

# The Montague Reporter

YEAR 21 – NO. 25

also serving Erving, Gill, Leverett and Wendell

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THE VOICE OF THE VILLAGES

MAY 11, 2023

## Bill Would Reform, Fund Local Health Departments

By JEFF SINGLETON

**BOSTON** – A hearing before the state legislature’s Joint Committee on Public Health last Thursday drew almost unanimous support for a bill that would establish a more stringent “baseline” for local public health services, provide dedicated funding for those mandates, and encourage regional collaboration among towns.

The legislation, known as “State-wide Accelerated Public Health For Every Community” – slimmed down to the acronym SAPHE 2.0 – seemed popular among officials and public health advocates from our region.

“We had to build and then dismantle a \$160 million program, the Contact Tracing Collaborative,” Phoebe Walker, community services director at the Franklin Regional

Council of Governments (FRCOG), told the committee. “That’s \$160 million that could have been invested in shared staffing that would still be working today, on anaplasmosis, pertussis, hepatitis, Lyme...”

Melanie Zamojski, chair of the Montague board of health, stressed the need for consistency she believed the legislation would bring.

“In my town we did not have consistent coverage, messaging, or control to manage the situation,” Zamojski said of the COVID-19 pandemic response. “At that time, there was no mechanism for collaboration between the municipalities of Greenfield and Montague, and the next town over [Greenfield] did not have the same rules or guidelines. I cannot underestimate the effect of consistency in public health.”

see **HEALTH** page A8

## Leverett Selectboard Dogs Muzzled; Solar Batteries Will Require Fire Inspection

By SARAH ROBERTSON

**LEVERETT** – A public hearing about noisy barking dogs dominated Leverett’s selectboard meeting Monday night. The members also voted unanimously to hire a new police officer and a new firefighter, establish new permit fees for solar panels and battery storage systems, and reappoint Tom Hankinson to serve as chair for another term.

In Leverett, if dogs “bite, bark, howl, or in any other manner disturb the peace or quiet of any neighborhood or endanger the safety of any person,” they are in violation of

see **LEVERETT** page A7

## Erving Voters Fully Restore Elementary School Budget



Town meeting voters lined up Wednesday to cast paper ballots on the school budget.

By KATIE NOLAN

At Wednesday night’s annual town meeting, Erving voters approved by a vote of 70 to 59 a motion to restore \$332,000 that had been cut from the Erving Elementary School (EES) budget during March and April budget discussions at the request of the selectboard and the finance committee. The final budget approved for EES was \$3.87 million.

The vote created an unbalanced budget, necessitating either budget cuts to other departments, a Proposition 2½ override, or spending

from stabilization or free cash.

Sixth-grade teacher Mark Burnett told the meeting that the school’s budget increase was primarily caused by mandatory funding for out-of-district special education programs and transportation. Principal Lisa Candito said that the full budget was needed “to provide the excellent education we expect at Erving Elementary School.”

Police chief Robert Holst warned that if the meeting restored the school budget, other departments might face cuts to compensate.

see **ERVING** page A6

## Recreation Agreement Contains a Catch



FirstLight Power has offered to build a platform with this view of the Connecticut River below the Turners Falls Dam.

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – A decade into the process of renewing its federal licenses to operate the Turners Falls Dam and the Northfield Mountain pumped-storage project, FirstLight Power has made public a final draft of a settlement with stakeholders concerning recreational access around the Connecticut River.

The Montague selectboard will vote next Monday whether to endorse this agreement, which could help

secure local investment by the company in building access points, but at the expense of waiving the town’s right to disagree with a separate agreement concerning “flows and fish passage” – in other words, the river’s water levels.

Virtually all of the recreation commitments in the agreement are identical with the “agreement-in-principle” released in January 2022 (see *Montague Reporter*, February 3, 2022: “River Access: Public Gets First

see **RECREATION** page A8

GILL SELECTBOARD

## Gill Prepares for a Battle Over Riverbank Erosion

By KATE SAVAGE

As the proposed settlement between FirstLight Power and local stakeholders concerning recreation goes public, the biggest take-away for the town of Gill might be what it signals about upcoming battles over the hydroelectric company’s alleged impact on riverbank erosion.

At Monday’s Gill selectboard meeting, town administrator Ray Purington highlighted “the key part for Gill” in the settlement agreement, which is language that he said allows affected towns “to lobby and fight for anything that will deal with erosion, either mitigation or prevention,” as the company’s relicensing

process continues.

Purington called this provision “a big win.” “If there is an erosion agreement, I think it will be nothing short of a miracle,” he said, “so having the carve-out that allows us to continue to advocate for erosion mitigation is key.” Negotiations on an erosion settlement were previously discontinued.

The selectboard didn’t vote on whether to sign the recreation agreement because member Randy Crochier was absent. The matter will be discussed further at their next meeting, when all three members will be present.

“In the meantime, the recreation see **GILL** page A5

## Aid Spending Brushes Past Town Meeting; Some Annoyed

By MIKE JACKSON

**TURNERS FALLS** – Montague town meeting members faced a healthy 32-article warrant at the outset of last Saturday’s “annual,” but dispatched with it in just over four hours, as if they knew the first warm and brilliant-colored weekend day of spring was waiting just outside the high school’s doors.

The only topics that slowed them down were paying the regional school district assessment, putting a large chunk of money toward town employees’ future retirement costs, and a trio of spending articles the

see **TOWN MTG** page A4

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD

## Sewage Steward, On a Roll, Nudged to Tackle Smell Next

By JEFF SINGLETON

“I know a couple of neighbors there, and you always tend to bump into them on the hot, sticky days,” said Montague selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz.

“I know, I feel for them, and have told them,” said Clean Water Facility (CWF) superintendent Chelsey Little. “I have to work there, too – we all do. We’re not exempt from any odors.”

This exchange came during an agenda item labeled “odor discussion” at Monday night’s meeting of the Montague selectboard. Kuklewicz was advocating moving a \$48,000 project for a “misting system,” intended to mitigate noxious smells emanating from the plant, up

a long list of potential CWF projects.

Both of Kuklewicz’s fellow board members, Chris Boutwell and Matt Lord, endorsed his proposal. “Not a huge amount of money,” Lord commented.

Little said she would be glad to move the misting system up the list of priorities. “It doesn’t mean there won’t be any odors,” she noted. “[But] it might be something, were we to have a hot, humid day and we put it on just to try to help out.”

The decision to experiment with the “misting system,” coming at the start of a meeting which was to feature an hour-long discussion of a proposed agreement with FirstLight Power under the federal relicensing process, was taken without

see **MONTAGUE** page A5

## SPECIAL DELIVERY



DAVID HOITT PHOTO

Turners Falls’ Alex Quezada delivered for the Thunder Monday night, striking out eight and allowing only two hits in Powertown’s 6-0 win over the visiting Franklin Tech Eagles.

### It Ain’t Me, Babe

An Op/Ed That Isn’t Saying It’s a Power Grab.....	A2	Remembering this Place’s Darkest Day.....	B1
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# The Montague Reporter

"The Voice of the Villages"

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August 2002

## Bottom Line

The world has changed in profound ways since the process to renew the hydroelectric licenses at the Turners Falls Dam and Northfield Mountain began over a decade ago. FirstLight Power itself was sold, for one thing, from a French mega-multinational to a Canadian public-sector pension fund. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has changed over twice. Advocates for public interests and the environment have retired, changed jobs, and died, and others have to some extent taken their place.

And the future itself has changed – as well as the public's hopes and dreams about energy generation. Some dreams have been abandoned, while others seem closer, more possible to attain.

One thing a little less noticeable, but present every day, is the economic value of the facilities. Leaving aside the (apparently) disputed question of the role of energy storage in a power grid shifting toward renewable generations sources, the value of these facilities is primarily granted to their owner.

As we noted in our April 6 edition, between 2020 and 2023, FirstLight increased the amount of profit it publicly advertises it would forgo under the new 50-year license it proposes increased from \$238 million to \$352 million. The

amount it would budget for making public-facing (and fish-facing, etc.) improvements, meanwhile, increased from \$121 million to \$152 million.

Not much changed in the actual proposal, and a company spokesperson told the *Reporter* that most of the latter increase can be attributed to higher projected inflation, and the license term starting further into the future.

The rest of it, a jump from \$117 million to \$200 million, is mostly a calculation of the profit foregone by reduced energy generation – we assume, by letting a certain amount of water pass into the "bypass stretch" instead of the Turners Falls Canal. The \$117 million figure was based on an 11.3% decrease in hydropower generation, and two and a half years later, that concession had only grown to \$12.4%.

If those figures don't add up, it's because out of sight, the denominator has grown. The total profit the company expects to make has skyrocketed due to energy prices.

We hope this is noticed by the assessors of Gill, Montague, Erving, and Northfield. But this leads to another question:

As their expected profits, the value of the river we are lending them, rose, what increased in their offer to the public? Fundamentally, are they sharing the wealth?

## Letter to the Editors

Just Plain People

I'm not just a columnist for the *Montague Reporter*, I'm also a regular reader. Naturally, the first thing I do with any new issue is turn to the *MoRe* section to see if my column is in there and to see how good the photos look. That done, I immediately check out Nina's portrait on Page Two, and then the Local Briefs.

I've subbed for Nina once or twice and have great appreciation for the time and research it takes to gather all of this information in order to publish it in one place. Even though I live in Greenfield I still get caught up in reading the op-eds, the public service announcements,

the ads, and sometimes even things I'm not the least bit interested in, but which end up being fascinating nonetheless. It's folksy and local and important.

The columns written by folks like me, just plain people who live here and have something to say and are thrilled to have a forum, bring it even closer to each of us in our own homes. I'm happy to have a relationship with the paper and the people who read the paper and the people who live in the town and those towns close to it. Keep on rockin', MR.

Trouble Mandeson  
Greenfield



Garth Shaneyfelt crunches some numbers while Jae Southerland supervises at the Reporter's Avenue A office last Tuesday afternoon. Managing editor Mike Jackson, meanwhile, looks for volunteers...

## OP ED

# Elect, Don't Appoint!

By RAY GODIN

**TURNERS FALLS** – Montague voters will decide an extremely important issue at the polls this year, specifically whether to change the Town Clerk and the Treasurer-Collector positions from elected to appointed offices. For a number of reasons I, for one, think this is a terrible idea, and would like to share with you why.

- First and foremost, these are both constitutional offices, and are elected as such to ensure the basic democratic principle of a separation of powers within the government. Town government has its parallels with both state and national governments in this respect. At the state level, these positions are elected (State Treasurer and Secretary of State are comparable) so that whoever sits in the Governor's office does not control the functions and the personnel in these offices.

In my humble opinion, putting control of these positions in the corner offices or the selectboard's table at town hall negates the whole point of separation of powers.

- Putting the Clerk and Treasurer/Collector under the control of either the Town Administrator or the Selectboard makes very little sense, since none of those people are familiar with the intricate details of what actually happens in these offices. While I'm sure they know that the Treasurer/Collector collects taxes and the Town Clerk oversees elections and keeping records, I'm willing to bet they have little knowledge of legal and functional technicalities of how those activities actually take place.

While the *elected* official can always tell the administrators or selectpersons that they are *required* to follow state and federal regulations and laws on much of what they do, giving the corner office or the selectboard hiring and firing authority over these posts does not guarantee

that the *appointed* clerk or treasurer won't find themselves on the unemployment line simply because the appointing authority just doesn't like them, or the way they conduct themselves in their offices.

If the administration feels there is a need to have firing control over these offices, then perhaps it is time for a recall procedure to be added to town bylaws.

- A similar attempt to make these positions appointed as opposed to elected was tried by a different administration a number of years ago, and was soundly defeated at town meeting. Quite frankly, it was a thinly-veiled attempt at a power grab at that time, and many of the arguments favoring appointed positions then are the same ones we are hearing today.

For the record, I am *not* saying that this year's attempt to make these positions appointed is a power grab by the current administration, but I'm not ruling it out, either. (There are some folks in town hall and within other town departments who see it as a power grab, but obviously can't say so publicly without putting their own appointed jobs at risk).

- Prior to the recent Special Town Meeting there was very little public discussion on the proposed change from electing these positions to appointing them. To the best of my knowledge, there was one small article in the *Montague Reporter* coverage of two selectboard meetings on which the subject was an agenda item. If the *Reporter* was correct, there wasn't any discussion whatever in at least one of the meetings.

To quote a friend (who has a different view on the issue), discussion of these changes prior to the town meeting was sudden, diffuse, and hasty. While there was more discussion of the changes on the town meeting floor, several of the members clearly stated they were opposed to the changes, but would vote

in favor of the articles so that the changes would be on a ballot that the entire community can vote on.

- Several town meeting members indicated their concern is that Montague does not have a broad enough pool of candidates with the experience and skills to run these offices, or that keeping the positions as elected reduces the eventual office holder to being the winner of a popularity contest.

With due respect, I disagree.

There are a number of residents who operate (or own) multi-million dollar businesses. In doing so they have the financial acuity to keep those businesses running – at a profit – or they would have closed or gone bankrupt. While the laws and regulations that they deal with are different from those that guide local government operations, they are *still* laws and regulations that must be followed.

I would suggest that while there are significant differences between private business and local government, there *are* people in the town who have the knowledge and skill sets that would be required of those elected to hold these offices.

- As for the argument that the town would be better served by an office holder whose abilities are determined by the elected or appointed leadership of the town, as opposed to winning a popularity contest at the polls, I would submit that the average voter is very capable of reading a resume, listening to or watching a debate between candidates, and making a determination through their vote of who does and who does not have the skills to run these important offices.

I urge you to join me at the polls on May 16 and vote against changing the Town Clerk and Treasurer/Collector from elected to appointed.

Ray Godin serves as Montague's town moderator, but wrote this editorial as a private citizen.

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Compiled by NINA ROSSI

The Montague Cemetery Commission sent notice that the new natural burial section of Highland Cemetery on Millers Falls Road in Montague will be completed by next weekend. The wooded section now has a meandering wood chip pathway made from deadwood on the property.

If you are interested in a plot in the new **green burial section**, called Highland Woods, contact cemetery commissioner Judith Lorei at (617) 834-2594.

This Thursday evening, May 11, at the Wendell Meetinghouse join Deb FlyingHorse Tyler for a **Spirit Circle** at 7 p.m. Spirit circles are a time for sharing and discussing spiritual journeys with a featured presenter. Tyler will share "tales and insights from her ongoing Spiritual evolution," according to the press release.

The Meetinghouse is at 9 Morse Village Road, on the town common, and the event is the second in a nine-week Thursday series. The events are free, with donations encouraged. The May 18 event features Court Dorsy presenting a "mystical poem" he wrote during the pandemic. For more information, contact [court@crocker.com](mailto:court@crocker.com) or call (413) 325-7587.

This Saturday, May 13 from 1 to 5 p.m., **Great Falls Books**

**Through Bars** has a volunteer day at the community space they share with the Pioneer Valley Workers Center and Finders Collective at 104 Fourth Street in Turners Falls.

Go for the whole time, or drop in for a bit. Volunteers will respond to letters and pack up books. The group spent over \$10,000 last year sending books to incarcerated people all over the country. Masks are required while indoors, and the first floor is wheelchair-accessible. You can support the project at [greatfallsbooksthroughbars.org](http://greatfallsbooksthroughbars.org).

There's a **Mother's Day Pop Up** at the Sawmill River Arts Gallery in Montague Center. Pick up fresh flower bouquets, ceramic vases and vessels, scarves, and jewelry this Saturday, May 13 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

LifePath shares some news for elders in their latest newsletter: The **Massachusetts Medicare Savings Program (MSP)** has expanded eligibility guidelines by 60% in 2023. Extra help is available for payment of the Part D drug plan premium, and medications are offered at a lower cost. In some cases, those with lower incomes may also be eligible for assistance with their Part A and Part B deductibles and copays.

To apply to the MSP there is an easy, one-page application with no verifications needed. To get this application, contact MassHealth

at (800) 841-2900 and request the "Medicare Buy-In application." LifePath has applications available through their SHINE office, and if you need assistance filling one out they are happy to help.

