p.m. this Thursday, October 27, and that the

historical commission had scheduled a hearing on the proposed demolition of the Farren Care Center for Wednesday, November 16 at 6 p.m.

At Ellis's urging, the board placed the demolition on the agenda of its own next meeting.

Other Business

Ellis discussed the possibility of the town adopting document-signing software which he said "offers some real and long-term efficiency improvements." Board members informally approved "moving forward" to procure the software. Resident Ariel Elan expressed concerns about the security of such technology, but Ellis said the issue would be evaluated, and the state may offer cyber-security training.

The board agreed to allocate up to \$10,000 from a state earmark to repair a leak in the roof at the old town hall in Montague Center (*see article, Page A1*), and to "pre-authorize" any change orders in the project to repair the roof of the current town hall in Turners Falls.

A date for a joint meeting with the Gill-Montague regional school district about next year's school budget and assessments was provisionally set for January 31, 2023.

The next selectboard meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 7.

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SMALL LEAK from page A1

and the few streets of what came to be called “Montague City” appear on an 1858 map named “Montague Canal.”

As Turners Falls grew in the late 19th century, there was pressure to move the town hall and town meeting to the new population center. The history tells of a period of conflict and uncertainty when some town functions seem to have taken place both in the Montague Center buildings and at several locations in Turners.

Town hall eventually landed at its current location on Avenue A, and town meetings came to be held at larger venues, such as the Turners Falls High School auditorium. Several sources including the 1954 history suggest that the small branch library on the Common was the town’s main library, meanwhile, until the Carnegie Library was constructed in 1906.

But the old town hall building in Montague Center remained, and with the closing of the Montague Inn, several grocery stores, a gas station, and eventually the Masonic Hall, the branch library become one of the neighborhood’s few regularly open meeting places. By the late 20th century its second floor, the former town meeting hall, was transformed into a basketball court and play space administered by the parks and recreation department.

Mik Muller, who lived in Montague Center for a decade in the early 21st century, recalls organizing play groups and being given a key by Parks and Rec for the use of the space. “It was a great space,” he told the *Reporter*, adding that village residents “did some fundraising to buy equipment.”

Gary Turn, who still lives in the Center, recalls “open gym” nights on Thursdays. “We rarely asked that the heat be turned on,” he said.

“It was really great to have a neighborhood place to go and shoot hoops, especially in the winter,” says Danny McCormack, this reporter’s son, who grew up in Montague Center and attended Turners Falls High School. “Basketball did not turn out to be my main sport, but those are good memories.” McCormack also remembers making friends in reading groups at the branch library.

Several years ago former library director

Linda Hickman, encountering resistance from the town’s capital improvements committee (CIC) to a proposal to renovate the building’s windows and concerned about mold and an old oil heater in the basement, commissioned an evaluation of the old town hall.

The result, prepared by Boston-based consultants PCA360, LLC, said the building was in “fair” condition, but called for a long-term plan to address structural needs and make the building handicapped-accessible. The total price tag in the January 2021 report was estimated at \$2.3 million, for renovations phased in over 14 years, more than half of which was the cost of an external elevator to the second floor.

Hickman also obtained a second opinion from the Wendell-based firm Whetstone Engineering which said that a lift, rather than an external elevator, would be “structurally feasible and much less expensive.” Whetstone recommended repointing the exterior bricks “one wall at a time,” and prioritizing exterior grading to keep water out of the basement.

Current library director Caitlin Kelley, who alerted the town to the upstairs leakage in an email last week, told the *Reporter* that mini-split heaters were installed on the east and west walls of the first-floor library this summer, and the east side of the lot has been reggraded to direct water away from the foundation and basement.

“The trustees and I are committed to being good stewards of all our library buildings, which are town buildings,” Kelley wrote. “If others in town government have plans for the Montague Center Library or its upstairs I have not been apprised of them. I also cannot speak to any long term plans or when conversations on the subject may arise.”

Gregg Garrison, chair of the CIC, says the committee is working on a six-year plan to address the needs of all the town’s “assets,” including the old town hall. He also said that he was optimistic that the addition of a new assistant town administrator position will create more capacity at town hall to assist in that process.

“I am not aware of anyone on the CIC advocating ignoring that building, or selling it,” Garrison told the *Reporter*.



CONFUSION from page A1

in February. “We’re not actively working on that, nor are we pursuing a role,” he said.

In April, Franklin County Regional Housing & Redevelopment Authority director Gina Govoni attended a Montague selectboard meeting to confirm that she had discussed the Farren with Stevens, and that he “thinks there might be some interest in pursuing” a reuse study, “if that were in the interest of the town.”

Govoni told the *Reporter* at that time that Stevens may have been under the impression that the building’s owner, Trinity Health of New England, would provide “starter capital” for the project, and that she had helped “dispel some of the myths that had been shared with [him].”

Trinity has been consistent in its plan to completely demolish the complex and donate the cleared parcel to the town. The company is now also offering to fund a reuse study for the cleared land.

Early Monday morning Jerry Lund, a housing and recovery advocate who had initially brought Stevens into meetings on the Farren, emailed three of the six members of the Montague historical commission about Stevens’s interest. “I wanted to let you know that I was again in contact with Robert Stevens... late last week,” Lund wrote, before summarizing the conversations that took place early this year.

“I am 100% behind saving and developing this historic property to help address the catastrophic housing shortage in our area,” he added. “I trust you will be able to invoke the demo delay by-law to give us all time to further explore development strategies.”

According to Stevens, while he has recently received updates from Lund, the two have not recently talked.

“I thought it was breaking news, or at least a new angle,” historical commission chair David Brule told the *Reporter*. “I got it just before going to the meeting.” Though the Farren agenda items noted that “MHC should not discuss details or opinions un-

til after the public hearing,” Brule felt he should share Lund’s email with the three commissioners who had not received it.

A reporter from the *Greenfield Recorder* was present, and quoted Brule as describing Lund’s message as “a ‘significant’ development.” Between Lund’s email and Tuesday’s Page A1 article in the *Recorder*, which referred to “recent discussions” between Lund and Stevens, the timeline and certain key verb tenses were altered.

“Bob has visited the site and was quite excited about the possible housing (both market-rate and affordable) and the historical restoration potential,” Lund wrote of February’s events. “He told me that even with the rather ‘cold shoulder’ he got from some of the local principals he still felt it could be a viable project if a partner could be found and the town came to support it.”

“Previously, Stevens said he was unlikely to pursue redevelopment when his interest became public during a Selectboard meeting in April,” the *Recorder* article reads. “Lund explained that Stevens is now ‘quite excited about the possible housing (both market rate and affordable) and the historical restoration potential’ of the building ‘if a partner could be found’ to assist.”

“Interest surfaces in the Farren,” reads a headline on the runover page.

“That’s not accurate,” Stevens said of the article. “Barring the town reaching out to us to say that they’d be interested in somebody coming in, I don’t think we would be interested in coming down there.... We don’t want to represent that we’re trying to jump into the middle of something.”

“There’s no renewed expression of interest,” Lund confirmed when reached for comment. “The point of my letter was to underline the fact that this is something that goes back to February.... Nothing in particular has happened since then.”

“But,” he added, “this was an opportunity then and still is, I think, as long as we can keep the thing from being torn down.”



SPORTS from page A1

In almost every game this season, Tech has dominated in at least one half. “We were leading 14-6 at halftime,” coach Joe Gamache reported afterward. But winning half the game wasn’t enough.

I spoke to Josiah Little’s grandparents at the Pumpkin Fest the next day. “In the second half, the injuries kicked in,” they explained. They described each injury. Because of protocol, Josiah had to sit out the remainder of the game after his helmet was knocked off.

Coach Gamache acknowledged the impact of the injuries, but optimistically stated, “We are hoping to get healthy this week and get some guys back.”

In the Palmer game, Tech’s running game stalled out, and they only managed to amass 52 rushing yards, a far cry from their usual ground output. Little ran the ball 14 times for 38 yards, and the other carriers were Gabriel Tomasi, Jet Bastarache, and Zaydrien Alamed.

With their much-vaunted running game stalling, the Birds were forced to go to the air. QB Tomasi responded, hitting six different players for 155 yards and two touchdowns.

Shaun Turner and Landen Hardy made catches, and even Little caught a pass before he was sidelined, but Tech’s main weapons were Cameren Candelaria, with four catches for 79 yards and a touchdown; Nathaniel Fuess, with one catch for 38; and Ethan Smarr, with two catches for 37 and a touchdown.

The loss gives Tech a 1–3 record in the Intercounty North Conference, and an overall record of 2–5. Next Friday, the wounded Eagles

make a home stand against another up-and-down team, the Red Bears of Athol-Royalston Regional.

Boys Soccer
Pathfinder 5 – FCTS 0

The Franklin Tech Kicking Eagles also traveled to Palmer on Wednesday afternoon and lost to the Pathfinder Panthers, 5-nil. Although Tech couldn’t sink one into the net, they did make 10 kicks on goal. Defensively, goalkeeper Riley Pereira made 13 saves in the loss.

Volleyball
Southwick 3 – FCTS 2
TFHS 3 – HCSW 0

The Franklin Tech Eagles, ranked fifth in Class C, traveled down to Southwick on Wednesday and did their best to pull an upset against the number-four Southwick Rams.

After dropping the first match 25-21 and the second 25-15, the Lady Birds forced an extended match in the third, scoring the final two points in that contest to win it 26-24. They then outmatched Southwick in the fourth, 25-20, to even everything up.

But in the shortened final match, Southwick held on to win 18-16, eliminating Tech from the PVIAC tournament.

Lea Chapman finished with 10 kills, eight digs, and six aces, and she blocked two shots. Faith Smith made five kill shots, blocked a shot, saved four digs, and served two aces; Lillian Poirier made two kills, eight digs, and seven assists; and libero Cordelia Guerin dove for 13 digs.