Interested in learning more about health plans for seniors? Go to an in-person **Health Plan Options Seminar** on Wednesday, May 17 from 2 to 3 p.m. at the Montague Town Hall Annex in Turners Falls. This free seminar is led by a Blue Cross Blue Shields of Massachusetts representative. There will be an explanation of Medicare parts A, B, and C, Medigap coverage, Medicare Advantage plans, Part D prescription drug plans, and other intricate matters pertaining to Medicare.

The Montague Center Library local author series presents Emily Monosson and her book, *Blight: Fungi and the Coming Pandemic*, at a free reading and discussion next Wednesday, May 17 at 6 p.m. Refreshments are provided.

The Northfield Bird Club brings a **Local Amphibians and Reptiles** presentation to the Northfield Library on Thursday, May 18 at 6 p.m. State herpetologist Mike Jones will discuss a representative selection of species native to the Connecticut River valley, and describe a new effort to map species distribution and habitat. The free event is one hour long.

Diemand Farm in Wendell postponed their **Spring Fest** event from a rainy weekend in April to Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be crafts, live music from Two Car Garage and Passenger Side, and food from the farm kitchen.

The fifth annual **Música Franklin Fun Fest** will be held at Unity Park in Turners Falls next Saturday, May 20 from 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Performers include Abena Koomson-Davis, Isabella Mendes, Música Franklin students, the Expandable Brass Band, Djeli Forchion, Chris Yerlig, and Viva Quetzal. There will be instruments to play in the "petting zoo," make-and-take craft projects, face painting, giant bubbles, a Latin dance workshop, a giant piano mat, local craft vendors, and food trucks. The festival is free. Find out more at [musicafranklin.org](http://musicafranklin.org).

A **Day of Remembrance** event will commemorate the 347th anniversary of the Great Falls Massacre on Saturday, May 20, between 1 and 3:30 p.m. at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls.

Honored guests include members of the Chaubunagungamaug Band of Nipmuck Indians Council and the Elnu Abenaki. The event is free and all are invited. Co-sponsored by the Nolumbeka Project, River Valley Co-op, and DCR. Light refreshments will be available, including cookies donated by Stone Soup Cafe. For more information visit [www.nolumbekaproject.org](http://www.nolumbekaproject.org).

Learn about the role sheep played in early New England farming and agriculture! On Saturday and Sunday, May 20 and 21, Historic Deerfield welcomes rare heritage breed sheep and lambs to town at the Woolly Wonders **Heritage Breed Sheep Weekend**. Visitors of all ages are invited to watch a sheepdog-herding demonstration and learn about

textiles and wool-processing with hands-on activities. The event is included as part of the general admission. Adults are \$18, youth 13 to 17 are \$5, and children 12 and under and Deerfield residents are free.

National Book Award-winner **Martín Espada** will give a poetry reading and book signing at the LAVA Center in Greenfield on Saturday, May 20 at 7 p.m. Local poet Mishie Serrano will also read. All proceeds will benefit the LAVA Center, and tickets are sliding scale.

The Brick House's **Unscripted Youth Improv Group Showcase** will be held on Sunday, May 21, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. at the Discovery Center in Turners Falls. The performance is the culmination of 16 weeks of creative collaboration.

"Games will be played, characters will be unveiled, and the most momentous court case of the century will be brought to a grand jury!" reads the press release, which also promises that food and refreshment will be abundant. The event is free and suitable for all ages.

The Tilton Library in South Deerfield is presenting an evening of questions and answers with **bird expert David Sibley** as a fundraiser for their capital campaign for a major renovation and expansion of the library building. The talk with this expert ornithologist and illustrator is at the Tree House Brewing Company in South Deerfield on Monday, May 22 at 7 p.m. Get tickets at [tinyurl.com/sibleytalk](http://tinyurl.com/sibleytalk).

This is the first event in a series called "Local Excellence" featuring authors, musicians, chefs, and local leaders. All proceeds from this and future events will go towards the campaign.

Join Montague Library director Caitlin Kelley for a workshop on identifying up-to-date and accurate health information on Wednesday, May 24 at Montague Town Hall Annex. "**Health Literacy for Seniors: Finding Reliable and Accurate Health Resources Online**" will help you tell what information is real and what's a scam. You will learn to navigate MedlinePlus, a health resource from the National Library of Medicine. The event runs from 2 to 3 p.m.

Artworks Gallery in Ware has put out a **call for art** expressing "authentic viewpoints of LGBTQIA+ experiences, underscoring identity, lifestyle, and diversification" for a "Show Your Pride" exhibit in honor of National Pride Month. The submissions must be made by May 25, and there are fees to submit. Find out the details at [workshop13.org](http://workshop13.org).

Registration is now open for the **Brick House's annual 5K race and "fun"-draiser** on Saturday, June 17 at 10 a.m. on the bike path in Unity Park. Walkers, rollers, and skaters are welcome to sign up for a one-mile, non-competitive course. There will be prizes from local vendors, and no one will be turned away for lack of funds.

Pre-registration is \$20, and race day registration will be \$25. Local, school-age children can register for free. Pre-register at [www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k](http://www.runreg.com/the-brick-house-5k). Proceeds support the Brick House community programs.

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

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**TOWN MTG** from page A1

selectboard asked be voted down. These were the only three articles voted down, but the debate left some members wondering if they were, in fact, the town's highest authority.

No line items were flagged when the town's \$11,961,596 operating budget was read, and it passed in nine minutes. Revenue from local taxi fees will cover the first \$6.80, with the remainder from taxation.

**Article 3** created a position at the public works department to oversee the combined sewer system, a move town administrator Steve Ellis said was long overdue. David Jensen of Precinct 2 criticized the decision to house the job at public works rather than with the Clean Water Facility (CWF). Selectboard chair Rich Kuklewicz accused him of "diminish[ing] the quality of work the DPW does."

Ellis said past work on the combined sewer system had greatly reduced the amount of sewage the town spills into the Connecticut River, but that completely separating the sewers would take "tens of millions" of dollars, a "prohibitive level of expense."

The airport budget was approved, and the airport drew praise for finally being self-funded. In response to a question, airport manager Bryan Camden said his own salary was increasing by "under 10%." Selectboard member Matt Lord pointed out that the increase was actually from roughly \$56,000 to roughly \$67,000.

"I think it's important that we get accurate answers to our questions," Precinct 2's Mike Naughton chided Camden.

**Article 12**, the Gill-Montague school district assessment of \$11,809,191, passed by majority vote. Fewer students are being lost to choice, charter schools, and Franklin

County Technical School (FCTS) than in recent memory, but members took the opportunity to ask superintendent Brian Beck about the schools' shortcomings.

Rich Ducharme asked about the ways a manufacturing job-readiness program was inferior to studying at FCTS, and then Kuklewicz, leaving the stage to speak in his role as an FCTS school committee member, accused Gill-Montague of not providing its 8th-graders a proper chance to visit FCTS. John Reynolds criticized the "current policy of all schools that schools are locked."

Most complicated — perhaps — was the discussion about **Articles 16, 17, and 18**. These would have taken \$25,000 from Clean Water Facility retained earnings for an electric vehicle for the department, \$63,364 from retained earnings and \$50,136 from CWF capital stabilization for a new boiler, and \$264,000 from retained earnings to upgrade to the plant's septage receiving system.

Last week, the selectboard had decided that this \$402,500 should instead be spent from the town's American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) account, federal funds given to the town to help relieve the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Precinct 1 member Ariel Elan said there is some risk that any ARPA funds not encumbered might be "clawed back" in a coming debt-ceiling fight in Washington, DC. Kuklewicz said using ARPA for the projects would also allow retained earnings to be spent instead on replacing the plant's screw pumps.

Though the selectboard asked for "no" votes, Precinct 4 member Jeff Singleton "strongly" called for members to instead vote "yes," explaining that he was "particularly concerned about the old town hall in

Montague Center" and that this would "send a message" to the board that ARPA funds should be spent on that building.

Lord said the board had determined long ago what fractions of the ARPA money should be spent on capital projects and at the CWF. "From my perspective, there is absolutely no connection between spending this on CWF projects and whether the old town hall would get funds," Lord said. "His concern for the old town hall in Montague Center is shared by me."

"What would happen if I vote yes, versus no?" asked Precinct 1's Elizabeth Irving.

"The selectboard has already voted," Ellis answered. "They are allowed to spend ARPA money."

Moderator Ray Godin warned that town meeting's authority "supercedes" the selectboard's.

But Kuklewicz said that if the articles were approved, his board would not use the appropriation, and it would be returned at a future town meeting. "There's nothing that would force us to use that funding source," he said.

"If we were to vote yes, it wouldn't matter?" asked Naughton. "That just seems wrong to me."

"Because ARPA is a grant fund, that is something that by statute can be spent by the selectboard," Greg Corso, the town's attorney, weighed in.

Former selectboard member Mike Nelson pointed out that at the beginning of the meeting, members had indeed approved Article 2, authorizing the selectboard to accept and spend grants. The question was called, and the articles were voted down by voice votes.

The final two articles dealt with a one-time

cash windfall by putting \$1.5 million into capital stabilization and \$750,000 into the town's trust fund for "other post-retirement benefits," or OPEB.


Town accountant Carolyn Olsen said Montague's eventual OPEB liability is in the range of \$11 million, and that the town has only been putting \$50,000 into the fund each year. "Most people think it's prudent to put money aside in advance when you know you have to pay it later," she said, "particularly when you can make interest on it, and reduce your potential costs."

Jen Audley of Precinct 4 said she preferred putting money into capital stabilization, as it also benefits the school district whereas "OPEB is all town."

"We have millions of dollars [of] found revenue at the end of the budget season, that doesn't calculate into how we split things with the school district," she said. "It feels a little unfair to me... We might need to rethink the affordable assessment [method]."

Naughton brought up that "years ago," in "a time of tight budgets," town meeting had been promised that restoring public access to Dry Hill Cemetery would be made a priority "when the opportunity presented itself." "I'd like to think that that promise is not simply forgotten," he said.

Sam Lovejoy of Precinct 1 had strong words about the private residents who had cut off public access to the cemetery, but argued that the issue "has nothing to do with deciding to fund a future liability with a little bit of magic money."

The articles passed, retiring town clerk Deb Bourbeau was applauded, and members were out before 2 p.m., breathing in the pollen delightedly. 

## AT LARGE

**Newcomer Wins Seat in Selectboard Shake-Up**

By CHIP AINSWORTH

**NORTHFIELD** — "Small town, big drama," was how one Northfield resident described the recent town election. Anyone whose family lineage doesn't date back to the Revolutionary War is considered a newcomer, but that didn't stop Sarah Kerns from throwing her hat in the ring for a selectboard seat.

The 52-year-old Kerns moved from the 508 area code two years ago, bought a cider press, and went to various town meetings. "I like to take notes, and decided to post the summaries online," she said.

Neighborhood activists were thrilled and convinced her to run for a seat against Bee Jacque and Mary Sullivan Bowen on the selectboard.

Another East Northfield resident, Michele Wood, was nominated to run for the planning board seat being vacated by Homer Stavelly. Her presence on the five-member panel would help tilt the balance of power away from its imperious, pro-growth chair Steve Sredynski and back toward environmentalist Joe Graveline.

Soon dystopian forces on social media began to accuse both women of spreading misinformation. "They are so mean! So nasty!" said Wood, "and what they say isn't true."

At a selectboard meeting in March, town administrator Andrea Llamas condescendingly accused Kerns of asking "inappropriate" questions, and Bowen told her to "sit tight and trust the selectboard."

"Rarely would any board member support my concerns," she said. "They talked down to me."

Wood was unopposed until a NextDoor gabber named Gail Weiss bought signs and started a write-in campaign, but Kerns had a tougher row to hoe against Jacque

and Bowen.

A letter to the editor in the *Greenfield Recorder* praised the town's "well functioning town government" and its "visionary committees," but others begged to differ, and I decided to help Kerns strategize and meet people.

**Democracy in Action**

The polls opened on May 2 at noon and closed at 8 p.m. I told town clerk Dan Campbell I was going to watch the vote count, and he told me to sit against the wall and be quiet. "That clock is four minutes slow," he said, pointing to a small white wall clock.

Several people pulled out their cell phones. It had been a long day for Campbell, his assistant Amanda Lynch, the constable and a half dozen poll workers. "It's 7:48," someone said.

Two minutes later Campbell looked at his watch and said, "I declare the polls closed."

On Highland Avenue, Kerns and Woods and their supporters waited for me to text them the results. Strangely, it felt like I was in a prison witnessing an execution, especially when the lights dimmed.

Before each election Campbell said he test-runs 100 ballots through two ImageCast portable voting machines. "They can't be hacked, tampered with or compromised," he said.

They can break, however, and the town was flying on one engine. "The primary machine broke down 15 minutes after we started," he said, "so we've used the spare."

In all there were 399 ballots — the most in three years, but still just 15% of the town's electorate. In the 2020 presidential election, 71% voted.

While they were stacking the ballots a poll worker told me they



Shortly after voting ended on May 2, poll workers inside Northfield Town Hall prepared to tally the results of the annual town election.

would be stored in manila envelopes. Campbell looked over and stuck his index finger into the air. "Don't talk to anyone," he said. "When can I see the count?" I asked.

He showed me a long thin slip of paper that looked like a cash register receipt. I squinted at the small type and saw the results in alphabetical order. Bee Jacque had survived the challenge, but Mary Bowen had not.

"It's not official," said Campbell. "But close enough?" I asked. He nodded and walked away.

In the parking lot I called Kerns and said, "Congratulations."

The official count was Jacque 261 votes, Kerns 234, and Bowen 196. All Bowen had to do to win, I thought, was to promise a free cone to anyone who showed their "I Voted" sticker to her at her Northfield Creamie stand, like Joe Biden had promised voters another stimulus check on election eve.

Michele Wood easily survived

Weiss's write-in challenge, 254 to 88. Her presence, said Graveline, "changes everything" with regard to supermajority votes, and will lessen the burden of dealing with Sredynski. "She will be there for me," he said, "and I will be there for Michele."

**The Aftermath**

"I'm just struck by how well Sarah did against an incumbent Chair," texted a local administrator. "She came within striking distance of beating Bee. I didn't expect that."

Indeed, Kerns had garnered the most runner-up votes in a selectboard race since at least 2004. When Joe Stacy challenged her in 2020, Jacque won 285 to 97.

Several factors worked in Kerns' favor: she campaigned, the incumbents did not, and her backers bullet-voted. She was supported by fiscally conservative voters including blue collar workers, senior citizens, and a new player — Thomas Aquinas College.

Kerns and Wood on their respective boards portends a seismic shift in town government, and suggests headwinds for out-of-town developers who put their own interests ahead of the town's.

**A Fast Turnaround**

Less than 24 hours after the election, Kerns was at her first selectboard meeting and was coolly received by Jacque. "I have lots to learn from you guys, and I'm looking forward to it," she said.

Jacque ceded her chairmanship to Alex Meisner, who said COVID had deprived him of his first chairmanship and blamed an "altered state of mind" for his outburst at the special town meeting.


Llamas pushed for yet another special town meeting so she can keep bankrolling her schemes for an emergency services facility, but a one-year moratorium may be in the offing. "Have a special town meeting for a \$5 million fire station, and we'll talk," said an East Northfield resident.

Meisner stopped Heath Cummings from continuing to whine about the may vote for the \$14.5 million boondoggle, but not before Cummings inadvertently insulted the police force by saying no cop worth his badge would want a job in Northfield.

Jacque took the baton and latched onto the image of sexually assaulted women staggering past the senior center. Histrionics notwithstanding, there has been one alleged sexual assault the past two years in Northfield, according to the annual town reports.

Although it will take time for Kerns to get her sea legs, she was pleasantly surprised by one positive change. "People are a lot nicer to me now," she said.

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**GILL** from page A1

settlement agreement is posted to the town's website, if anyone does want to take a look," said Purington. It is an attached file on the "Calendar of Events," under the May 8 selectboard meeting listing.

**New Used Car Lot**

The selectboard granted José DeJesus of Engine Up Automotive, LLC a license to sell used cars on a lot at 64 French King Highway.

The zoning board of appeals gave DeJesus a special permit for used car sales earlier this year, with a few conditions. They set a maximum for the number of vehicles on the property and clarified that all fluids must be properly disposed of off-site. A neighbor commented that they didn't want to see vehicles in the rear of the property, which is already addressed in the property lease.

DeJesus explained that he repairs vehicles in Chispee, but wants to display them for sale on the French King Highway, where they'll be more visible.

"Bob Higgins rented there for over 20 years," said Janet Masucci, who owns the property. "He had a used car license – José isn't going to do anything different. He's renting from me, so he's accountable to me."

**Town Meeting Delayed**

The selectboard voted to delay the annual town meeting, which was originally scheduled for May 22. Masucci, who records meetings for MCTV, suggested the delay so the meeting could be held indoors, in the refurbished town hall.

"I have done recordings on the town common when we had concerts there, and when trucks and things go by, it is ridiculously distracting," she said. "It was very challenging to get audio down."

The group proposed the evening of June 12, pending further discussion.

Purington gave an update on town hall restoration. "We're getting there," he said, explaining that painting will continue through next week, and then new flooring will be installed.

**Other Business**

Guardrails and posts at the North Cross Road bridge are broken and eroded. The selectboard voted to let

the highway department replace them, using \$5,560 from the FY'23 highway budget.

"How are you doing on your budget this year?" selectboard member Greg Snedeker asked highway superintendent John Miner.

"If I run the payroll until the end of the year, I've still got \$30,000," Miner answered.

The board awarded the contract for mowing town properties this summer to Artscape Landscaping, "the same company that's been doing it for five or six years, at least," according to Purington. "Their prices are right in line with what he charged last year, and I have no qualms about recommending him for the work again this year."

Purington said he had sent out bid requests to five local businesses, but Artscape was the only one to respond.

The board agreed to award the lease of the Boyle Lot and Mariamante Field for the growing season to Brian Peila, who has used them in previous years for haying. Peila will pay \$550 for use of the properties.

Purington is applying for the new FirstLight Sustain competitive grant program, hoping to use the funds for replacing the steps at the Riverside building. "It's a chance at free money," he explained. "I'm not bashful about applying for it on the off-chance that we get it."

The grants are "up to \$5,000," and available to towns near FirstLight facilities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. The materials and website do not state how many will be awarded; Purington said he had asked via email, but hadn't heard back. "Hopefully they've got a decent amount of money to give away, and we score well," he said.

The selectboard approved a 2023 public gathering permit for Turners Falls Schuetzen Verein. "It's the same as it's always been. We do a couple clam bakes a year. We do a car show every month," explained club representative John Miner.

The town election will be held Monday, May 15, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Voting will take place under a tent on the town common, in front of town hall.

The next "Clean Sweep" Bulky Waste Recycling Day is this Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. Drop-off sites, fees, and details about the materials accepted can be found on the town website, [www.gillmass.org](http://www.gillmass.org).

**Tip of the week ...**

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**PUBLIC HEARING – TOWN OF MONTAGUE  
FY2020 and FY2021 CDBG Program Updates**

The Town of Montague will hold a public hearing on Monday, May 22, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom; please refer to the Town's posted Selectboard agenda for the link (see [www.montague.net/g/46/Selectboard](http://www.montague.net/g/46/Selectboard)). The purpose of this meeting is to update the public on the status of the Town's FY 2020 and FY 2021 Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs. Grant activities are being administered by the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA).

The town of Montague encourages residents to attend the meeting where any person or organization wishing to be heard will be afforded the opportunity. A representative from the HRA will be on hand to discuss program activity.

The Town will make reasonable accessibility accommodation for any member of the community with mobility or language needs with seven days prior written notice to the Selectboard's office. Accommodations will be made for handicapped and non-English speaking clients. All group/client meetings will be held in fully handicapped accessible buildings. Additionally, interpreters will be available as necessary to accommodate hearing impaired and non-English speaking clients.

If residents are unable to be present at the public hearing, written comments can be made to Walter Ramsey, Assistant Town Administrator, Montague Town Hall, Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA 01376.

*The Town of Montague is an equal opportunity provider.*

**MONTAGUE** from page A1

a formal vote, and with little discussion of the technology itself.

Cleanawater, an Australian company specializing in misting equipment describes it this way: "Utilising a complex blend of essential oils and odiferous organic compounds, they encourage absorption and decomposition processes, thereby converting odour molecules into non-volatile compounds.... Misting odour neutraliser units typically feature a combination of ultra-fine atomization of liquids and pressurised fluids, which are distributed via mist forming nozzles."

The board's unexpected decision followed a presentation by Little on the sources of the odor at the treatment plant. She noted that Montague's plant, compared to others in the region, is relatively close to a residential neighborhood. She pointed out that one major sewer user in the industrial park discharges fermented soy milk, and another sends "fish waste sludge" to the plant.

The plant also holds sludge for a significant amount of time, and stores "pressed cake" for disposal in a trailer. Little suggested that a sludge-composting facility, which the town has been considering, might help reduce that problem.

A 16-page fact sheet issued by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on *Odor Control in Biosolids Management* analyzes the sources of offensive odors and reviews the effectiveness and cost of various "alternative treatment processes." The EPA recommends that treatment plants interested in composting implement a "comprehensive odor audit" by an expert in the field, and take "a holistic approach [examining] the complete system from sewer users to land application practices."

The fact sheet also recommends "effective communications with those groups that may be negatively impacted by odors." Little told the *Reporter* that better communication was one of the reasons she put the discussion on the board's agenda.

The EPA states that misting systems, which

it puts in the broader category of "Counteractants, Neutralizing Agents and Oxidizing Agents," "can be initiated quickly at a low capital cost. The use of oxidizing agents, or counteractants, in the waste stream can greatly reduce odors in the workplaces especially around thickening and dewatering equipment."

On the negative side, the sheet warns that "the perfume-like odor from some neutralizing agents may be perceived as an objectionable or nuisance odor," and that "the system has a poor database and limited information on odor removal efficiency."

The fact sheet is dated September 2000.

Besides discussing odor, Little reviewed her monthly summary, required under the plant's state and federal permits, of the plant's discharge into the Connecticut River. The levels of total suspended solids (TSS) and of biochemical oxygen demand (BOD), a measure of organic matter, removed by the treatment process were once again above state and federal criteria, and the flow of effluent into the river well below the amount allowed. The level of acidity, or pH, of the effluent fell within the criteria as well.

"Having BOD at 8.3 [parts per million] is a really beautiful number," Little said. "That's really clean water going into the river."

Little reported that the deadline for comment on the town's draft federal discharge permit – which focuses on both the sewer plant and the "collection system" which feeds it – had been extended until this Friday. She said she and town administrator Steve Ellis were working on expressing Montague's concerns, shared by other communities in the region, about the timelines and "funding constraints" for implementing new permit requirements.

Little also questioned the requirements in the draft permit for a 100-year flood plan, because projections suggest the town may not "be in that zone."

Little reviewed a number of projects underway at the plant, noting that of nine "active" projects, eight are funded partially or

entirely by grants. She said a project will start this winter to upgrade diffusers and blowers to aerate the secondary treatment system in a manner more suitable for the sewage the plant has been receiving since 2017, when the last paper mill closed.

A project to evaluate a potential sludge composting facility, funded in part by a \$150,000 "rural and small towns" grant, will take place over the next year. Ellis stressed that this will include strong "community outreach." Improvements to a pump station at the industrial park, funded by another state grant, have been extended for a year due to delays in purchasing equipment. The board unanimously approved the extension request.

Finally Little updated the board on the installation of the used generator the facility has recently purchased, noting that an electrical contractor needs to be procured.

**River Rats**

The selectboard took an hour to discuss the proposed recreational settlement agreement between Montague and the FirstLight Power company under the company's federal relicensing process. (See article, Page A1.) Just over half this time was spent on the slides, including maps, of the key recreational facilities on or near the Connecticut River FirstLight has agreed to create or upgrade.

Ellis also went into some detail about a separate "fish and flow" agreement, which the town was not directly part of but which would impact the amount of water available for whitewater rafting, particularly below the Turners Falls Dam.

Selectboard members asked no questions, and there were virtually no other "stakeholders" present beyond town meeting member Ariel Elan, who called the agreement and the process a "travesty." While she seemed to support the basic elements of the recreational settlement, she suggested that the town had been "strong-armed" into accepting the fish and flow agreements, which she said would not sufficiently allow the Connecticut River to return to its natural state.

The selectboard is scheduled to take a vote on the agreement at its May 15 meeting. Ellis said he will be accepting "public comment" at his town administrator email until that evening.

**Other Business**

The board approved a request from the Montague Center Fire Association for the use of public property for the annual Memorial Day celebration, which will take place on Sunday, May 28 from 11 a.m. to noon.

The board approved the use of \$30,000 in federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to bridge a five-month gap in Montague's Community Development Block Grant funding for three social service agencies: the Brick House, Montague Catholic Social Ministries, and the Western Mass Recovery Learning Community. The board also approved a motion to enter into professional services agreements with the organizations.

Ellis discussed the latest developments in the bidding process to repair the roofs on the town-owned Shea Theater and Colle buildings. He said that the low bidder, which he did not name, abruptly announced they had made an error in their calculations and wanted to change the "scope" of the project, which would be a violation of state procurement law. Ellis said he believed the other two bids, which both assumed the need to rebuild extensive ductwork on the Shea roof, were "really, really high."

After being presented a number of options, including using ARPA money to cover the high bids, the board seemed inclined to reconfigure the specs enough to legally rebid the job. Ellis said he would consult with the project architect to develop a legal, cost-effective, and timely way of doing that.

Ellis briefly reviewed the annual town meeting, which took place last Saturday. He called the "cider and donuts" event held in the hour preceding the meeting "an amazing community-building event."

The next scheduled selectboard meeting will be held May 15.



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ERVING from page A1

Burnett replied that he did not want to pit department against department, but felt that up to \$400,000 to balance the budget should be available in a later article, if a portion of the \$911,000 requested for capital improvements came from the town's general stabilization fund rather than from tax appropriation. Projects listed under capital improvements included a fire ventilation system, Bridge Street and Maple Street reconstruction, and a plow truck and sander.

Principal assessor Jacquelyn Boyden noted that the town also has other upcoming major projects, such as the Swamp Road Bridge, which might need to draw on the stabilization funds.

"Where are we going to get the money to fund next year, if we take from stabilization?" asked fin com member Daniel Hammock.

Before the article on capital improvements was taken up, the meeting considered spending \$60,000 for employee raises. An amendment from selectboard member Scott Bastarache to increase the amount to \$120,000 to allow the town to pay employees "market value" was approved, increasing the amount of budget imbalance to \$392,000.

When the meeting took up

capital improvements, Burnett's amendment to balance the budget by funding from stabilization rather than taxation was defeated.

Selectboard chair Jacob Smith proposed an amendment that would change the funding source for the capital improvements from tax appropriation and free cash to free cash entirely, in an effort to free up the tax money for the school budget restoration and employee raises. He proposed partially offsetting this use of free cash by reducing the amount of free cash being transferred into the general stabilization fund from \$128,000 to \$100,000.

Boyden commented that Smith's amendment would balance the budget without requiring a Proposition 2½ override.

Bastarache said Smith's amendment didn't allow for future funding of capital expenditures, and could create future deficits.

"Funding out of free cash is not, financially, a great idea," Hammock agreed.

Smith replied that as a source of funding, he considered free cash to be "slightly better than stabilization," and that balancing the FY'24 budget using free cash would give the town time to work on balancing its budget in the future.

His amendment passed by a majority vote.

**That's Dedication...**

The 2022 annual town report was dedicated to David Brule, in recognition of his 41 years (and counting) on the conservation commission, and his service on the Millers Falls Watershed Council Advisory Board, the planning board, the open space planning committee, the Franklin County planning board, the master plan committee, the historical commission, and the golden cane committee. Brule is also the town's archaeological preservation officer.

The dedication in the report cited his work with the Nolumbeka Project and his columns in the *Montague Reporter*.

"Not only has David been a resident of Erving for many years, but he's also proven to be an active and valuable member of Erving's community," it read. "He's provided a wealth of knowledge, experience, and leadership, and those who've worked with David hold him in high regard and are grateful for all he has, and continues to offer. We don't see David slowing down anytime soon."

**Other Business**

Town meeting members approved a \$5.7 million general operating budget for FY'24, an increase of approximately 6% over FY'23. The general operating budget cov-

ers general government functions, police and fire departments, health and human services, culture and recreation, and employee benefits.

The meeting funded secondary education at \$1.5 million, and Franklin County Technical School at \$528,000.

One voter questioned a proposed expenditure of \$1.05 million for the wastewater enterprise fund, pointing out that taxpayers with private septic systems help pay for sewer services for other residents. Boyden suggested the selectboard consider a reimbursement or credit for homeowners who are required to repair their septic systems. The wastewater expenditure was approved.

The meeting approved setting up a special stabilization fund for payments from a national opioid settlement and transferring \$22,716 already received into the fund.

Voters also agreed to set up a cable advisory committee and to allow the town clerk to make non-substantial edits to the town bylaws.

After the 10:30 p.m. deadline proposed by moderator Richard Peabody came and went, the meeting agreed to pass over a personnel by-law and a winter snow parking ban, with the understanding that these articles would be considered at a special town meeting in the future.

**NOTES FROM THE WENDELL SELECTBOARD**

## Depleted Planning Board Begs for Fresh Blood; Rollout of New Website Pushed to the Summer

By JOSH HEINEMANN

Paul Doud was elected to the Wendell selectboard on May 1, and attended his first meeting as a board member May 3. He said he came mostly to listen and learn, as he had at the April 27 meeting, which he attended as a private citizen.

The first order of business on May 3 was board reorganization. Selectboard member Gillian Budine nominated Laurie DiDonato as selectboard chair, and she was elected with no dissenting votes.

The board appointed Beth Leonard, as well as Phil Delorey – the town's project manager, building inspector, and road commission chair – to the zoning board of appeals (ZBA).

Molly Doody and Mary Thomas met the board to say they were the only remaining members of the planning board, which leaves them unable to conduct business. They may discuss issues, but may not act until at least three members are present, a quorum for the five-member board.

Doody suggested working with Erving town planner, Mariah Kurtz. Town coordinator Glenn Johnson-Mussad said former fin com chair Doug Tanner might be willing to join them, and Budine suggested getting the word out. ZBA member Don Bartlett said he would write something from the point of view of people waiting for planning board action.

Doody also mentioned that the planning board room, at the end of the town office building farthest from the router, does not have access to the internet.

**Town Meeting**

The annual town meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6. Former selectboard member Dan Keller proposed an article that would petition the state to allow 16-year-olds to vote and serve on town boards. The legislature did not act on a prior similar proposal.

This year Wendell and New Salem both scheduled their town meetings for June 6. Officials at Swift River School, which the two towns share, asked that they coordinate so one puts the school budget at the beginning of the meeting, the other at the end. This would allow school personnel to speak about their budget request at both towns.

Johnson-Mussad said it is not easy to change

when the school budget is voted. It is part of Article 4, the town operating expenses, rather than as a separate article which could be moved with the voters' approval.

**New Website**

Johnson-Mussad suggested a pause in onboarding the town's new website. He said it is hard to start a project in the final weeks of a fiscal year, and that starting the 12-week training period now would make it overlap fiscal years.

Including homework, the training is estimated to take 36 to 60 hours, and pay for that training is complicated as well. Four people signed up – Johnson-Mussad, Budine, town board clerk Ashley Penna, and citizen Sam Birch – at four different pay rates: Johnson-Mussad is salaried, Penna is paid hourly, Budine said she would pass on getting paid, and Birch is not yet on the payroll.

A "town coordinator special projects" line item has been suggested for the FY'24 budget. Pay for the training can be an approved American Rescue Plan Act expense.