The other volleyball team in town, Turners Falls High School, was ranked second in Class D, and they



DAVID HOIT PHOTO

Taylor Greene served 13 aces and made eight assists during the Thunder’s quarterfinal sweep against the Hampden Charter School of Science West on Wednesday.

hosted Hampden Charter School of Science West on Wednesday night. The white-shirted Thunder blanked the visiting navy-blue Lions.

Before this game, two different people told me it was going to be a

roust, but it wasn’t. Not exactly.

The energy in the gym was high. The much smaller contingent of Hampden supporters held their own with the noise from the home crowd – even when they were down and the

noise was amping up, the Hampden bench would start chanting in support of the ladies on the court.

During one of the breaks the Turners players began to Riverdance. Hampden’s players followed suit with their own dancing. And throughout the matches, the visiting coach always had a smile as her team played their best against a superior force.

In the first match, Taylor Greene was Powertown’s first server, and the team didn’t rotate until the score was 9-0. The Scientists rebounded to make the score 9-3, but Jill Reynolds stepped up to the line next, and after several more aces and kills, the score ballooned to 18-3.

It looked like the White Thunder would only need three servers for the entire first match. Hampden made a late-game push, but Turners held on to win 25-5.

The second match mirrored the first, as the Thunder scored 11 points before Hampden got a serve. Turners expanded the lead to 16-2, but then some mental errors, including a rotation penalty, gave Hampden some hope and they narrowed the deficit to 18-7. Turners buckled down and won the second match 25-11.

The Lions came out strong in the third, taking an early 2-0 lead. Thunder overtook them and never looked back, completing the sweep with a 25-8 third match victory.

Greene led the team with 13 aces, and gave eight assists. Reynolds served eight aces and made two kills, and Abbi Holloway seven aces and three kills.

This Friday, Turners will host third-ranked Lee, who defeated Athol 3-0.



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NOTES FROM THE LEVERETT SELECTBOARD

Long Pond Complaint Lodged

By GEORGE BRACE

The Leverett selectboard and finance committee met jointly on Tuesday and approved five articles to be voted on at a special town meeting next week. At their regular meeting, the selectboard heard a presentation of concerns over decision-making, and possible conflicts of interest, involved in the maintenance of Leverett Pond, and voted to add former member Peter d’Errico’s name to a town hall display honoring residents who have provided “extraordinary service to the town.”

The first of five articles approved to go on the warrant for special town meeting on Tuesday, November 1 authorizes the placement of a tool shed for the greenhouse at Leverett Elementary School. Questions had been raised previously as to whether the proposed location of the eight-foot-by-ten-foot construction would violate an open space bylaw.

All of the remaining articles authorize the town to pay “bills of prior year,” an annual accounting measure required to release money to pay bills that for one reason or another went unpaid in the previous fiscal year.

Fin com members had no major concerns with the articles, though member Ann Delano said she wanted department heads to know that they need to be “responsible.”

Delano acknowledged that a variety of reasonable factors lead to the existence of unpaid bills, but commented that they “seem to be getting bigger.”

On Leverett Pond

Resident Macaylla Silver gave a 35-minute presentation alleging conflicts of interest, bias, and poor decision-making in the management of Leverett Pond. Silver questioned the influence that members of the non-profit organization Friends of Leverett Pond (FLP), the selectboard, and pond abutters have in decisions made by the Leverett conservation commission, which is charged with administering state wetlands protection statutes and has responsibility “for matters related to conservation planning and land management.”

Silver criticized a number of con com decisions, including allowing the use of herbicides to remove invasive species and actions taken to clear the pond’s surface. He asserted that some decisions reached by the con com were influenced by abutters and other interested private parties rather than by a desire to preserve the pond’s natural status or by science.

Silver was also critical of the work of the FLP – of whose board of directors selectboard chair Tom Hankinson is president – and said both the FLP and con com have “limited knowledge of water science.” He called for observance of conflict of interest laws and ethical standards, given the makeup of the entities involved.

“Who watches the watchers?” he asked at one point.

Tensions flared on several occasions, often over meeting protocol. Silver was granted 35 minutes of uninterrupted speaking time for his presentation, and refused to be interrupted by questions, but interrupted other speakers during the follow-up discussion. Hankinson warned him at least twice that he would be asked to leave the meeting if he continued to interrupt other speakers.

Fin com member Jed Proujansky commented that due to the length of Silver’s presentation and the number of documents he shared, the selectboard and con com should be given time to review his assertions before responding. Selectboard members agreed.

Picadilly Farm to Change Business Model

By CHIP AINSWORTH

WINCHESTER, NH – The owners of Picadilly Farm CSA are informing their shareholders that beginning next year, their operation will be a wholesale-only. Community supported agriculture (CSA) involves customers paying for a share of a harvest in advance.

According to Growing Small Farms, the first CSA was created in Massachusetts in 1984, and today there are over 2,500 CSAs in America. The Picadilly Farm is located on South Parish Road, off of Route 63 near the Northfield Drive-In.

“Our mission was, and still is, to grow organic produce and to cultivate community,” said Bruce

Wooster, who founded Picadilly in 2006 with his wife Jenny. “We’ve decided to keep farming, but in a way that’s less complicated. We’re not getting any younger.”

Picadilly grew 28 different crops on 35 acres of land this year, and the harvest is being distributed to nearly 500 households throughout the region. This includes residents in Northfield, Warwick, Bernardston, Greenfield, and Gill, together with about 250 shareholders in the greater Boston area.

“We were able to earn our family living and make the mortgage payments,” said Wooster. “Our whole family income has come from the farm.”

Wooster said that selling wholesale will allow the farm to reduce

irrigation and focus on crops that are the most in demand. “Our plan is to grow 15 to 20 signature crops like carrots, sweet potatoes, potatoes, and beets and sell them wholesale to regional co-ops,” he said. “It comes with a whole new array of uncertainty, but it feels like the right thing to do now.”

Wooster emphasized that local customers will still be able to buy Picadilly organic produce at co-operatives in Greenfield, Brattleboro, and Monadnock and at the Upinnigil Farm Store in Gill.

“People are hearing the news with a mixture of understanding and sadness, and we’ve felt that too,” said Wooster. “We’ve loved the work and all the people who’ve joined us. It’s been a privilege, a wonderful ride.”

Con com member Gail Berrigan also agreed, but commented that she was “troubled” by the presentation and by “*ad hominem* attacks” made by Silver.

Gutter Degradation

Rattlesnake Gutter Trust trustee Eva Gibavic received the board’s support for a \$25,000 funding application to the community preservation commission for the first of three steps the Trust would like to take to address erosion from washouts, described as a “serious danger” causing the degradation of Rattlesnake Gutter Road.

The stated goal of the initiative is “to preserve the historic and rural character” of the road, and “ensure its continued integrity and use primarily as a hiking and biking destination while allowing limited emergency vehicle use.”

If granted, the funds would be used for an initial survey of conditions upon which to base further, more detailed, study and actions.

Police Hiring

Police chief Scott Minckler and the selectboard discussed forming a screening committee to review applicants for an open full-time position in the police department. Minckler said he is also looking for part-time officers.

The hires will be the first to take place under the provisions of a joint-policing contract entered earlier this year with the town of Wendell.

Minckler said an adjustment will need to be made to a provision on the towns’ contract defining who will serve on screening committees, changing a requirement that the chief be a member to “the chief or his designee.”

The remaining four members of the committee must consist of a selectboard member and a community member from each of the two towns.

Other Business

Fin com member Bethany Seeger asked for, and received, the board’s support for the inclusion of a “guard-rail” provision in the next four-town agreement determining funding for the Amherst Pelham Regional School District, which includes Leverett and Shutesbury.

The proposed provision would limit changes in the amount the district assesses each town to within 4% of the previous year. Seeger and the board expressed the opinion that the provision may help to “smooth over” what has been a contentious process in recent years.

The board was informed that neither the community preservation commission nor the Leverett historical commission supports funding for landscaping and work on the stone wall at the town hall.

Mention was made that the possibility the wall is less than 50 years old may have played a part in these decisions, leading to a suggestion that old pictures be sought to establish the wall’s age.

Hankinson suggested that the selectboard could create a fundraising effort to raise money and recruit volunteer labor for the work.

The quilting subcommittee of the 250th celebration committee requested permission to hang a quilt on the wall at town hall as one of the displays celebrating Leverett’s semiquincentennial in 2024.

Board members were in favor of the idea, though member Melissa Colbert said she wanted more information about how the quilt would be hung, out of concern for the integrity of the historic building.

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LOOKING BACK:
10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Here’s the way it was on October 25, 2012: News from the Montague Reporter’s archive.

Cumby’s Roof May Require Town Funds

On Monday, the Montague selectboard will consider the need to make emergency repairs to the roof of the former Cumberland Farms building at the corner of Avenue A and Second Street.

Town meeting in May approved spending \$32,000 to make those repairs, after voting to disallow spending that money to demolish the building.

The building, which is owned by the Montague Economic Development Industrial Corporation (MEDIC), has been mostly vacant for the last few years.

It has recently been the focus of an effort by Montague Community Cable, Inc. (MCCI), in association with the Turners Falls RiverCulture project and the Montague Business Association, to purchase the building for a nominal fee and renovate it into a new cable access TV station, with room for offices for RiverCulture and the MBA.

Leverett Selectboard Sits In On Truck Driver Hire

Of the six candidates who applied for the new truck driver and laborer job at the Leverett highway department, Jennifer Roberts King was the most qualified, according to selectboard chair and hiring committee member Rich Brazeau, who joined the rest of the selectboard in welcoming her to the department.

Over the summer, Roberts King had applied for an earlier posting at the department, when another truck driver/laborer position became available.