Budine said a digital equity program is available in Franklin County to help lower-income students get computers and have an internet connection at home.

**Water Samples**

Johnson-Mussad said Housatonic Basin Sampling and Testing wants to stop providing Wendell its water testing service. The town well supplies the town's public buildings: the town hall, police station, senior center, library, and office building.

Town custodian Eric Shufelt had started the training for water testing, but his training was interrupted by the COVID shutdown. He may be willing to complete the training and take over regular sampling of Wendell's town water.

Budine said Water and Wastewater Systems tests the water at Swift River School, and said she would have them contact the selectboard.

**Camp Too Popular**

Massachusetts Audubon director of central and western regions Stephen Hutchinson and education coordinator and camp director Elizabeth Broughton, connected to the meeting to answer a request for another campership as par-

tial payment *in lieu* of the property tax that the non-profit does not pay Wendell.

Hutchinson said the money for the camperships comes from a finite endowment for education, and that there is not enough for another. They began by offering one campership to Wendell children, and now offer two.

Audubon has a program aimed at educating students at Swift River School in other ways. The first attempt was to bring materials into classrooms, but that proved disruptive; now they provide field trips with transportation to their Wachusett Meadow wildlife sanctuary.

Budine said the school appreciates the field trips, and suggested that the process for selecting campers begin earlier this year, in the fall. Hutchinson agreed to come to the board's first September meeting. He said there is a long waiting list for the Wildwood Camp, and that an earlier start will allow a winning camper more flexibility in choosing which week to attend. Applications for this summer's camperships are due at the selectboard office May 15.

Hutchinson said that Whetstone Wood in Wendell, being committed to remaining undisturbed and wild, cannot be open to the public.

**Other Business**

Tree warden Cliff Dornbusch said he and three volunteers had bucked up a cord and a half of firewood at the wood bank, but the road crew must have dumped a load of brush where he hoped to stack the prepared wood. He needs to speak with the road commission or highway supervisor. There is a log, probably cut by National Grid, near the town line on New Salem Road that he is willing to buck up but is unable to move.

Wendell emergency management director Lonny Ricketts and MEMA Central Massachusetts coordinator Allen Phillips offered Wendell a "comprehensive emergency management plan" to have in place for emergencies that may occur when Ricketts is not available.

By approving a consent agenda as a whole, the selectboard appointed Leonard to the ZBA, approved a one-day liquor license for Home Fruit Wines of Orange at the Diemand Farm Spring Fest – postponed to May 20 because of rain – and approved a hybrid meeting project with the UMass Collins Center.

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**LEVERETT** from page A1

Chapter 78 of the bylaws. Residents can report a violation to the town, which a group of Cave Hill Road residents did recently, prompting Monday's hearing.

"We have tried for years to make our neighbors understand that their dogs are disturbing us. Phone calls and letters are hardly ever answered or acknowledged," said Jim Grogan, speaking on behalf of the complainants. "We're here to ask you to please make it clear to them that we are entitled to peace and quiet in our neighborhood and especially inside our homes."

Around a dozen people attended the hearing, all of whom live on or near Cave Hill Road, including Ursula Humphrey and her partner, who own three dogs; at least six neighbors who complained about the dogs' barking; and two other neighbors who spoke in defense of the owners.

"They're big, loud dogs. That's completely true," said Humphrey. "I love big, loud dogs, and I know not everybody does. I grew up with them, I love them, and quite frankly they make me feel safe and secure... But I don't want it to bother our neighbors at all."

The barking has been an issue for at least five years, according to Grogan, who said he loses sleep because of the dogs "barking for hours at an extreme volume." He brought a portable speaker to the hearing and played a clip of the barking, which he said was recorded in his living room about 150 feet from Humphrey's yard, and provided the selectboard with documentation of the exact times and frequency of the barking.

"Our neighborhood can't get peace," Grogan said.

"It's a dog fight, the level of aggression," said Frank Iglehart. "It makes it sound like something serious is going on."

Humphrey said that she and her partner have done their best to reduce the noise, and have found their neighbors' reactions "disheartening."

"There were times I was getting called by our neighbors so often, every night," she said. "Even times when the dogs were not home. Any reports of barking were blamed on them."

The dispute was reportedly complicated by the recent resignation of police officer Meghan Gallo, who had served as the town's animal control officer and had been meeting with the owners.

"It's too bad the dog officer isn't here, because we met with them and spoke with them repeatedly about what we're doing," Humphrey said. "Officer Gallo made it clear that she was not recommending a hearing."

Humphrey chronicled all the ways she and her partner had been trying to keep their rescue dogs quiet, including using cruelty-free bark collars, keeping their windows closed, and not letting the dogs out between 10 p.m. and 6:30 a.m., when they might be in violation of the town's noise bylaw. The couple said they had also tried dog training classes with no success. Recently, they started using collars that emit an ultrasonic sound whenever the dogs bark, and have yet to determine if they make a difference.

"We're still open to anything we can do that is humane and keeps them with our family, with less of an impact on our neighbors," Hum-

phrey said.

Based on testimony from the hearing, the selectboard determined the dogs were in violation of the town's dog bylaw and noise ordinance. Selectboard member Melissa Colbert suggested that in lieu of fines or removing the dogs from the home, the owners should be required to muzzle the dogs whenever they are outdoors.

"It sounds like the owners have done a lot," Colbert said. "We don't want it to come to the point of the removal of the dogs if neither bylaw is adhered to."

The selectboard voted to order the owners to muzzle the dogs while outdoors, to notify them in writing of the potential for fines, and to check back in 30 days to assess any improvement.

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### Fire chief Brian Cook told the selectboard his department has responded to five brush fires since April 11. "It's definitely a strong brush fire season," Cook said. "We're getting good use of the brush truck."

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**Fire Safety**

A busy brush fire season is already underway, fire chief Brian Cook told the selectboard. His department has responded to five brush fires – in Leverett, Shutesbury, Montague, Deerfield, and Sunderland – since April 11.

"It's definitely a strong brush fire season," Cook said. "We're getting good use of the brush truck."

The department is also beginning to regulate photovoltaic and battery storage systems. In December, the state adopted new fire code regulations requiring local departments to review plans for any photovoltaic or battery storage system, and to make sure the homes have proper signage and roof access in case of a fire.

The Leverett Fire Department has reviewed plans for six or seven roof-mounted solar arrays since March, Cook said. "They're very popular."

In-home solar battery systems over one kilowatt-hour will also require fire department approval, and must be located in a place where a fire could burn for at least two hours without spreading.

"The important issues are to make sure if there is an issue or fire with the system, it stays contained to the storage system area, and the fire department knows where the shut offs are, along with making sure all components are properly labeled and marked," Cook told the Reporter. "Homeowners are typically unaware of the regulations surrounding energy storage systems. However, all installers and manufacturers should be knowledgeable in the process and requirements."

National Fire Protection Association guidelines state that solar batteries cannot be located in living areas, bedrooms, closets, or spaces opening directly into sleeping rooms. Most people install them in garages or basements to aid fire retention, Cook said, but fire-resistant drywall is another way to meet the safety requirements elsewhere in the home.

There are no permitted battery

systems in Leverett yet, Cook said, but he noted there are two or three homes with Tesla Powerwalls in Shutesbury.

To keep up with the times, the selectboard approved new categories for fire safety inspections Monday night, which Cook drafted based on regulations adopted in Easthampton and Westfield. The inspection and approval of new photovoltaic and battery storage systems will now cost \$50 each.

**New Hires**

Two firefighters, Andrew Jablonski and Tim Cowles, are resigning effective July 1. Cook presented the selectboard with a potential new hire, Griffin Connor, a local resident and recent high school graduate with some emergency medical experience, but no experience with firefighting. The chief estimated it will take six to 12 months to fully train the new hire. The selectboard voted unanimously to give him the authority to hire Connor.

Only one person has applied for the town's full-time police officer position, left vacant after the recent resignation of Officer Gallo. The potential new hire lives in West Springfield, outside the 15-mile range within which state law requires emergency services personnel to live.

Selectboard member Patricia Duffy suggested the town hire the officer, and give them a "reasonable amount of time" to relocate somewhere closer. The board agreed six to 12 months would be enough time.

The Leverett police chief and sergeant use town vehicles to commute to and from their homes, and selectboard members agreed that if the new officer were to move up the ranks, the town would have to reassess its residency requirements, and perhaps ask the officer to move closer to avoid excessive wear on town vehicles.

With those conditions, the selectboard voted unanimously to give Chief Scott Minckler the authority to hire the new officer.

"Scott is having a heck of a time finding people to fill positions, because no one wants to work shifts," Hankinson observed.

**Other Business**

The town is moving forward with a grant application to repair the Mill Yard Bridge, a project expected to take about five years from design through completion.

Hankinson gave a brief report on a conference he attended about decarbonization. "It's not long wishful thinking – they are decarbonizing, on a large scale, municipalities and businesses," Hankinson said. "I didn't hear anyone do what I want to do, which is decarbonize the whole damn town, and I still think it's something we can do and get funding to do."

"We should be the first one to do it, the first little town to do it," Colbert added. "Convince people to give us money because we'll be the first example."

Selectboard members discussed having the position of chair rotate to a different member each term, but Duffy said her health prevents her from taking on the additional responsibility. Hankinson was re-elected as chair and Colbert as vice chair, both unanimously. The three agreed to discuss their goals for reorganization at a future date.



## LOOKING BACK: 10 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

*Here's the way it was on May 9, 2013: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

**A Pipe Dream Dashed**

The 8" diameter asbestos cement sewer line running on the west side of Millers Falls Road, going past the entrance to Industrial Boulevard, is plugged. Most of the removed material is sand and stones, indicating that the pipe is broken.

The Montague DPW installed the pipe in the 1950s, long before shoring regulations. During construction, DPW employees worked in peril of their lives down in an unshored trench as deep as 18 feet. The DPW has neither shoring nor equipment to comply with today's restrictions, and to dig deep enough to replace the plugged sewer main.

On Tuesday Joe Dodge of the DPW, wearing hazardous materi-

al coveralls and a respirator, was lowered into the 14-foot-deep manhole at the entrance to the mobile home park by his co-worker Robert Brownlee using a hand-operated winch attached to his body harness. He reported that considerable groundwater is infiltrating the hole.

**Zoning Change Approved**

In a seven-hour meeting notable for its lack of fireworks, the only article that raised the temperature of Montague town meeting was a motion to lower the minimum square footage for an apartment in a multi-family dwelling. Both proponents and opponents of the zoning change acknowledged the issue had come up as a result of the proposed redevelopment of the former Montague Center School. Proponents carried the day, with 63 to 13 voting in favor of the change.

## 20 YEARS AGO

*Here's the way it was on May 8, 2003: News from the Montague Reporter's archive.*

**Bikeway on Home Stretch**

The Franklin County Bikeway is finally moving off the drawing board and onto solid ground. With \$2 million in federal and state transportation funds secured, the Canalside Trail is scheduled to go out to bid by MassHighway in the late summer or early fall of 2003.

**Downtowns' Faded Glory**

A number of façade improvements are underway on some of the historic buildings in Millers Falls, including the old Eagle Society building on Third Street, now owned by Mike Langknecht and Spencer Peterman, which is seeing an entire renovation of the two-story porch by Renais-

sance Builders, on top of a cement wheelchair ramp courtesy of Renaissance Excavators. It is one of several projects underway through a \$330,000 Ready Resource grant from the Department of Housing and Community Development.

**Brick House Has New Director**

The Brick House, a community resource center in Montague for more than a decade, has a new director, Mike Bosworth. He has plans to cultivate a network of resources with the Brick House as a vital link.

To begin with, he plans to move the Brick House to the MCTV building, a real brick building on Third Street, for more space to consolidate his disparate programs under one roof. "People have thought of us in a social service mode," he explains, "but we have now moved more into a prevention mode."

## 150 YEARS AGO

*Here's the way it was on May 12 and 19, 1873: News from the Greenfield Gazette's archive.*

**(An Outside Perspective.)**

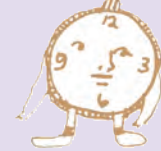
At Turners Falls on the third inst., Wm. Augustus Atwood "chewed" Benjamin Franklin Russell's nose \$16.05 worth. Damages were assessed by G. L. Barton, Esq. Beef is tenderer and quite as cheap. Dr. Hall dressed the injured member.

A flock of ducks belonging up the river, got into the stream the other day and after bravely trying to stem the current, were carried over the dam. Of course spectators looked below for dead ducks, but strange to say they all came right side up, part of them lodging on the rocks of the island, and the others going down stream.

State Constables Miller, Phelps

and Hutchinson, seized a keg of lager beer at Wm. Schuler's on Friday.

A probably fatal accident occurred at the Hoosac Tunnel, East End, on Tuesday morning. Several blasts had been made with Giant powder, and one charge which had been prepared had missed fire. Timothy Sullivan, in going to work, on the "bench," was obliged to pass under the enlargement in the vicinity of the unexploded charge, but was cautioned by the blasters to wait until it was ascertained whether there was danger of an explosion, but he carelessly paid too little heed to the advice given him, and when directly under the enlargement the charge exploded. He was severely cut about the face and head, and both legs were broken. There is but little hope of the injured man's recovery, and should he die he will leave a large family.



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**HEALTH** from page A1

According to the public health advocates we spoke with, while the policies and ideas embodied in SAPHE 2.0 were given a great boost by the COVID-19 pandemic, the legislation can be traced to a “Special Commission on Local and Regional Public Health,” which was established in 2016 and issued a report in 2019 entitled *Blueprint For Public Health Excellence*. (Walker served on the commission.)

The report portrayed Massachusetts’ public health system in dismal terms, hobbled by localism and a virtual absence of state funding.

“Massachusetts is unique in the country in that it has a board of health for each of its 351 cities and towns and a long and proud history of home rule,” the commission reported. “Its tiny, standalone boards of health, many formed over a century ago, stand in contrast to the county or regional organization of local public health authority in most other states. Their budgets, often bare bones, are the sole responsibility of individual cities and towns, with no dedicated state funding. Their ever-expanding duties are determined by a patchwork of state laws and regulations in addition to local ordinances and by-laws. They report to numerous officials, yet there are few systems in place to assess their performance and no benchmarks for their overall success.”

The report’s executive summary went on to say that local health departments were already “struggling” to meet traditional tasks such as “communicable diseases, food safety, housing, sewage, well water, and environmental hazards,” and that since the turn of the century, “their list of duties has ballooned to include protecting the environment, planning for natural and manmade disasters, preventing new insect and tick-borne diseases, reducing substance addiction, reducing the prevalence of chronic diseases, and improving mental health.”

The highly localized system identified in the report, marked by racial and class disparities and a rural-urban divide, was deemed “inconsistent and inequitable.”

The state Department of Public Health (DPH) established a grant program to promote shared services in January 2020, and FRCOG’s Public Health Service was among the first programs to be awarded the grant. The arrival of the pandemic in the months that followed, and in particular labor-intensive efforts to reduce infection such as vaccinations and contact tracing, resulted in a wave of emergency state funding, and greater collaboration between local health departments.

The program was rebranded “SAPHE 1.0” after the passage of a bill signed by former governor Charlie Baker in April 2020 that funded grants to encourage regional collaboration. This bill also mandated DPH to submit a report by March 2022 analyzing “needs, opportunities, challenges, timeline and cost analysis for the implementation of the foundational public health services.”

In 2021, a coalition of advocacy groups began lobbying for a more robust state program, with dedicated funding, to address the inequities identified in the 2019 study. The result was legislation known as “SAPHE 2.0,” which Massachusetts Public Health Association executive director Carlene Pavlos said would “ensure that strong public health protections are available to all residents of our Commonwealth – regardless of race, income, or zip code.”

The bill established a set of “baseline” public health standards for every community in the Commonwealth, and a new grant program to help towns meet those mandates and encourage regional collaboration. It passed

both houses on Beacon Hill – unanimously – in the summer of 2022.