During her interview for that posting, Roberts King said she had been asked whether she might be found shopping at the Holyoke Mall rather than ready to head into work in the event of an imminent snowstorm.

When word of this got around, more than a dozen people showed up at an August selectboard meeting to support Roberts King and hear the selectboard answer criticism of gender bias in hiring for the highway department.

When the second position was posted in September, the entire selectboard chose to sit on the hiring committee.

Erving PO Window Hours Would Be Cut in Half

The Erving post office will see its weekday retail hours cut in half, while the Wendell Depot and Lake Pleasant post offices will have their weekday retail hours reduced to just two under a plan being put forward by the US Postal Service.

The new hours are still subject to review, and would not take effect until after the first of the year.

But as Carissa Surprise, manager of post office operations for the 010-013 zip code area, which includes the four counties of Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire and Franklin, told about six Erving residents who showed up to a public informational meeting in the post office lobby on Tuesday, “We are reviewing rural post offices, looking at minimizing retail hours to fit the amount of customers coming in, rather than closing them.”

Burger Bar Established

The Black Cow Burger Bar – the first of its kind in Turners Falls – is coming to 125 Avenue A, former home of Equi’s Candy Store.

The Black Cow is named after the Angus breed of delicious beef, and it will offer a mouthwatering variety of burgers and full-course meals. There will also be shakes and standard beverages on offer, along with beer and chilled wine for diners 21 and over.

After five months of painstaking renovation, proprietor Pam Tierney says her new eatery should be ready to open its doors sometime in November.



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Above: The French King Bridge, wreathed in autumnal glory, etc.

It's Halloween Season ... Time to Meet Some Inner Beasties!

By KAREN GUILLETTE

WENDELL – If you have ever experienced a visit from an inner demon or two, you may enjoy a

more light-hearted version of some “Inner Beasties,” currently on display at the Wendell Free Library. The walls of one of the rooms are covered with a fascinating array

of soft sculptures of beasties of all shapes and sizes, textures and moods. Some appear to be sweet, some absurd, some dapper, some jolly, and some... scary. One even looks a bit like Donald Trump!

These Inner Beasties are the creation of area artist Jacqueline Strauss. “They emerge from my imagination in relationship with fabrics,” says Strauss. “I have long been doodling, drawing, painting, and making collages, and it’s like doodling with sewing. I used to hate hand sewing, but have grown to love it. Learning about how to sculpt fabric, pulling and cinching, and how certain materials respond differently when you stuff them has been a labor of love, and I experience sheer enjoyment with the results.”

According to Strauss, these soft-sculpted figures are not premeditated. They depend on her mood and state of mind. They are a product of how her inner muse responds to the fabric. The shape and texture of the material dictates the direction the process takes her, and the resulting facial expression and mood of each Beastie.

“I see faces everywhere in everything,” Strauss adds. “Trees, wood, ceiling cracks, bricks... The same is true with pieces of cloth or a garment. I feel I am merely freeing the Beasties from the cloth!”

For example, a pocket or pot-holder may become a small-headed

see **BEASTIES** page B4



Jacqueline Strauss says creating these Inner Beasties is like “doodling with sewing.”

GREAT FALLS APPLE COLUMN

By ANNABEL LEVINE

TURNERS FALLS – Every year around this time I am reminded of why autumn is my favorite season. The sun shines, but it no longer burns. The weather is cool enough to put on a cozy sweatshirt but unlike the spring, the brisk breeze blows across a garden still lush and full.

Hardy flowers, like my snapdragons, are still sending out blooms of neon yellow and pink. Harvests abound, and not just for vegetables. My yard is full of wildflowers gone to seed, ready to spread black-eyed susans, milkweed, fleabane daisy, and wild sunflower to new spots in the lawn.

This year’s fall season also blessed us with spectacular foliage... for weeks! Last Sunday, as a member of the Montague Cemetery Commission, I attended a green burial infor-

mation session at Highland Cemetery where the splendors of autumn were on full display. As a commission we are grateful for the beauty of our newest town cemetery.

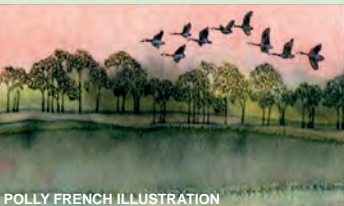
After a year of planning, the commission was unveiling Phase One of our newest green burial section at Highland, which we are calling “Highland Woods.” A newly-cleared path, covered in pine needles, leads from the back of the lawn into the woods. Along the path are about 20 plots, freshly marked out, that will make up our first batch of burial plots available for purchase.

For those interested in learning more, the Cemetery Commission will host a second informational tour on Saturday, November 12 at 11 a.m.

After Sunday’s info session, we walked over to the other side of the see **APPLE CORPS** page B5



Asters are already growing in Highland Cemetery’s new garden.



WEST ALONG THE RIVER INTO THE GOLDEN WOOD

... And I remember now
How at dusk in early September the nighthawks came
Back as they do about this time each year,
Gray squadrons with the slashes white on wings
Cruising for bugs beneath the bellied cloud.
Now soon the monarchs will be drifting south...

By DAVID BRULE

THE FLAT, ERVINGSIDE – Yet still there are golden hours in the October morning and evening when under random clouds the sun slants across the yard and woods. Mornings it peeks so horizontally from the East that it reaches every hidden corner of the woodshed near the back door, into crannies where the last spiders lurk, and where the wren investigates, fidgeting.

It brightens the last roses of summer, the trellis where the tangled *chèvrefeuille*-honeysuckle still flowers and beckons the last hummingbird, although Miss M’amzelle Ruby-throat has been long gone since before the first frosts.

That sunslant from the East lightens even corners beyond the limits of our little tamed back yard and off into the woods. I say “tamed” because every fall I need to reclaim a bit of the yard from the encroaching wall of green that would like to take back this parcel, hewn from the early forest of 200 years ago. One day the woods will have their way and engulf yard and house again, but not just yet.

The same golden hour arrives when, at the opposite end of the day, the sun angles low in from the Southwest, catching the yellowing wood of October in the same horizontal rays. Only now it’s late afternoon instead of the promising morning.

At that last hour of the day, I take my woodland path that leads to the Southwest reach of the old pasture. The golden haze streams through the yellowing leaves of the maples and occasional birch. Down this path I walk with the grandfathers, almost seeing over to the other side where they dwell.

It feels like I could be taking the golden path towards the heavens – or is it just the path to the West-flowing river?

Guess I’ll keep my feet on the ground for the time being. The dog helps keep me tethered to the earth, attached as I am to his long leash. Nose to the ground, smelling for deer or coyote, he’s down close to the dirt while I begin to float upwards. Lucky he’s got me by the leash.

I tell you friends, it’s heaven
Walking down the trail,
Just to watch that evening
sun go down...

The refrain from an old cowboy song comes to mind, once heard on the *Prairie Home Companion* Saturday night radio program and etched into memory for moments like this.

By **October 18** the rains have come, maybe even more than we’d like. We could have used some of this precipitation from time to time during the burning dry of summer. Some soft rain, then a downpour, with Indian summer lightning last night. Luckily many brilliant leaves still cling in spite of the force of wind and water.

We’ll be able to walk down that golden trail another time or two before all gives way to the mood of November woods, exposing the ancient lines of the lost 1880s pastures of great-grandfather. His lanky frame can still be glimpsed striding through the woods that were not here during his lifetime.

We still have a pause in the season to take care of those unfinished late summer chores: a little more time to paint the piazza, more wood to trundle up to the sheltering woodshed near the back door of the house kitchen, then maybe one more paddle on the golden pond.

Then it can freeze and snow, for all I care, leaving the once and future blanket of white that will hide the evidence of my summer procrastinations.

October 20 finds birds working busily in the old gold and burnt orange twisted maple leaves at the foot of the still green rhododendron. Single-note calls, no longer song, accompany the search. They push leaves aside with style and flair, sending some into the air, revealing seeds I tossed there earlier this frosty morning.

A band of 15 white-throated sparrows, a song sparrow and a sole junco down from the hills, soon-to-be winter birds, work the spot in their scavenger hunt.

Dogwood leaves, now a fading burgundy red, are tinged with white frost edging. A summerlike aria from the Carolina wren breaks the quietly serious atmosphere, giving lie to the coming cold. He can still sing, not to worry. Busy and familiar with the premises, he eyes every nook and cranny in the stacked firewood near the door.

see **WEST ALONG** page B8

Pet of the Week



“HAZARD”

Hazard came to Dakin as a stray and has been in foster care with her mom and littermates. Hazard has a strong sense of curiosity and sometimes wanders off to explore.

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

Senior Center Activities

OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 4

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. For more information please call 863-9357.

Monday 10/31

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

Tuesday 11/1

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

Wednesday 11/2

9 a.m. Veterans’ Agent Hours
10:15 a.m. Aerobics
11 a.m. Chair Aerobics
12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo
4 p.m. Mat Yoga

Thursday 11/3

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

Friday 11/4

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

ERVING

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

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

Monday 10/31

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

Tuesday 11/1

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

Wednesday 11/2

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

Thursday 11/3

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

Friday 11/4

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

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NOVEMBER LIBRARY LISTING

Montague Public Libraries

Turners Falls: Carnegie (413) 863-3214
Montague Center (413) 367-2852
Millers Falls (413) 659-3801

Erving Public Library (413) 423-3348
Gill: Slate Library (413) 863-2591
Leverett Public Library (413) 548-9220
Northfield: Dickinson Library (413) 498-2455
Wendell Free Library (978) 544-3559

MONTAGUE

All Month: *Montague Center Library Art Exhibit.* Quilts by Ann Feitelson through November 9; still life oil paintings by Anne-Marie Taylor starting November 14.

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

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

Thursday, November 3: *Using Periodicals in Your Genealogical Research.* Workshop with senior researcher Al Fiacre. Email librarydirector@montague-ma.gov for the link. Zoom, 6 p.m.