Baker, however, argued that unsecured state funding promised by the bill could produce an “unfunded mandate,” or create a dynamic where local municipalities accept state money and stop contributing local funding for public health.

At the beginning of August 2022 he returned the bill with a proposed amendment that would, according to an article in *Commonwealth Magazine*, “let cities and towns opt into the new standards. They would then be eligible for financial assistance from the Department of Public Health, on condition that they maintain local spending at at least the amount spent the year before opting in.”

The legislative session had nearly ended at that time, so SAPHE 2.0 died last summer, only to be resurrected this winter with Maura Healey as governor. Senator Jo Comerford (D-Northampton) is the main sponsor of the bill in the state senate. The current version is nearly identical to the bill passed last summer, and does not include the Baker amendment; it would, however, require state standards to be “subject to appropriation.”

“This is legalese for saying that the requirements in the bill only take effect if sufficient funding is provided,” a staff member at Comerford’s office told us in a memo.

The Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA), which represents cities and towns on Beacon Hill, has expressed concern that this language is too vague, and could be interpreted to refer to appropriation by localities, rather than the state. In a letter to the joint committee, MMA director Geoff Beckwith proposed that the line be amended to “subject to appropriation by the Commonwealth.”

Beckwith also proposed adding language to avoid what the MMA believes are potential violations of Proposition 2½, the property tax limit law, and to “help create a more comprehensive picture of the costs”.

Most of the advocacy groups the *Reporter* contacted seemed confident that the legislation, with a few tweaks, will pass this year and be signed by Governor Healey.

Speakers testifying at the May 4 hearing expressed few caveats, with the exception of a spokesperson for an organization called Health Rights of Massachusetts, who offered concern that SAPHE 2.0 might “infringe on the rights of people to make their own health decisions.” The group writes on its website that it is a “100% grassroots citizen initiative” that is currently “collecting stories of injury, loss and coercion due to the covid vaccines from Massachusetts residents.”

“During COVID, our small health department staff was called upon to serve as contact tracers for many of our neighbors,” Northampton mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra told the committee, “and we continue today to host a public health excellence grant providing regional public health nursing to a total of 14 towns.”

“We were able to bring vaccination, health education, and disease tracking to towns like Middlefield or Plainfield, with populations well below a thousand, who simply do not have the resources to provide those services. Our regional collaboration shows great promise, but its future is dependent on the passage of SAPHE 2.0.”

Glenn Ayers, retired regional health agent for Franklin County and a resident of Leverett, testified that SAPHE 2.0 would “revolutionize the public health delivery system.”

Walker, FRCOG’s community services director, was just as emphatic. “This bill,” she told the joint committee, “would finally bring our state into the 21st century.”

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**RECREATION** from page A1

Look At FirstLight Recreation Negotiations”). Comparing maps in the two documents, a put-in point for boats at Unity Park has been moved slightly upstream to the field commonly called the “dog park,” and the location of stairs down to the river near Rock Dam has shifted.

A blueprint of planned developments under the Turners Falls Dam, scheduled for Years 3 and 4 of the company’s requested 50-year license, suggests that the company might position a public “viewing platform” on top of the concrete structure that currently serves as a fish ladder. In Year 9, the company has proposed elsewhere, this ladder would be replaced by a fish elevator.

The company’s offer upstream at Cabot Camp, at the confluence of the Millers River, remains the same: to install a picnic table, build a trail, and work to help find a developer to meet the town’s vision for a public park. Downstream at Poplar Street, the plan is still to install a stairs, a floating dock, and a port-a-potty.

Montague town administrator Steve Ellis told the selectboard on May 8 that the settlement talks had been held up by “entanglements between fish and flow and recreation.” Another set of negotiations, concerning erosion especially in Gill and Northfield that many attribute to the fluctuating levels of the “impoundment” of water above the dam, reportedly fell apart.

“We weren’t necessarily comfortable, as stakeholders, signing onto a recreation agreement without the option to remain engaged in conversations around erosion,” Ellis explained.

Under the resulting compromise, all parties signing the recreation agreement would promise not to dispute anything covered by the fish-and-flows agreement – with a

specific exception carved out for lobbying around erosion concerns.

The flows agreement includes scheduled releases of water at the Turners Falls Dam and at Station No. 1 – the small power plant in the Patch – meant to facilitate water sports such as whitewater rafting on 12 weekends each year. It also increases the minimum flows to the river’s so-called “bypass stretch” for most of the year.

This summer the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is expected to produce a draft license and ask the state of Massachusetts to spend a year reviewing its potential impact, in order to issue a Water Quality Certification in accordance with Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act.

This is expected to be the final period of lobbying and advocacy by stakeholders over what may be a license locking in the region’s hydroelectric operations for 50 years.

At the May 1 meeting the selectboard members offered muted response to Ellis’s presentation. Chair Rich Kuklewicz said he was concerned that silt was gradually washing over the dam at Turners Falls, and also “about the impact on our residents for as far as tax base goes.... FirstLight is the largest rate payer in Montague, and this is going to have an impact, so I think that we need to be reasonable.”

Energy committee member Ariel Elan called the process a “travesty,” criticizing the requirement that towns effectively sign the agreement on flows as a condition of the recreation settlement, and adding that she believed state and federal wildlife agencies were “subject to enormous strong-arming” before signing the former agreement this spring.

Ellis said he would collect comment at [townadmin@montague-ma.gov](mailto:townadmin@montague-ma.gov) until next Monday night’s meeting, when the board is expected to vote.



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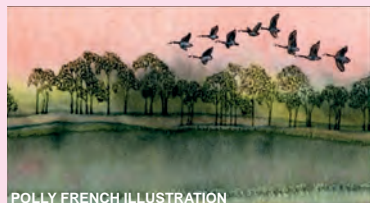




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MAY 11, 2023



WEST ALONG THE RIVER

STORIES OF A DAY IN MAY

By DAVID BRULE

**PESKEOMPSKUT** – May 19, 1676 is a date that will forever mark this place.

May 18, 1676, Hadley: I have no doubt that Captain William Turner awoke from a fitful, restless sleep on the morning of May 18. He knew there would soon be a battle at the falls, that the young men of Hatfield and Hadley, Deerfield and Brookfield had revenge in their hearts. They were increasingly furious over the loss of homes, crops, cattle, and fields to those whom they considered the rebellious Indians.

He would not be able to hold them back much longer.

He did not know that he would be dead by noontime the next day.

May 18, 1676, Peskeompskut: John Wecopeak, Narragansett war captain, slept well. His wigwam above the falls on the north shore of the great river provided shelter from the May rain, and his doe-skin bedding gave him warmth. He and forty of his fellow Native soldiers were camped among the 400 non-combatants – the elderly, women and children – while the main camp of the heavily-armed Native coalition forces had pitched their wigwams on the south shore opposite.

His people were exhausted, but the fishing had been good, and the beef of the cows they had raided the day before had filled stomachs. It had been a hard winter of flight from the murderous shores of the Atlantic, where the Native coalition forces of Nipmuck, Narragansett, and Wampanog had fought the colonies to a standstill.

But the elderly, women and children needed sanctuary here at the falls of Peskeompskut, a truce zone where they had been safe for the past 10,000 years.

William Turner, for his part, was dismayed. Weeks earlier, he had written the Massachusetts Bay Colony to be relieved of this command. He wrote that he was too old for this mission. He was 62, sick from being held for five years in a Puritan jail for his Baptist faith. He had been freed and told that if, given some limited military training, he went out to the Connecticut River Valley to fight Indians, he and his Baptist brethren could build a church in Boston.

But, as Turner wrote to the Massachusetts Bay Colony authorities on April 25: "... the soldiers here are in great distress for want of clothing, both linen and woolen. I should be glad if some

better person might be found for this employment, for my weakness of body and often infirmities will hardly suffer me to do my duty as I ought." (Sylvester Judd. 1905, pp. 160-61.)

The authorities at Boston refused his request. His fate was sealed, as we now know.

May 15, 1676, Hatfield: News arrived that Thomas Reed, a captive English soldier, had been recovered and brought word the Indians are planting at Deerfield.

According to a letter to the Council at Connecticut, co-signed by Turner, Reed also reported that "they dwell at the Falls on both sides the river, are a considerable number, yet most of them old men and women. He cannot judge that there are on both sides of the river above 60 or 70 fighting-men." (Connecticut State Library)

May 17, 1676: "... (T)wo boys named Edward Stebbins and John Gilbert returned to their friends, having escaped from Indian captivity. They reported several hundred Indians were encamped [at the falls] at a place now called Turners Falls." (Zerviah Gould Mitchell, 1878)

May 18 and 19, 1676, Hatfield: "150-160 mounted men from the towns of Springfield, Westfield, Northampton, Hadley and Hatfield," Captain Turner, Samuel Holyoke, John Lyman, Rev. Hope Atherton, Benjamin Wait, Experience Hinsdale, and others – "gather and begin march Tuesday evening, May 18; 20 miles... cross the Deerfield and Green Rivers... halt a little west of Fall River... they then crossed Fall River, climbed up an abrupt hill, and came upon the back of the camp about day-break." (Judd, 1905)

Basketmaker, a Nipmuck woman storyteller and keeper of knowledge, would recount:

"At the end of the starving winter, my family returned to peskeompskut, for the fishing was good at that spot and the villagers needed many women and girls to help plant the huge corn fields they were putting in. There were three villages on the river there, one very high at the head of the great falls, the other lower on the other side, and the third a distance below on an island in the river."

May 19, 1676, Peskeompskut: Basketmaker remembers the attack: "... (A)nother loud clap of thunder and a burst of light see WEST ALONG page B2

Above: A carpet of dandelions stretches ahead to summer.

Like Sticky Notes from a Dream

By NINA ROSSI

**TURNERS FALLS** – I was impressed to learn recently that Trish Crapo, my friend and collaborator in the art group Exploded View, has completed an entire 78-card deck of Tarot cards, and is showing them at the Rendezvous in Turners Falls.

Completing such a project must certainly require a lot of discipline, I commented as we shuffled through the deck at her home studio in Leyden overlooking the farm where her husband Tom grows garlic and greenhouse figs.

"I started with it easily a decade ago," Trish said. "Then during the pandemic, I joined an online workshop called 'Creating a Daily Art Practice' and what came to mind was, 'Oh, I'll finish these Tarot cards!'" The group met twice a week for a number of weeks, and with the extra advantage of having some accountability to the group, she found the inspiration – and discipline – to complete the deck.

The images from this deck, all made with collage, are now on display at the Rendezvous through July. All the cards are viewable there as large-scale prints, and

folks can examine her professionally-produced deck thanks to a sample deck hanging on the wall as part of the exhibit. (You may even buy the *Crapo Tarot* deck there for

\$45 – ask at the bar.)

The originals are collages that Trish did on 3½-by-5 inch card stock, but the images are scanned see TAROT page B8



Trish Crapo, hanging her Crapo Tarot images this week at the Rendezvous.

NOTES FROM THE HEARTFELT CAFE BY TROUBLE MANDESON



Skippy Crisp peanut butter cookies, as they should be: thin, crispy, and chewy. Use butter instead of margarine.

**GREENFIELD** – Peanut butter. It's one of my favorite foods, and has been ever since I was a kid.

At age six, my twin brother broke his arm, and when he returned home from the hospital with my parents, my mom claimed that his arm had been x-rayed and his bones were full of peanut butter. At the time, it seemed perfectly reasonable, considering how many peanut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches we ate.

In the 1970s, my family belonged to a food co-op in the basement of a Unitarian Universalist church. I loved working there – I pretended I was a shopkeeper, weighing out dry goods and totaling them in a notebook. In addition to splitting up bags of dried beans and grains into shares for each family, we were tasked with scooping out large spoonfuls of peanut butter from a big white bucket. Without any added salt, sugar, or emulsifiers to smooth it out, it was chunky and oily, but it still paired well with a nice grape jelly.

I have long believed peanut butter is one of life's most perfect foods. I did a fair amount of traveling as a young woman, often living on the road in both cityscape and wilderness, and I always carried a big jar of peanut butter and a wedge of cheddar cheese in my backpack for the ultimate in high-protein meals on the go. A few chocolate bars in my cache, and I could live on that for several days. Peanuts are an excellent source of unsaturated fats, carbohydrates, fiber, vitamins, and minerals, which make them a good plant protein for vegetarians and vegans.

Peanut butter is the most commonly consumed nut butter, followed by almond and cashew butters. I recall from the George Washington Carver portion of my elementary see HEARTFELT page B4

# Pet of the Week



©ARMODY COLLAGE

## “GOOFY”

Goofy is a cute little chihuahua who takes his “ride or die” role a little too hard. He loves his people...and seems to be a bit convinced that he must protect them at all costs, from all comers.

When it's just the family, Goofy is a happy boy who loves to play, cuddle, and romp around. He has the sweetest eyes and the softest fur and is an excellent snuggler.

If you're ready for the love of a tiny knight in shining armor, Goofy may be just the little pup for you!

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

### WEST ALONG from page B1

awakened me with a start. I heard my mother scream and then heard the thunder again and saw another flash of light inside the wetu. My little brother, who was sleeping next to me, screamed and I felt his body jerk then felt hot blood squirting all over me. The dogs and the rest of us inside the wetu were all scrambling now, desperate to get away from the thundersticks poking into the door flaps.

“I grabbed my little sisters’ hands and began running through the dark, screaming and ducking whenever a gun went off. A dog squealed as it was hit by a bullet near me and then I remember being at the edge of the cliff above the river. People were jumping into the roiling water and swimming towards canoes.

“Lightning kept hitting the water, dancing over everything, crashing trees down. On the shore I thought I saw the thunderspirit dancing, his feathered cape and staff moving cruelly up and down as he danced our deaths.” (Kelly Savage, ed., *The Pond Dwellers*, 1996, a collection of oral histories of the Nipmuck peoples.)

At the same moment that Basketmaker recounts, John Wecopeak awoke with a start. It was not only the lightning and thunder, but the familiar sound of flintlocks being discharged very nearby. Then the screams and cries of the women and children reached his ears.

He was convinced it was an attack by the Mohawk. But he quickly heard the shouts of the English attackers who were already putting to death all within reach. To save valuable powder and shot, the English were dispatching their victims by knife and sword.

He grabbed his weapons, and raced into the melee.

Wecopeak later recounted the

events of that day at his trial in Newport in August 1676.

*Basketmaker's voice turns very calm, very flat.*

“Then I saw a sword come down and heard my little sister scream... I saw her head fall into the river.... I knew that if I stayed in the rocks I would be killed like her, so I jumped into the river and dodged bullets and rocks as I joined the large number of people swimming towards the falls.

“I was swept over, flung into the air, then fell, expecting to die as the others had on the rocks below... but I landed in deep water and after falling down and down, I began to rise, my lungs full of pain. My head burst above the water just as I had to exhale and gulp...”

19 May 19, 1676: “... (F)inding them secure indeed, yea all asleep without having any scouts abroad; so that our Souldiers came and put their Guns into their wigwams.... and made a great and notable slaughter amongst them. Some of the Souldiers affirm, that they numbered above one hundred that lay dead upon the ground, and besides those, others told about an hundred and thirty, who were driven into the River, and there perished, being carried down the Falls.” (Increase Mather, 1676)

That day, in the face of an overwhelming counterattack by Native coalition forces, the English raiders stopped their looting, pillaging and killing when the rumor spread that Philip was on the way with a thousand reinforcements.

They fled back in the same direction from whence they came. Along the retreat route, the Natives lay in wait at the multiple choke and ambush points along the White Ash Swamp, Cherry Rum Brook, and at the ford at the Green River.

“A pannick terror fell upon many

of them and they hasted homewards in a confused rout... In this disorder, he that was at this time the chief Captain, whose name was Turner, lost his life, he was pursued through a River, received his Fatal Stroke as he passed through that which is called the *Green River*, and as he came out of the *Water*, he fell into the hands of the *Uncircumcised*... and between thirty or forty more were lost in this Retreat.” (Mather, 1676)

August 24, 1676, Newport, Rhode Island: The surviving leadership and known soldiers of the coalition forces were put on trial in Newport, after the death of Philip, and the end of the war that carries his name.