1st Saturday: *Used book sale.* Fiction, paperbacks, kids’ books, DVDs, CDs, audiobooks. Hundreds of recent donations. Carnegie, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Week of November 14: *Grab & Go Science.* Free kits at all branch locations while supplies last.

Monday, November 14: *Friends of Montague Public Libraries annual meeting.* All welcome. We’ll set dates for next year’s meetings and elect officers. Carnegie, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16: *Author Series.* Paul Mariani, *All That Will Be New.* Refreshments. Montague Center, 6 p.m.

Thursday, November 17: *Using Databases in Your Genealogical Research.* Workshop with Carol Ansel on basics of searching Ancestry Library Edition and FamilySearch.org. Email librarydirector@montague-ma.gov for the link. Zoom, 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 19: *Fairy Houses.* Build your own fairy house using recycled and natural materials. Carnegie, 10:30 a.m.

ERVING

1st and 3rd Sundays: *Sensory Story & Play Group.* For toddlers and their caregivers. 10 a.m.

Monday, November 7: *Paws to Read.* Read to a therapy dog. Call (413) 423-3348 to reserve a spot. 4 to 5 p.m.

Sunday, November 13: *Puzzle Swap.* Bring a jigsaw puzzle to exchange, or we’ll give you one to get you started. 1 to 3 pm.

Sunday, November 20: *Craft Day.* Use seasonal miniature items to create a scene in a tree-shaped jar. RSVP en-

Weather, etc. sometimes causes changes in library events; you may want to call ahead to confirm events.

couraged. 1 p.m.

Last Sunday: *Film Noir.* Book and movie series highlighting strong female characters. November 27: *Woman on the Run.* Popcorn and cold drinks. 1 p.m.

Monday, November 28: *For Teens Only,* ages 11 to 19. Chat with a librarian, movie of the month, free pizza and soda. Teen Room, 3:30 p.m.

LEVERETT

All November: *Story Walks.* New Story on the trail behind the library every Thursday.

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

Every Monday and Wednesday: *Online Qigong.* Free, all welcome. More info on leverettlibrary.org, or email CommunityQigong@gmail.com. 10:30 a.m.

Every Wednesday: *Board & Table Games.* Drop-in gaming for all ages. More info: gstamell@gmail.com. 1 to 3 p.m.

Most Wednesdays: *Baby and Me Playgroup,* November 2, 9, and 16. Free play, socialization, parent support, stories, songs. For children ages 0 to 3 and their caregivers. More info: budine@erving.com. 10:30 a.m.

Every Thursday: *Play Mahjongg.* All abilities welcome. 2 to 4 p.m.

Saturday, November 12: *Juggler Meadow String Band.* 1 p.m.

Wednesday, November 30: *Storytime with Micha Archer,* award-winning illustrator and author. 10:30 a.m.

NORTHFIELD

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

Every Wednesday: *Stories and Playtime* with Deb Wood, for ages 0 to 5. 10 a.m.

Every Wednesday: *Open Tech Hours.* Pop in for help with anything library-related. Misha will help you figure out Libby or sign up for Hoopla. If you have something not library related, she will try her best! Bring your device. 1 to 3 p.m.

1st Wednesday: *Readers’*

Choice. November 2: *The Girl with the Louding Voice* by Abi Dare. Pick up a copy at the library. 10 a.m.

1st Thursday: *Spice Club pickup starts.* Stop in for a sample and suggested recipes while supplies last. Look for a new spice every month.

Thursday, November 3: *Library Trivia Night.* Four Star Farms Brewery, 6 p.m.

1st Saturday: *Puzzle Swap.* Dozens of new-to-you puzzles for kids and adults. For more info, friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, November 6: *Collage Workshop* with artist/teacher Lynn Zimmerman. Supplies provided. Pre-registration required: email dmemlib@gmail.com. 1 p.m.

2nd Wednesday: *Readings Group.* November 9: *Dubliners*, by James Joyce. Pick up a copy at the library. 3 p.m.

2nd Thursday: *Environmental Awareness Group.* November 10: *Earth’s Wild Music* by Kathleen Moore. Pick up a copy at the library. 6:30 p.m.

3rd Tuesday: *Friends of the Library.* For more info, friendsofdml01360@gmail.com. 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, November 16: *Preserving Family Recipes* with author Valerie Frey. Email dmemlib@gmail.com to register. Zoom, 6 p.m.

WENDELL

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

Every Wednesday: *Playgroup.* Email budine@erving.com for more info. 10 a.m.

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

Every Saturday: *StoryCraft.* Picture book read-aloud and connected craft. 10:30 a.m.

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

Saturday, November 5: *Book Launch Party.* Children’s book *Polly Gone* by Sylvia Wetherby. Live music, snacks. 1 p.m.

2nd and 4th Thursdays: *Fiber Arts / Mending Circle.* Needles and thread available. 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 15: *Author Book Event.* Scott Hunter, *And the Monkey Lets Go: Memoirs through Illusion and Doubt.* 7 p.m.

Tuesday, November 22: *Tuesday Tech Help.* Email [wendell@cwmars.org](mailto:cwmars.org) to register. 6 p.m.

4th Monday: *Adult Book Group.* Registration required. Zoom, 10 a.m.

Montague Community Television News

Meefings and Migrations

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

TURNERS FALLS – The Gill selectboard, Montague selectboard, Montague finance committee, and Montague board of assessors meetings have all been filmed by MCTV and uploaded to our Vimeo page for your viewing convenience.

The third part of the Just Roots guide to attracting native pollinators is now available, as is our documentation of the sixth annual Migrations Festival at the Discovery Center.

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.

MR Wrapping Paper Edition
Artist Profile #4

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!

Madge Evers proposed “luminous herbariums” of fine-art spore prints and cyanotypes for her page. We asked each artist the same three questions, and Madge answers this time:

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

ME: A mysterious and magical connection to the natural world.



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

ME: Anything homemade or handmade.

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

ME: Aside from connecting me to the events of my community and the larger world, newspapers have shown me people and places I would never have seen and so much more! They’ve entertained, helped me be a better cook, exercised my brain with crosswords, given me advice, and provided listings of things to do. It seems endless...

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE GILL POLICE LOG

Automobiles, Bridges Cause Trouble, But So Does Donkey

Thursday, 9/1

4:59 p.m. Montague PD received complaint about the lights at Route 2.

9:23 p.m. Caller reports mountain lion crossing French King Highway.

Friday, 9/2

5:19 p.m. Report of illegally dumped tires, French King Highway.

Sunday, 9/4

9:41 a.m. Loose horses, West Gill Road.

Monday, 9/5

5:25 p.m. Caller from Peterson Way reporting illegally dumped tires.

Tuesday, 9/6

7:52 p.m. Caller reports male on French King Bridge appears to be texting, leaning over rail.

Wednesday, 9/7

4:14 p.m. Report of a vehicle on fire near Green River Power Sports.

Friday, 9/9

4:30 p.m. Multiple calls for a two-car accident, Center Road. Injuries.

7:52 p.m. Caller reports

a two-car accident in the gas station parking lot. No injuries.

10:42 p.m. 911 call from South Cross Road reports a female down the street is screaming and yelling “call the cops.”

Saturday, 9/10

10:08 a.m. Passerby dropped off a wallet.

12:08 p.m. Caller from French King Highway reports a two-car accident with injuries.

Sunday, 9/11

4:37 p.m. Assisted Erving PD with a motor vehicle accident on East Main Street. No injuries.

Tuesday, 9/13

2:01 a.m. Caller states there is an abandoned vehicle in the middle of the French King Bridge. Divers and MSP requested.

1:28 p.m. Caller from the French King Highway and Main Road advises a swerving vehicle almost struck a car head-on.

4:25 p.m. Assisted citizen

on Boyle Road with motor vehicle lockout.

6:55 p.m. Debris creating a hazard, Main Road.

Wednesday, 9/14

12:18 p.m. Caller from Hoe Shop Road advises a loose donkey is down by the river.

1:22 p.m. Motor vehicle accident with injury, French King Highway.

9:20 p.m. Tree on the lines, Main Road.

Thursday, 9/15

4:27 p.m. Welfare check, French King Bridge. Transported to FMC.

5:10 p.m. Caller from Barton Cove Road reported a vehicle had its brakes lock up.

Monday, 9/19

4:32 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a restraining order violation.

7:20 p.m. Investigated possible domestic situation in a vehicle on the French King Highway.

Tuesday, 9/20

11:51 a.m. Assisted

probation office with a breathalyzer test.

2:22 p.m. Caller advises there is a small silver sedan headed toward Gill on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge with no one in the vehicle.

7:57 p.m. Montague PD asking Gill to respond to a party on the Turners Falls-Gill Bridge threatened to jump.

Wednesday, 9/21

1:38 p.m. Caller from French King Highway reported a vehicle traveling erratically. While on the phone the caller witnessed the vehicle hit another vehicle.

Thursday, 9/22

4:12 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway reports an unknown female is outside throwing rocks at his windows.

Friday, 9/23

11:18 a.m. Caller from the French King Highway reports a tree blocking the road.

8:56 p.m. Assisted Montague PD with disturbance on Fourth Street.

Monday, 9/26

2:17 p.m. Caller advises she struck a deer on West Gill Road. Deer is dead; she is not injured.

Tuesday, 9/27

12:30 p.m. Covering for Erving PD on State Road and Prospect Street. Rear-end crash involving two vehicles. No injuries.

Wednesday, 9/28

5:23 p.m. Assisted Bernardston PD with a suspicious person.

Thursday, 9/29

8:56 a.m. Welfare check of elderly subject with head down while parked in a vehicle. Subject is using their phone; is okay.

11:40 a.m. Caller reports a small dog barking in a Toyota pickup.

Friday, 9/30

8:15 p.m. 911 cellular call. Male said he and his girlfriend were programming a new phone.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

Multiple Traffic Light Complaints; Arguments; Juveniles Breaking Windows At Strathmore

Monday, 10/17

8:32 a.m. 911 caller advising that she and another vehicle were just in a minor motor vehicle accident at Seventh and L streets. Report taken.

8:57 a.m. Caller from Second Street advising that his light green Trek street-style bicycle was stolen from his porch overnight. The bike was locked, but the lock was picked.

1:22 p.m. Motorist reporting that the traffic lights at Avenue A and Third Street are showing different colors, both red and green, going the same direction. DPW notified and responding. Officer advises that the lights are working fine.

3:08 p.m. Caller reporting a male wearing all black with white lettering walking down Avenue A near Peskeompskut Park swinging a baseball bat. Officer checked area; unable to locate.

6:01 p.m. Caller from Randall Road states that her neighbor has been threatening/harassing her and video/audio recording her. Officer advised caller of court and civil options.

7:22 p.m. Party from Randall Road into station to speak to an officer re: ongoing issues with his neighbor. Advised of options.

9:20 p.m. 911 call reporting an unwanted person on Unity Street. Unable to locate.

11:41 p.m. Suspicious person report on Randall Road. Area search negative.

Tuesday, 10/18

4:06 a.m. Loud noise disturbance reported on Unity Street. Unable to locate.

5:31 p.m. Caller states that

a vehicle sped through the Third Street alleyway, almost hitting herself and her husband and child. Officer advised operator not to use the alleyway as a throughway; it is private. Officer also spoke to caller and advised she speak to the landlord to get the private way posted more visibly.

6:10 p.m. Caller from Fourth Street stated that someone broke into her house and stole her son’s Xbox this morning. Referred to an officer.

10:09 p.m. Caller from O Street requesting an officer drive through the area; her dog started barking, and it made her nervous. Area search negative.

11:41 p.m. Officer spotted male with active warrant at FL Roberts. A 46-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on a straight warrant.

Wednesday, 10/19

2:37 p.m. Party from Fourth Street into station to report an attempted breaking and entering into her apartment building; states her tenant sent her a text message Tuesday morning advising her that someone tried to break into his apartment. Party states there is damage to the door. Advised of options.

5:23 p.m. 911 caller stated that a female and her children are yelling at him and his family; they tried to assault him and are blocking the vehicle so he can’t leave. Officer advises that it was a verbal argument over a parking space. All parties advised of options.

8:35 p.m. Caller from Third Street states that

her upstairs neighbor is being very loud, and it sounds like they are going to come through the ceiling. Officer states it was quiet upon arrival; advised of complaint.

11:03 p.m. Report of threatening/harassment on N Street. State police contacted; requested a trooper attempt to make contact with male and advise him to stop texting the caller. State police advise they knocked on door; no answer. Vehicle is in driveway.

Thursday, 10/20

12:44 a.m. Caller from Prospect Street states that two people are trying to break into the house. Unable to locate.

3:50 p.m. Caller from Federal Street stating she is being harassed by her neighbors. Per landlord, this needs to be on record in case it continues.

6:06 p.m. Caller from Hillside Avenue states that when she left for work this morning there were two white vans parked outside, and when she returned home, there were ten old tires and cinder blocks dumped on the side of the road. DPW contacted.

Friday, 10/21

7:59 a.m. Caller from Oakman Street advising that on Tuesday and Thursday mornings around 4:30 a.m., a vehicle has pulled into her driveway and someone has knocked on her front door. They also shined a light on her bedroom window. Advised of options.

11:32 p.m. Walk-in party from Turnpike Road reporting damage done to his home yesterday, possibly from a BB gun. Advised of options.

2:43 p.m. Caller from Farnen Avenue states that the upstairs neighbor is behaving erratically and making false accusations. Officer discussed with neighbors; advised of options.

5:06 p.m. Caller from Avenue A reports possibly intoxicated party outside screaming and behaving oddly. Officer states no one outside building; no disturbances found.

Saturday, 10/22

12:20 a.m. Caller from Randall Road requests officers check her residence throughout the night. Officer advised.

7:31 a.m. 911 caller from Fourth Street requesting police to residence. Officer advises call not as reported.

8:49 a.m. Caller from Avenue A advises a car alarm sounding in the area and states it has been sounding for the past couple of days. Officer advises no car alarm sounding when area checked, but notes a lot of vehicles and people setting up for Pumpkinfest.

9:48 a.m. Officer request-

ing tow for vehicle parked in no parking zone at Hubie’s Tavern.

12:15 p.m. 911 caller states that a group of four boys was throwing bricks and metal rods and breaking windows at the Strathmore/Indeck. Officers out with two juveniles.

2:40 p.m. Caller from N Street reporting that her windshield was shot with a BB. Officer advises that there is a mark on the windshield; no evidence that it was a BB; could have been any hard object. Caller advised to contact insurance.

4:43 p.m. Caller from Montague Retreat would like on record that a female was on the private property again with her unleashed dog, walking behind the private cabins.

5:10 p.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer regarding the public access road and private property on Ripley Road. Officer did not have definitive answer; advised her not to walk on that road until she can get an answer from Town Hall.

7:14 p.m. 911 call reporting disturbance on Unity Street. Officer advises situation mediated.

8:28 p.m. 911 caller reporting a multiple-person fight outside of the Rendezvous. Officers checking area; advise involved individuals could not be located.

Sunday, 10/23

1:12 a.m. Caller reporting loud noise/music on West Main Street. Officer located house where noise was coming from and spoke to individuals who were playing music in their basement and having a party. Officer states individuals would be turning off the music for the rest of the night and quieting down.

10:01 a.m. 911 caller from Montague City Road reports he heard an explosion in the basement; could smell a burning smell, and water is leaking. Officer advises no fire; broken water pipe in the basement. FD on scene.

10:09 a.m. Caller from Montague Retreat reports that a named party was trespassing through the Retreat property by cutting through with three horses and an unleashed German Shepherd. Caller requested that officer working on this case contact them.

10:32 a.m. Caller reported the traffic lights at Avenue A and Third Streets are not working properly. Caller believes that when the traffic light is green going north/south, the traffic light in the other direction is still yellow. Caller stated he was almost t-boned at that intersection because of the traffic light issue. Message left for DPW.

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APPLE CORPS from page B1

cemetery lawn to check on our new wildflower garden. With the acquisition of the cemetery we had also acquired a large shipping container, in rough shape and far too big for our needs. In our initial clean-up of the space we removed the container, which sat at the back of the lawn along the woodline, leaving a rectangular patch of bare earth in its absence. It was decided that instead of seeding this spot with grass or clover, we'd turn this spot into a garden.

A few weeks ago that bare patch was replaced by the beginnings of a small wildflower garden. We collected native wildflowers from our yards and our neighbors', planting asters, anise hyssop, evening primrose, cup plants, wild sunflowers, strawberries, and bee balm. We threw a native seed mix between the plants, consisting of the seeds of eight species of native wildflowers. The seeds were also locally sourced, all from my front yard!

You know this wouldn't be a Great Falls Apple Column if we didn't delve into some talk about edible landscaping – and what is a native wildflower garden, but a space of food production for both humans and wildlife? Most of the species we put in have many edible parts, such as milkweed (shoots, pods, and flowers); bee balm (leaves and flowers); anise hyssop (leaves); and evening primrose (roots, leaves, flowers, and seeds).

The Cemetery Commission is in charge of the maintenance and landscaping at Highland, and it is important to us to maintain the dignity of the space where so many of us and our neighbors have buried loved ones. This is our first consideration when making any changes to the landscape, even one so

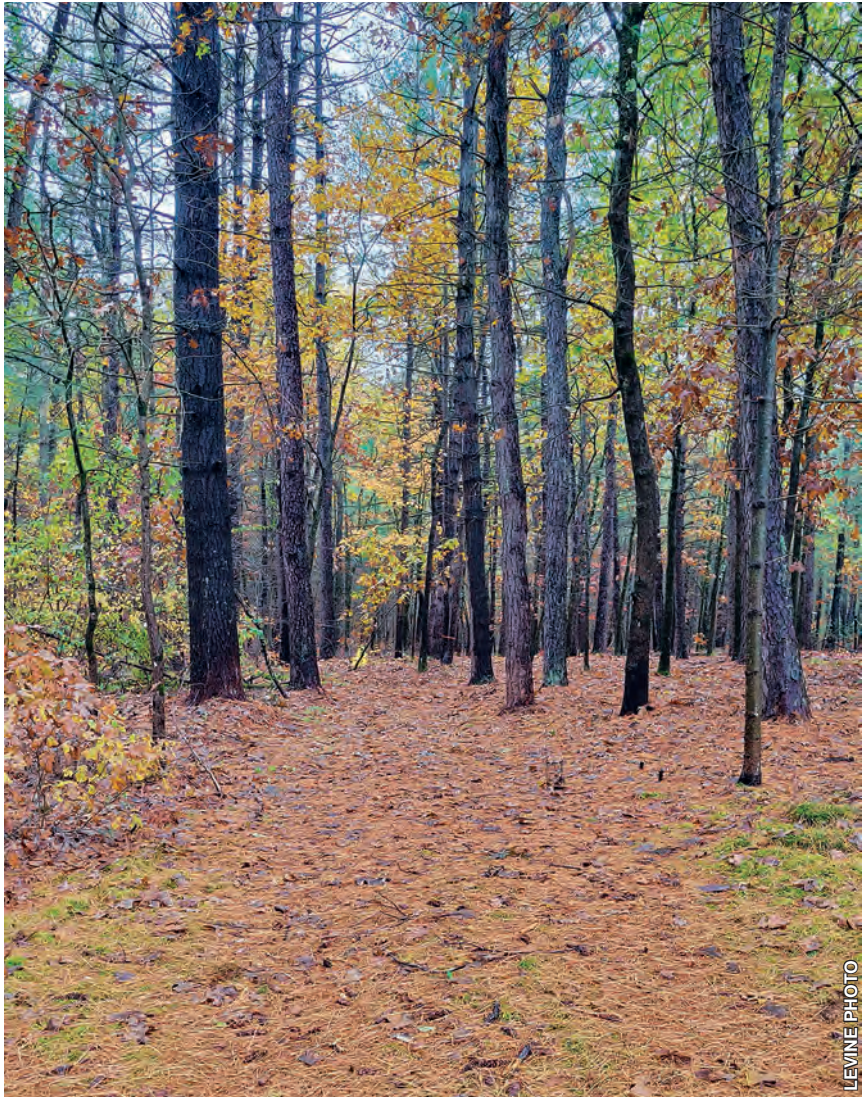
small as this wildflower garden. I hope this garden shows an example of a space that serves the aesthetic and practical needs of a planting while also including species that feed us and the wildlife around us.