Among those tried were Quannopon, Sunkeecunasuck, Nennantene, Nechett, Ashamattan, Anashawin, and Wecopeak.

“Wennaquabin, also confirmeth that he was at the Fight with Capt. Turner, and there he lost his Gun and swam over the River to save his Life.”

“John Wecopeak, upon his Examination, also saith that he was at the Fight with Capt. Turner and run away by Reason the Shott came as thick as Raine, but also said that he was at a great Distance. Butt [others said] that the said Wecopeak told them, that he saw Capt. Turner, and that he was shott in the Thigh, and that he knew it was him, for the said Turner said that was his Name.”

Wecopeak was “voted guilty of the Charge, and to dye with the others”. (*Record of a Court Martial held at Newport R.I. in August, 1676 for the Trial of Indians charged with being engaged in Philip's Designs*)

May 20, 2023: A Day of Remembrance event for the Indigenous victims of the massacre at the falls will be held at 1 p.m. at the Discovery Center in the village of Turners Falls.



## Senior Center Activities MAY 15 THROUGH 19

### LEVERETT

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

### WENDELL

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

### ERVING

Open 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Mondays through Fridays. Open for cards, coffee, and snacks daily. Fitness room open daily.

Ask the Nurse and Blood Pressure Clinic is the first Tuesday of each month. Brown Bag is the first Thursday of each month. Veterans' Services are the first Wednesday of each month. For more information, please call (413) 423-3649.

### Monday 5/15

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

### Tuesday 5/16

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

### Wednesday 5/17

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

11:30 a.m. Bingo

### Thursday 5/18

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

### Friday 5/19

9 a.m. Quilting & Open Sew

### 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 5/1

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

1 p.m. Kitchen Club

### Tuesday 5/16

Closed for Town Election

### Wednesday 5/17

9 a.m. Veterans' Hours  
10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

11:45 a.m. Friends' Meeting

12 p.m. Bring Your Lunch Bingo

1:30 p.m. Western Mass Food Bank

4:15 p.m. Mat Yoga

### Thursday 5/18

9 a.m. Chair Yoga  
1 p.m. Cards & Games

### Friday 5/19

10:15 a.m. Aerobics

11 a.m. Chair Exercise

2 p.m. By the Seat of Your Dance



## OUT OF THE PARK May 2023

By JON DOBOSZ

**UNITY PARK** – Hello everyone! We hope that your spring has started off well. It's been rather cold and rainy up to this point, but it won't last forever, and it will be nice and warm before you know it.

We've been planning out a great summer for the community and are thrilled that we're able to bring back the **Unity Fest** for June 3. MPRD is once again partnering with Nova Motorcycles and Pioneer Valley Brewery to bring you this great festival that includes a maker's market, music, and food.

The festival will take place at the lower end of Second Street and Unity Park from 2 to 10 p.m. The makers market will feature “the best local makers of useful art items to swap, sell, and demonstrate.” Attendees will learn from “gearheads, creators, woodworkers, and tinkers.”

We will also be hosting a **Night Skate** at the Unity Skate Park that evening, where the park will be illuminated until 10 p.m. The festival is partially funded by the Mass Cultural Council, where we were awarded \$2,500 from the MCC's Festivals and Projects program. This grant



signifies that MPRD and its partners provide significant public value through programs and services.

When we think about summer, what is that one program that stands out above anything else? Camp! That's right: soon kids will be closing the book on another school year, so what will they be doing?

MPRD's **Summer Camp** is one of the more popular day camps in the area, and this year it will operate from July 3 through August 18. Aside from daily activities at Unity Park, we take weekly trips to Laurel Lake and enjoy other special events and field trips every week.

Don't wait until the last minute to register. School will be ending soon, and you certainly want to be

sure your child has someplace to go, stay active and have fun.

Our camp is licensed through the MA Department of Public Health, and we operate Mondays through Fridays 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with extended care available. For more information we recommend visiting [www.montagueparksrec.com](http://www.montagueparksrec.com), and click on the Summer Camp page.

We are also happy to bring back our **Movies in the Park** series with RiverCulture and the TFHS Music Boosters this summer. Mark your calendars for *Field of Dreams* (June 23), *Song of the Sea* (July 21), and *The Princess Bride* (August 18). Bring a lawn chair, blanket, and an appetite as refreshments will be provided. We're also working on bringing musical acts back to movie nights before showtime, so keep an eye out for more information.

That is about it for now. Be sure to visit our website or Facebook page for updated program information. If you have immediate questions, feel free to call us at (413) 863-3216. See you back here in June!

Jon Dobosz, CPRP, is parks and recreation director for the town of Montague.

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

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# EXHIBITS

**Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls:** *Visions of the Connecticut River Valley*, work from regional artists featuring the nature of the Connecticut River. May 7 through June 30.

**Montague Center Library:** *Sherée Bloomberg*, paintings. Through May 12.

**Barnes Gallery, Leverett Crafts and Arts:** *Engaging Nature*, over 140 pieces by the Amherst Plein Air Society. A portion of the proceeds go to the Kestrel Land Trust. Through May.

**Goose Divine Energy, Greenfield:** *Topographies and Other Surface Tensions*. Dr. Adhi Two Owls explores the surfaces of natural forms. Through June 15.

**Looky Here, Greenfield:** *What I Took With Me*, work by Nina Nabizadeh, Cima Khademi, Yasamin Zamanieh, and Leila Rahnama. Through May 31.

**LAVA Center, Greenfield:** *Why I Go to School*, art and essays by students in the Twice as Smart learning program. Through May.

**Leverett Library:** *Anne White*. Paintings and more. Through June.

**Wendell Library:** *Watercolor Landscapes*, new paintings by Christine Teixeira. Through June 30.

**Northfield Library:** *Works by Arleen Kilpatrick*. New England inspirations. Through May 20.

**Salmon Falls Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Apricity*, photographs by Carin Teresa. *The Worlds Below Us*, paintings by Rosa Beryl. Through June 26. Reception this Saturday, May 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. with music by James Bird.

**Shelburne Arts Coop Gallery, Shelburne Falls:** *Seeing Things in a New Light*, art and craft by member artists. Through May.

**Fiddleheads Gallery, Northfield:** *STEAM-Y Art and Science*, art that incorporates the sciences. Through May 14.

**Augusta Savage Gallery, UMass Amherst:** *Portraits in Red: Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls*, paintings by Nayana LaFond. Through May 12.

**Jewish Community of Amherst:** *The Art of Collage*, mixed-media collage by Micha Archer. Through July 28.

**Gallery A3, Amherst:** *Roots*, abstract paintings by Tom Morton. Through May 27.

**Anchor House of Artists, Northampton:** *Larry Slezak*, new work in sculpture and paintings. *Andrew Magee*, large oil pastels. Through May. Reception this Friday, May 12, from 5 to 8 p.m.

**Brattleboro Museum and Art Center:** *Keith Haring: Subway Drawings*, 18 works from NYC subway stations, through June 11. Four new spring exhibits: Daniel Callahan, *EnMassQ*; Mitsuko Brooks, *Letters Mingle Souls*; Juan Hinojosa, *Paradise City*; and Cathy Cone, *Portals and Portraits*.

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MONTAGUE POLICE LOG

## Village Store Missing Money; Surveillance Request; ‘Cancel the Call,’ Stolen Bike Maps to Springfield

**Monday, 5/1**

1:09 p.m. Caller from K Street requesting an escort to gather belongings. Caller called back to say she went to the address and now the landlord was yelling at her. Officers stood by while some belongings were gathered.

1:22 p.m. Caller from Crescent Street believes someone is coming into her home at night and painting furniture; also concerned that a piece of mail might be fraudulent. Determined that no one is entering her house and painting furniture. Wrote “discard” on a piece of junk mail so she remembers it was read. Caller may suffer from dementia; family is aware and was previously advised of their options.

1:30 p.m. 911 caller states that while he was in Food City, someone stole his gas-powered bike. He had taken the spark plug out of it so the motor won't run. Described as a red/brown/silver bike that weighs about 60 pounds. Caller would just like to have this incident on re-

cord for now. 5:33 p.m. 911 caller from Chestnut Hill Loop stated that her husband took off with her vehicle without permission; he is intoxicated and does not have a valid license. Officer spoke to caller; not as reported.

**Tuesday, 5/2**

12:38 a.m. Shelburne Control called stating they received a call from someone in the East Mineral Road area who said there is a tree down on wires, blocking the road. No sparking or fire. Party states she is trapped in the area. Control starting TFFD. Officer advises tree down across both lanes of travel. Eversource contacted; 40-minute ETA. Officer requesting DPW with blockades.

10:58 a.m. Officer was flagged down at Third Street and Avenue A by a citizen who pointed out a crack pipe on the ground. Officer picked it up and will dispose of it.

12:20 p.m. Male with two active warrants located at Nouria (formerly FL Roberts). A 36-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested on two default warrants.

1:19 p.m. Montague Village Store owner reporting missing money. Report taken.

2:44 p.m. Caller from Avenue A states that some kind of fight/disturbance is happening in an apartment down the hall. A 27-year-old Turners Falls woman was arrested on a default warrant.

3:14 p.m. 911 caller from Avenue A states a male party has been asked multiple times to leave the residence and will not do so; is looking for officers to have him removed. Officer advises neither male party nor caller are at the current residence; other tenants state they have not seen the male party.

4:53 p.m. 911 caller states she received a spam call stating her Amazon account was charged \$899, but she does not have Amazon. Wants on record.

7:24 p.m. Caller from Meadow Road states someone stole his cat and he needs to know who has security cameras in his neighborhood so he can figure out who stole his cat. Caller was told that MPD does not keep a list of who has security cameras set up, but if he would like, we can let the animal control officer know to be on the lookout. Caller states he doesn't want that; he just wants a list.

**Wednesday, 5/3**

1:54 a.m. Greenfield PD transferred E-911 call of female party stating “They took my phone and hit me.” Caller states she was threatened by an in-

dividual named “Gobby” or “Gabby.” While attempting to gather more information, the caller disconnected the phone. Unable to call back (911-only phone). Officer advises he spoke to tenants in an apartment through the door as they did not open it for him. Unable to make contact with caller; nobody seen in area upon officer's arrival.

3:10 p.m. 911 caller from Avenue A states that he just got home from appointments and someone broke in while he was gone. Unsure who; they were no longer there. Report taken.

5:22 pm. Party calling on behalf of a female from K Street who is very upset due to tenants who are currently moving out of an apartment harassing her. She does not feel safe at home. Officer advises he knocked on the door; no one in the residence at this time. Caller called back; female is planning to go to court tomorrow morning to file a restraining order.

11:19 p.m. Caller from Fifteenth Street reports a vehicle has been idling near her lilac bushes for the past 45 minutes. Officer advises he spoke to the vehicle operator, who advises he was cooling off from a verbal argument with his wife a while ago. Vehicle moved along; no issue.

**Thursday, 5/4**

8:54 a.m. Caller states she was walking on the bike path with a friend and came upon a raccoon who wasn't scared of people, seemed to be stumbling, and had blue eyes. Thinks maybe this raccoon is blind and wants it removed. Message given to ACO.

10:04 a.m. Caller states there is a silver sedan in the Cumberland Farms parking lot with two adults possibly passed out in the front seats and two children in the back seat. Officer advises no signs of impairment; son in the front seat is taking a nap.

1:17 p.m. Control received a 911 call for a woman who has been in an altered mental status for two days and is partially conscious and mumbling. TFFD transporting to BFMC.

9:23 p.m. Following a vehicle stop on Power Street, a 34-year-old Turners Falls man was arrested and charged with trafficking in cocaine, 18 grams or more, less than 36 grams.

**Friday, 5/5**

1:08 p.m. Caller from Montague Avenue states her neighbor across the street has too many unregistered cars on their property. Officer advised

male party of complaint and informed him he cannot have more than one unregistered vehicle on the property. Officer verified there is only one unregistered vehicle on the property.

2:03 p.m. Caller from Aubuchon Hardware states that a male party came into the store and is being harassed under the pavilion outside by two other men. Two males arrested and released after 3 a.m.; details redacted.

5:33 p.m. Caller requesting to speak to an officer regarding her son being harassed by other juveniles. Caller will come to station tomorrow to speak with someone in person.

6:43 p.m. 911 caller from East Main Street states that the male party in the apartment above his is harassing him by dropping items onto the floor. Nothing actively happening at this time. When advised that the information will be passed along to an officer, the caller stated “Never mind, cancel the call.”

11:09 p.m. Greenfield PD requesting female for a search. Services rendered.

**Saturday, 5/6**

5:09 p.m. Caller from Second Street states that over the past couple of days, a tablet, Chromebook, and money order have been stolen from her house. Referred to an officer.

5:18 p.m. Open line; could hear talking in the background. Second call; female and male yelling at each other. Caller states her wallet was stolen by a male party. Number called back a third time; no answer from female party. Officer advises that gas station employee stated that they did not see any disturbance.

6:44 p.m. Party into station stating that his bike was stolen last night; he has an air tag on it, and it is mapping in Springfield. Officer advises that caller's garage was broken into and a motorcycle was stolen. Springfield PD contacted. Vehicle entered into NCIC as stolen.

**Sunday, 5/7**

1:48 a.m. 911 caller from Keith Apartments reports that a female party in the apartment next to hers has been screaming for about ten minutes. Responding officer advises no noise upon arrival; no answer at door after knocking.

2:59 a.m. Caller from Third Street reports loud yelling and partying-type noises coming from a nearby location. Officer made contact with second floor, who was advised of the complaint and will be calming down the noise for the remainder of the night.

### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## Clean Sweep This Saturday!

**FRANKLIN COUNTY** – Franklin County Solid Waste Management District is holding the Spring 2023 “Clean Sweep” Bulky Waste Recycling Day this Saturday, May 13 from 9 a.m. to noon. The three drop-off sites are: Mohawk Trail Regional School at 26 Ashfield Road (Route 112 South) in Shelburne Falls, Northfield Highway Garage at 49 Caldwell Road, and Whately Transfer Station at 73 Christian Lane.

Residents from any of the District's 21 member towns may bring bulky items such as tires, appliances, scrap metal, furniture, carpeting, construction debris, computers, televisions, propane gas tanks, and other large items. Materials will be recycled whenever possible.

There are charges for most items collected at this event. Disposal fees, cash only, will be collected during check-in at each site. A complete list of prices for the most common items is at [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org). The price list has also been provided to participating town halls and transfer stations. Residents and businesses do not need to pre-register.

**Electronics** are accepted at the event, but residents are also encouraged to recycle computer equipment and televisions at their town's transfer station, or at Greenfield Transfer Station. Staples stores accept computer equipment (no TVs) free of charge: call your local store for details. Various charities and nonprofits accept donations of working electronics, including local Salvation Army and Goodwill stores. Always call ahead to ask if they can accept your item.

**Clean, dry textiles and books** will be accepted for free for reuse or recycling. Textiles are now banned from the trash. Textile recycling accepts 95% of all textiles, including clothing or linens that are torn, stained, with missing buttons or broken zippers. Damaged textiles can be sold to manufacturers that make insulation or shop rags. Textiles must be contained inside a sturdy plastic bag.

Acceptable items include clean and dry clothing, shoes, and accessories; plus curtains, sheets, towels, and stuffed animals in any condition, except moldy or wet. Books can be in any condition – except moldy or wet – and can be hardcover or



*Bulky waste collected for special recycling at a past Clean Sweep day in Northfield.*

paperback. No encyclopedias.

**Mattresses and box springs will not be accepted** at this event. There are six permanent drop-off locations for mattress recycling across the county. See [franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org/mattress-recycling) for locations, pricing, and hours, and call the District office at (413) 772-2438 if you are unsure if your mattress and box spring can be recycled.

**Bulky rigid plastics** will be collected separately for a special recycling program, at \$5 per load. Acceptable items for this special program are limited to the following items only: five-gallon pails, plastic lawn furniture, plastic trash barrels, recycling bins, laundry baskets, storage totes, and milk crates. Bulky rigid plastic items must be empty.