While gardens are just beginning over at Highland Cemetery, the coming of autumn means that for the fifth year running, the Great Falls Apple Corps is hosting our annual fall clean-up at the Unity Park Community Garden. Come join us on Saturday, November 5 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. while we complete a variety of garden tasks, such as putting the U-Pick beds to rest for the winter, processing our compost bins, and pruning our edible hedge.

As always, we try to make these seasonal work days into a party. We'll be bumpin' tunes, and will have snacks on hand. Folks are encouraged to bring food to share if they are able. It'll be a great way to get in some last-minute outdoor socialization before the colder weather descends upon us!

Lastly, before we wrap up, I wanted to give another shout-out to the new free pantry at L and Fourth Street. GFAC is one of the groups helping to maintain it, and anyone can drop off or take items. If you have any non-perishable food items, fresh produce that can keep outside of a refrigerator, or an item you think would come in useful, they would be welcome additions to the current offerings. Items go quickly, so the more donated, the better!

The Great Falls Apple Corps is a volunteer-run group that advocates for edible landscaping and all kinds of community gardening. You can find them on Facebook, Instagram, and via email at greatfallsapplecorps@gmail.com.



Twenty green burial plots have been marked off in Montague's "Highland Woods."

MONTV / MUSIK / MOUNTAIN

#54: Wayne Rogers

Interview by J. BURKETT
With TROY CURRY

TURNERS FALLS – If you are into underground psych at all, you have probably heard of Wayne Rogers. He has been putting out cool records since the Eighties, when he started his famous label Twisted Village back then, and had a really cool record store in Boston. His current band, Major Stars, have a new LP coming out soon. He also still does solo LPs, and his last one is way cool. Check out his stuff, and the other Twisted Village releases too – there are a lot of great ones!

Thanks to Troy for helping with this. He has been listening to Twisted Village stuff for a long time.

MMM: Do you have any early music memories? Were you in the school band? Any records that really blew you away early on?

WR: All my early memories are of music! I was in the school chorus all the way through graduation, madrigal group in high school, All-State and various festivals as a singer in high school – my actual first appearance on record is with the Connecticut All-State choir in 1982, on the VOGT label.

My mother, brother, and sister were singers as well. My brother also played guitar and wrote songs, and self-financed his first single at the age of 17, which was recorded in 1975 at the Gallery in East Hartford – formerly Creative Sound Studio, where the Burnt Suite album was done. I attended the sessions, and decided then that when I turned 17 I'd start making my own records. So I did.

Buying the Ramones' *Rocket to Russia* in December 1977 was absolutely the total mind-blow of all time. It's not the slightest exaggeration to say that it totally changed the course of my entire life from then on.

MMM: Do you have any early Connecticut memories you would like to share? Favorite early concerts?

WR: Yeah, I grew up in Tolland, Connecticut. Pretty sleepy town without much going on.

Earliest gig I can remember is summer of '79, when my dad dropped me and a friend off at the VFW hall in East Hartford with a buddy to see one of the early punk gigs in CT. Goodness knows what he was thinking. We were only 15, and everyone else going in was much older and the whole spiky hair/safe-

ty pins/leather jacket thing was still happening – this was some while before hardcore.

We saw Electroflex, who have a semi-legendary single that was just out, and the M-80s, whose drummer I ended up working with at record stores in the early '80s.

Best thing I saw in high school was MX-80 Sound – no relation to the M-80s – at Real Art Ways in '82 or '83. Still maybe the loudest thing I've ever seen...

MMM: Did you ever visit West Mass back then? Are there any western Massachusetts recordings or gigs you would like to talk about? I guess you would visit Byron Coley sometimes?

WR: I started visiting Western Mass when I got my driver's license at 18. Lots of good shows at the Iron Horse in the '80s. Cecil Taylor and Henry Threadgill's Very Very Circus stand out.

I first met Byron in fall of '87 when he came to collect the master tapes for a Crystallized Movements album he'd licensed for reissue. We'd visit him now and then after that. He lived in the Boston area – Somerville, I think? – at the time, some years before he moved to western Mass.

MMM: Do you mind telling the readers about how the Twisted Village label started, and the magical shop with the same name? Were there other releases or labels that inspired you? How did you come up with the name?

WR: The label started in 1983, when we finished Crystallized Movements' *Mind Disaster*. Like I said before, my brother had financed his own record back in 1975, so the idea was there. I just looked in the phone book for record pressing plants and found Cook Laboratories in Norwalk, Connecticut. It was the only one in the directory, so that's where I sent it. I made 130 copies, because that's how many I had the money to make.

It sold out quick. Chuck Warner of Messthetics fame bought most of them – he had a mail-order catalog

called Kinkdom at the time – and I never repressed it, because by that time Psycho Records in the UK had contacted me to license it.

The name came when I was flipping through old film books in high school. I was terrible at attending the classes I was supposed to be in, and would hide out most of the day in the library looking through old film and music books. I found some stills from *The Cabinet of Dr Caligari* with all the weird angles and shadows, and thought "that looks like a twisted village." That was it.

Inspirations were everywhere then, all the great DIY labels that were springing up everywhere: Step Forward, Rough Trade, Ralph, SST, Dangerhouse, all the weird UK labels like Spec and Neutron that seemed to release a couple of 7"ers and then just disappear.

There were great independent shops in Connecticut that imported all that stuff in the late '70s and early '80s. Records Unlimited in Manchester and Capitol Record Shop in Hartford were weekly visits for me.

The shop started in 1996, and came about when Magic Hour broke up and we needed something to do. Josh had just opened Mystery Train, and that was what gave us the idea!

MMM: We just interviewed Mary [Staubit] for this series... How did her LP come about?

WR: I knew her from gigs around town. She used to lug around this old Traynor amp and play these great sets of loud, grinding electronics, and show up whether she was booked on the bill or not. Very TG/MB early sounding stuff, which I love... a bit removed from the regular macho noise scene kinda stuff that was going around then. Absolutely great.

She later worked at the shop as well.

MMM: You used to collect Sun 45s – did you have a favorite? How about fave Elvis record or movie?

WR: Favorite of all time is "Slow Down" by Jack Earls, with "You Made A Hit" by Ray Smith and "Come On Little Mama" by

Ray Harris running close behind. So many great ones!

Oh yeah, "Drinking Wine Spo-Dee-O-Dee" by Malcolm Yelvington. Can't forget that one.

My fave Elvis record is "Milkcow Blues Boogie" – back to Sun again! Fave movie has to be *Viva Las Vegas*, but I'll watch any of 'em.

MMM: Do you have any favorite releases on the now-defunct Japanese label PSF, or other Japanese recordings? You toured there, right?

WR: We toured there twice, once with Major Stars and once as a Kate/Wayne duo. My favorite stuff is any Kaneko Jutok/Kosokuya, and anything involving Rinji Fukuoka (of Overhang Party) or Masaki Batoch (of Ghost).

MMM: How are things going now with the label? If you were to do one LP or recording right now of someone, what would it be?

WR: TV is good. It's running pretty low-key these days, with Major Stars records mostly going to Drag City. The occasional solo LP or reissue keeps it going.

I'd love to issue the Baba Yaga record most of all... looong story, but the records were pressed in 2013 and it never came out. There's 250 copies boxed up in the spare room here. Long story...

MMM: Would you like to talk about any of your favorite Major Stars albums, or shows?

WR: Album, maybe *Mirror/Messenger*. That was just a real good period for us. Latest one, *Roots of Confusion Seeds of Joy*, is up there for me as well.

The best shows are always the small weird ones. Charlie's Kitchen is always great. The Dirty Dungarees laundromat in Ohio is ace, too!

MMM: Okay, cool! Thanks, Wayne. Any good music stories or jokes?

WR: Did you hear the one about the band who locked their keys in the van? It took an hour to get the drummer out.

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Aquí se habla español

Esta es la página mensual en español del *Montague Reporter*. Aquí podrá encontrar cuestiones acerca de la comunidad hispana en el área, eventos de interés, curiosidades, y noticias mundiales en español. Si quiere participar o compartir alguna sugerencia, envíenos un correo electrónico a spanish@montaguereporter.org.



OPINIÓN

La confusa pregunta número 4

Por VICTORIA MAÍLLO DE AGUILERA

GREENFIELD – Cuando tenía planeadas dos entrevistas para la sección de Gente de Franklin County, llegó, por sorpresa, lo que había ido esquivando durante estos tres últimos años: El Covid me alcanzó finalmente. Así pues, tuve que posponer las entrevistas acordadas para protegerme y proteger a los demás.

El cambio de planes me ha permitido reflexionar acerca de otros temas que puedan ser interesantes para mis lectores. Y creo que este es un momento muy apropiado para hablar de una de las preguntas que van a aparecer en nuestra tarjeta de voto el día 8 de noviembre con el número 4.

Un poco de historia

Primero, pongamos esta pregunta en contexto. En algunos estados es posible obtener una licencia para manejar con un pasaporte extranjero ya que a partir de 2023 estas licencias no podrán ser usadas como documento de identificación, ni son documentos que puedan ser usados para obtener un trabajo o solicitar ayudas del gobierno.

Actualmente se pueden conseguir licencias para conducir sin tener prueba de residencia o ciudadanía en los siguientes estados: California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawái, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, Nueva Jersey, Nuevo México, Oregón, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, y Washington DC.

Es importante señalar que los solicitantes si deben aportar un documento que pruebe que residen en el estado en el que solicitan la licencia de manejar – por ejemplo, una carta del banco, una factura con la dirección completa, etc. El último estado que se puede añadir a esta lista es Massachusetts a partir de julio de 2023.

El asunto de las licencias de conducir sin tener en cuenta el estado migratorio no es

nuevo en Massachusetts. En 2019 ya se presentó una propuesta que fue vetada por el gobernador Baker. Este año, el 16 de febrero, la Cámara de Representantes de Massachusetts aprobó la ley de Movilidad Familiar y Laboral por 120 votos a favor y 36 en contra.

El gobernador Charlie Baker vetó la ley el 27 de mayo alegando que el Registro de Vehículos con motor no contaba con los medios ni la capacidad para poder comprobar la veracidad de la identidad de los solicitantes con pasaporte extranjero y el riesgo de que esto aumente la posibilidad de estas personas que no tienen ciudadanía puedan registrarse para votar. Posteriormente el Senado de Massachusetts refrendó la ley y anuló el veto de Baker con una votación de 32 votos a favor y 8 en contra.

En agosto un comité llamado “*Fair and Secure Massachusetts*” presentó 40.120 firmas para poder incluir la pregunta en la votación del 8 de noviembre alegando las mismas razones que Baker.

Debido a que la petición a favor de incluir la pregunta se envió después de la fecha límite del 6 de julio en la que se envió a la imprenta el folleto rojo de información para votantes que se envía por correo a cada casa, esta pregunta no aparece en la guía. El secretario de Estado de Massachusetts, William Galvin, ha explicado que la pregunta no aparece en dicho librito porque la petición y las consiguientes firmas para que la pregunta apareciese en la tarjeta de voto llegó más tarde.

Esto significa que muchos votantes carecen de información acerca de la pregunta 4, lo que puede perjudicar la votación.

Galvin está pensando en redactar información sobre esta pregunta e imprimirla en varios idiomas para que sea repartida como una hoja aparte el día de las elecciones.

¿En qué consiste la famosa pregunta número 4? En primer lugar, debo decir que el lenguaje que aparecerá en la tarjeta de

voto se formula de una forma confusa. Todos sabemos que el lenguaje político es enrevesado, y muchas veces nos preguntamos si esto se hace así a propósito, es decir, para confundir al votante medio.

La pregunta

La pregunta es la siguiente: *¿Aprueba usted la ley que se resume a continuación, que fue aprobada por la Cámara de Representantes de Massachusetts y el Senado el 26 de mayo de 2022?*

La ley hace referencia a la Ley de Movilidad Laboral y Familiar, que permite que los inmigrantes indocumentados puedan conseguir licencias para conducir sin prueba de residencia o ciudadanía. La ley exige también que se establezcan normas que aseguren que las personas sin presencia legal en el país no puedan ser registradas automáticamente para poder votar. La ley entrará en vigor en julio de 2023.

Actualmente hay una ley de 2020 que debe ser modificada y eliminará las líneas en la que dice que “no se puede emitir licencia de ningún tipo a ninguna persona que no tenga presencia legal en los Estados Unidos.”

En su lugar aparecerán las siguientes palabras: “Un solicitante de una licencia bajo esta sección que no proporcione prueba de presencia legal, incluido un solicitante que sea elegible para un número de seguro social, será elegible para obtener una licencia de Massachusetts para operar un vehículo de motor si el solicitante cumple todos los demás requisitos para la licencia y proporciona prueba satisfactoria de su identidad, fecha de nacimiento y residencia en el estado de Massachusetts. El funcionario no podrá indagar en el registro de ciudadanía del solicitante, ni en el estado migratorio del mismo.”

Así mismo si al término del vencimiento de una tarjeta de identidad (Real ID) el titular no proporciona prueba de presencia legal, el titular de la licencia seguirá siendo elegible para solicitar una licencia de manejar en Massachusetts.

El solicitante de la licencia deberá presentar como prueba de su identidad y fecha de nacimiento dos documentos, siendo uno de ellos un pasaporte extranjero válido y vigente o un documento de identificación consular válido. El otro podrá ser uno de estos: una licencia de conducir válida y vigente de cualquier estado o territorio de los Estados Unidos, un original o copia certificada de un certificado de nacimiento, una tarjeta de identificación de extranjero válida y vigente, una licencia de conducir válida, o vigente o un certificado de matrimonio o de divorcio emitido por cualquier estado o territorio de los Estados Unidos.

Los documentos presentados como prueba de identidad deberán incluir una fotografía y también la fecha de nacimiento. Así mismo todos los documentos que se presenten que no estén en inglés deberán ir acompañados de una traducción certificada del documento en inglés.

Los funcionarios del Registro de Vehículos con Motor serán los encargados de revisar los documentos emitidos por otro país presentados por el solicitante de licencia de manejar y también los encargados de determinar si existe una causa razonable para excluir los documentos de prueba de identidad o fecha de nacimiento. Por ello, el solicitante deberá testificar bajo pena de perjurio que no le han

sido revocados ni suspendidos dichos documentos en otro país o estado.

La oficina de Registros de Vehículos a Motor será también la encargada de promulgar las normas y reglamentos con respecto a las pruebas de identidad, fecha de nacimiento y residencia en Massachusetts aplicables a los ciudadanos de los Estados Unidos o que posean prueba de presencia legal y por ellos, las personas que no dispongan de estas pruebas no podrán ser registrados automáticamente para votar.



Esta es la ley resumida y explicada en mis propias palabras. Se entrará en vigor en julio de 2023.

Hablemos ahora de lo que supone la respuesta a la pregunta. En Massachusetts hay dos tipos de medidas electorales: *iniciativas* y *referéndums*.

Las *iniciativas* permiten a los ciudadanos proponer enmiendas constitucionales y nuevas leyes, mientras que el *referéndum* pide a los votantes derogar una ley promulgada anteriormente. La forma en que se redacta la pregunta en cada caso está avalada por la constitución del estado. Por esa razón la pregunta no se hace de forma directa, es decir, si quieren derogar la ley de licencias de conducir de recién aprobada, sino la pregunta es si aprueba la ley.

Enrevesado, ¿verdad?

Partidarios y detractores

Los partidarios de aprobar la ley son los representantes del partido Demócrata, y cientos de organizaciones que luchan por los derechos de los inmigrantes, como Cosecha Massachusetts.

Los defensores de la ley creen que este es un tema de mucha importancia relacionado con la seguridad pública, el desarrollo económico y la salud de los ciudadanos, no importa cual sea su estado migratorio. Añaden que permitir que los inmigrantes indocumentados obtengan una licencia de manejar del estado de Massachusetts, llevará en la práctica a carreteras más seguras. Hará posible también que todos los conductores de Massachusetts estén capacitados para manejar, tengan su permiso y estén asegurados.

Otro de los datos que aportan para que los votantes les apoyen con el sí es que hay datos que dicen que en los estados en los que se aprobó la ley se han reducido las fugas después de atropellos o accidentes.

Otro de los puntos que quieren dejar claro es que ya existen en el estado menores de 18 años que pueden conducir, pero no son elegibles para votar pese a tener su permiso de manejar y el RMV tiene los medios para conseguir que esto funcione.

Por el contrario, a los republicanos, que son los detractores de la ley les preocupa mayormente que las personas que hayan obtenido su licencia de manejar y no tengan documentos puedan ejercer el voto y se quejan especialmente del lenguaje con el que está redactado la ley que no impide que la persona pueda registrarse para votar en el RMV.

(Fuente: www.sec.state.ma.us/index.htm)



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



The Reporter is looking for volunteers to help us curate this listing. Interested? Contact us at editor@montaguereporter.org!

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, Nekrogoblion, Crobot*. \$. 6 p.m.

Pioneer Valley Brewery, Turners Falls: *Falltown String Band*. Free. 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Greg Davis, Tiny Vipers, Seth Chatfield*

Gong Bath. \$. 7 p.m.

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

10 Forward, Greenfield: *The Leafies You Gave Me Halloween Show, Ron Shalom*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Kabaka Pyramid, Nattali Rize*. \$. 8 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Tender Spot, DiTrani Brothers, Slow Pony, Prune*. \$. 8 p.m.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Halloween Party* with *Lady Pop*. \$. 7 p.m.

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

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Gaslight Tinkers, The 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.

The Drake, Amherst: *Doom's Day: Live Tribute to MF Doom*. \$. 8 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Halloween Costume Party* with *Jimmy Just Quit*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Shutesbury Athletic Club: *Halloween Extravaganza* with *Electric Carnival*. \$. 8:30 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Enter the Hellmouth*, queer dance party with *DJ Longlegs, DJ Calulus*. Suggested donation. 9 p.m.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30

Peskeompskut Park, Turners Falls: *Mountain Movers, Noise Nomads, Id M Theftable, Wednesday Knudsen, Motorhawk, Tarp, Frozen Corn, Stella Kola, Gastric Lavage, Arkm*

Foam/Stella Silbert Duo, Sam Hadge, Liam Grant, Sagan & Sigourney, Spectre Folk, DJ Snacky Fresh, Thirst and the Liver, Parashi, Zamzax Goom. Free. 12 p.m. Moves to Great Falls Harvest after 6 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Big Destiny, Jess Beck, Mangrove Forest*. \$. 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Rage-O-Ween* feat. *Bombtrack, Bass Sabbath, Dando Fever*. \$. 7:30 p.m.