The 21 Solid Waste District member towns are Bernardston, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Conway, Deerfield, Erving, Gill, Hawley, Heath, Leverett, Montague, New Salem, Northfield, Orange, Rowe, Shelburne, Sunderland, Warwick, Wendell, and Whately.

For more information, see [franklincountywastedistrict.org](http://franklincountywastedistrict.org), or contact the District office at [info@franklincountywastedistrict.org](mailto:info@franklincountywastedistrict.org) or (413) 772-2438. MA Relay for the hearing impaired: 711 or 1-800-439-2370 (TTY/TDD). The District is an equal opportunity provider.

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**HEARTFELT** from page B1  
school education that peanuts are not actually nuts, but legumes, because they grow underground and not on trees. In spite of this fact, they are accepted for culinary, research, and nutritional purposes as nuts.

Like the misnomer *peanut*, many fruits we consume are considered

vegetables because of their flavor profile. Eggplant, corn, rhubarb, okra, and cucumbers are actually fruit because they contain the seed of the plant, yet are considered vegetables by chefs worldwide. Fruits are generally sweet or tart and used in desserts, while vegetables have a more mild or savory taste and are

served as main and side dishes.

Although the ancient Aztec and Inca civilizations both ground roasted peanuts into paste for consumption, it wasn't until 1884 that a Mr. Edson of Montreal, Québec, obtained the first permit for producing peanut butter commercially using a heated surface. Once the peanuts cooled, he milled them, adding sugar to the paste to harden it.

Ten years later, George Bayle began selling peanut butter as a snack food. During WWI rationing in 1917, it became a popular substitute for "meatless Mondays." The US government even went so far as to publish recipes for peanut loaf, made by adding breadcrumbs, rice, and seasonings.

Early peanut-butter machines appeared in the 1900s when a chemist discovered the process for making it smooth by adding partially hydrogenated oil. He licensed his invention to Peter Pan in 1928, but then went and produced his own brand under the name Skippy.

Future versions became creamier, with chunks of nuts added back in to create a chunky-style peanut butter. Procter & Gamble introduced Jif in 1955, which contained sugar and molasses in the mix.

The US is the leading exporter and largest consumer of this sticky snack. It's only recently becoming popular in the UK. Americans love it so much that we've even designated January 24 as National Peanut Butter Day! Many countries around the world don't consume nuts as butter, but use it as a sauce on cooked foods, like a Thai noodle dish or Dutch fries dipped in mayo and peanut sauce.

Then there's the pairing of pea-

## SKIPPY CRISP COOKIES

**SKIPPY CRISPS**

1/2 cup melted margarine  
1/2 cup peanut butter  
3/4 cup sugar  
1 egg - Vanilla  
1 1/2 cup sifted flour  
1/2 tsp. baking powder - 1/2 tsp. salt

**COOKIES**

Stir Skippy into melted margarine. Add sugar, egg, vanilla. Sift flour, salt powder. Blend into Skippy mix. Shape into balls, press down with fork on sheet. Bake at 350 for 12-15 minutes.

The author's mother's Skippy Crisp recipe from the 1960s. Again, she suggests you use butter rather than margarine.



MANDESON PHOTOS

*This batch of Skippy Crisps was made by swapping coconut oil for butter, which overpowered the peanut butter flavor and made them dense and thick. Not a winner.*

## Montague Community Television News

### Adieu to Channel 17

By HANNAH BROOKMAN

**TURNERS FALLS** – Where do you usually watch MCTV? Do you find our videos on Vimeo, or do you watch Channel 17, our local cable channel?

If you are indeed a TV viewer, listen up! Channel 17 is now Channel 9 on the basic package, and if you have the premium package, you will also find MCTV on Channel 1070. Goodbye, Channel 17, you served us well.

If you are a TV viewer, we'd love to hear from you! Let us know what you love about MCTV's local programming. Will you tune in this week to watch our coverage of the Montague annual town meeting? Or do you like to use our Vimeo page to catch up with each week's new selectboard meetings from Montague and Gill?

This week we also have footage from Gretchen Wetherby and George Gajda's presentation on their hike of the Appalachian Trail, as well as *Let Food Be Your Medicine*, a video about Leonore Alaniz's show at the Discovery Center.

If you have videos of your own you would like to put on TV or our Vimeo page, send them over! Or if you need help, 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.

Or is there 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 [infomontaguety@gmail.com](mailto:infomontaguety@gmail.com).

#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## Farm Hosts Seedling Sale, Fundraiser Festival

**GREENFIELD** – Local farming and food-access nonprofit Just Roots will host a Spring Festival and Seedling Sale next Saturday, May 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at its community farm on Glenbook Drive. Hosted in collaboration with the People's Medicine Project, NOFA Mass, Mass Pollinator Network, and the Greenfield Guiding Star Grange #1, this pollinator-themed celebration will feature a variety of events and activities, as well as plants for purchase from ten local vendors.

Seedlings for sale include vegetables, flowers, culinary and medicinal herbs, woodland medicinals, native pollinators, and more. The free event features live music, free food from Cocina Lupita, gardening demonstrations, and kids' activities. Evan Abramson will present on "Designing Biodiversity through

Plant-Pollinator Interactions" in the barn at 11 a.m., and volunteers from Greening Greenfield will lead a tour of the People's Pollinator Garden afterwards.

This event is held in tandem with Just Roots' Spring Appeal fundraising campaign. This year Just Roots will serve over 800 families through its affordable CSA programs, 90% of whom are low-income and/or food insecure, connecting them with local food and cooking resources. Funds generated through the Spring Appeal will bridge the gap between what participating families are able to pay for a farm share and what it costs to grow fresh, local food using sustainable methods and paying employees a living wage.

For more information regarding the Spring Appeal, visit [www.justroots.org/donate-to-spring-appeal](http://www.justroots.org/donate-to-spring-appeal).

#### PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

## West County Bridge Plant Sale Returns

**SHELburnE FALLS** – The iconic Bridge of Flowers plant sale will take place this Saturday, May 13 at the corner of Main and Water streets, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., rain or shine.

Hundreds of perennial plants for sale come from Bridge gardens and annuals from local gardens and nurseries, among them ever-popular geraniums.

This year's spring celebration will also see a garden and gardener-themed tag sale of books, tools, and garden decorations, vendors, soil testing, and pollinator plant information.

See you on Saturday, May 13 at the sale!

#### MOVIE REVIEW

## AppleTV's Take on *Tetris*

By MELISSA WLOSTOSKI

**GREENFIELD** – I like puzzles, and Tetris is one of those particularly enjoyable puzzle games that I like. Someone decided to make a movie about how it came to be, and it is out on AppleTV's streaming service.

I already knew the story of how Tetris came to be, due to it being told on a documentary TV series *The Toys That Built America*. It all happened during the late '80s in the Soviet Union, with a Russian scientist named Alexey Pajitnov creating it. It became nicely popular in Russia, but it being next to impossible to get certain things out of Russia at that time, this guy managed to maneuver it out of there with a bit of help from some businessmen.

Then another businessman named Henk Rogers, played in the film by Taron Egerton, saw Tetris and wanted to put it on the Nintendo Game Boy. He had to go to Russia personally to try and negotiate the rights to the game. Being there and trying to do that, he learned firsthand how hard it was to do in Russia at that time.

Because of that, Rogers went to the creator himself. He was able to get along nicely with this man, and worked out a deal to do what he wanted with the game. It took off wonderfully on Game Boy, despite the skepticism of the loan officer Rogers tried to get money from for it, who is even seen playing a Game Boy with Tetris on it in the movie. Rogers was apparently correct when he pointed out to that guy that he found the game addictive!



The big feature of 1989 was the Berlin Wall coming down, and the other walls around Russia. Pajitnov could finally come to the USA. The deal he made with Rogers ended up making him a very rich guy. I knew this already, but through this film, I learned that the two guys then went into business together. This makes sense because they quickly became friends when they first met and were able to work out a deal together.

It was amazing luck that these guys had around the time of the '80s. The businessmen I mentioned who had initially helped Pajitnov out with the game didn't get that lucky. One guy never got over losing out when it came to Tetris.

The movie has a quirky tone to it, and it makes for a decent story to tell. However, I don't see how *Tetris* gets called a "thriller." Maybe because of the attempt to try and get the rights for it at the time was very harrowing for Rogers to do in Russia. I do understand why it is called a "biography," because it tells how something came to be a huge part of history.

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Perry Young of Cambridge, New York talked Mack trucks with several observers, including our reporter's dad (at right).

## SCENE REPORT: THE DEERFIELD TRUCK SHOW

By JOE R. PARZYCH

**SOUTH DEERFIELD** – It was a good day for good weather Sunday, for everyone who came from far and wide – local, regional, national, from many states – to the show in Deerfield called by the Antique Truck Club of America's Western Mass. Chapter. One year, someone came to the show from Canada.

Lois Aragi, Sr., known as "Chico," owner of Pine Island Farm of Sheffield, was at the trade show with his 1953 Ford model F-900 dairy truck. He uses it as a business promotion truck while he uses his regular trucks to deliver milk and other dairy products locally and non-locally.

Louis told me that he and his sons Louis Aragi, Jr., and Matthew Aragi all run Pine Island Farm, where they own and milk dairy cows, as well as the business Louis T. Aragi & Sons. They are very proud farmers, and they work very hard.

The show additionally featured Gill's own Corwin Edson of Renaissance Excavating and his 2002 Peterbilt truck.

Perry S. Young of Cambridge, New York, came with his Mack truck and his friends Steven Merriman and Randy. They talked to my dad, Joseph M. Parzych of Gill, a semi-retired state employee.

My dad worked at UMass Amherst under the president's office in the Whitmore Building as the unit's computer operator. Before that he worked for the town of Gill highway department, and he worked on the Boyle Road project back in the '70s among many other jobs while he was a student at Franklin County Technical School. He currently works as an assistant groundskeeper at the Gill Greenery.

He was recalling his younger years, driving a Mack truck from my family's old construction business, J. A. Parzych Excavating. My dad asked the owner of the truck what year it was from. According to Young and his friends from New York it was a 1985 Model U685.

There was plenty of food, and plenty of raffle tickets.



Above: Louis "Chico" Aragi, Sr. of Sheffield, Massachusetts shows off his 1953 Ford dairy truck, which he says is used for promotion rather than dairy delivery.

Left: The chapter's 18th annual show was held at the Yankee Candle headquarters in South Deerfield on Sunday. "Big Or Small Bring Them All," the posters read. Admission and registration to the show were free.

Bottom: This "midget" Ford tow truck, owned by Fred and Carol Brunnhoelzl of Henniker, New Hampshire, was custom-built by the family's automotive business in 1948 to tow and push-start midget racecars at the Freeport Speedway on Long Island.



JOE R. PARZYCH PHOTOS



By CASEY WAIT

**TURNERS FALLS** – Dear Readers, by the time this column is published, the Public Health Emergency (PHE), first established in March 2020, will be over. And yet, at the time of this writing, I know more people sick with COVID than at any time over the past three years. While the pandemic may be over on paper, in reality the emergency is very much still with us. I fear it will be for the foreseeable future.

We have now entered an acute phase of what social geographer and prison abolitionist Ruth Wilson Gilmore calls "organized abandonment." In the words of Davina Bhandar and Zoë Druick, organized abandonment "signals the process of governing populations through callous yet purposeful neglect, framing many humans and other life forms as surplus to the contemporary political economic order."

In other words, organized abandonment is what results when the government and other regulating bodies choose profit over people.

This is nothing especially new, especially for populations who have lived on the margins of American capitalist society for a long time. Other manifestations of organized abandonment include disinvestment in public schools, roads and bridges, and welfare programs, the abject poverty and environmental pollution endured by many indigenous folks living on reservations, and underfunded, over-stretched public health systems.

The American government embraced organized abandonment during the rush to privatize social services and deregulate industry in the Reagan '80s. The same process was at work across the pond in the UK – epitomized by the famous Margaret Thatcher quote: "there is no such thing as society," washing the British government's metaphorical hands of providing any social support to its citizens.

COVID didn't introduce these forms of government; it only further entrenched them and added to the already-substantial burden of risk foisted on ordinary people. With the end of the PHE it will become even more difficult to assess COVID risk, to continue using layers of protection like masks, or to access vaccines, therapeutics, and emergency healthcare. What few allowances businesses were required to provide for employees – PPE, paid sick days, hazard pay, or certain kinds of medical coverage – will almost certainly be revoked now if they haven't been already. New York City is even encouraging business owners to ban mask wearing inside their establishments, a response to a dubious claim that there has been a rise in shoplifting enabled by mask wearing.

I wrote this last year when the public mask mandate was removed, but it's even starker now: the sick, disabled, and/or immunocompromised have had our social rights fully stripped from us. Ending the PHE means that I will have no way of knowing what risk I am taking on by simply existing in public space. Yes, I can continue to

mask, and I will. But many studies have proven that "one-way masking" is significantly less effective than universal masking.

I have already had COVID three times. Each time, the rest of my conditions have dramatically worsened. I genuinely worry about my long-term health outcomes, even if I never get COVID again. And let's face it, because of the government's negligence, we're looking at a future where most of us get COVID again – and again and again – no matter how careful we each individually try to be.

That's the thing about a pandemic: you can't fight it as an individual. Contrary to what the "Iron Lady" so confidently claimed, there absolutely is such a thing as a society. Humans are social organisms – and viruses use that fact to their evolutionary advantage! Whether the government recognizes the reality of society, this virus and viruses yet to come make their way through our social systems – ironically illustrated by the recent COVID outbreak following a CDC conference held without any COVID mitigation measures in place. Pretending the virus doesn't exist won't make it go away – it will only allow it more freedom to spread and mutate, *ad infinitum*.

So... now what? All I know is that just because the government has given up doesn't mean we have to. The only antidote to organized abandonment is organized care, a.k.a. mutual aid. No one is coming to save us, so we must save each other ourselves. One thought that gives me something like hope is that it was only after several years of incredible suffering, neglect, and mass death that the legendary AIDS activist group ACT UP! came into being. It's not too late to form our own version of ACT UP! for the COVID era.

So... now what? All I know is that just because the government has given up doesn't mean we have to. The only antidote to organized abandonment is organized care, a.k.a. mutual aid. No one is coming to save us, so we must save each other ourselves. One thought that gives me something like hope is that it was only after several years of incredible suffering, neglect, and mass death that the legendary AIDS activist group ACT UP! came into being. It's not too late to form our own version of ACT UP! for the COVID era.



An activist protests the end of mask requirements at Mass General Hospital.

Just the other day a friend sent me a photo of an activist protesting outside of Massachusetts General Hospital, fighting the news that mask requirements inside their hospitals have been dropped. The protester held a sign with a large pink triangle superimposed on a KN95 mask and the bold words, made famous by ACT UP!, "SILENCE = DEATH". Remember that, dear reader, and speak up.

With love and rage,

Your Sick Friend

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WORDS AND PICTURES BY HANNAH BROOKMAN

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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](mailto:editor@montaguereporter.org)

## THURSDAY, MAY 11

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Spirit Circle with Deb Tyler*. Free. 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Julia Sabbagh, Helen Hummel, Corey Laitman*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

## FRIDAY, MAY 12

Bookends, Florence: *Kath Bloom with David Shapiro, Spectre Folk, Danny Oxenberg & Jenna Wikler*. \$ 7 p.m.

Nova Arts, Keene: *Vapors of Morphine, Jake McKelvie & the Countertops*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Johnny Folsom 4, Johnny Cash tribute*. \$ 8 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Rooster, funk*. Free. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *The Bumbling Woohas, Ricky Spider*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MAY 13

Palladium, Worcester: *Sepultura, Kreator, Death Angel, Spirit World*. \$ 6 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *New England Repertory Orchestra presents Banishing Grief*. \$ 7 p.m.

Deja Brew Pub, Wendell: *Betsy Scofield a.k.a. Lady Pop*. Free. 7 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Hedge-witch, Hoonah, Wishbone Zoe*. \$ 7 p.m.