Marigold Theater, Easthampton: *Seeds of Sun, Taylor Rose Mickens, Red Jasper*. \$. 8 p.m.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 31

Epsilon Spires, Brattleboro: Film, *Haxan (1922)*, with live music by *Lori Goldston* and *Greg Kelley*. \$. 8 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4

The Drake, Amherst: *Kaleta & Super Yamba Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Qwanqwa,*

Fiddle Madness. \$. 7 p.m.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Dear Nora, Omeed Goodarzi, Holy Taker*. \$. 7 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Livingston Taylor*. \$. 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *The Outerspace Band*. \$. 8 p.m.

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Soccer Mommy, Lightning Bug*. \$. 8 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Gold Dust, Ned Collette, Big Trash*. \$. 7 p.m.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Mystery Train, Amherst: *Ned Collette, Jeff Gallagher, Big Trash, Andy McLeod*. Free. 5 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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

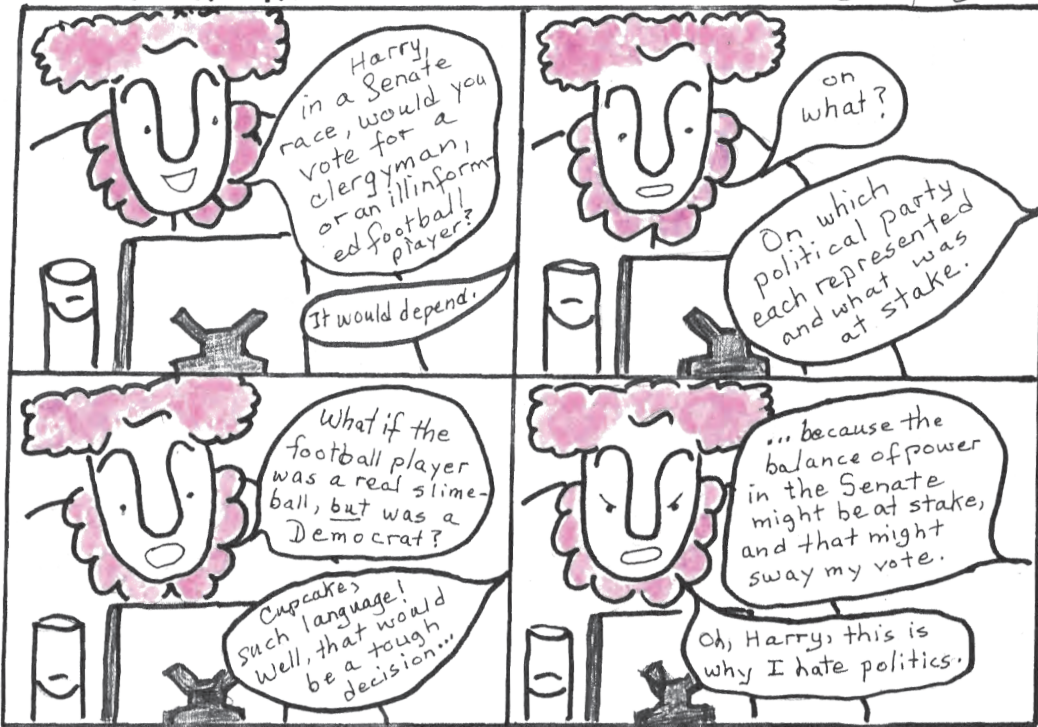
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Palladium, Worcester: *Ceremony, GEL, SRSQ, Chronophage*. \$. 6 p.m.



OVER THE HILL

Carolyn Clark



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WEST ALONG from page B1

Down below the yard, at the forsaken frog pond, another leaf falls silently to the surface to add to the bright-colored carpet that covers the dark water.

Last night's scent of skunk wafts in from beyond the garden gate. After a night of pilfering the

compost, dirtying ever so slightly his silken slippers, I remind him it's time for his day-long nap until nightfall. Before long he'll be sleeping the long sleep of the three months' winter night. You'll sleep, skunk, and dream of spring-time loves. We'll carry on out here and hope for the best.

*And then the geese will go, and then one day
The little garden birds will not be here.
See how many leaves already have
Withered and turned; a few have fallen, too.
Change is continuous on the seamless web,
Yet moments come like this one, when you feel...
The definite announcement of an end
Where one thing ceases and another starts...
The whisper comes down the bloodstream: it is time.*

(Adapted from "The Dependencies," by Howard Nemerov.)



MONIQUE BRULE PHOTO

The trees turn.

SPOOKY STUDIES

Settle In with the Unsettling *Six Halloween Streaming Recommendations*

By NATHAN FRONTIERO

TURNERS FALLS – Curses, killers, and the undead all offer plenty of scares, but sometimes the most disturbing predicament to deal with on a cool fall evening is deciding what to watch. The abundance of streaming services and their respective libraries is a blessing but easily overwhelming. I occasionally find myself spending movie-length intervals of time attempting to decide on viewing material before abandoning the effort for frustrated sleep.

To prevent this dilemma from afflicting readers, the *Montague Reporter* offers the following curation of horror and Halloween-friendly streaming options for your late October movie night.

It Follows

If you've grown tired of the recent species of horror movie that wears its straightforward metaphors on its self-satisfied sleeve, you don't have to travel that far back in time for a change of pace.

Released in 2014, writer-director David Robert Mitchell's second feature offers ruthless scares and a slippery undercarriage of ideas. A shapeshifting entity passed through sex stalks a group of Detroit teenagers. It moves slowly but brutally kills the people it catches up with, so the only way to escape is to extend the chain as far as possible and hope for the best.

On paper, that premise might suggest an abstinence-only PSA focused on the dangers of sexually transmitted infection. Onscreen, though, the movie's stylistic depth – nightmarish visions of death, abuse, and post-industrial decay, all enhanced by intentional use of anachronism – precludes such reductive interpretation.

Mitchell and cinematographer Mike Gioulakis favor wide compositions that make their world feel unforgivingly hollow and lonely, alongside thoroughly disturbing camera pans that train the viewer to frantically scan the frame for danger.

Come for the gripping lead performance from Maika Monroe, stay for the haunting synth score from composer Disasterpiece.

(Netflix)

Under the Skin

Pining for some extra passport stamps? Zip over to director Jonathan Glazer's vision of Glasgow, Scotland, where a mysterious Scarlett Johansson – sporting a brunette wig and British accent – picks up eager men for reasons that might surprise you.

A mix of guerilla and Kubrickian camerawork embeds this 2013



RADIUS-TWC IMAGE

Maika Monroe anchors a compelling cast dodging a killer curse in *It Follows*, currently available on Netflix.

film with intimacy and isolation.

I'd say more, but you should go into this movie knowing as little as possible. Prepare yourself for some of the most unnerving images of the new millennium, and bask in the beehive synth whurrs and viola pitch bends of Mica Levi's inventive original score.

(HBO Max)

Tammy and the T. Rex

If your Halloween weekend vibe is more schlocky than scary, look no further than this unheeded specimen of 1990s horror-comedy, inexplicably referred to by the alternate title *Tanny and the Teenage T. Rex* in the opening credits. Starring Denise Richards and the late Paul Walker in full heartthrob mode, the film examines the chaos that ensues when a mad scientist implants the brain of a highschool boy (Walker) in a robot Tyrannosaurus rex body.

Seeking vengeance on the bullies who left him for dead and a reunion with his cheerleader girlfriend (Richards), the teenage T. Rex goes on the hunt. Beheadings and other forms of bloody dismemberment ensue.

Cult film preservation company Vinegar Syndrome restored the uncut version of the film in 2019, so you can enjoy it in its full outré glory.

(Shudder)

Carnival of Souls

Fans of *The Twilight Zone* will find plenty of chilling allure in this 1962 indie horror gem from director Herk Harvey.

Focused on a young woman (Candace Hilligoss) who moves from Kansas to Salt Lake City after surviving a car crash, the film offers a concentrated dose of dread, thanks in large part to Gene Moore's regal pipe organ score. Creeping notes bubble up through dark corners as Hilligoss's eyes widen in stark terror at the otherworldly sights that emerge from them.

Relish in the old school craft between popcorn-spilling jump scares. Cuddle up with your crush or favorite plush, rinse, repeat.

(HBO Max, Amazon Prime)

Kill, Baby, Kill

If you read my deep dive on the giallo in last week's edition of the *Reporter*, you'll know Italian director Mario Bava was a major influence on modern slasher films like *Halloween* and *Scream*. But did you know his work also inspired that of David Lynch?

In this brisk gothic horror entry from 1966, square-jawed Dr. Paul Eswai (Giacomo Rossi Stuart) investigates a sleepy European village haunted by the mischievous spirit of a young girl.

In one notable scene, as the threats escalate and Eswai closes in on the truth, he chases another character through a hallway that becomes a continuous loop until a menacing doppelgänger greets him instead – a series of images that Lynch directly quotes in the famous second season finale of *Twin Peaks*.

Whether you give this movie a spin for that enriching piece of media trivia or the bewitching presence of Belgian actress Fabienne Dali, you'll be making a wise decision.

(Shudder)

House

Before *Monster House*, there was... *House*. Japanese director Nobuhiko Obayashi's breakthrough film from 1977 – his feature-length debut – boasts one mean piece of property. What starts as a young girl's summer trip to her aunt's country home with six school friends quickly spirals out of control as demons descend in the form of an evil cat, a ghastly grandfather clock, and a distressingly hungry piano. Try sticking that in a RE/MAX ad.

(HBO Max, Criterion Channel)

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