Belltower Records, North Adams: *Josephine Foster, Stella Kola, Gray/Smith & Speer*. \$ 7 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Brother Lemur, Jen Gelineau, Achings, Slant of Light*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Matt Emmer & Friends, Hana Zara, Quiet Houses*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Roos Rohde House, Amherst: *Rong, Hauzu, Imp Say Glyph*. Free. 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Our Sleeping Giant*. Free. 9:30 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MAY 14

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Zydeco Connection*. \$ 3 p.m.

The Drake, Amherst: *Acid Mothers Temple, My Education, Sunburned Hand of the Man*. \$ 8 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Mr. Twin Sister, Psymon Spine*. \$ 8 p.m.

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

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 17

Tree House Brewing, South

Deerfield: *Citizen Cope*. \$ 7 p.m.

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

## THURSDAY, MAY 18

LAVA Center, Greenfield: *Beetle 7, feat. Steve Koziol, Leo Hwang, Joel Paxton, and Kevin Smith*. \$ 5:30 p.m.

Wendell Meetinghouse, Wendell: *Reading by Court Dorsey, Bernadette*. Free. 7 p.m.

Bookends, Florence: *Colby Nathan, Cate Kennan*. \$ 7 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Dead Connection, Grateful Dead tribute*. \$ 8 p.m.

## FRIDAY, MAY 19

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Guerilla Toss, Rough Francis, Thus Love, Editrix, Landowner*, more. \$ 4 p.m. See [novaarts.org/thething](http://novaarts.org/thething) for more information.

Next Stage Arts, Putney: *Underground System*. \$ 6 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Jake McKelvie, Misery Quilts, Dearest Hearts*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Jeopardy, DBB, Chained to the Dead, Sachem*. \$ 8 p.m.

## SATURDAY, MAY 20

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Mali Obomsawin Sextet, Maria Chavez, Susan Alcorn*, more. \$ 4 p.m. See [novaarts.org/thething](http://novaarts.org/thething) for more information.

ing for more information.

Montague Common Hall, Montague Center: *Open Mic*, with performers *Claire Dacey and John-Michael Field*. Free. Sign-up 6:15 p.m., show at 6:30 p.m.

Millers Pub, Millers Falls: *Little House Blues*. \$ 7 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Sparkletown: A Tribute to Kate Lorenz*. \$ 7 p.m.

Parlor Room, Northampton: *Love Crumbs, Sandy Bailey*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

10 Forward, Greenfield: *Sapling, Stars Like Ours, Recent History*. \$ 8 p.m.

## SUNDAY, MAY 21

Nova Arts, Keene, NH: *Bill Calahan, Marisa Anderson & Jim White*, more. \$ 12:30 p.m. See [novaarts.org/thething](http://novaarts.org/thething) for more information.

Great Falls Discovery Center, Turners Falls: *Unscripted Youth Improv Showcase*. Interactive showcase of a 16-week Brick House program. Refreshments available. Free. 4:30 p.m.

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Odds of Eden, Between 3&4, Black Pyramid*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

Shea Theater, Turners Falls: *Center for New Americans presents Immigrant Voices*. \$ 8 p.m.

### looking forward...

#### FRIDAY, MAY 26

Hawks & Reed, Greenfield: *Brand New Luddites, Slob Drop, Trash Mammals, Dead Street Dreamers*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, MAY 27

The Drake, Amherst: *Bill Frisell Trio ft. Tony Scherr, Rudy Royston*. \$ 8 p.m.

Rendezvous, Turners Falls: *Olivia Nied*. 9:30 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JUNE 8

Bombyx Center, Florence: *Leo Kottke*. \$ 7 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 10

Grange Hall, Williamsburg: *Quitapenas, DJ Bongohead*. \$ 7:30 p.m.

#### SATURDAY, JUNE 17

Pines Theater, Northampton: *Gin Blossoms, Toad the Wet Sprocket, Juliana Hatfield, Kay Hanley*, more. \$ 1 p.m.

#### THURSDAY, JULY 6

Tree House Brewing Company, South Deerfield: *They Might Be Giants*. \$ 7 p.m.

#### FRIDAY, JULY 14

Stone Church, Brattleboro: *Delicate Steve*. \$ 8 p.m.

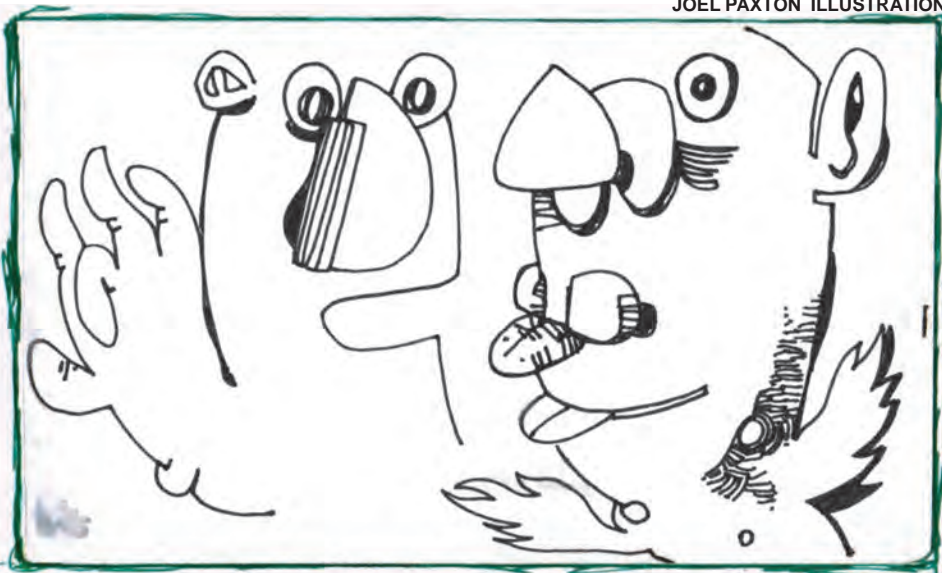
#### SATURDAY, AUGUST 26

MASS MoCA, North Adams: *Pixies, Modest Mouse, Cat Power*. \$ 7 p.m.



JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

JOEL PAXTON ILLUSTRATION

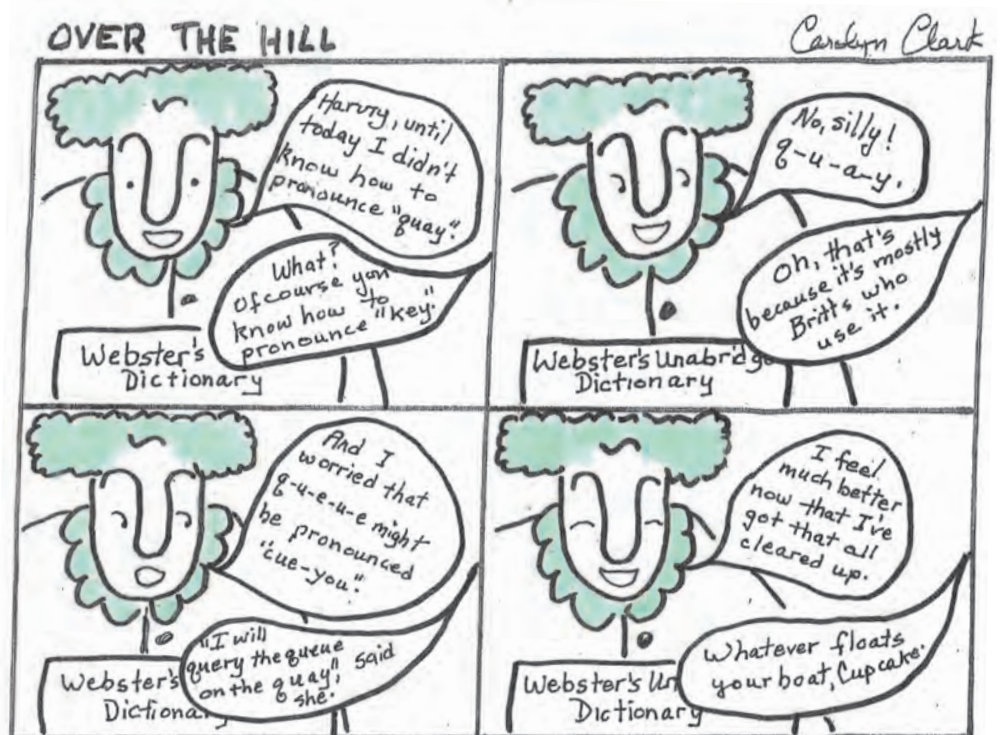


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**TAROT** from page B1

and enlarged to fill frames that line three walls of the pub. On the back wall, Trish has installed panels of printer's proof sheets so that folks place the images more easily into the Major Arcana and the 56 cards of the Minor Arcana suites: wands, swords, pentacles, and cups.

You don't necessarily have to know about Tarot to enjoy the work in Crapo Tarot. The juxtaposed collage elements have an imaginary, narrative quality; they look like visual sticky-note reminders from dreams. Here, a showerhead rains fortune upon a silver goblet; lightning forks across the sky, towers rise, petals fall, and faces peer out, sometimes half obscured, looking as if they have both questions and answers to give the viewer.

What are the questions? What are the answers? What draws people to Tarot?

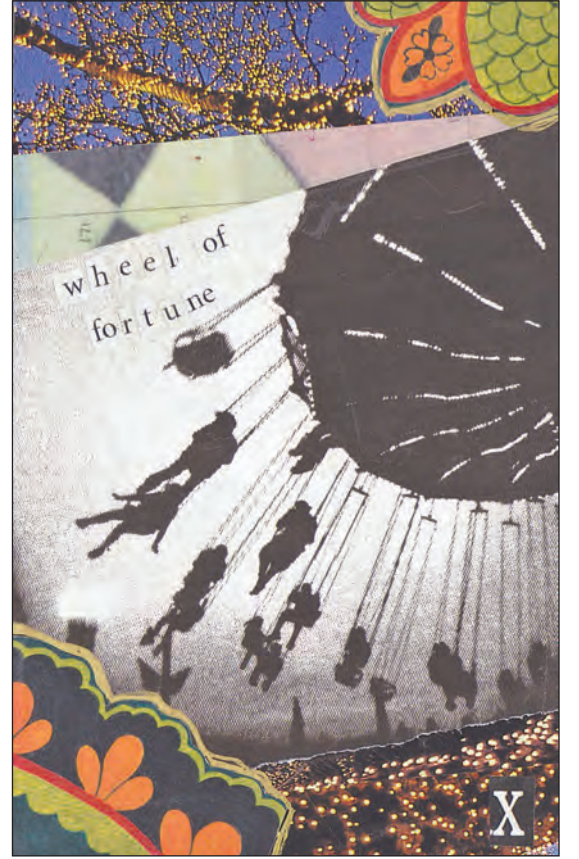
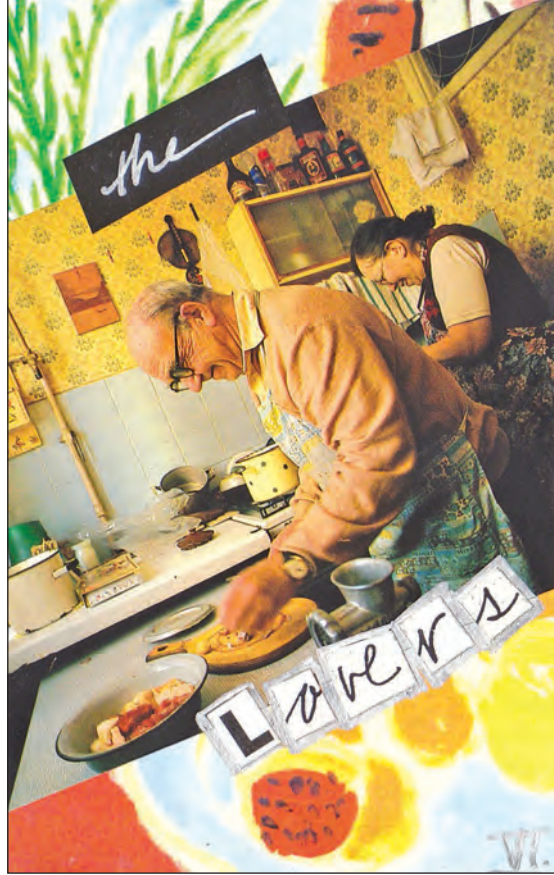
Trish often lays out the cards for herself in a formation called the Celtic Cross. She finds it a useful way to access different perspectives on various situations. She uses a book of Tarot interpretations that she feels are more modern – less medieval and “royal” than others tend to be – and even though she is only doing readings for herself, by herself, the interpretations sometimes open doors to less obvious feelings.

The symbols are archetypal and very easy for people to create meaning from. For some people who are prone to seeing the world as good versus evil, the ambiguity of negative as well as positive qualities inherent in the cards' meanings might even be therapeutic in helping reframe their personal narrative.

“I am a Tarot enthusiast, not an expert,” Trish said, showing me a box of different decks she has used over the years. She has only ever had one reading done by someone else, and doesn't generally do readings for other people, though we decided it would be fun to try a short reading in service of this article.



TRISH CRAPO PHOTOS



**Left:** “The Queen of Cups is introspective, wise, sometimes a bit of a showboat,” Nannette Stone writes in *The Little Black Book of Tarot*. “Her wisdom comes as much from her heart as from her mind. She can tell you what dreams mean. Queens in a spread indicate something in your life growing and becoming more real.”

**Center:** “This card is as much about hard choices, commitment and ambiguity as it is about love,” Stone’s guide advises. “Be more like the partner you’d wish to have. Don’t let love pass you by to satisfy convention. The Lovers card may also signify a growing commitment to a passion such as a career or other pursuit, rather than to a romantic partner.”

**Right:** “The Wheel of Fortune never stops spinning,” writes Stone. “Change is on the way, and things will get better. Even what seems at first like misfortune can open into something positive. You can’t control change, but you can control your attitude toward it.”

I chose an ongoing situation as the subject of a simple “Past, Present, and Future” reading, pulled three cards out of the *Crapo Tarot* deck, and laid them face-down on the table. Using her book, Trish read off a summary about the Past – the Five of Pentacles – holding some type of monetary strife. The book said the Present card, the King of Swords, was also about a pretty stressful time with a possibility of something evil afoot, but the Future – the Eight of Wands – would offer up some brief but stellar success that would come as a surprise.

Am I harboring some secret, evil-type thoughts? I started to wonder. I guess that’s a useful self-inventory

to engage in, even if nothing turns up. Tarot can be a sort of broom with which to sweep around in the subconscious.

Trish has been a collage artist since she was a teenager, and enjoys meticulously cutting out images from magazines and other printed materials. She keeps folders of images arranged by category, but doesn't particularly like the sorting and filing activity that keeps things in order. What she does like is the feeling of control she gains from pulling things apart and reassembling them into something new.

Images related to Tarot just kept popping up as she foraged for collage pieces, even before she decided

to make the deck, so it felt serendipitous for her to decide to begin the project. As she reached the end of it, she was hunting down images to fill in some unfinished cards. Often, fashion magazines held imagery that was useful. Like the image for Temperance: “she’s both cool and hot, a little bit of both,” Trish said. “Sometimes it blew my mind, finding things that are exactly right.”

Trish is currently working on making collages for a deck of regular playing cards, and finishing work on another very long-term art project, a copy of *Wuthering Heights* where she has altered every page by drawing, redacting, and collaging on it. “The problem is, I

go back through them,” Trish said. “There’s 200-some pages in there, and some of them aren’t so strong, so I go back to them. But I also understand that it could take me forever, so I have to be careful, and just have a cut-off point.”

At the *Rendezvous*, 78 Third Street in Turners Falls, through June. An artist’s reception is planned for halfway through the show on Sunday, June 11 from 3 to 5 p.m. The *Rendezvous* has decks for sale behind the bar, and all the images on the walls are for sale also. For more information, contact Trish Crapo at [trcrao@mac.com](mailto:trcrao@mac.com).



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